

Luton hot-shots sink Swansea

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HEAD TENNIS: Swansea's Kris O'Leary keeps his eye on the ball and turns past Luton goalscorer Stuart Douglas

LUTON TOWN

Mansell (3, 51), Douglas (9), Rowland (70), George (82)

5

SWANSEA CITY

Savarese (18, 65, 80)

3

By RYAN WATSON

LUTON fans are starting to believe in miracles after new boss Joe Kinnear made it three wins in three games since taking charge of the Division Two strugglers.

This latest win against relegation rivals Swansea lifts the Hatters one place and raises hopes that the drop can be avoided.

It was a bitter-sweet day for Swansea's Venezuelan Giovanni Savarese who scored a hat-trick but finished on the losing side.

In the summer he had trials at Luton but the then manager, Ricky Hill, rejected him.

He eventually landed up at

Swansea where he is now their leading scorer with 14 goals.

The problem for Swansea was that they were always chasing the game after Luton went two-up inside ten minutes with an acrobatic bicycle kick from Lee Mansell and a powerful volley by Stuart Douglas.

Savarese's header on 18 minutes gave Swansea hope and his power and pace was a constant threat to Luton.

But he received precious little support, even when Luton's old failing of getting nervous and anxious surfaced for a time.

They restored their two-goal lead through 18-year-old Mansell shortly after the break following excellent work by Liam George.

The nimble striker has been told by Kinnear not to worry about tracking back into midfield but to stay much nearer to the danger area, take men on and 'give it a go'.

Swansea's big defenders were always on edge when he did exactly that and the goal he richly deserved was the last of the day's eight.

George's instant control and a sharply delivered shot finally broke Swansea's resistance eight minutes from time.

Before that, Savarese had poked in his second goal to leave Swansea only one behind.

But Keith Rowland, who has joined the Hatters on loan from QPR, produced a surging run that led to a goal on his home debut.

Savarese completed his hat-trick with 10 minutes to go only for Luton to bounce back immediately, George finishing them off with a fifth Luton goal to leave Kinnear well pleased.

The former Wimbledon boss, back in football after an 18 month lay-off, said: "I missed the game like hell. It's a real buzz to be back and I couldn't have asked for a better start.

"We were good value for this victory, although in a perfect world I would have wanted our defending to be much better.

"That's something we will work on, but I would happily settle for conceding three goals per match if we score five every time."