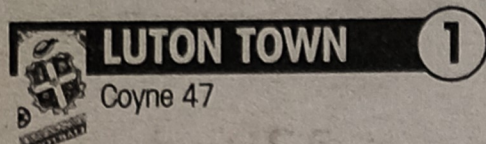
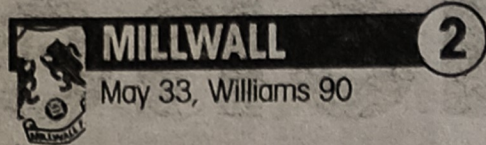


MARVELLOUS SUPER-SUB



Att: 9,871 Rating: ★★/★

MARVELLOUS Marvin Williams snatched a victory for Millwall as this tedious game entered stoppage time – and with it came perfect symmetry.

When the struggling South London club last won in the League on January 2, Williams was the hero, appearing as a late second-half substitute to grab the winner in a 2-1 triumph.

Eight Championship matches have passed since, which has seen Millwall slip deep into trouble and there looked no chance of them achieving a victory when Williams was brought on 20 minutes from time.

But in the 91st minute, as Carl Asaba rose to touch on a long pass from Matt Lawrence, Williams was through, racing on to the ball and touching it home into the left-hand corner.

It was the lifeline Millwall had been looking for. Suddenly they see an escape route from trouble – and the booing which has rung around the ground was all forgotten.

“We are now only two points behind Sheffield Wednesday,” said Millwall manager David Tuttle. “We are going after them. Were the fans unhappy? I did not hear them booing.”

He may well have been alone in that because the protesting fans vented their anger the most in that 70th minute when Williams was brought on.

Not for his arrival but for the fact that Colin Cameron had been replaced by Barry Cogan as part of a double change.

Cameron, on loan from Wolves, had been superb but he had also played in a reserve match on Thursday and Tuttle was saving his legs.

The supporters did not agree, with some furious complaints launched towards the manager from the main stand but, in the end, they left the ground celebrating after the intervention of Williams.

Millwall have a run-in which includes meeting fellow strugglers Leicester, Derby, Brighton and, on the final day of the season, Crewe. But Tuttle knows they must now build on this win.

He added: “Williams and Cogan lived things up and it

By SIMON JAMES

gave us the victory which we deserved.”

The breakthrough took 33 minutes. Ben May, who earlier had a shot well saved by Beresford, controlled the ball well. He went to turn to his right but chose the left and the room he made allowed him the chance to slide the ball past Beresford.

Luton had looked lively, with captain Kevin Nicholls superb and they drew level a minute after the re-start.

Paul Underwood swung in a free-kick which Steve Howard touched on and Chris Coyne crashed the ball into the roof of the net from ten yards.

Carlos Edwards then forced Andy Marshall into a fine save following an excellent run and Luton had more possession but could not force a winner.

Defeat left their manager Mike Newell frustrated again.

“The game should have been over after 20 minutes of the second half,” he said. “But yet again, we are just not putting sides away.”

“We will not give up on making it into the play-offs but we are now relying on having a good run and others slipping.”

“If we add players for next season we will have a right crack at it.”

“We are a top-six side – though of course that is not where we are now.”

What Millwall must avoid now is another run of two months without a win, because then there will be only one outcome.

STAR MAN: KEVIN NICHOLLS (Luton Town)



	DEFENSIVE BLOCK	DEFENSIVE CLEARANCE	SHOT ON TARGET	SHOT OFF TARGET	FOULS COMMITTED	FREE KICKS WON	CAUGHT OFFSIDE	CROSSES		DEFENSIVE BLOCK	DEFENSIVE CLEARANCE	SHOT ON TARGET	SHOT OFF TARGET	FOULS COMMITTED	FREE KICKS WON	CAUGHT OFFSIDE	CROSSES
Lawrence	-	-	-	-	1	4	-	-	Foley	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	2
Robinson	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	Underwood	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	2
Whitbread	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	1	Heikkinen	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Elliott	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	Coyne	-	-	1	-	2	2	-	-
Dunne	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	Edwards	-	-	1	1	-	2	-	1
Cameron	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	Nicholls	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	6
Craig	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	3	Holmes	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
Livermore	-	-	-	2	1	3	-	1	Brkovic	-	-	2	1	5	-	-	1
May	-	-	2	1	2	-	1	-	Howard	-	-	3	-	1	4	-	1
Asaba	1	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	Vine	-	-	1	1	5	-	-	-
SUBSTITUTES									SUBSTITUTES								
Williams	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	Feeney	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
									Morgan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1

KEEPER: Marshall 11 saves (7 Catch, 2 Punch, 2 Parry)

37% POSSESSION 63%

KEEPER: Beresford 6 saves (5 Catch, 1 Parry)

STRIKE ONE: Ben May scores Millwall's opening goal against Luton Town

PICTURE: Brian Tonks

‘We are only two points behind Sheffield Wednesday. We are going after them’

David Tuttle

‘We will not give up on making it into the play-offs but others must slip up’

Mike Newell

MILLWALL

PLAYER RATINGS

ANDY MARSHALL 6/10

No chance with goal but showed good handling throughout

MATT LAWRENCE 6/10

Some good headers which set up play and didn't do anything wrong

MARVIN ELLIOTT 6/10

Took time with his passing, which meant for good distribution

PAUL ROBINSON 6/10

A solid match, where Luton could have posed a great presence up front

ALAN DUNNE 5/10

Had some good moments but was taken off as Millwall looked for winner

DAVID LIVERMORE 6/10

So close with second-half shot that went inches wide

COLIN CAMERON 7/10

Good match and excellent in tackles – boos rang out when subbed

ZAK WHITBREAD 6/10

Got in a tangle with ball on a few occasions but showed fine skill

TONY CRAIG 6/10

Made some good interventions and was always quick to the ball

BEN MAY 7/10

Took his goal really well, making room for himself in the box

CARL ASABA 5/10

Always tried to make room but his marker stuck right by him

SUBSTITUTES

MARVIN WILLIAMS – match-winner 7

LLOYD DYER – no impact 5

BARRY COGAN – played his part 5

LUTON TOWN

PLAYER RATINGS

MARLON BERESFORD 6/10

Made a fine save from May's first-half shot but flat-footed for his goal

KEVIN FOLEY 6/10

Kept his position well and made some good telling breaks

MARKUS HEIKKINEN 6/10

Stayed close to Asaba which allowed the striker minimal chances

CHRIS COYNE 6/10

Took equaliser well, sensing the chance and putting Luton in control

CARLOS EDWARDS 7/10

Has fine pace and showed it with superb second-half run and shot

KEVIN NICHOLLS 8/10

Ran the show, a true captain's performance – made big impact

PAUL UNDERWOOD 6/10

His free-kick led to Luton equalising. Looked good breaking forward

PETER HOLMES 6/10

Always keen to get involved but did not see enough ball

AHMET BRKOVIC 5/10

Normally the creator of so much, not yesterday. Noticeable absence

STEVE HOWARD 6/10

Touched ball on for Coyne to score. A threat to Millwall's defence

ROWAN VINE 6/10

Not his best game, one shot over and frustrated by lack of service

SUBSTITUTES

ENOCH SHOWUNMI – no time 5

DEAN MORGAN – small role 5

WARREN FEENEY – little ball 5