

KEPT IN TITLE RACE

Swansea Forced To Yield Point

SWANSEA TOWN 1
LUTON TOWN 1

In the middle of all the Cup-tie tension, the Town's search for vital League points must go on, and, in the circumstances, it was a good performance to return with a draw from Vetem Field on Saturday.

Yet it could have been an even better one had the Town made the fullest use of their superior skill in attack by turning it into the goals that should have come.

Although they went into this match with no illusions about the tough test that faced them, the Town could scarcely have budgeted for the early blow that was struck by the home team only two minutes after the start.

Then, the first Swansea raid, brought about by a free kick against Morton. By Williams, the ball was punted high into the Town's penalty area too high for Owen to get his head to it.

Jones (B.) lobbed it over to MEDWIN, who was in an open space, and he gave Stretten absolutely no chance.

After a somewhat unsettled period, particularly in defence, the Town regained the stride they had found in the first minute and gave Swansea's defence some nasty moments.

Anxiety for the Town came mainly through fast breakaway in which Jones (C.), Medwin and Allchurch missed chances, but the more persistent pressure came from the Town, whose forwards moved with more smoothness than those of the home team.

Fine saves by King kept the Town at bay, however, and some opportunities were allowed to slip by, too, but, a minute from half-time, a fine bit of work by Davies laid on a first-time shooting chance for MOORE, and he made no mistake with a low drive.

For quite 20 minutes of the second half, it looked only a question of time before the Town took the lead, for the forwards, backed up by strong wing-half play, often had the Swansea defence on the brink of disaster.

Somehow or another, fulfilment never came, though there were several occasions when it looked inevitable, as when Turner took a shrewd pass from Cummins, beat Kiley cleverly, and then blazed straight at King from the region of the penalty spot.

Swansea had their moments in attack, none more exciting than when Ivor Allchurch made a terrific drive that Stretten punched over in first-class style, but although they had more of the play later, their young forwards, badly needing a guiding hand, lacked the craft to find gaps in a Town defence that was well up to its highest standard after the interval.

HAD SOME BAD LUCK

That there should have been more goals for the Town is beyond dispute, but they suffered a certain amount of bad luck, with Turner having rather more than his share of it in his shooting.

As a whole, the forwards were a hard-working lot, who failed only in the matter of producing the finish and, Turner apart, there was not sufficient shooting.

Moore, Cummins and Davies all played their parts in the constructive work, but there could have been a greater willingness to have a crack at goal.

Mitchell had the beating of Charles, who pulled him down heavily several times, but did not finish well, either.

Outstanding roles were played by both Morton and Watkins, both in defence and attack, while Owen, though not quite the dominant figure he can be, was sound and gave Medwin little scope.

Both Swansea's young wingers were largely played out of the game by Jones and Aherne, who both showed a fine positional sense and continually tried to make use of the ball in their clearances.

Once again Stretten was in peak form and the Swansea crowd is another on whom he left a big impression.

SWANSEA TOWN: King; Charles, Thomas; Hole, Kiley, Williams; Allchurch (L.), Jones (B.), Medwin, Allchurch (I.), Jones (C.).

LUTON TOWN: Stretten; Jones (L.), Aherne; Morton, Owen, Watkins; Davies, Turner, Moore, Cummins, Mitchell.

Referee: Rev. S. V. Davis, Oxford Attendance: 15,000.