

# TOWN'S DESPERATE EFFORT FAILED

## TORQUAY HELD THEIR SLENDER LEAD

(By CHILTERN)

DESPERATELY keen to win at Torquay, Luton Town's much-changed team fought every inch of the way, but despite their plucky and sustained resistance, they had to leave the field pointless, and were not rewarded for a fine second-half display. The United were evidently all out to beat the Town, and their bustling, robust type of play certainly proved disconcerting. They simply would not let the Town settle down.

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LUTON tried to play clever football, and from the scientific standpoint they were the only side in the game, but the results from this style of play did not prove as great as those which the United received from their rather crude efforts. That Luton were unlucky not to save a point is no flight of imagination, and had they got on level terms in the second half, I have no hesitation in saying that they would have won easily.

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THEY WERE PLAYING well enough after the interval to win, and all that seemed to be needed to bring this about was the tonic of another goal. Cook had the worst luck anyone could have had when he beat Maggs to all intents and purposes, only to see the ball strike the goalkeeper on the knee. It was a shocking slice of ill fortune for the Town, and although they besieged Maggs's charge for long periods, they never went as near scoring again.

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IN THE FIRST HALF Torquay had much more of the play than the Town, but their forwards, although moving quite well and showing speed, were not often really dangerous. Mackey and Smith saw to that. The number of shots which Coen had to deal with was small in comparison to the amount of play the homesters enjoyed, but they certainly deserved their interval lead of one goal.

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THIS WAS SCORED BY HUTCHINSON, who fastened on to a clearance by Coen and found the top of the net with a first-time shot from twenty-five yards' range.



COOK

The Luton defence did well in the initial period, but the forwards, with the exception of Rich and Cook, were off colour. Hodge was probably the biggest disappointment, and he simply would not go on with the ball, with the result that the centres from the right wing were few and far between. Martin and Roberts could not open out the play, and they frequently lost the ball before they had done any good with it.

\* \* \*

ROBERTS made a few attempts to find Hodge with long, swinging passes. Twice they were intercepted, and after that he did not try again, which was a pity, for nothing upsets a defence more than a wide-lung pass. Both displayed some clever footwork, but neither was forceful enough for a game of this sort.

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LUTON came on the field in the second half ready to "do or die." They were fully determined that the United should not take the points, and they opened in promising fashion. Then came a severe blow. A minute after the resumption the United went up the field, and a half-hearted clearance by Nelson sent the ball to HUTCHINSON, who pulled another amazing

shot out of the bag and beat Coen from 35 yards out.

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THIS MARKED the beginning of Luton's period of supremacy, and four minutes later COOK received the ball in rather lucky fashion and went through to beat Maggs easily. After this the homesters were kept defending for some time, and it seemed that Luton must score but fortune did not smile on them, and despite the fact that they had three-quarters of the play, they could not obtain the goal that would have meant so much to them.

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TORQUAY used rough tactics, and there were too many stoppages for fouls against them for the game to be classed as a good one. It was, however, a hard struggle throughout, and there were sufficient thrills to keep the medium-sized crowd in a state of constant excitement. There was no better half-back on the field than Godfrey, and he played grandly. His constructive work was perhaps the stronger phase of his game, but his tackling and positional play was also good.

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GOONEY did well but Nelson had only a moderate match. Rich was the best forward, and he made many worthy efforts to score, including one shot which hit the bar. Cook fully justified his inclusion, and he led the forwards capably. He did not receive the best of support, and often had to forage for himself, but he was always trying, and with more luck would have scored on more than one occasion.

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TORQUAY UNITED ..... 2  
LUTON TOWN ..... 1  
TORQUAY UTD.—Maggs; Green, Tapp; Daniels, Jones, Lievesley, Moran, Beedall, Hunt (S. W.), Hutchinson, Dodds.  
LUTON TOWN.—Coen; Mackey, Smith; Gooney, Nelson, Godfrey; Hodge, Martin, Cook, Roberts, Rich.  
Referee.—Mr. B. Ames, Redditch.

## HOW THEY STAND

### THE LEAGUE : DIVISION III. (South)

|                | P  | W  | L  | D  | F  | A  | P  |
|----------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| LUTON TOWN     | 35 | 20 | 8  | 7  | 64 | 42 | 47 |
| Reading        | 36 | 23 | 12 | 1  | 79 | 57 | 47 |
| Coventry       | 35 | 20 | 9  | 6  | 92 | 41 | 46 |
| Q.P. Rangers   | 35 | 19 | 10 | 6  | 71 | 47 | 44 |
| Palace         | 36 | 19 | 13 | 4  | 85 | 65 | 42 |
| Watford        | 35 | 17 | 11 | 7  | 68 | 47 | 41 |
| Brighton       | 36 | 17 | 13 | 6  | 64 | 54 | 40 |
| Torquay        | 36 | 15 | 14 | 7  | 58 | 54 | 37 |
| Bournemouth    | 35 | 13 | 13 | 9  | 51 | 50 | 35 |
| Millwall       | 36 | 13 | 14 | 9  | 52 | 64 | 35 |
| Aldershot      | 35 | 13 | 14 | 8  | 43 | 49 | 34 |
| Orient         | 35 | 14 | 16 | 5  | 48 | 49 | 33 |
| Notts County   | 36 | 11 | 14 | 11 | 50 | 52 | 33 |
| Bristol City   | 35 | 12 | 14 | 9  | 39 | 43 | 33 |
| Cardiff        | 36 | 12 | 16 | 8  | 54 | 64 | 32 |
| Southend       | 34 | 11 | 14 | 9  | 54 | 49 | 31 |
| Gillingham     | 35 | 12 | 16 | 7  | 55 | 63 | 31 |
| Swindon        | 35 | 11 | 16 | 8  | 54 | 63 | 30 |
| Bristol Rovers | 35 | 11 | 17 | 7  | 53 | 73 | 29 |
| Northampton    | 36 | 11 | 18 | 7  | 52 | 87 | 29 |
| Newport        | 36 | 10 | 19 | 7  | 52 | 97 | 27 |
| Exeter         | 37 | 8  | 21 | 8  | 54 | 82 | 24 |