

LACK OF PUNCH IS COSTING POINTS

Town Had Their Chances Against Swansea

By CHILTERN

SWANSEA TOWN 1, LUTON TOWN 0

PPOINTS they can ill-afford to lose are eluding the Town simply because they have insufficient scoring power in attack and this was plainly the case at Vetch Field on Saturday when the Town were beaten again by a late goal.

However, in the first half, enough scoring chances came their way for them to have insured themselves against defeat and, probably, made certain of both points.

They had little to beat because Swansea were a very moderate combination indeed, often not looking as good as the Town in attack, and the middle of their defence was highly suspect.

Unfortunately, the Town had not the thrust and finish to take advantage of it, but even so they had at least four chances before half-time of going into the lead.

Fleming missed narrowly from two of them, but McKechnie and Walden made poor use of the opportunities that came their way.

Meanwhile, although the mercurial Jones was always a danger, the Swansea front line was being well contained, and most of the work that came the way of Standen before the interval was from longish range.

Not until about 20 minutes from the end did Swansea begin to take the upper hand after Saunders had shot wide of an open goal, with the Town defenders appealing for offside.

FORCED BACK ON DEFENSIVE

Gradually, the Town were forced back on to the defensive, their prospects began to look much less rosy than they had earlier, and, sure enough, the long-awaited goal came.

When it did, there were only 13 minutes left and it was from a corner, accurately placed by Jones, that THOMAS headed past Standen from point-blank range.

All the way through it had looked near enough certain that the team to score first would win this drab game, and so it proved.

The Town did not recover from the blow and Swansea were in little trouble in the closing stages.

Defensively, the Town did a pretty sound job, with Pacey settling down well in his new-found position of centre-half. There was quite a strong contribution, too, from Morton, and McGuffie had quite a good game. In fact, his inclusion has served to improve the quality of the distribution.

Of the full-backs, McNally had fewer headaches than did Bramwell, who found Jones a tricky customer, while McNally subdued Todd almost completely.

Once or twice in the first half, Standen looked uncertain, but he made some grand saves when the Swansea pressure went on later in the game.

Of the forwards, Fleming, who now looks as if he might well settle permanently at inside-right, was the most consistent and did a tremendous amount of fetching and carrying before he suffered double vision and switched to the left wing.

Walden was in nothing like his bright form of recent weeks, and Turner had what was almost a completely unprofitable afternoon. There was a rather better show from McKechnie, who, however, was inclined to be patchy, and Clapton made good use of the limited amount of material that came his way.

SWANSEA TOWN: Dwyer; Hughes, Griffiths; Johnson, Purcell, Saunders; Jones, Thomas, Webster, Williams (H), Todd.

LUTON TOWN: Standen; McNally, Bramwell; Morton, Pacey, McGuffie; Clapton, Fleming, Turner, McKechnie, Walden.

Referee: N. Hough, Macclesfield. Attendance: 10,000.