

Town finally sink Marine

by Mike Simmonds

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FA Trophy round one

Luton Town 2 (1)
Swindon Supermarine 0 (0)

RECALLED Hatters goalkeeper Mark Tyler hopes the 2-0 FA Trophy victory over side Swindon Supermarine will act as a spring-board for his side.

Town were never at their best in just about seeing off their Evo-Stik Southern League Premier Division opponents, until Tommy Wright's second half goal gave them some much-needed breathing space.

Although Tyler, who has lost his place to Kevin Pilkington recently, found himself keeping keeping goal at a virtually deserted Kenilworth Road, he had no trouble in motivating himself for the game.

He said: "You want to play in every game and I'm no different.

"Clean sheets always breeds confidence and when you pull on that shirt, no matter what team or competition you're playing in, you always want to give 100 per cent and that's what I do.

"It was pleasing to get 90 minutes, the clean sheet was a bonus, but it's not about me as we want to win games."

Hatters were given an almighty scare early in the second half as Marine were easily the better side, and had it not been for a superb save by Tyler, could have drawn level.

He added: "They had that 15-minute spell second half, we couldn't clear our lines.

"They looked decent on the attack, had two good centre forwards and the left wing was decent as well, so we strung it out.

"The lads who haven't played regular got 90 minutes under their belt and defended well.

"It pleasing to pick up where

Pictures by Jane Russell



PUT YOUR RIGHT LEG IN:
Stuart Fleetwood hooks
Hatters in front on Saturday

I left off. I'm delighted and now we're through to the next round which is the main thing."

Town boss Gary made eight changes to the team that drew 1-1 with Lincoln City on Tuesday night, but still selected vastly experienced side as Tyler, Dan Gleeson, Greg Taylor, Dean Beckwith, Keith Keane, Stuart Fleetwood and Curtis Osano all started.

Youngsters Alex Lacey, Adam Watkins and John Paul Kissock were in the starting line-up too, with JJ O'Donnell, Colby McAdams, Lewis Kidd and Charlie Smith on the bench, but in front of just 1,298, the hosts made an uninspiring start.

In fact, Swindon had the first shots on target, through Ashley Edenborough and Ben Wells, which were comfortably dealt with by Tyler.

Town on the other hand struggled to find any cohesion and it wasn't until the 20th minute they had an effort in anger, with Kissock's driven free kick easily deflected behind.

The visitors should have gone

ahead when Edenborough turned Beckwith, but lunged at the vital moment as his shot went wide.

With desperation creeping into their game, Fleetwood shot ambitiously wide from distance, before winning a corner with another effort.

It was from the set-piece that Luton went ahead as Kissock's delivery was headed back across goal by Lacey for Fleetwood to hook a fine volley over his shoulder and into the net.

Town should have been 2-0 up immediately afterwards as faced with a three-on-one situation, Watkins fed Fleetwood, only for the striker to fire wastefully over.

Town made one change at the break, as Tommy Wright came on for Gleeson, with Osano dropping to right back and Hatters almost doubled their lead on 55 minutes when Fleetwood curled a free kick inches wide of Jamie Rae's post. From then on though, the visitors took over as Edenborough's run split the defence, but faced with Tyler, he drilled wide.

Some shocking defending from

the hosts saw Osano easily dispossessed, and Edenborough scuffed badly wide with just Tyler to beat.

Luton were living dangerously as Edenborough's blast from the edge of the box was superbly tipped over the bar by Tyler and from the corner, Tom Cole's header went wide.

Marine were now all over the hosts in a highly disconcerting 10-minute spell for an increasingly frustrated Hatters faithful.

Swindon came close again when Wells somehow beat Fleetwood on the byline and his cross was desperately cleared by the feet of Tyler.

Hatters were reduced to pot-shots by now, with Fleetwood seeing his shot spilled by Rae, and Brunt unable to turn home.

Luton finally began to show glimpses of class as Kissock tricked his way through the defence and unleashed a rocket that cannoned against the underside of the bar, with Keane dragging the rebound just wide.

An undeserved second arrived for Town on 73 minutes when substitute JJ O'Donnell showed great determination to deliver a cross from the left and fellow replacement Wright looped a classy header into the corner.

Swindon remained unbowed though with Nick Stanley driving a cross into the box and Edenborough turning it wide.

Watkins spanked a free kick that Rae tipped over, while McAdams was handed his first team debut in the closing stages.

Swindon were rather harshly reduced to 10 men when Sean Wood clipped O'Donnell and picked up a second booking to leave the field.

The decision didn't affect the outcome though as Town eventually went through on an afternoon that was significantly harder than they had bargained for.