

How to take a penalty



Luton need three goals to qualify

Luton Town 1 Swindon Town 1

WE DID POINT out last week that nothing but goals will enable Luton to salvage their pride and some reward from the season. But now they need three against Cardiff tomorrow to win a place in the Watney Cup, the pre-season ho-down organised by the beer people.

Swindon, a spirited side when they want to be, have scored 61 times and if Luton fall short of their target the side they could only draw with at home on Saturday will pip them for a place in the attractive competition.

Luton have got 59 and if they are to make it their forwards will have to show a bit more know-how than they did at the weekend.

All they could muster was a penalty goal from Givens who stood in for Macdonald. The Luton centre-forward has missed his last two attempts.

And for my money they were fortunate to get even that. I don't think Potter's felling of Macdonald was as serious as that by Goodeve on Rogers earlier in the match. But that's football.

Good job

Givens did a good job and sent Downsborough the wrong way. Had Macdonald taken it, and scored, he would not only have put his nerves at rest but would have re-established his leadership in the Second Division goal table. He is currently level with Middlesbrough's Hickton on 27.

The two clubs in each division with the highest number of goals, who have not qualified for anything else, win places in the Watney Cup. Cardiff have netted 64 but they are expected to go into Europe via the Welsh Cup.

Luton owe it to their fans to go all out for these missing goals tomorrow and after Saturday's match manager Alec Stock pledged that his side would be doing just that.

He did not know whether or not there would be changes but he said he wanted to field an attacking set-up.

Saturday's was an interesting exercise. Full-back Ken Goodeve made his debut and did a fine job in marking Don Rogers, surely the best winger outside the First Division. The timing of Goodeve's tackling was excellent and his positional sense good.

Even so Rogers was able to wander away from Goodeve and give us some of those thrilling runs and perfectly timed crosses that are his own hallmark.

Well-deserved

Anderson returned to the side and put on another impressive performance before he had to leave the field in the second half with a badly skinned shin. The applause he received was well-deserved.

Luton played with four forwards up in a quest for goals, but little went as they had planned. And when it did Downsborough was always there to pull off some mighty saves. He made two tremendous stops to Givens and Anderson, who were Luton's best forwards.

Busby's running was good, but lacked finish, as did that of Jimmy Ryan, who replaced Anderson.

In midfield Hoy and Keen gave determined performances, but Court, who is injured, was missed.

Nicholl still looked a bit jumpy at the back, but he had good cover from Slough and John Ryan.

Tony Read returned to the

Luton goal and was decisive in his thinking, especially on the edge of the box.

After a boring first half Luton started the second spell as if they had had something strong in their tea. But they faded again, and the measure of the crowd's interest was summed up when they started to chant favours for Liverpool and Arsenal, rivals in Saturday's FA Cup final.

Chris Jones equalised for Swindon in the 58th minute, taking advantage of a defensive mix-up.

The 10,205 crowd was the smallest of the season at Kenilworth Road for a first team match. It was lower even than that for the League Cup tie against Fourth Division Workington.

I would like to see that doubled for a rip-roaring finish to the season against Cardiff tomorrow. But I doubt it will be. Given the support Luton could come up with something. They are as aware as their fans that three goals means the difference between something and nothing. And nothing is a poor reward for all the exertions of a season's football.

How to take a penalty. Don Givens, taking over from Malcolm Macdonald, gives a perfect demonstration of a spot kick as he sends Swindon keeper Downsborough the wrong way.

MATCH DETAILS

LUTON TOWN: Read; John Ryan, Goodeve; Hoy, Nicholl, Slough; Anderson (Jimmy Ryan, 72min), Busby, Macdonald, Keen, Givens.

SWINDON TOWN: Downsborough; Thomas, Trollope; Butler, Potter, Harland; Peplow, Smart, Horsfield, Jones, Rogers. Sub: Dangerfield.

REFEREE: Mr B. J. Homewood (Sunbury-on-Thames).

ATTENDANCE: 10,205.

GOALS: Givens (Luton, penalty, 44min) Jones (Swindon, 58min)