

PROMOTION FIGHT GETS CLOSER

TOWN NOW ONLY TWO POINTS BEHIND

Teamwork Helped Them To Well-Deserved Draw

By Chiltern

FURTHER proof of just how keen and close the Second Division promotion fight is comes from the experience of the Town after Saturday's matches.

Although they gained a most valuable point from Vetch Field, Swansea, and in doing so put themselves only two points behind the leaders, they dropped two places in the league table, due to the successes of Blackburn and Birmingham, who go above them because of superior goal average.

So with eight teams involved, the coming weeks look likely to provide much chopping and changing at the head of affairs and many exciting struggles among those teams who are promotion-conscious.

This coming Saturday gives as good an example of what can be expected with three vital matches due to be played.

In one of these, the Town are involved, for they have a home match with Rotherham and, by winning, can push the Yorkshire side out on to the fringe of the struggle and might well regain for themselves the ground they have lost temporarily in view of two other games which will provide desperately hard struggles.

Teamwork Gives The Town Great Chance

THESE involve the near local "derby" meeting of Nottingham Forest and Leicester and Doncaster Rovers are at home to Everton.

So the promotion fight is wide open and the Town must have a real chance of success this season especially in view of the exceptionally good team-work and team spirit they are showing.

The point at Swansea put them back on the beam again after losing their two previous away

that gave the home team this flying start.

Morton looked most surprised when he was penalised for a foul some yards inside his own half, and Williams could scarcely have placed the free kick more accurately.

It went just too high and wide for the head of Owen, who was marking Jones (B), with the result that the inside-right lifted the ball to Medwin, who had been left unmarked, and he gave Stretton no chance.

Then Swansea Were Thrown Right Back

NO blame could be saddled on Owen for this happening, but, for once, the covering of the Town defence that has been such a factor recently, did not function.

Despite this shock start Swansea were thrown right back on to the defensive by some clever work by the Town forwards, ably backed up by the wing halves, and the equaliser might have come very quickly.

On the other hand, Swansea, relying to a marked extent on their speed might conceivably have added to their lead had their shooting been at all accurate and Stretton made a brilliant save from Jones (C).

Equaliser Came From Moore

AT no stage did Swansea look really comfortable, and while the equaliser never looked far away, it took an uncommonly long time to arrive.

When it did, the referee was already looking at his watch, preparatory to signalling half-time.

Then Davies cleverly outwitted two opponents by taking the ball on the outside after he had feinted to go the other way and, from his low cross, Moore firmly banged the ball first-time and low past King, who had made several good saves, but was powerless to do anything about this effort.

Fine Approach Work, But Little Finish

PROBABLY, the Town reached the interval well satisfied with the position and it seemed to be one from which they might well gain a victory if the forwards could discover that extra thrust in attack.

What they did produce was some grand approach work which, for a spell, almost dazzled this young Swansea defence, and, after one of these movements, Turner, after eluding an opponent in clever style, smashed in a terrific shot that unfortunately went well within the reach of King.

Throughout, the more assured, combined football came from the Town and all Swansea's speed and real enthusiasm could not match the skill of their opponents.

Turner's Bad Luck With His Shooting

TROUBLE was that the elaboration was carried a little too far on occasions and far too many attacks broke down when the penalty area was reached without a shot being produced.

Man who did most of the shooting was Turner, who is not having much luck in this direction these days.

He is in one of those spells when things are not quite coming off for him in his finishing, but this phase will pass and the fact that he is shooting is a decided asset to the line and others could well take a leaf out of his book.

Again Turner showed how much confidence he has gained in these last weeks, for he worked the ball cleverly in addition to his marksmanship.

Several Openings Were Made

A TREMENDOUS amount of work was done by Cummins, who never shirked his responsibilities and, if he did not create so many openings as is usual, he made sufficient to have ensured the Town of more goals.

From Davies there was the hard-battling display we have come to expect from him, for he was always challenging for possession of the ball and he kept Thomas fully occupied.

For Mitchell, there was something of a rough passage from the youthful, but stalwart Charles, who brought down the winger at least half a dozen times.

Were Satisfactory Up To A Point

MITCHELL had the measure of the full-back, but the best opening he made for himself brought free kicks from which nothing developed.

There were times when Mitchell's finishing was below standard, and he had fewer opportunities for a crack at goal than is usual.

The goal that Moore secured might induce him to try his luck more often. He worked hard, but found Kiley quite a stumbling block, and looked

FOR THE RECORDS

SWANSEA TOWN 1
Medwin

LUTON TOWN 1
Moore

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

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

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

most dangerous when he made his favourite switch out to the right.

On the whole, there was a lot to be satisfied with about the way in which the front line as a whole moved, but there still must be a query about the finishing power.

Goal Average Can Do With A Boost

GOAL average may well be an important factor when the end of the season arrives, and the Town will be behind in this direction unless they begin to score more freely.

Not that I am carping about this performance, which, in the circumstances, must be regarded as a good one, for, with no immediate Cup worries, at any rate, Swansea were all out to improve their rather worrying League position.

They might well be one of the teams of the not too far distant future, but what this young all-Welsh combination badly needs is a general to turn the dash and enthusiasm into the right channels.

Defence Tightened Up After Shock Start

IN defence, the Town were slightly unsettled for a time after they had conceded that early goal, but it was only in those speedy breakaway that came unexpectedly at times that they looked at all worried.

There was not quite the same tightness in defence during the first half as there was against Blackpool, but all the same they looked reliable enough as a formation.

Ivor Allchurch must look upon the Town as his bogey team, since he seldom does anything out of the ordinary against them, and again he was much in the grip of Morton.

Wing Halves Often Had Attacking Role

APART from a couple of efforts, one of which Stretton saved magnificently, the danger from the inside-left was cut down to a minimum.

Watkins, too, was strong and effective, with the result that the Town often had command in the middle of the field and both wing halves did a great deal in attack.

There were times when both came through to shoot and Morton made one of the best efforts of the first half—a raking shot that brought King to full length.

Little Danger To Town In Second Half

WITHOUT being quite so commanding and dominating as usual, Owen was more than adequate in the middle and there were few chances for Medwin.

In view of the gruelling he had ploughing through the thickest of the Kenilworth-road mud last Wednesday, plus the fact that he has been having treatment for a strained neck muscle, there could be full marks for Owen.

The whole defence tightened up in the second half, so that there was not a great deal of fear of the Town losing their grip on this valuable point, despite the desperate thrusts the home forwards made at times.

Jones Strengthened Claims For A Cap

IN the country of his birth, Leslie Jones impressed yet another Welsh selector and so strengthened his claims to be recognised against Ireland in March.

On the whole, he played Jones (C.) out of the game with his coolness and refusal to be hustled into a rash tackle.

Aherne's experience and positional sense was too much for the younger Allchurch, who had few chances and Aherne was nearly always the complete master of the situation.

Stretton Showed Fine Anticipation Again

APART from one breath-taking situation late on, when he missed the ball from a corner and then found it conveniently bouncing into his hands, Stretton did not give the slightest cause for anxiety and he made at least three saves that were in the near-impossible category.

In view of everything, this result was an extremely good one for the Town and the point had the effect of keeping them intimately concerned in the promotion struggle and cleared the decks for yesterday's Cup replay.

Reserves' Fine Opening Spell

A HECTIC first ten minutes, in which the Plymouth defence could do nothing right, put Luton Reserves on the path to victory when they entertained the Argyle second string at Kenilworth-road.

In the fourth minute, Smith opened Luton's account and Cullen increased the lead five minutes later. Scott and Cullen both hit the woodwork after this before the outside-right found the net again—this time direct from a corner.

The Plymouth defence was dazed by this onslaught but they pulled themselves together and did much better afterwards.

Davies reduced their arrears with a flying header and after the interval Wyatt put them back into the game with a chance when he scored their second goal.

However, Allen scored again for Luton before the end. Seven minutes before half-time the referee blew his whistle sharply and signalled for half-time.

There was a great roar of protest from the crowd and after consulting his linesmen, the referee had second thoughts and resumed play.

Chiltern's Forecasts

DIVISION I

Arsenal v Sunderland
Blackpool v Aston Villa
Cardiff C. v Manchester C.
Chelsea v Huddersfield T.
Liverpool v Tottenham H.
Manchester Utd. v Bolton W.
Middlesbrough v Charlton Ath.
Newcastle Utd. v Preston N.E.
Portsmouth v Wolves
Sheffield Wed. v Sheffield Utd.
West Brom v Burnley

DIVISION II

Birmingham C. v Stoke C.
Blackburn R. v Hull C.
Brentford v Lincoln C.
Bury v Oldham Ath.
Derby Co. v Notts Co.
Doncaster R. v Everton
Leeds Utd. v Fulham
Luton T. v Rotherham Utd.
Nottm Forest v Leicester C.
Plymouth A. v Swansea T.
West Ham v Bristol Rov.

DIVISION III (SOUTH)

Aldershot v Colchester Utd.
Bournemouth v Southend Utd.
Bristol C. v Crystal Palace
Coventry C. v Brighton
Exeter C. v Newport Co.
Gillingham v Watford
Ipswich T. v Reading
Millwall v Leyton O.
Northampton T. v Torquay Utd.
Shrewsbury T. v Norwich C.
Swindon T. v Southampton
Walsall v Q.P.R.

DIVISION III (NORTH)

Accrington S. v Mansfield T.
Barnsley v Darlington
Bradford v Hartlepool Utd.

Carlisle Utd. v Barrow
Chester v Scunthorpe Utd.
Crewe Alex. v Workington
Grimsby T. v Wrexham
Halifax T. v Bradford C.
Port Vale v Gateshead
Southport v York C.
Stockport Co. v Rochdale
Tranmere R. v Chesterfield

SCOTTISH LEAGUE

DIVISION "A"

Airdrieonians v Aberdeen
Celtic v Queen of South
Dundee v Hearts
East Fife v Rangers
Hibernian v Falkirk
Partick T. v Raith R.
St. Mirren v Clyde
Stirling A. v Hamilton

DIVISION "B"

Arbroath v Dunfermline
Cowdenbeath v Queen's Park
Dumbarton v Forfar Ath.
Kilmarnock v Alloa
Motherwell v Dundee Utd.
St. Johnstone v Ayr Utd.
Stenhousemuir v Albion R.
Third Lanark v Morton

SELECTIONS

TEN HOME: Arsenal, Manchester Utd., West Brom, Birmingham, Blackburn, West Ham, Bristol C., Bournemouth, Barnsley, Stockport.

FOUR AWAY: Tottenham, Everton, Norwich, Scunthorpe.

THREE DRAWS: Middlesbrough v Charlton; Nottm Forest v Leicester; Coventry v Brighton

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