

READY TO CELEBRATE



JOHN FAULKNER scores the Town's first goal, leaping high to head in a Jim Ryan corner. Alan Garner, on the right, watches, with Peter Anderson and John Aston on the left admiring the spring-heeled skill of the big defender.

AND ONE DISALLOWED

● MILLWALL were lucky to go home with only three goals against them. In the picture below Barry Butlin is heading in goal number four — but it was disallowed for pushing. Goalkeeper King had made a good save when he palmed a hot shot from Anderson into the air, and Butlin was first to the rebound.

PICTURES: PETER NUNN

Three goals put promotion in sight

By BRIAN SWAIN
Sports Editor

WITH A RIP-ROARING display which tore Millwall apart, the Town set themselves up on Saturday for the happy end to a 14-year dream of getting back into Division One. They are all but there, and the scene is set for a football fiesta as the Town prepare for their last two games of the season.

And if they play only half as well at West Brom as they did against Millwall, next Wednesday's home match with Sunderland will be a formality, with celebrations assured even before the kick-off.

It promises to be one heck of a night, with the Town crowning a remarkable resurgence which will make them the first team ever to slide down through all four divisions and then climb all the way back again.

And Saturday's demolition job on Millwall was more than just another victory — it swept away the cobweb of

doubt and fear that the dismal Easter had brought.

Town manager Harry Haslam and his team spent hours looking at the videotape of their Oxford defeat, and discussing what went wrong. Millwall caught the full frightening force of the backlash.

The Londoners were well and truly clobbered, beaten in every department, on every square yard of the pitch. The Town defence strangled Millwall's attacks at birth, and with Jim Ryan and Peter Anderson strutting and striding over the middle of the park, Millwall were on the rack for long periods.

They had no answer to the Town's power, and while they thought one of the Town's goals was dubious, they were lucky that Alan West was off target with efforts that might have brought him a hat-trick.

John Faulkner had a marvellous match, beating 24-goal Alf Wood every time, and setting the Town on the victory path with a superb goal.

That came after Anderson won a corner off Kitchener. Millwall failed to see Faulkner loping forward as Jim Ryan's corner curled in, and Faulkner rose high above Dorney to score with a powerful header.

John Aston was just one of the Town men who showed the sort of skill that will cope with First Division soccer, and he laid on the Town's second goal with a through-pass to Peter Anderson.

Anderson was cool and collected as Jones made a

MATCH DETAILS

LUTON TOWN 3, MILLWALL 0
Half-time: 2-0

TOWN: Horn, John Ryan, Thomison, Anderson, Faulkner, Garner, Jim Ryan, Husband, Butlin, West, Aston (Hindson, 57 minutes).

MILLWALL: King, Jones, Cripps, Dorney, Kitchener, Allder, Saul, Clark, Wood, Smethurst, Hill. Substitute: Bolland, not used.

THE GOALS: John Faulkner, towering header from Jim Ryan corner, 8 minutes; Peter Anderson, clever lob from Aston through-ball, 18 minutes; Gordon Hindson, solo run from Alan Garner clearance, 69 minutes.

ATTENDANCE: 15,740—pathetic reflection on the people of Luton and district when their team is nearly in the First Division.

ENTERTAINMENT: Great stuff from the Town.

REFEREE: Tom Reynolds, Swansea; had a marvellous game, and contributed a lot to the afternoon's pleasure.

BOOKING: John Ryan, for a so-called professional foul on Doug Allder.

hash of a clearance attempt, and goalkeeper King was left stranded as Anderson lobbed the ball into the net.

And even when Aston had to go off in the second half with a leg injury, the Town had the better of things, because the introduction of Gordon Hindson kept them as strong as ever.

He rubbed it in, by col-

lecting a clearance from Alan Garner and racing through from the halfway line to score on his own.

Millwall thought he was offside, but the referee didn't, and Hindson's class and experience were enough to take full advantage. The goalkeeper did all he could, racing out to the edge of his area, but Hindson slipped the ball past him.



TV CAMERA TURNS DEFEAT INTO A VICTORY

THE TOWN'S £1,000 investment in a set of videotape equipment came into its own with a vengeance for Saturday's match. At every Town game, a volunteer mans a small camera on the windswept TV camera gantry under the main stand.

The camera follows the ball for the 90 minutes of every match, and records it all on tape which is a larger version of the recording tape used in ordinary sound tape recorders.

And after the game, manager and players can sit down and watch it all over again. They can enjoy seeing their bright spots and clever goals. And they can squirm as their mistakes are exposed by the camera's eye.

The mistakes were the main discussion point last week when Harry Haslam and his

team spent four hours watching the film of the home defeat by Oxford, and discussing what went wrong.

Some of the players felt that they had been unlucky to lose to Oxford, but after watching it on film, they came to the conclusion that the Town tactics had been wrong. The big Oxford defenders took everything that was flung at them in the air.

And after the film and discussion among the players, Millwall discovered just how well the Town learned their lesson. The attacks were quick and accurate, and well varied in their approach.

Said the Manager: "The players felt bad over the Oxford result. But we had a long chat about it, and the spirit is right. We knew where we had gone wrong, and we knew what we had to do about it."

And to capture the action from the Millwall game, the Town were able to take their pictures direct from professional camera crews, because London Weekend Television chose the match for their Sunday afternoon programme.

And the television companies feed their pictures direct into the Town's videotape equipment, giving Luton a free copy of the complete 90 minutes of action.

On the other
**SPORTS
PAGES**

SPORT 2 SUNDAY SOCCER & LUTON LEAGUE

SPORT 3 STAR MATCH AND SOUTH MIDLANDS

SPORT 4 RACING, GOLF AND SWIMMING

SPORT 5 APPEAL TO FANS BY HARRY HASLAM