

Luton suffer double blow but TV star still upbeat

LUTON

Furlong (74)



1

SWANSEA

Keane (og 5), Bauza (64), Scotland (82)



3

By **Bob Williams**

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A TRAUMATIC week for Luton ended in further disappointment as league leaders Swansea strolled to a comfortable victory to extend their uneaten run to 12 matches.

Roberto Martinez's side dominated from start to finish and secured the three points thanks to a Keith Keane own goal and strikes from Guillem Bauza and Jason Scotland.

Luton failed to repeat the heroics of their 1-1 draw against Liverpool last Sunday and went down to only their second defeat in 14 matches. But thigh injuries to goalkeeper Dean Brill and centre-half Chris Perry are a blow to their hopes in the FA Cup third-round replay at Anfield on Tuesday.

But after manager Kevin Blackwell announced his resignation on Friday, and that of his backroom staff, there was some good news for the beleaguered club. TV presenter and life-long Luton fan Nick Owen revealed he was 'very optimistic' that the 2020 consortium he is fronting would gain preferred bidder status this week.

Luton assistant manager Sam Ellis defended the decision of the coaching staff to resign and criticised the quick sale of the club's leading players, notably midfielder Dave Edwards, who moved to Wolves for £675,000.

Luton went a goal down after just five minutes when Keane diverted the ball into the net while trying to clear a cross from Andy Robinson.

Swansea doubled their lead in the 64th minute when Bauza scored from 10 yards.

Luton were given hope in the 74th minute when 39-year-old striker Paul Furlong tapped in with his first touch, just seconds after coming on as a substitute. But in the 82nd minute Scotland turned and shot following a lay-off from Bauza.

Martinez said: 'Luton are in a very difficult situation but they showed a great togetherness. It is very hard when you lose players but Kevin Blackwell and his side put us under pressure.'

LUTON (4-4-2): Brill; Goodall, Keane, Perry (Emanuel 57min), Jackson (Furlong 73); Currie, S Robinson, Hutchison, Bell; Talbot, Andrew. Subs (not used): Morgan, S O'Leary, McVeigh. Booked: Jackson.

SWANSEA (4-4-2): De Vries; Painter, Lawrence, Monk, Rangel; A Robinson (Butler 89), Britton, Pratley, Anderson; Scotland, Bauza (Duffy 84). Subs (not used) Austin, K O'Leary, Allen

Referee: F Graham (Essex).