

TOWN PLAYER'S LEG BROKEN

BRILLIANT EXHIBITION MARRED BY FRASER'S MISFORTUNE

Aldershot Outclassed

(By CRUSADER)

LUTON TOWN 6
(Bell, Roberts, Stephenson 2, Bell 2;
ALDERSHOT TOWN 1
(Oakes)

LUTON. — Coen; Kingham, Smith, Brown, Thayne, Fraser, Crompton, Bell, Bell, Roberts, Stephenson.
ALDERSHOT. — Robb; Wade, Sheppard, Gerrard, Middleton, Summerbee, Izzard, Lutterloch, Oakes, Black, Williams.
Referee: Mr. G. T. Gould, Norwood

BRILLIANT forward combination, generously supported by the flank halves, was the principal factor in LUTON TOWN'S victory over ALDERSHOT. There have been other games in which the team have electrified the crowd by this style of play, and particularly in the first half.

Alas, the delight of the crowd was changed to lamentation about twenty minutes before the end, when Charles Fraser, who had meant so much to the success of the team, sustained a fracture of the right leg.

The Town captain was dribbling in towards goal, and was very near the penalty area, with the ball travelling away from him, when Gerrard, the visitors' right-half, dashed out and tackled; Fraser, at full stretch, got the ball past him, but Gerrard's back's shin, and the sickening impact was heard all over the field. Fraser lay face down to the ground, and the others had the good sense not to interfere until the ambulance men came and removed him carefully.

Several spectators collapsed, and had to receive attention from the ambulance men and the police. When the game was resumed, there was not the same pace and energy, and none was sorry when the end came.

NONE TO BLAME

It should be said emphatically that there was no blame whatever attaching to

Gerrard, and Fraser himself completely exonerated his opponent. Indeed, the game, as a whole, was one of the cleanest we have had at Luton this season. Aldershot were outclassed, but they were always playing a sportsmanlike game, and fouls were few and far between.

In the early stages, the Town pressed hotly, and Robb was quickly in action. The ball hovered about his charge, thanks to the fine passing of the Town forwards, and the very accurate centres that were sent over. Robb made splendid saves, and Wade and Sheppard kicked and tackled lustily, the former especially doing well, but when he came out into the open, Stephenson mastered him by brilliant footwork and speed.

THE INEVITABLE

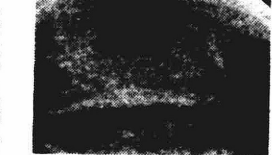
It was inevitable that the Town should score, and five minutes only had elapsed when they met with success. Stephenson twice got the ball dead in front of goal, but the first time it was sent back; he returned it and again it was headed out, but BELL met, took careful aim, and the ball flashed into the farther corner of the net, giving Robb no chance.

SPLENDID ROBB

Robb and his backs were kept busy, the goalkeeper being splendid, but when the visitors got away, they swung the ball about, and the Town defenders did not seem any too comfortable. Oakes, a splendidly-built forward, had the height and the weight, and beat the defenders two or three times, but Coen had time to get to the ball.

Once, however, the Town goalkeeper had his work cut out to save a very fine header from Oakes, and caught the ball just under the bar with a magnificent effort.

The Town soon replied, and the shooting of the forwards was as good as their



C. FRASER

approach. Bell twice tested Robb with strong shots, and then there was a thrill at the other end as Williams darted past Kingham, and a very fast drive landed in the side net. Lutterloch was prominent with clever dribbling, but before he could make much headway the Town defenders were in position again. Crompton also shot hard into the side net after cutting in, and Bell was unlucky to see a terrific low shot rebound from Middleton.

BRACE FOR STEPHENSON

After some manoeuvring on the right wing, Crompton lifted the ball right across to the left, and STEPHENSON, against whom an appeal for offside was made in vain, ran in and lifted the ball over Robb's head as the goalkeeper came out, and it landed safely in the net.

The Town maintained their advantage, and Roberts, always conspicuous for brainy play, opened up another movement. Crompton swung the ball into the goalmouth; Robb parried, STEPHENSON dashed in and forced the ball into the net. Robb's hand was damaged, but he remained on the field after attention.

Almost at once the visitors got away, and Thayne missed the ball right in front of goal, and OAKES slipped past him and gave Coen no chance to save a hard high shot. This error seemed to upset the Town defence, and a good effort by Lutterloch went very close.

LIKEWISE BALL

Then the Town resumed their attack, and Ball was in the picture with good work. Robb and his backs played finely, but once the ball was scrambled away by Robb after a header by Ball appeared to be over the line. Robb then dived to a grand shot by Roberts, and managed to push the ball aside, but BALL rushed in and netted. After a visit to the other end which won a fruitless corner, the Town attacked fiercely again, and the Aldershot defenders had scarcely a moment's respite. They were utterly out-maneuvred when Bell placed the ball cleverly for BALL to beat Robb with another grand shot which went right away from the goalkeeper. To the interval the visitors were hemmed in, and at the change-over the Town had a winning lead.

LUTON 5
ALDERSHOT 1

On the restart, Izzard forced a corner; but Luton renewed pressure, and Crompton sent behind after good work by Stephenson and Roberts. The Town were not forcing home their attacks with the same virility as in the first half, but they were giving a fine display, and were masters of the situation. Rarely did Kingham and Smith have a call, and when they were required they returned the ball in capital style to the visitors' goalmouth.

Stephenson was always a menace, and the game resolved largely into a struggle between the Aldershot rear-guard and the Town forwards.

Stephenson seemed a certain scorer as he ran in and met with his head a good centre by Crompton, but Robb positioned superbly and cleared. The Town were not forcing home their attacks with the same virility as in the first half, but they were giving a fine display, and were masters of the situation. Rarely did Kingham and Smith have a call, and when they were required they returned the ball in capital style to the visitors' goalmouth.

ROBERTS'S TURN

Robb never relaxed his vigilance, and saved again, and again, but eventually Stephenson led another onslaught, and the visitors were again drawn out of position for ROBERTS to nip through and beat Robb all ends up. Then Middleton all but headed into his own goal in keeping out a fast drive across by Stephenson, and Bell tricked two or three opponents and finished with a shot that scorched the bar. There was no holding the Town forwards, and Robb was applauded for fine saves.

No visiting forward was at hand when Thayne allowed the ball to pass between his legs, or there might have been a goal at the other end, but Kingham came to the rescue all right. Robb made more wonderful saves, and was knocked out in a collision with Crompton as the latter tried to head in a centre from Stephenson, but the goalkeeper got the ball away.

Immediately after this came the mishap to Fraser, and when the game was resumed the Town continued to attack manfully, and time after time the visiting goal all but fell.

THE PLAYERS

Coen did his very light task safely as usual, and Kingham and Smith, though a bit shaky in the early stages, were good protectors. They were made a trifle anxious by the unsteadiness of Thayne, but he also settled down after a little while, and Brown and Fraser gave of their best.

It was largely the splendid support from the flank halves that enabled the Town forwards to shine, and every man played dashing and skilful football against a defence that had a reputation for solidity.

There was not a weak spot in the line. Roberts was a purveyor of the best type, some of his moves being delightful, while Bell dribbled at top speed and was always ready for a shot. Ball, as usual, was a troublesome customer, and both Crompton and Stephenson played the right game, showing splendid control and centring with remarkable accuracy.

For the visitors, Robb earned praise as one of the best goalkeepers seen on the ground for a long time, and that in spite of the big score against him. His backs and halves were overwhelmed, and the forwards had few chances, though Oakes wanted only a little latitude to prove that he could be dangerous, and Lutterloch was a craftsman. Izzard had speed, and centred well when he had a chance.

The football deserved a bigger attendance than 6,400.