

TORQUAY'S PLUCK

COULD NOT AVERT DEFEAT AT LUTON

Ball's Early Goal

(By CRUSADER)

LUTON TOWN	3
(Ball, Crompton, Stephenson)	
TORQUAY UNITED	1
(Lowrey)	

LUTON: Coen; Smith, Mackey; Brown, Thayne, Payne; Crompton, Bell, Ball, Roberts, Stephenson.
TORQUAY: Maggs; Gregg, Tapp; Jones, McLinton, Rees; Morgan, Lowrey, Flavell, Berrall, Protheroe.

Referee: Mr. I. H. W. Wright, Derby.
WITHOUT touching the high spots, LUTON TOWN overcame TORQUAY UNITED at Luton, and deserved their success. The visitors, however, made a splendid fight, and had they not been weakened by the transfer of Welsh to Charlton, they might well have given the Town a very much more difficult task. Torquay proved to be one of the most improved sides in the Southern Section, and even without Welsh, provided formidable opposition. I do not think the Town appeared very impressive at any time as compared with some of their displays, but they were good value for their victory. The middle line did not seem to dominate much to the usual extent, and that is no reflection upon young Payne alone. Fortunately the backs and the forwards were in form.

A QUICK GOAL.

We have not had a quicker success this season than that in which Ball gave the Town the lead before the visitors' defence had settled down. Stephenson secured, and made a characteristic dribble, in which he beat three men before sending the ball over; BALL himself seemed surprised for a moment, but took possession, and shot away from the goalkeeper into the net. The United were taken off their stride for a little while, and there was the greatest difficulty in preventing another goal, for all the forwards worked cleverly and the ball was luckily scrambled away. Torquay were dangerous when they got going, but for the most part, the Town were the aggressors. Coen had to save one very hard drive when Protheroe closed in from the left, and for a time the visitors fought with great zeal and energy, and tested the Town defence severely.

CROMPTON SUCCEEDS—

The Town replied with a series of sharp assaults, in which Ball and his wingers took most of the limelight, but Bell and Roberts did very useful work. The tactics of Torquay did not meet with the approval of the crowd, and there were a few free kicks against them. It was from one of these infringements that the Town went further ahead. Maggs had made good saves, and there had followed a dash by the visitors in which only the intelligence of Smith averted a goal. Morgan had raced inside and was making a bee-line for goal when Smith dashed in and foiled him. Then came the free-kick against Jones for handling. Payne lifted the ball beautifully across goal, and with the defenders intent upon Ball, the ball went to the right, and CROMPTON was at hand to score with a fast, low shot. Maggs saved his side by splendid saves before the interval, when the Town pressed hotly.

LUTON 2, TORQUAY 0.

The Town resumed the attack immediately, and the left wing made strong threats. Roberts suddenly drove in a grand shot from near the corner flag, and Maggs managed to save by a wonderful effort, in which he tipped the ball over. The effort hurt Maggs, who apparently struck his hand on the woodwork. Torquay returned blow for blow, but were given few opportunities of shooting, and the Town looked the more likely to score. Once Stephenson went through finely, but the ball skidded away from his foot as he shot. Maggs had to be alert always, and Ball was particularly assertive, with Roberts continually slipping the ball through the middle, or giving Stephenson nice passes.

—AND STEPHENSON

The Town goal nearly fell as the result of an error by Smith. The full back had played well, but once he chipped-in and ran the ball towards his own goal, intending to pass to Coen; the latter was not well positioned, and it seemed as though a goal was a certainty, but Coen flung himself across and just managed to hold on. Then Lowrey put in a great shot which struck the bar and came down; Flavell beat Coen and lobbed the ball over his head, but it passed just outside. The issue was made safe by STEPHENSON when he snapped up a pass and dribbled right through to shoot past Maggs from an acute angle as the goalkeeper came out. One of the visitors made a desperate attempt to kick the ball out, but the referee held that it was over the line.

TORQUAY'S ORPHAN

Ball had hard luck with a fine shot that struck the bar, but the visitors never relaxed effort, and eventually they reduced the arrears deservedly. From a free-kick, Tapp lifted the ball right into the goalmouth, and LOWREY, unmarked headed a capital goal. In the later stages, both Ball and Crompton were brought down, and appeals for penalties were unavailing, although there seemed little doubt about the case of Ball, who was within a few yards of goal. Maggs saved two or three times, and Coen also had to be alive when the visitors had a turn, but the end came with the Town good winners.

TOWN PLAYERS

Coen kept goal splendidly, and Smith and Mackey were a fine pair, the former again showing sound judgment in position, while Mackey played a cool and reliable game, and placed the ball well to his forwards. At half there appeared to be something more than Fraser missing. Payne did very well indeed as deputy for the latter, and should certainly advance. Brown did not show such powers of recovery as we had come to expect, and Thayne had his hands full in holding the burly Flavell. The forwards did not get the assistance they should have had from the middle, but all played well, with Roberts once more showing fine craftsmanship.

For the visitors, Maggs proved an excellent goalkeeper, and Tapp was perhaps the more dependable back. The halves were workers all the time, and showed good speed and sturdiness. Flavell, although he was well watched, was a troublesome leader, and the wingers were speedy and centred well, but Lowrey appeared to be the best of the line.

There were 6,886 spectators, paying £271 16s. 1d. for admission, which does not leave much profit.