

LUTON FIND THE KILLER PUNCH



Gamer eludes two of the Swindon opposition

LUTON fought back bravely this afternoon after it seemed they would revert to last season's tactics of starting well and finishing poorly.

They had no time to relax after a penalty in the 20th minute from Aston, for Swindon pounced back with a neat flick from Jenkins two minutes later.

Luton floundered for a while after that and for a while it was anyone's game until Anderson put the Town ahead just on half-time.

There were some great goings on before the start. The band of the Blues and Greys gave a smallish looking crowd a touch of the good old days and then Luton were presented with their good behaviour award which they won in this year's Anglo Italian Tournament.

The presentation was made by Italian football supremo Gigi Peronacle.

Both teams lined up before the kick off and received presents from Vauxhall Motors and Shaw and Kilburn who were sponsoring the match.

But sooner or later we had to get down to the football. Luton were without Tom Finney who was dropped by manager Harry Haslam, and Jimmy Ryan was back in the No7 shirt.

Chased

Peter Cruse who has been scoring regularly for the reserves came in to replace Finney and Gordon Hindson who played so well at Crystal Palace last week was substitute.

Swindon have been having a bad time recently, and they made two changes bringing right winger Moss and former Charlton centre-forward Treacey back in to the forward line.

Before the game was three minutes old, Luton won their fourth corner after a smallish looking goalkeeper Allan struggled to fist over an inswinging corner from Jim Ryan.

Some clever footwork by Anderson sparked Luton's next attack, but Butlin could

Luton 2 Swindon 1
By
ROGER DUCKWORTH

not get in his shot. In fact the ball bounced out of his line of fire, and he kicked Stroud on the shin to produce a wry laugh from the Swindon defender.

In the eighth minute Luton should have gone ahead. Butlin chased hard out to the left to stop the ball going out of play. He thrashed it across the goalmouth, and Anderson charged in courageously to head at goal.

And from the corner, Cruse, looking extremely sharp, shot over the top.

Luton were supplying all the thrills, and Anderson shot narrowly over the top from just inside the box. In the 14th minute Faulkner was booked for an over-enthusiastic tackle on Treacy who went flying.

Anderson and Jenkins were involved in a scuffle when Anderson retaliated to a blatant shirt pull. The referee had a word with him, but the Swindon man got off without a caution.

There was a mix-up between Faulkner and goalkeeper Horn as they chased for a high lob with Legg, but Faulkner got out of it well and cleared coolly.

In the 20th minute Luton's terrific pressure paid off when they were awarded a penalty. Once again it was the long throw by Garner which caused the trouble. There was a terrific scuffle on the six-yard line in which Stroud handled.



It's a goal — and congratulations for Aston

ASTON stroked the penalty just inside the left hand post.

But two minutes later Swindon equalised — right against the run of play. A through ball caught Luton napping, and JENKINS ran through to take the ball nicely in his stride and flick it past Horn from close in.

Swindon got more into the game, and a hard left-foot drive by McGovern brought a flying save from Horn.

But Luton seemed to have lost the initiative, and when Anderson sent through a probing pass, an attempted flick on by John Ryan sent the ball skidding out of play.

In the 35th minute Jimmy Ryan appeared to have received a bad neck injury

when he went flying over the shoulder of McGovern and landed awkwardly.

After lengthy treatment he was helped to his feet and staggered back into the game looking dazed.

Then the referee refused to let Luton have the advantage when Shanks was going through, but it was just as well.

For Jimmy Ryan curled over the free kick, and ANDERSON again darted bravely to head Luton back into the lead.

HT: 2-1

Anderson was soon back in the thick of things as Luton looked to have got back on top in midfield. But the Swindon defence had a far more solid look about it than it had done in the opening minutes, and lanky Welsh international Rod Thomas was keeping a tight grip on Aston.

Swindon got back into it and full-back Trollope got over a good cross which Horn caught easily.

MATCH DETAILS

LUTON TOWN: Horn, Shanks, Thomson, Anderson, Faulkner, Garner, Jim Ryan, John Ryan, Butlin, Cruse, Aston. Sub: Hindson.

SWINDON: Allan, Thomas, Trollope, Butler, Burrows, Stroud, Moss, McGovern, Treacy, Legg, Jenkins. Sub: Syrett.

Referee: Mr A. Grey (Gt Yarmouth).

ATTENDANCE: 10,732

Duckworth's verdict

THIS was not a good performance by Luton. After being so far on top for 20 minutes that it wasn't true, they retreated into a shell from which they found it difficult to escape.

Had Cruse snapped up a couple of early chances, Luton would have found it much easier.

Playing only his second game for the first team, Cruse looked sharp and eager, but his lack of experience held him back.

Luton went ahead through a penalty from Aston for hand ball, but before the cheers had died,

Jenkins had nipped through a dreaming defence to equalise.

Luton can thank Peter Anderson for the points. He nipped in a minute before half-time to head Luton back into the lead.

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And he had a generally fine match, but Swindon gradually got back into the picture, and Luton could not have grumbled had they been deprived of a point.

With five minutes to go, the terrier-like Anderson robbed McGovern when he should have scored and Horn tipped over a shot from Moss.



After their recent splendid league performances, Luton had every reason to be disappointed with the way they played for their fans today. But they won. And that's all that matters tonight.

The award for Man of the Match must be a toss up between Thomson and Anderson. But Swindon showed terrific perseverance in the second half and they must have had a disappointing journey home.