

# SIXTH CONSECUTIVE VICTORY

## LUTON'S LIVELY STRUGGLE TO FOIL SWINDON

### GOALS FOR FINLAYSON AND STEPHENSON

(By CRUSADER)

LUTON TOWN .....	2
(Finlayson, Stephenson)	
SWINDON TOWN .....	1
(Lowry)	

LUTON.—Coen; Mackey, Smith; Finlayson, Nelson, Fellowes; Crompton, Martin, Ball, Roberts, Stephenson.

SWINDON.—Rutherford; Duckworth, Smith; Cousins, Armstrong, Newbury; Peters, Bowl, Lowry, Brae, Wells. Referee: G. T. Gould Norwood.

EVERY Luton follower must have breathed much more freely when he heard the final whistle. I think the Town just about deserved their success, but they had to fight every minute and every inch of ground to keep their sequence of victories. Swindon put up a surprising game, and deserved all the more credit for the fact that they had to make a complete change of their inside forwards. If they have a better three, then they are fortunate, and either the whole team played above form, which is quite conceivable, since they were anxious to hold up the Town's run of success, or Swindon occupy a false position in the League.

#### HEAVY GOING

However, allowance must be made for the going, which was very, very heavy, and I think that had a good deal to do with the comparatively mild show of Luton.

Let there be no misunderstanding about that sentence; their game was very much better than many they have played, but I did not think they showed the same team work and quality of resistance in defence as in previous games. Possibly the fact that there was not the same faculty in recovery as we saw at Watford had something to do with it, as well as the very difficult going.

#### WINGERS WANTED MORE

Another point about the Town's play that was open to improvement was that they did not use the wingers as well as they have been doing. There was an inclination to hold the ball and keep it up the middle when a pass to the wings would have been effective, as we saw when the winning goal was scored. It pays sometimes on mud to hold the ball, but we have seen lately that the big factor in the success of the team has been the employment of the wingers, and I think they could have had much more work.

#### FINLAYSON'S FINE EFFORT

Opening play was even, each goal being visited, and a better direction on his shot might have given Roberts an early goal. The visitors caused anxiety when they got away, for they positioned extremely well, and only stout work in defence prevented a shot. When the Town set about their work in earnest, they soon scored. Rutherford was sorely troubled by a sharp drive from Stephenson, following good work all along the line, and then came a corner kick, and after the ball had been repelled FINLAYSON closed in, tricked a couple of opponents very neatly, and fired in a terrific shot which had Rutherford beaten all the way.

#### LOWRY'S SHOT

We expected more of this, but the visitors defended strongly, and good efforts by Ball and Stephenson were frustrated with great difficulty. Ball would have scored had he had the slightest luck following a bright movement on the Town left, and a square pass by Stephenson. Play went to the other end, where Mackey was severely tested by the lively Wells, and in a further assault

Lowry espied an opening, and shot remarkably well from twenty yards, the ball striking the post and rebounding for Mackey to kick behind.

#### GREAT DEFENDERS

Following the flag-kick, the Town pressed again, and several strong assaults were beaten off. Rutherford was glad to tip over the bar a well-taken free-kick by Finlayson, and when Swindon sped to the other end Smith managed to overcome Peters after a tussle. Then Mackey got in the way of a good header from Lowry. Swindon played strongly, and for a time it was touch and go with the Town defence, Peters and Wells getting a lot of the ball, and Lowry being very thrustful. Mackey and Nelson were great at this stage.

#### MARTIN'S TRICKERY

There was a likelihood of another goal for the Town when Martin side-stepped a number of opponents, and then tapped the ball across for Stephenson to meet it on the run; the winger's shot had plenty of pace but not the right direction, and it whizzed right across the face of goal and nearly to the corner flag. More pressure by the Town evoked applause, and corners were forced, but the visitors defended strongly, and Rutherford saved, at full length, a drive from Stephenson.

#### RUTHERFORD SAFE

Retaliation caused anxiety to the Town defence. Smith could not hold Peters, and two or three centres came across goal, but Coen was not in any great trouble. Roberts had a chance at the other end after Fellowes had paved the way for the attack on the left, but the shot went well wide. Then there was a hot tussle in the Swindon goal-mouth, but Rutherford was safe.

#### CHANCE MISSED

There came a brisk assault at the other end, and, following a centre by Peters, there seemed no hope for Coen, but he brought off a glorious save from Bowl. The Town defence was not safe at this stage, being too easily beaten and too slow in getting the ball out of danger, but in a sharp rush on the home left, Stephenson drove the ball right across goal, and it beat Rutherford Smith and Crompton as well; a tap would have scored.

#### ANOTHER TAKEN

Swindon then replied again with a fierce onslaught, and only splendid anticipation by Coen prevented Wells scoring as he raced in to shoot, the goalkeeper covering the shot which rebounded from his body. This good fortune could not last, however, and in a repeat attack, in which Brae and Wells were prominent, the ball was sent across, and LOWRY headed in, well out of Coen's reach. It was a fine goal, and quite deserved by the visitors. The interval came with the Town on the attack.

LUTON .....	1
SWINDON .....	1

Armstrong was a powerful factor in keeping the Town at bay on the restart, for the Town left quickly threatened, but Swindon were as eager as ever, and a series of thrusts on either wing had the Town in great danger. Peters once put in a testy shot which Coen lifted over the bar, and for some minutes the visitors played with real force and determination, and kept the Town backs and Nelson busy. A free kick or two against the visitors gave Rutherford cause for anxiety, and, from one of these, Ball headed across, but Rutherford intercepted.

#### BALL UNLUCKY

Martin raised a cheer by a fine bit of play, his footwork getting the visitors all awry, and, after a scramble, the ball went behind for a corner kick. Several times the ball went across the Swindon goal-mouth, and two corners were forced, but were not well taken. Swindon's reply again found Coen in position, and there followed a splendid bit of work on the Town right wing, and Ball chased a pass from Crompton and tried hard to turn the ball past Rutherford, but it struck the post and went behind.

#### COEN'S GREAT SAVE

Then came an even stronger attack in which all the forwards took part, and Martin had wretched luck, his shot completely beating Rutherford, but the ball struck the bar, and, from the ensuing scuffle, Armstrong and Duckworth relieved. Swindon soon retaliated again, and Nelson and Mackey could not stem the attack, which was well executed, and Lowry headed in finely from a centre by Peters, only to see Coen almost fly across goal and thump the ball over. It was a magnificent save.

#### STEPHENSON'S WINNER

Swindon menaced the goal for a time, and there was more dire threat to Rutherford's charge, which escaped in extraordinary fashion following a corner-kick, for the ball bobbed about almost on the goal-line, and none of the forwards could reach it in time to kick through. The success was only delayed, however, for Nelson took the ball some distance up the field, and Martin gave to Crompton, who swung the ball across for STEPHENSON to fasten on it, and, as the defenders closed in, he banged in a shot which gave Rutherford no chance.

#### SWINDON THWARTED

The Town pressed further, and Rutherford saved well, but a lapse by Nelson nearly let his side down, for he was robbed, and Lowry took a shot which brought Coen down to save at full length close to the upright. Swindon forced the play, and made strong attempts, Peters especially being dangerous, but, when the Town got going again, Roberts, who had been shooting well, was unlucky with a drive that again had Rutherford beaten, but the ball struck the bar and came out.

Mackey put in sterling work along with Nelson in Swindon's continual efforts to equalise, and each goal had close shaves before the finish, which came in a bad light.

#### TOWN DEFENCE

Coen was not so often in action as Rutherford, but he made three splendid saves, any one of which he could have been forgiven for missing. The team owed a lot to him, but more to Mackey, who was again at his very best. Smith had a very poor game again, and seemed to lack the confidence which won him the position. The difference between the backs was that Mackey was always coming in to the ball, and his positioning was good, while Smith was unable to find position, and, why he does not follow his old and successful game in which his judgment and pace were invaluable is a mystery.

#### HALVES GOOD

His weakness made Fellowes unsettled, though the captain played his customary hard game. It was Peters that had Smith

(Continued at foot of next column)