Marshall's 'hat trick' hammers Swindon

Big match facts

● TOWN: Sommer; Jones, Peake, Johnson, Thomas; Telfer, Waddock, Oakes, Preece, Marshall, (Woodford 75 mins) Biggins (Dixon 75 mins). Unused: goalkeeper sub goalkeeper Davis.

● SWINDON: Hammond; O'Sullivan, Horlock, Robinson, Murray; Beauchamp, McMahon, Ling, Gooden (Mutch 82 mins); Fjortoft, Thorne. Unused: subs Thomson and goalkeeper Digby.

● GOALS: 1-0 19 mins: Kevin Horlock own goal, accidentally meeting the rebound after Nicky Hammond beat out a shot by Dwight Marshall; 2-0 50 mins: Marshall, converting a low far post cross delivered from the right by Wayne Biggins; 3-0 63 mins: Marshall, who made up the hat-trick with a header from the left by Biggins, his 11th goal of the season after Paul Telfer's head flicked on a corner by David Preece.

● REFEREE: John Kirkby, Sheffield. Not as impressive as he has been in other Town matches this season. Even Town players thought he was harsh when he awarded the penalty, and both sides thought he then missed even clearer fouls that should have led to spot kicks.

● ATTENDANCE: 6,595, not bad after successive 5-0 and 5-0 defeats.

● ENTERTAINMENT: Not the best game we have ever seen, but fans Town supporters enjoyed the result against an injury-hit team that had other things on its mind, namely tonight's second leg of the Coca Cola Cup semi-final at Bolton.

STRIKE ONE: Goalkeeper Nicky Hammond gets down to save from Dwight Marshall. But Kevin Horlock, the defender racing back just behind the Luton striker, accidentally knocked the ball past the keeper and into his own net. Gas ...

WHILE THE manager was away searching for new striking talent, bargain buy Dwight Marshall underlined what a shrewd acquisition he has been for Luton Town by masterminding the downfall of Swindon at Kenilworth Road.

The former Plymouth man made one goal, had one disallowed and scored both the others as the Town got their season back on the rails after two successive hammerings.

It was just the kind of game they needed to chase away the blues, against a team that was not concentrating everything on the match.

Since John Hartson left just over a month ago Marshall, who cost £150,000 last summer, has taken over responsibility for putting the bite into attack, and has now 8lb five in the last six games.

It was obvious that Swindon, who play at Bolton tonight in the second leg of the Coca Cola Cup semi-final, hardly had their minds on the task facing them at Kenilworth Road, and it was one of the most comfortable afternoons the Town are likely to face for a long time.

But after 6-0 at Southampton and 5-0 at Grimsby it was a delight to see the Town regain their professional pride as do the business in front of their owners.

Marshall took the man of the match honours, but the rest of the team played its part in demolishing Swindon more easily than the final result suggests.

It was a happy afternoon for new old skipper Trevor Peake, paired with Jurgen Sommer and the defence in whole. The clean sheet was well deserved, with Peake cool and assured again as Tigerloft, the First Division's leading scorer.

He and new Swindon signing Ian Thorne rarely looked like adding to his tally once the Town had settled down.

Only for the first 20 minutes did Swindon look a avenging their 2-1 defeat at the County Ground in November.

Jerry Beauchamp, Swindon's right, threatened to do major damage, but Thorne wasted an opportunity created and Hammond followed when Sommer dived to his feet.

And Swindon, with a reshuffled defence coped with injury absences of Sam Taylor, Luc Nijhuis and Ian Culverhouse, curtesy of a bizarre own goal in the 19th minute.

Gary Waddock deemed perfect point-taker for the job to set Marshall free on 63 minutes.

Dwight Marshall

LUTON TOWN 3 SWINDON 0 (Half-time 1-0)

STRIKE TWO: Dwight Marshall's shot flashes into the net beyond the despairing dive of Nicky Hammond to make it 2-0.

Luton Town's season at a glance

DATE... OPPONENTS... RESULT... TOWN SCORERS... ATTENDANCE... LEAGUE POSITION

ENGLISH LEAGUE DIV I

August 1994

13 West Brom (H) 1-1 (Oakes) 8,640
20 Derby Co (A) 0-2 13,060
27 Southend (H) 2-2 (Hartson, Hughes) 5,918 17
30 Tranmere (A) 2-4 (Hughes, Hartson) 5,480 20

September

3 Port Vale (A) 1-0 (Marshall) 8,541 15
10 Burnley (H) 0-1 9,811 19
13 Bolton (H) 0-3 5,784 20
17 Watford (A) 4-2 (Telfer 2, Dixon (Oakes) 8,880 16

24 Millwall (A) 0-0 7,150 16

October

1 Bristol City (H) 0-1 6,633 20
8 Stoke City (A) 2-1 (Marshall, Preece) 11,712 18
22 Middlesbrough (H) 5-1 (Marshall 2, Preece, Hartson, og) 13,317 10
22 Sheffield Utd (A) 3-1 (Jarman, Dixon, og) 13,317 10
29 Barnsley (H) 3-1 (Marshall, Preece, Hartson) 7,212 10

November

1 Grimsby Tn (H) 1-2 (Oakes) 5,839 12
5 Swindon (A) 3-2 (Preece, Marshall) (Dixon) 26,749 8
12 Oldham Ath (A) 0-0 7,907 8
19 Portsmouth (H) 2-0 (Preece, Marshall) 8,218 8
26 Swindon (A) 2-1 (Dixon, Oakes) Decembers 9,455 5

3 Sheffield Utd (H) 3-6 (Hartson, Johnson, og) 8,518 8
11 Derby Co (A) 2-0 (Dixon, Oakes) 8,400 5
18 West Brom (A) 0-1 14,592 12
26 Bolton (A) 0-2 (Oakes) 21,279 12
27 Sunderland (H) 3-0 (Oakes 2, Hartson) 8,953 9
31 Port Vale (A) 1-0 (Telfer) 6,249 8

January 1995

2 Charlton Ath (H) 0-1 7,642 9
14 Barnsley (A) 1-3 (Dixon) 4,808 11

February

4 Oldham Ath (H) 2-1 (Marshall 2) 6,903 10
11 Grimsby (A) 0-5 4,815 14
18 Swindon (H) 3-0 (OG, Marshall 2) 6,595 9
25 Bristol City (A) 1-1 (Marshall) 9,163 9

March

7 Port Vale (H) 1-1 (Marshall) 6,511 9
11 Southend (A) 1-0 (Hughes) 3,126 9
18 Tranmere (A) 2-1 (Hughes, Johnson) 7,251 9
25 Burnley (A) 1-1 (Johnson) 7,251 9
25 Watford (H) 1-0 (Own goals) 9,163 9

April

1 Bolton (A) 1-1 (Johnson) 9,163 9
8 Wolves (H) 2-1 (Hughes, Biggins) 9,163 9
8 Notts County (H) 1-0 (Biggins) 9,163 9
15 Sunderland (A) 1-1 (Hughes) 9,163 9
17 Reading (A) 2-0 (Hughes, Johnson) 9,163 9
22 Charlton Ath (A) 2-1 (Hughes, Johnson) 9,163 9
29 Middlesboro (A) 1-1 (Biggins) 9,163 9

May

6 Stoke City (H) 1-0 (Hughes) 9,163 9

COCA-COLA CUP (First Round)

August 1994

16 Fulham (H) 1-1 (Oakes) 3,287
23 Fulham (A) 1-1 (Marshall) 5,134

Luton lost on penalties

FA CUP (Third Round)

January 1995

7 Bristol Rov (H) 1-1 (Hartson) 7,571
18 Bristol Rov (A) 1-0 (Marshall) (Fourth Round) 8,218 Replay
28 Southampton (H) 1-1 (Biggins) February 9,938
8 Southampton (A) 0-6 15,075 Replay

Who's who

APPEARANCES... GOALS

League appearances		League goals	
Late in brackets		Thorpe	(2)
Sommer	30	Marshall	9
James	30	Oakes	6
Jones	6	Dixon	6
Telfer	27 (1)	Hartson	5
Preece	27	Hughes	5
Marshall	24 (2)	Johnson	3
Thomas	24 (2)	Hughes	2
Waddock	24	Jones	2
Oakes	23 (6)	Johnson	1 pen
Dixon	19 (3)	Own goals	3
Hartson	11 (9)	Assists	
Hughes	6	Telfer	9
Grimes	6	Marshall	6
Peake	6	Hughes	6
Linton	3 (2)	Hartson	4
Kelkar	3 (3)	Johnson	4
Biggins	3	Oakes	3
Houghton	1	Biggins	3
Harvey	1	James	2
Woodford	(3)	Hughes	1
Allcock	(2)	Johnson	1

CUP APPEARANCES... GOALS

Cup appearances		Cup goals	
Sommer	6	Linton	1 (1)
Peake	6	Hartson	1
Johnson	6	Thorpe	1
Telfer	6	Cheney	1
Preece	6	Thorpe	(1)
Oakes	5 (1)	Williams	(1)
Marshall	5 (1)	Marshall	(1)
Dixon	4 (1)	Allcock	(1)
James	4	Cup goals	
Thomas	4	Marshall	2
Waddock	4	Oakes	1
Hughes	2	Hartson	1
Greene	2	Biggins	1

How they stand

ENGLISH LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION

	HOME					AWAY					
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bolton	31	12	3	1	35	13	3	6	6	17	22	54
Tranmere	31	13	2	1	36	10	6	7	1	19	15	57
Middlesbro	29	10	2	3	23	11	5	3	4	17	15	52
Wolves	29	11	2	3	31	11	4	3	7	21	26	50
Reading	31	6	6	3	16	11	8	2	6	19	17	59
Sheff Utd	31	8	5	2	25	11	6	3	7	19	23	48
Grimsby	31	9	4	2	30	14	3	7	6	19	26	43
Watford	30	8	5	2	25	12	3	4	8	14	27	43
Luton Town	**30**	**5**	**3**	**7**	**22**	**20**	**7**	**4**	**4**	**19**	**20**	**43**
Stoke	29	9	4	2	20	14	2	3	9	11	24	43
Barnsley	28	7	5	2	24	14	3	5	6	12	18	40
Millwall	30	6	4	5	24	24	4	3	8	17	27	40
Oldham	30	7	5	2	23	13	3	4	9	18	27	39
Swindon	31	7	3	5	23	19	3	4	7	15	19	37
Derby Co	29	6	3	5	17	12	3	5	10	11	27	37
West Brom	31	6	2	7	17	17	3	4	9	14	29	32
Southend	31	4	2	9	11	13	3	5	8	21	36	26
Stoke	28	3	5	6	20	16	2	3	9	12	31	26
Port Vale	28	7	3	4	19	12	2	5	7	16	26	34
Portsmouth	30	4	5	5	16	17	4	2	9	11	22	34
Bristol City	32	6	3	7	19	22	2	5	8	14	33	32
Sunderland	30	2	10	4	16	17	4	2	9	15	28	32
Swindon	29	6	5	4	21	17	2	4	9	21	27	31
Burnley	28	3	5	6	13	21	3	4	7	9	21	27
Notts Co	32	4	5	6	19	20	2	2	12	16	28	26

STRIKE THREE: Dwight Marshall is falling away on the extreme left as the ball hits the net for his second goal of the game.

REPORTS BY BRIAN SWAIN
PICTURES BY GARETH OWEN

BY FAIR MEANS OR FOUL: Desperation time for Mark Robinson, with a tackle on Marshall that incensed Town fans. The Swindon man escaped the yellow card that seemed to be deserved.

Scott Oakes

LUTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

'We've got a hang-up about penalty kicks'

PLAYER-manager Steve McMahon, a big winner when he was with Liverpool, was angry, but understanding, about the way Swindon bottled out of the job at Kenilworth Road.

He fears dreams of Wembley can turn into a nightmare of disappointment — Swindon have now dropped into the bottom three of the First Division.

Town coach John Moore, deputising ably as Press conference host while David Pleat was at Bradford, looked and sounded as though he enjoyed the experience much more than he used to in his one season as manager.

He was very, very fond of Town's first-half show — "We were very, very good, like 11 strangers playing with bad bruises."

"But Swindon had other things on their mind and we have to be thankful for that because they had changed at home."

He was much happier with the second half showing, but suggested that Town have played better last time.

"We have ground out a result," he said. "The defence has done well, and credit to them and to Trevor Peake, who won his battle with aggressive Jerry Beauchamp and acter showed today."

The question of penalties will be under consideration on the training ground this week following the addition of the name of Scott Oakes to Town's list of shots from the spot this season.

"We've got a hang-up about penalty kicks," said Moore. "Every player thinks he can take them in practice but it's different in the match atmosphere.

"Scott had started the second half brightly. He was on a high and I thought we could give him the chance."

McMahon said he doubted if it should have been a penalty anyway, but he had no complaints about the result, only about his players' attitude to a bread and butter league game.

"It was very disappointing, especially in the second half. We played well against Bolton in the first half, but we need a bit of confidence. We have to keep plugging away in the league, and we need a lucky result or silly goals.

He did not blame Kevin Horlock, a left back used as a centre-half, for the own goal that set the Town on their way.

Swindon play at Bolton tonight, defending a 2-1 lead from the first leg, in a second leg clash that will decide if they go to Wembley in the Coca Cola Cup final.

Mark McMahon: "I will be glad when it's over and done with, one way or the other. It has been a major distraction — players are only human, and they're all thinking about it."

John Moore