

THE FULL-STRENGTH ATTACK SHONE

Missed Chances, But The Swans Were Well Beaten

By Chiltern

LUTON TOWN 2 SWANSEA TOWN ... 0

If the football the Town played in this match at Kenilworth-road, particularly in the second half, can be taken as a sample of what we can expect for the remainder of the season, then the early disappointments will be quickly forgotten.

The first win of the season was greeted with enthusiasm and it was no mere fluke that it coincided with their ability to field for the first time a forward line regarded as the best on the books.

Despite the number of chances missed, infinite promise for the future was contained in the display and there is no doubt that the return of Pye was a major factor in the improvement.

He can weld and hold a line together better than most centre-forwards in the game and he linked up with his colleagues in a way that made us wonder just how many points this season his absence has cost the Town.

Not that I am suggesting for a minute that one man makes a team, but things in attack revolved around Pye so much last season that his absence has been felt badly.

Mitchell's re-appearance was no less valuable, and with this pair back regularly and Cummins and Downie filling the bill at inside forward, this is a Town attack that will take some stopping.

Chief culprit in the matter of allowing scoring chances to slip by was Downie, but he had just one of those days and the fact that he was on the spot so often suggests that he will blossom forth into one of the Town's chief goal-getters.

POLISH FROM CUMMINS

From Cummins there was a polished display once he had settled down into the rhythm of the game and Turner, a somewhat surprise and late choice for outside-right, did so well as to give grounds for hope that he will be able to fill this problem position.

He was direct and so was Mitchell and with all the craft there is now in the inside positions, then there should be plenty of support for them and plenty of material coming across from the wings.

MITCHELL quickly got his name into the scorers' list when he stabbed the ball through a crowd of players after Pye had flicked on a free-kick awarded for a foul on Cummins.

That was after 22 minutes and gave the Town a lead they held until the interval, though they should have increased it.

Offside tactics, used persistently by Swansea, received the slow handclap from the crowd, but this type of defensive set-up has yielded the Town a crop of goals in the past and should have done so in this match.

Only other goal came in the 54th minute when DOWNIE ran on to a through pass from Cummins, with the Swansea defence square, trying to operate the offside trap again, and the inside-left beat King with a shot that was not so well placed as he had intended, though the goalkeeper did not get a hand to it.

There were one or two almost incredible misses after that, but Downie did get the ball into the net again, only to be penalised for offside.

RIGHT WING CARRIED MOST THRUST

Swansea were hard fighters and robust in the tackle, but apart from the Griffiths-Medwin right-wing partnership, their forwards

did not cause a sound Town defence much worry.

Most of what shooting they did came from Griffiths, and after some early sparkle, Allchurch got more and more into the grip of Morton, who has a remarkable record of holding star inside forwards.

Behind him, Dunne coped more than adequately with Beech, though the winger gave Streten his most difficult task with a terrific shot in the closing minutes.

Dunne was a good deal more impressive than Jones, who never seemed to settle down to his normal game, and his kicking was below par too, though he may have been feeling the effects of his mid-week injury.

From Owen there was domination and control of the middle of the field, and Watkins, while not quite at his best before the interval, shone brightly in the second half.

With Streten right back in his top form, there was no anxiety about this department, and what there was to do he accomplished in easy, confident style.

LUTON TOWN: Streten; Dunne, Jones; Morton, Owen, Watkins; Turner, Cummins, Pye, Downie, Mitchell.

SWANSEA TOWN: King; Keane, Thomas; Williams, Kiley, Pearson; Griffiths, Medwin, Scrine, Allchurch, Beech.

Referee: Rev. S. V. Davis, Oxford. Attendance: 17,579.