

Thrills And Goals At Luton

Swansea Could Not Stay The Pace

(By CRUSADER)

LUTON TOWN were full value for their success over SWANSEA TOWN at Luton. That Swansea failed to score from a penalty kick when they already had the lead might have made some difference, but my view is that the Town always were clever enough to win through, and they should have won by a bigger margin.

LUTON'S DEFENCE relaxed their grip when the side held a four goals lead, and Swansea benefited by that. Similarly the Town forwards were inclined to take liberties when they had a big lead, and individual players were trying to score instead of playing for the team.

WEATHER CONDITIONS were something like February, and the ground was in slippery state. In spite of this, there was much good football from both sides, but, whereas the Welshman usually made progress by hard booting from the rear, and swinging the ball from wing to wing, the Town forwards were apt to keep the ball very close. It was the more open play and quick passing in the second half that established the superiority of the Town.

COEN WAS SAFE ENOUGH, and there was fine play by King and Dunsmore when it was necessary in the first half, though the latter shared some responsibility for the lapses in defence, owing to a propensity for dribbling too much. He played splendidly, despite a hard knock on the head in the first half.

DREYER WAS AS STUBBORN as a stopper as ever, and Finlayson and Roberts did much skilful work, especially in support of the forwards. In the front line, Billington had a great day; Stephenson maintained his improved form, and was the most dangerous winger on view, and Clark also strove to do his work well. Redfern and Connolly were craftsmen as usual, capable of being big menaces to the opposing defence, but frequently playing exhibition football.

SWANSEA WERE WELL SERVED by their goalkeeper, John, and Emmanuel was a very fine defender. Imrie was a skilful pivot in the first half, and often made delightful touches, but, in the second period, Billington "lost him" often, and the Swansea centre-half might have brought serious trouble upon himself on at least one occasion. The flank halves were hearty rather than clever. Much good work was seen from the forwards, all the inside men being good.

LUTON PRESSED from the start, and the visiting goal had two or three escapes. John frustrated an effort by Stephenson, and Billington was wide when he had beaten the defence after Connolly had made an opening. Swansea took the lead after 16 minutes, when a free kick against Roberts was well placed by Emmanuel. Bamford headed the ball to OLSEN, who slipped it past Coen with a neat effect.

MORE LUTON PRESSURE ensued, and the Swansea goal was often in danger, but the visitors showed plenty of fight, and their long passes and quick raiding caused trouble. King was knocked out by a hard

centre from Millington, and was off the field for seven minutes. The Town forwards were keeping the ball very close, and attempts to dribble through a compact defence were frustrated often.

KING RETURNED, and, after Luton had forced two or three corners, the visitors went away. Bamford was hot foot for goal when Dreyer brought him down, and a penalty kick was the right award. Imrie took the shot, and drove the ball hard enough, but Coen made a splendid save by punching away.

WITH THIS TONIC, the Town asserted themselves more than ever, and eventually the Swansea goal fell. Stephenson was roaming over to the right wing in order to stir up the forwards, and, after hectic play, Redfern and Finlayson joined in a move, and Clark and Stephenson also had a part. Clark lifted the ball right across goal, and Billington headed it back to the middle where STEPHENSON easily scored.

SWANSEA'S DEFENCE was kept on the run, and the goal had several escapes before Dunsmore lifted a free kick well into the goal, and neat heading by Billington and Stephenson beat the defence, and CLARK nipped in and shot into the net to put the Town in front. Billington and Stephenson each came near increasing the lead before half-time:

LUTON TOWN	2
SWANSEA	1

FIERCE ASSAULTS were launched by the home team directly the game was restarted, and John was kept busy. He made a grand save from Billington, but the pressure brought reward when BILLINGTON took a pass from Stephenson, and beat John from close quarters. A little later, the same player had ill luck with a shot which rebounded from the goalkeeper.

BILLINGTON was being well supplied now by his colleagues, and gave Imrie a lot of trouble. Stephenson was sent away

by Connolly, and the winger beat Imrie as the latter rushed across, and, after outwitting Davies, he passed squarely into the goalmouth for BILLINGTON to steer the ball into the net.

LUTON WERE WELL ON TOP NOW, and, after a gruelling period the Swansea defence fell again to BILLINGTON, who quickly controlled the ball as it came over, from King's free kick, and John had no chance against a hard drive, although he touched the ball. Thus the centre-forward had completed his "hat-trick."

SWANSEA WERE STILL CAPABLE of fighting back, and they were given some encouragement by the rather dilatory methods of the Town defenders. The centre of the field was almost unguarded when Millington beat King, and sent the ball over; Bamford passed to MEEK, who scored easily. Soon afterwards the visitors scored again when a free kick was taken, and Bamford received to pass for OLSEN to score.

SWANSEA HAD COME BACK into the game to some purpose, and, for a time, the Town defence was kept busy, but did not lapse again. The Town attack renewed assaults, and BILLINGTON added another goal after an effort by Redfern had been foiled. Shortly before the whistle, Redfern appeared to have scored, but the referee disallowed the claim for a goal, although the ball appeared to be well over the line when Emmanuel kicked clear.

LUTON TOWN	6
Stephenson, Clark	
Billington (4)	
SWANSEA TOWN	3
Olsen (2), Meek	

LUTON TOWN.—Coen; King, Dunsmore; Finlayson, Dreyer, Roberts; Clark, Redfern, Billington, Connolly, Stephenson.

SWANSEA TOWN.—John; Davies, Emmanuel; Chedzoy, Imrie, Tabrum; Williams, Meek, Bamford, Olsen, Millington.

Referee.—G. S. Blackhall, Wednesbury