

Flying Start Paved Way To Town Victory

Billington Was At His Best And The Defence Solid

By Chiltern

LUTON TOWN 3
(Connelly, Billington 2)
MILLWALL 0

Following their two narrow defeats the Town struck the winning path again last night when, before 15,375 spectators, they took full points from their old Third Division rivals, Millwall.

There was never much doubt about the ultimate result, for once more the Town got away to a flying start with a goal in the opening minutes.

Although it was not until after the interval that they managed to increase this lead, apart from one spell of ten minutes close to half-time Millwall seldom looked like getting on terms.

The Town were by far the more skilful side, and the forwards played some really attractive football, whereas the Millwall attack was somewhat ragged, and did not make much impression on a defence which showed a new-found solidity.

Both backs came out with the utmost credit, and Lake's kicking was a feature. Gager dominated the centre of the field to such an extent that Jinks was never dangerous.

Soo showed all his genius in his brilliant footwork, and Cooke gave his usual 100 per cent. 90-minutes performance.

BILLINGTON'S BEST

It was good to see Billington among the goals and this was his best match so far. He was always dangerous, and was well supported by the inside men.

Both Daniel and Connelly were excellent foragers. Waugh was fast and tricky and a late run which took him through the Millwall defence like a knife through butter drew the loudest applause of all. If he had scored, this would have been doubled.

Steen was always a tryer, and made some useful centres. Actually, Millwall were lucky to get away so lightly, for Luton certainly had sufficient chances to have gained a run-away victory.

There was never any doubt about their superiority.

CONNELLY'S EARLY GOAL

The Town were one goal up in five minutes, through CONNELLY.

Daniel moved out to the right wing, and lifted in a centre that bounced awkwardly. The ball went over Brolly's head, and Connelly jumped high to head it through.

For a time the Town looked like adding to their lead. Purdie made two full lengths saves from snap shots by Billington, and Soo had a hard drive charged down.

Duke drew applause for one brilliant finger-tip save from Osman. Towards the interval Millwall improved and began to take quite a large share of the play.

Fenton brought a gasp from the crowd with a terrific shot that topped the bar by inches.

The Town came back again and right on the interval Daniel tried a header that caused Purdie some difficulty.

Half-time:

Luton 1, Millwall 0.

The Town repeated their early first half success when BILLINGTON added to their lead four minutes after the interval.

The goal followed a corner, after which the ball went over to the left, where Cooke lifted it back into the goalmouth. Connelly made a clever back-header, which left Billington with a simple chance.

Just before this goal Waugh had shot over from close in, and one of the biggest thrills of the game was

provided by Soo, who made a terrific shot that missed the post by inches, and had most of the crowd roaring "goal".

Luton were very much on top following this and there were many escapes for the Millwall goal. There was another when Billington was just off the mark.

Then, 11 minutes from the end, Waugh was pulled down as he was going through. The Town appealed for a penalty, but the referee awarded a free-kick right on the penalty area line.

BILLINGTON took the free kick, and the ball sped well out of Purdie's reach, to find a billet in the far corner of the net.

The closing minutes of the game were in semi-darkness.

There was one escape at the Town end when Duke made what appeared in the gloom to be an astonishing save, but from whom the shot came it was impossible to tell.

LUTON TOWN: Duke; Lake, Beach; Soo, Gager, Cooke; Steen, Daniel, Billington, Connelly, Waugh.

MILLWALL: Purdie; Dudley, Tyler; Fenton, Brolly, Bradley; Johnson, Hurrell, Jinks, Gordon, Osman.

Referee: A. T. Ford, Ilford.