

TOO GOOD FOR TORQUAY

Luton Town's Victory at Home

(By "CRUSADER")

LUTON TOWN proved too good for **TORQUAY UNITED** in the return match at Luton, but they had very little to spare at the finish. The Town were the cleverer side all through, but Torquay responded with such splendid fighting spirit that they gave any amount of trouble, and kept the game from becoming too dull after a thrilling start.

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LATE-COMERS missed the first goal, which was the result of a brilliant solo dash by Stephenson. He outwitted three opponents before transferring to the middle, where **BALL**, right in front of goal, shot past Maggs, and the Town thus led in less than half a minute after the kick-off. There were more threats to Maggs's charge immediately, and twice the goal had narrow escapes.

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TORQUAY settled down, and gave the Town rearguard plenty of work, but Thayne kept a close watch on Flavell, and if the latter escaped the vigilance of the centre-half, he usually found Smith or Mackey ready to receive him. The visitors put plenty of brawn into their game and kept the ball well on the move.

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WHEN the Town got away, however, they were dangerous, too, and there was better style in their efforts. Maggs saved again and again, and once in particular he intercepted a lob by Ball when a goal seemed certain, for Stephenson was waiting in front of an open goal. Several times the visitors came in for criticism, and the referee's intervention owing to infringements, and after their goal had survived many attacks it fell again, following a free kick for "hands."

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PAYNE placed the ball finely right across the goalmouth, and it cleared the heads of the defenders and went straight to **CROMPTON**, who quickly dispatched it into the net. Just before this the Town goal had a close call when Smith nearly put through his own goal, Coen making a great save. The Town goalkeeper had other work, but not so difficult or so frequently as that required from Maggs. Half-time came with the Town two goals ahead.

MAGGS was conspicuous with fine work when the game was re-started, and made a spectacular save from Roberts. Torquay were always fighting back, and they found a way past the Town halves rather too often for the liking of the crowd, but so well did Smith and Mackey cover up that opportunities for shooting were restricted.

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MAGGS was tested again and again by one or other of the Town forwards, and although both Bell and Roberts did a lot of foraging, they were usually in position when an attack was made. Stephenson also did splendid work, and with Ball came close to scoring several times before he eventually succeeded. He beat two or three opponents in a dribble and cut in to goal; Maggs came out, but **STEPHENSON** shot past him, and although a defender kicked away, the referee had awarded a goal.

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BALL had hard luck when he struck the bar with a fine shot, and then the visitors had the reward of a lot of hard work. From a free kick, well placed by Tapp, **LOWREY** dashed in and headed into the net, Coen having no chance. Smith and Mackey had to work hard, and Coen made a good save from Rees, but at the other end Maggs was often in action, and kept his lines clear to the end.

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COEN did well, and was well protected by his backs, who played soundly. The halves were not so reliable as usual, but Payne played well enough as deputy for Fraser to merit perseverance when necessary. All the forwards did well, too, though they did not receive so much help from the middle line as usual.

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, Millington, Rees; Morgan, Lowrey, Flavell, Beedall, Protheroe.

Referee: Mr. I. H. W. Wright, Derby.