

TOWN MADE A FLYING START AT SWANSEA

EARLY PROMISE NOT MAINTAINED

Forwards Disappointing After Taking The Lead

BY CHILTERN

For 20 minutes at Vetch Field, Swansea, on Thursday evening, the Town seemed to be laying the foundations of victory, for they started off in such smooth style that they had the home defence struggling almost before they knew the game was on.

However, once that spell ended, the Town never recaptured similar form and the young Swansea team, full of fight and enthusiasm, went on to wipe out arrears of one goal and to gain adequate revenge for their defeat the previous week.

BUT the early play did not indicate such a result, for Swansea were lucky in the fourth minute when a good movement by Moore and Cullen threw their defence into a flurry and Leavy performed the not inconsiderable feat of kicking the ball against his own crossbar.

Then Leavy intervened again in more orthodox manner when Moore beat King with a header from a corner, but the full-back kicked the ball off the line.

Following this came a curious incident that ended with the Town having a goal disallowed.

Corners Worried The Swansea Defence

DURING this early spell, the Swansea defence had seemed to be particularly vulnerable to corners, which caused them no end of trouble, and it was one taken by Mitchell that led to the goal headed through by Moore.

The ball went across to the right, where Scott passed for Cullen to re-cross it and Moore headed through from close in.

A few minutes after that, Swansea suddenly found their form and in a terrific spurt of pressure Streten dived at Allchurch's feet to save and Griffiths shot against the angle of the woodwork.

Pye Had A Goal Disallowed

THE ball went out of play on the Town left wing, almost level with the Swansea penalty area, and there seemed no doubt that it was Luton's throw.

Mitchell had no doubts at all, for he threw in the ball quickly to Pye, who promptly smacked it into the roof of the net from just inside the penalty area.

Bad blow for the Town, though, was that the referee disallowed the goal and ordered the throw-in to be taken again, but by Swansea this time.

All this happened in the first 10 minutes and when, after 14 minutes, the Town took the lead, the game was going very much in their favour.

Equaliser Had A Settling Effect

IT was as if nearness to success gave the young Swansea forwards confidence and, with the enthusiasm of youth—three of them are 20 or under—they set about retrieving a bad start.

The chance fell to Medwin after 25 minutes when Allchurch beat Morton in a heading duel.

Allchurch headed the ball across the goal and Owen tried to head it on to Streten. However, Medwin was too quick and he nipped in to glide the ball into the net with his head.

From the Town point of view, it was a bad goal, but it had a definite settling effect on Swansea.

Doubtful Free-Kick Led To A Goal

WHEN the second goal arrived after 32 minutes, the Town seemed to be the victims of a harsh decision by the referee, who penalised Aherne when he went up to head the ball along with two Swansea players.

My view of the incident was that there was no foul at all, for Aherne went straight up for the ball, which he headed cleanly.

He himself was mystified by the decision and it led to the goal that put Swansea in the lead.

Lucas placed the free-kick well into the goalmouth, and during the scramble, Griffiths rushed it over the line.

Last incident of the first half was another life-saving act by Leavy who this time, kicked the ball off the goal-line from Pye, with King beaten again.

Forwards Faded To A Large Extent

SWANSEA had the better of the earlier play in the second half without looking a lot like increasing their lead.

For a long time, little was seen of the Town forwards, who just could not get going in dangerous positions.

FOR THE RECORDS

SWANSEA TOWN 4
Medwin (2), Griffiths (2)

LUTON TOWN 2
Moore, Scott

SWANSEA TOWN: King; Leavy, Beech (G); Lucas, Kiley, Thomas; Griffiths, Palmer, Medwin, Allchurch, Beech (C).

LUTON TOWN: Streten; Dunne, Aherne; Morton, Owen, Watkins; Cullen, Scott, Moore, Pye Mitchell.

Referee: S. M. Rogers, Shrewsbury.

Attendance: 17,000.

style and the defence was kept busy staving off the raids of the eager Swansea attack, ably backed up by two splendid wing-halves, Lucas and Thomas.

Then came a slightly better spell for the Town in which Cullen spoilt a good chance for Moore by running across him when the centre-forward was in the act of making his shot.

Swansea Were Not Much Troubled

MITCHELL produced one of his pile-drivers which, unfortunately, flew straight at King, who had some difficulty in keeping it out but, in the main, Swansea did not have a great deal of difficulty in holding on to their slender lead.

Of course, the possibility of an equaliser was always there, and the chances to obtain it were not lacking.

About 15 minutes from the end Moore and Scott changed places and the latter had a good header saved by King.

Three Goals In The Closing Minutes

THEN, just when the game seemed to be petering out, things began to happen with a vengeance and, in the last eight minutes, three goals were scored.

First two fell to Swansea in the 82nd and 84th minutes and an inaccurate headed clearance by Owen led to the first.

He tried to find Dunne with his header, but Beech (C) intervened and made tracks for goal with Dunne at his heels.

Streten raced out, kicked the ball away hurriedly, but not hard enough, and it went straight to Griffiths.

With considerable presence of mind the 'outside-right, with Streten out of his goal, lobbed the ball over the defenders' heads and just under the bar.

Full-Back Made The Third Goal

TWO minutes later, Beech (G) secured the ball in a tackle on Cullen and went through with it—a surprise move that came off, for Medwin hurried himself at the ball as it came across and headed through from point-blank range.

Such setbacks so late in the game were a body blow to the Town but they broke away and made the score look more respectable three minutes from the end.

Marksman was Scott, who with Swansea appealing for offside, nipped through from Cullen's pass and coolly placed the ball wide of the advancing King.

Swansea's Attack More Resourceful

OF course, the success came too late to be of any material advantage, but one could not help wishing that it had arrived a few minutes earlier—before Swansea struck their double blow.

However, on the run of the play, Swansea deserved their success. They were faster and more resourceful in attack and, apart from their early shakiness, the defence was hard-tackling and workmanlike.

It was by no means a happy day for the Town defence, who were again faced with the difficult situation of opposing wing-halves coming through with the ball.



Bob Morton

Morton's Success Against Allchurch

LUCAS, in particular, played a major part in the home success, for he was always using the ball well and driving on the point of attack.

Big successes in the Town defence were Morton and Aherne. Once again Morton was detailed to keep tabs on Allchurch and he accomplished it to such an extent that the Welsh international showed his undoubted genius only in flashes.

When he was allowed to gain possession of the ball he was always dangerous but, in the main, Morton had the better of the argument and he distributed the ball better than of late.

Aherne Was Sound And Reliable

ALWAYS sound and reliable, Aherne came through splendidly and whether it was Griffiths or Medwin he was facing, he tackled solidly and kicked well with either foot.

There was a deal of switching by these two Swansea players and Owen found difficulty in holding Medwin, a bustling, dashing player.

Even in the air Owen could not claim complete mastery, and he was far from being the dominating figure he can be.

Dunne, too, had a worrying sort of game, during which he was often caught in two minds and found difficulty in getting the ball under control.

From Watkins came a second-half display more reminiscent of his best form of last season. He played some good football after making rather a moderate start to the game.

White Ball Was Used Throughout

ONE unusual feature about this match was that a white ball was used throughout and, on a surface that was slightly greasy after a shower, it moved quickly.

Obvious tactics in such conditions were to make the ball do the work and the quickly-made pass had the defence beaten time and again.

To this mode, Swansea adhered a great deal, but the Town forwards took too long to develop their attacks and after their early sparkle, never really got the measure of the Swansea defence.

Cullen Held Up The Attack

ONE culprit in this matter of holding up the attack was Cullen.

Time after time he could have pushed the ball into an open space first time, but too often he stopped it, stood still, and then was faced with the task of beating an opponent.

There were some clever things from him but, in the main, he used too many frills when more straightforward work was called for.

Scott has promise, but it is too soon to expect results from him in the League side. Going in after only limited experience, he found the ordeal a little too much for him.

BOWLS CLUB CHAMPION

J. Eadie, the holder, has retained Harpenden Bowling Club's singles championship cup by beating A. F. Bandy in the final by 21-5. The winner played strongly from the start, but his opponent, a former Club champion, failed to get properly going on this occasion—after being in good form all the season.

Cribbage Season Has Begun

The Harpenden Cribbage League opened their new season. This year there are fourteen teams taking part, a decrease of two from last season.

Results of the matches played were:

George Hotel 5, Rose and Crown 4; Railway Inn 8, The Malta 1; Red Cow 8, Oddfellows 1; British Legion 4, Foresters 5; Marquis 4, Gibraltar 5; Queens "A" 3, Queens "B" 6; White Lion 2, Carpenters 7.

GREYS
are great
(CIGARETTES)

Scott Promising, But Not Ready Yet

BUT the promise is there. He has a football brain, is dangerous in front of goal and, when he has the benefit of full-time training, we shall expect big things from him.

When he switched into the middle he gave Kiley a more worrying time than he had had against Moore and he took his goal with the assurance of an old head.

Moore scored, but he had a disappointing match, being very much in the grip of Kiley, whom he seldom managed to outwit. The centre-half got the ball almost every time in the air and Moore's attempts to beat him when the ball was on the ground did not meet with much success.

Pye Best Of A Moderate Line

BEST of a forward line that was very patchy and had little cohesion after the flying start was Pye and he did not reach the form he showed in the second half last Saturday.

Yet, he was the one forward with the craft to try to scheme openings.

A lot of his passes went astray, but a high proportion was due to the player for whom the ball was intended not taking up good position.

As things are at the moment, the Town badly need another inside-forward, preferably of the hard-working, foraging variety, but it remains to be seen whether to-day's reorganised attack has succeeded.

Mitchell Probably Needed The Game

TOO much could not be expected of Mitchell, having his first match for nearly a month, and he probably needed this game to get the feel of things again.

He made no spectacular comeback, rather was it a moderate sort of display in which the crackerjack shooting for which we have been hoping was absent, except for one effort in the second half.

Firm favourite with the Swansea crowd is Bernard Streten who, while he did not look completely confident in some of the things he did, provided the crowd with some spectacular saves, though he could be faulted for one of the Swansea goals.

Expected Reward From This Match

THE result was a good deal worse than the Town had hoped for, since this was an away match which they approached with a real chance of success.

There was their record of having lost only once previously at Vetch Field, too, but the fact remains that had the early advantage been pressed home, they could have had the game won in those opening stages.

At the same time, it was bad luck to have a goal disallowed in such circumstances and could the Town have become two up, the largely inexperienced Swansea forward line would have had its work cut out to stage a rally.

Settled Forward Line Is The Need

ONE pleasing thing was the absence of injuries, which means, maybe, that that particular bogey has come to an end.

Meanwhile, the bottom of the table is coming markedly nearer and it is essential that the Town should strike a settled, ordered forward line soon.

Some of the chopping and changing has been unavoidable because of injuries and the manager will have been hoping for a reasonable showing by his forwards to-day so that he can give the line a chance to settle down.

Manager, Chairman On Scouting Trip

HE was not at the Swansea match, for, accompanied by the chairman, he made a trip to the north-east yesterday afternoon to run the rule over two young forwards who have been strongly recommended by the club's scout in that area.

The scout concerned is the one who sent the first reports on Jack Taylor and the Town are hoping that he has uncovered something good again.

Both the players are amateurs, one an inside-left and the other an outside-left.

While the Town were at Swansea, Dally Duncan was over at Watford watching the Hertfordshire side play Shrewsbury Town, who are managed by his former Derby County team-mate, Sammy Crooks.

Bradley Signed As A Professional

THE Town added a forward to their professional staff yesterday by the signing of George Bradley, who has had quite a long spell with them as an amateur.

Last season, he was the leading scorer for the "A" team and this campaign, given a chance in the Reserves, he has scored on every appearance, his tally to date being seven in four matches.

Four of these were obtained against Leyton Orient in the 7-2 win obtained on Wednesday night.

They came from the inside-left position, but he gave indication that centre-forward, where he was playing when the Town first spotted him, will prove to be his best.

Saturday Sports Review



George Bradley

Product Of The Luton League

CERTAINLY he has a highly-developed goal sense and his goals were snapped up ably.

One of them was a spectacular affair secured with a header from the region of the penalty spot.

Bradley was a club-mate of Leslie Jones with the now-defunct Craig Athletic when they were in the Luton and South Beds League.

He signed amateur forms for the Town after a spell with Kent's Athletic in the South Midlands League. He has been signed on a full-time basis.

Opposition Is Not So Strong

THE Reserves are certainly having a splendid run in the Combination, especially in view of the calls the first team has had to make because of injuries.

However, the opposition in Division II is not so strong as it was under the old sectional basis, for their opponents are mainly the second strings of Third Division clubs.

This is emphasised by the fact that Leicester Reserves have won all their eight matches so far and the Town are hoping that the present form will be maintained so that a determined bid for promotion and better-class football can be made.

Looked Like Reaching Double Figures

THERE was a time on Wednesday when the Town looked like reaching double figures, so demoralised was the Orient defence under the early onslaught which put the Town in the lead by 5-0.

Yet at the start of the second

half the Town lost their touch and Orient came into the game so much that they got to 5-2.

However, the Town settled down again and but for some rather wild shooting and some good saves by Welton they might have finished up with more than seven goals.

Bristol City Wanted Wyldes, Too

HOPING that Bob Wyldes will impress at Southend are the Town, who will collect quite a substantial cheque if the seaside



Bob Wyldes

club decide to keep him permanently after a month's trial.

Bristol City would have taken him without that formality, but Bob preferred a club nearer home.

Only on Thursday evening, a director of Bristol City, who was at the match, said how disappointed they were that they could not persuade Wyldes to join them.

Apparently, he impressed quite a great deal when he played in the City's public trial match.

QUOITS FINALS

The Harpenden Quoits Club made use of an open date by playing off the semi-final of the Murphy Cup, a club trophy, between J. Mardle and T. Jenkins.

The game was very close, both players playing very good quoits up to the half-way stage when Jenkins pulled away and eventually ran out an easy winner by 46-31.

The Harpenden Club enters the Hoffman's, of Chelmsford, tomorrow in the all-important match of the season. Harpenden must win this match to force a replay for the All England League Cup. Play begins at 3.15 p.m.

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