

STILL ON WINNING TRACK

SWINDON TOWN JUST FAIL TO HOLD LUTON

(By CRUSADER)

SWINDON TOWN'S challenge to the supremacy of LUTON TOWN could not have been more determined, and there were many qualms and thrills before the home team gained their sixth consecutive victory. Considering the heavy going it was a fast and exciting game, with much good football, the visitors displaying splendid control and speed, and there was nothing wrong with their spirit.

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BETIMES it seemed as though the visitors would at least share the spoils, and none would have grudged them the point, though, on the run of the game, and the estimate of chances, the Town just deserved their success. There were more openings for shots at the Swindon goal, and three shots which struck the woodwork, two with the goalkeeper out of his charge. Swindon had hard luck once when a shot hit the post, but, calculated all round, the Town had the balance of chances.

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FINLAYSON scored a clever goal to give the Town the lead after seven minutes. It was almost old-fashioned, for, in these days, half-backs do not have so many shots at goal. Finlayson was not afraid to follow up his wing, and it was from a pass that he snapped up the ball and outwitted a couple of opponents before firing in a shot which no goalkeeper could have stopped.

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SWINDON nearly equalised when Lowry had a splendid shot hit the post, and they gave the Town defence a lot of trouble. Mackey was the mainstay, and he and Nelson did very sound work, but Smith was off colour, and Peters was frequently dangerous. The Town did rather the more attacking for upwards of half an hour and Rutherford made fine saves, but chances were missed through erratic marksmanship.

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BEFORE the interval, Swindon staged a tremendous rally, and, after Coen had brought off a really wonderful save, the visitors equalised, LOWRY heading in after clever and forceful work on the left wing. The goal was thoroughly deserved, and the teams crossed over on equality.

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EVEN PLAY was witnessed for a considerable part of the second half, for Swindon replied to almost every attack by the Town, and, though they did not get so many shots as the Town forwards, there was much danger in their quick, short passing, and Coen had to bestir himself to keep the ball out of the net two or three times.

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CONVERSELY, the Town also gave the opposition defence a strenuous time, and, not only did Rutherford make good saves, but both Ball and Martin had hit the woodwork before the winning goal was scored. It was a very good movement which brought the goal, and the final cross from right to left by Crompton gave STEPHENSON a chance which he promptly took. Later on Roberts struck the bar with a fine drive.



GEORGE MARTIN

SWINDON were game to the finish, and, again and again made raids on the wings. Coen made good saves, and the stalwarts, Mackey and Nelson revealed their best defensive qualities. It was well they did, for the visitors were eager to take advantage of any slip, were very speedy and alert, and always searching for openings. The winners were not sorry to hear the final whistle.

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WITHOUT touching their level of the previous week, the Town played well together again, and it was well that they did, for they were facing a very determined and plucky side. Coen, Mackey, and Nelson were all in splendid form, but Tom Smith seemed to have lost his old verve and dash, and was often in difficulties.

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FINLAYSON and Fellowes were vital links with the attack, and much of the open play that was most dangerous came from their clever support to the forwards. The response was good, and Martin did delightful work on the heavy going, initiating many clever moves, to which the other forwards contributed. Every man pulled his weight, and the team just deserved to succeed.

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SWINDON'S defence was sound, rarely making a mistake. They gave the ball plenty of boot when it was in the danger zone, and the halves and forwards had very good understanding. Smith, Armstrong, Lowry, and Peters were the most prominent.

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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.