

CRASH AT TORQUAY

Defence Fails in Second Half

(By CRUSADER)

LUTON TOWN'S experimental side at Torquay put up a really good fight for upwards of an hour, but they could not stand the pace, and in the end they were well beaten, though they never gave up trying. The team, which was the same as won at Gillingham, except Hutchison for Pease, at outside-right, made the journey on Saturday morning, and there could be no question that it affected the play.

THIS was more apparent in the second half than in the early stages, though in the first attack they made, Torquay scored through HUTCHINSON with a very fine drive from the edge of the penalty area. The Town played very neat football, and were much the more skilful side, but Torquay responded vigorously, and showed great determination.

THE home goal underwent several assaults before the first goal for the Town was scored by Tom Bell. After clever work by Sam Bell and Stephenson, Russell went away, tricked Gregg as craftily as could be desired, and then sent the ball over for TOM BELL to head a well-earned goal. Only good play by Welsh and his backs kept the Town from adding to their score immediately.

HOWEVER, Torquay had their turn, and Coen and his backs were kept on the move for a few minutes. Then the Town took the lead. Tom Bell was fouled, and Beck placed the free-kick; Sam Bell turned the ball inside for STEPHENSON to race in and shoot hard into the net, Maggs having no chance. Play was even afterwards, Torquay attacking with long passes and big

the ball was swung across; MORGAN was "on his own," and scored easily.

THE second half found the home team concentrating on the weakness in the Town's left flank of defence, but they were repulsed again and again. The Town raided strongly in reply, but the home forwards shot more often, and Coen had the more work. Hutchison eventually sent his right wing away, and when the ball came across, BEEDALL scored with a splendid effort.

THE TOWN had good chances when they replied. Russell once got right through, but his final shot was into the side net, while his inside colleagues were waiting for a pass at close quarters. In a subsequent assault the home goal had a narrow escape. Maggs saved finely, but could not get the ball away, and a great drive by Stephenson struck the goalkeeper, who was helpless, but lucky.

TORQUAY'S fourth goal brought a determined protest from the Town. The movement that led to it was worth a goal, but when Morgan sent the ball into the goalmouth, STABB sneered it with his hands into the goal. It appeared as though a linesman had flagged for an infringement, but when the referee consulted him there was no change of decision, and the goal was allowed in spite of the strenuous and persistent protests of the Town.

IMMEDIATELY afterwards Tom Bell broke right through the defence, but with only Maggs to beat, he tried to dribble round the goalkeeper, got past him, and was then brought down heavily, and the appeals for a penalty kick were ignored. Bell had to receive attention before he was able to resume. After this there was no question as to the mastery of the home side, although they lost Dickenson, through injury, in trying an acrobatic kick.

SAM BELL made a clever dribble and skimmed the bar with Maggs beaten. Then Coen kicked the ground as he ran out to take a flying kick at a dropping ball, and STABB was left with an easy goal, and a little later BEEDALL scored direct from a free-kick.

COEN made one serious mistake. Mackey played one of his best games until the fourth goal was awarded the home side, but Reece was never comfortable, and clearly missed the presence of Fraser, for Beck, though doing neat things, was much out of position. Thayne put up a very useful game at centre-half, and Brown did many bright things, though inclined to hang on to the ball too much.

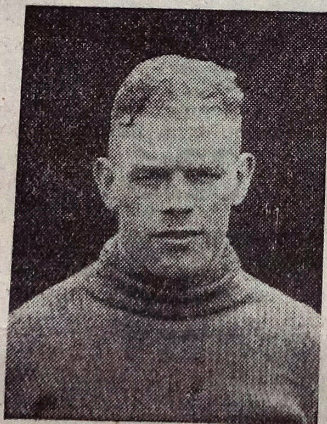
SAM BELL and Stephenson worked very hard in the attack, and there was no better forward on the field than Sam Bell. Tom Bell was a worker, but should have had at least one more goal. Russell was not nearly so good as he can be, and Hutchison seemed out of position, and, in addition, was suffering lameness for most of the game.

TORQUAY 6
LUTON TOWN 2

TORQUAY.—Maggs; Gregg, Dickenson; Jones, Welsh, Lienesley; Steele, Beedall, Stabb, Hutchison, Morgan.

LUTON.—Coen; Mackey, Reece; Brown, Thayne, Beck; Hutchison, Bell (S.), Bell (T.), Stephenson, Russell.

Referee.—Mr. A. Milson, Bristol.



G. STEPHENSON

kicks, and the Town working the ball through with effective combination, in which Sam Bell, Stephenson and Brown were conspicuous.

AS the interval approached, Torquay strove harder than ever, and Coen made very fine saves, while his backs kicked and tackled strongly. With the very last kick before the whistle, the equalising goal was scored. Too often Steele had been left with a clear field, and from a move on the right,