

Luton go nap for Kinnear

20/01

By Nicholas Harling

Luton Town..... 5
Swansea City 3

THE lengthy standing ovation at the end was testimony to what the crowd thought, but if ever a match provided a health risk to managers it was the attacking extravaganza produced at Kenilworth Road on Saturday.

Notwithstanding the fact that Luton face a relegation fight, Joe Kinnear might have anticipated a quieter life away from the pressures of the Premiership which brought him a heart attack at Wimbledon. Not a bit of it, on the evidence of his first home game in charge.

If proof was required, it came with the abrupt replies and thunderous expression on the face of Kinnear's counterpart at Swansea, John Hollins, which suggested that a performance

containing some delightful passing movements and a hat-trick from a Venezuelan international is worthless if your defence — especially your goalkeeper — is seizing up at the other end.

But one man's meat is another's poison. Where some witnessed a glorious exhibition of spontaneity, others saw a game riddled with flaws, among them Kinnear, who said after his third successive victory: "It's the worst we've defended. But although it's important to win every game, it's more important to inflict some punishment on those teams around you."

Which was why he told Luton to "get at Swansea from the start", little believing that the reward would be two goals in eight minutes.

Unfortunately for Swansea, already lacking central defender Jason Smith, they

might as well have been missing Roger Freestone, too. The goalkeeper's emotional week had caught up with him. The hero in his 500th league appearance, then the villain when dismissed in his 100th cup-tie, here he was reacting with uncharacteristic tardiness to Luton's first four goals.

Lee Mansell benefited twice, Stuart Douglas and Keith Rowland once each before Liam George drove in the goal he deserved past the for once blameless Freestone. By then Giovanni Savarese had completed his hat-trick for Swansea.

Luton Town: Ovendale; Stirling, Boyce, Dryden; Helin, Mansell, Spring, Rowland (Locke 90), Taylor; Douglas (Fotiadis 65), George. **Subs:** Thomson, Breitenfelder, Abbey (g). **Goals:** Mansell (3, 51), Douglas (9), Rowland (70), George (82). **Booked:** Mansell.

Swansea City: Freestone; O'Leary, Bound, Devulgt; Price (Fabiano 46), Romo, Lacey (Watkins 77), Jenkins (Cusack 46), Roberts; Savarese, Verschave. **Subs:** Keegan, Mounty. **Goals:** Savarese (18, 56, 80). **Booked:** Fabiano.

Referee: A Bates (Staffs).