

Early Goals Put Town On Top At Swansea

Lead Reduced Twice, But Swans Never Got A Grip On The Game

By CRUSADER

LUTON TOWN 3
Clark (2), Connelly
SWANSEA TOWN 2
Bamford (2)

SWANSEA TOWN. — Moore; Lawrence, Emmanuel; Harris, Simons, Lloyd; Richardson, Paton, Bamford, Olsen, Millington.
LUTON TOWN. — Coen; Smith, Dunsmore; Finlayson, Nelson, Loughran; Clark, Redfern, Vinall, Connelly, Roberts.
Referee: G. S. Blackhall, Wednesbury.

TWO GOALS WITHIN THE FIRST NINE MINUTES PUT LUTON TOWN in a strong position in their match with SWANSEA TOWN at Vetch Field. After that, they were always on top, and although the home side came very near to equalising after twice reducing the lead, there was never any question of Luton's superiority.

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LUTON ALWAYS SHOWED MORE METHOD, while the home side were haphazard, and never settled down to a type of game that promised to bring real success. In the first half, Luton had nearly all the play, and apart from two occasions, Swansea never looked like opening their account.

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EACH TIME, THEY FOUND COEN just too much for them, and one flying save from a free kick by Lawrence was a highlight of the game. On the other hand, the Luton forwards were continually cutting through their opponents' defence, and it was most surprising that they had not built up a commanding lead by the interval.

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THEIR APPROACH WORK left nothing to be desired, but there was something lacking near goal, and some simple chances went astray. The early goals proved to be the only score in the first half. The first was obtained by CLARK, who went through following smart work by Vinall and Redfern, and put in a high half-shot, half-lob, that completely deceived Moore, who was badly positioned.

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CLARK ALSO HAD A PART in the second goal, for it was from his perfectly-placed corner that CONNELLY headed into the net. Further heavy pressure looked certain to bring more goals, but time and again the Swans' goal escaped almost miraculously. Roberts missed a couple of chances, and Moore's charge never looked completely safe.

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LUTON BEGAN THE SECOND HALF as they had left off the first, and for some minutes the home goal was bombarded. A terrific shot from Finlayson struck the underpart of the crossbar and rebounded back into play. After several narrow escapes, the home goal fell again.

CONNELLY VEERED OUT TO THE LEFT, and lifted in a grand centre that passed over the mouth of the goal to CLARK, who carefully headed the ball out of Moore's reach into the far corner of the net.

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THREE GOALS TO THE GOOD, Luton might have run riot afterwards had not a sudden dash down the middle brought a goal to the Swans. BAMFORD, who had been in Nelson's pocket previously, followed a through pass, and from an acute angle, shot past Coen.

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THE SUCCESS GAVE THE HOME SIDE CONFIDENCE, and they were more in the game than they had been at any time previously. When BAMFORD added another 15 minutes from the end, there were visions of a stirring finish, but Luton had the better of the late exchanges, and Vinall had bad luck with a couple of headers.

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THEN CAME A LAST-MINUTE RALLY by the Swans, and Harris and Millington each went close, but there was no immediate danger, and fight as they did, the Swans could not obtain the equaliser.

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THE FORWARDS GAVE THEIR BEST DISPLAY of the season, and the inclusion of Redfern brought added craft to the line. He and Connelly led the home defence a rare dance, and at times each got through with consummate ease. Connelly, for once, disdained unnecessary trimmings, and he kept the play open.

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CLARK MADE A MOST PLEASING DEBUT, and apart from his two goals, he was always putting in useful work, and his centres were generally models of accuracy. Vinall, too, had a good match, and was an enterprising, clever leader throughout. Roberts was not altogether happy at outside-left, but it was only to be expected that he would feel strange in an unaccustomed position.

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PART OF THE FOUNDATION of the forwards' success was laid by the half-backs. Both Finlayson and Loughran excelled in attack, and the latter, in particular, was a live wire. Nelson did some solid work in defence, and generally overshadowed Bamford, who made use of the chances that came his way.

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SMITH PLAYED ONE OF HIS BEST GAMES so far this season, and he shut out Millington almost completely. His kicking, too, was good, as was Dunsmore's, who gave nothing away, although occasionally worried by the over-robustness of Paton. Coen did not have a lot to do, but showed every confidence on his return to the League side.