

LUTON SCRAPE THROUGH

SWINDON'S BOLD BID IN CUP FIGHT

By CRUSADER

LUTON TOWN entered the fifth round of the Football Cup Competition by reason of a victory over SWINDON TOWN in the presence of a record crowd at Luton. The struggle was fought at a great pace, with the visitors showing great spirit and determination, and in some respects being the more dangerous side.

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SWINDON attacked from the kick-off and were soon giving the home defence a taste of their mettle. Jones missed badly through rashness, and Fowler shot badly the ball going right across goal. To this the home side replied with a move on the left, and Dawes met a centre and drove in a splendid shot, Bryan saving wonderfully at full length.

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FOR SOME TIME play was even, the home side perhaps having slightly the better of the exchanges, but Swindon defenders were in vigorous mood, and Bryan was not unduly troubled. Two or three free kicks, and two corner kicks were taken without avail, and Vinall was twice whistled offside.

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JONES WAS FLOORED by Nelson when he tried to catch a fast travelling ball, but later he centred across the goalmouth twice in quick succession, and the ball was cleared after a lot of trouble. Hetherington also put in fast work, and centred well, but no forward could get in a shot.

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LUTON REPLIED on the left, and Vinall raced through and gave a neat pass to Roberts, but the latter shot very badly from three or four yards range. Bryan saved finely from Ferguson, and for some time the Town kept up a hot attack, Swindon crowding their goal successfully.

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VINALL WAS PROMINENT, and Ferguson just missed with his head when the centre-forward got the ball across from well out on the left wing. Then Dawes put in a tremendous shot which skimmed the bar, Bryan being at the other end of the goal, and Musgrave almost put into his own net in frustrating another rush by the Town inside forwards.

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LUTON WERE ON TOP for a long time, but Swindon gave trouble by the raids of their wingers and Morton, and during a series of thrusts by the Swindon left wing Coen had to be alert several times, and twice lifted the ball over the bar.

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LUTON DEVELOPED an attack on the left wing just before half-time, Fellows bringing the ball well up, and when it was middled Vinall hooked it out to the right; FERGUSON rushed in, tricked Smith very cleverly, and then banged the ball into the net, a defending foot vainly trying to stop the ball, and so Luton crossed over with the lead.

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SWINDON SET UP a vigorous assault on resuming, and Luton were compelled to defend hard. Corner kicks were con-

ceded, and the swinging passes of the visitors had the Luton defenders in sore trouble. Coen saved well, but the visitors would not be denied, and after being forced back once or twice they came again, MORTON equalising with a grand drive.

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BEFORE THE HOME SIDE could compose themselves the visitors were making further desperate bids, and they were thwarted only after fierce defensive work in which Nelson and his backs kicked and tackled first time better than they had been doing.

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GRADUALLY the Luton forwards became more aggressive, but continued to hold the ball too close, and in the mud they could make little progress against the hefty tackling of the Swindon defence. Coen was tested twice again and made splendid saves before Bryan was brought into action, and he also did magnificent work.

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WHEN LEAST EXPECTED a goal came to the home side fifteen minutes before the close. Ferguson altered the tactics by suddenly shooting the ball right across the Swindon penalty area; STEPHENSON closed in and beat Tonner for possession, and then rammed in a swift low shot which had Bryan beaten all the way.

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SWINDON PROMPTLY WENT BACK to the attack, putting all they had into the forward line, and kicking strongly and rushing the Town defence. There was hectic work in which Coen and his backs and Nelson were forced to defend stoutly, but they stood up to their work with more confidence, and when the home forwards began to swing the ball about the Swindon defence was tested.

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THERE WAS NO FURTHER SCORE, and the Town thus entered the fifth round. They owed much to Coen and Nelson, and both Mackey and Smith had to work their hardest against clever wingers. The flank halves were good in attack, but the forwards kept the ball much too close against such determined opposition, though Vinall and Ferguson were always prominent.

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SWINDON WERE WELL SERVED by their defence, which was very solid, and constructed differently from that of the winners, for the flank halves did more defensive work. Morrall and Smith were stalwarts, and Bryan a safe goalkeeper, while in attack Jones and Morton were always dangerous.

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LUTON TOWN	2
Ferguson, Stephenson	
SWINDON TOWN	1
Morton	

LUTON TOWN.—Coen; Mackey, Smith; Finlayson, Nelson, Fellows; Ferguson, Dawes, Vinall, Roberts, Stephenson.

SWINDON TOWN.—Bryan; Tonner, Smith; Cousins, Morrall, Musgrave; Jones, Fowler, Morton, Lucas, Hetherington.

Referee: F. S. Milner, Wolverhampton.