

WHAT THE OTHER CRITICS SAID

"Torquay had little trouble claiming the points. Luton were lucky that the margin was so respectable. For that they can thank goalkeeper Colin Tinsley whose energetic display included a couple of wonder saves from United's leader Tom Northcott and inside-right Tom Spratt.

Tinsley made but one blunder—when he dropped a corner from right-winger Doug Clarke to allow Northcott to slam in his second goal in 47 minutes. But by his performance before that and his later succession of cool clearances Tinsley fully atoned for that mistake." — "Sunday Mirror."

"Injury-hit Luton had Stark, signed from Colchester, partnering Riddick on the right, but Stark, like the rest of Luton's forwards, was a poor finisher.

"Luton's attack needs urgent attention. Gibson was rarely able to shake off Smith, who was switched from right-back to centre-half." — "The People."

"Luton's defence never looked sound against the bustling Northcott and the probing of inside-forwards Tommy Spratt and Alan Kirkman. Only centre-half Alan Rivers gave a good account of himself, although apart from his one slip, Tinsley performed creditably." — "Sunday Express."

"Torquay United carried their winning sequence to four successive league matches with a comfortable 2-0 home victory over Luton.

"Burly leader Tom Northcott was the man responsible for both goals, and only Luton goalkeeper Colin Tinsley stopped him from getting his hat-trick." — "News of the World."

"Luton were a disappointing side. Rarely did they penetrate the Torquay defence and the only notable tries at goal came from centre-forward Jimmy Gibson.

"Alan Rivers gave a stout performance at centre-half but was far too often a lone defender against the surging Torquay forwards, and particularly match-winners King and Northcott." — "Sunday Telegraph."

TOWN ATTACK WAS NOT GOOD ENOUGH

Defeat always seemed to be their destiny

By Chiltern

TORQUAY UNITED 2, LUTON TOWN 0

FROM the Town standpoint, this was one of the unremarkable matches which, from my point of view anyway, they seemed destined to lose after the way in which events shaped in the opening minutes.

It may well be that Torquay, strong and assured, will prove to be one of the teams to make a promising bid this season, but, even so, the Town with their season pretensions in this direction, should have been nearer to avoiding defeat.

To be fair, one has to take fully into account the deprivations caused by injuries, particularly to the attack, but even so, experienced players, although some are out of position, should have been able to make a bigger impact than they did.

At the moment, the main problems facing the Town are on the wings and at centre-forward, and the line produced on Saturday was unbalanced. Not only did it lack cohesion in approach; there was a sad shortage of punch at close quarters.

Time and time again, too many passes were made to achieve too limited progress, and this was in marked contrast to the tactics of Torquay, who managed to make the ball do the bulk of the work with well-judged passes of reasonable range.

As a result, Torquay managed to keep the Town defence very much on tenterhooks for most of the match and, as has been the case previously this season, considerable damage was achieved by a raiding, decisive winger.

FREE TRANSFER GIFT

On this occasion it was King, an 18-year-old free transfer gift from Cardiff City, who caused Thomson untold trouble and served to underline the Town's deficiency in the wing department.

With a little more steadiness in front of goal, Torquay could have had the Town reeling in the opening minutes and, indeed, did so up to the point of securing the vital goals.

Some desperate covering in defence served to deny Torquay their reward until seven minutes from the interval when NORTHCOTT steered a centre from King past Tinsley.

Two minutes after half-time, before the Town had time to settle down to their hoped-for rally, NORTHCOTT did it again when he rammed the ball in after Tinsley had dropped it from a corner by Clarke, Jardine made an unavailing attempt to clear off the goal-line.

Always, Torquay looked the more dangerous, more competent team. Their defence showed no hesitancy, came in hard into the tackle and the Town's very moderate attack found extreme difficulty in reaching close quarters.

ENCOURAGING SHOW BY STARK

There was a deal of switching about to not much avail, with Gibson, who began the game in the middle, spending a lot of time at outside-right, with Riddick who, at least tried to hold the ball to some effect, ranging around in the centre of the field.

From Reid, there was much effort to little effect, but Stark gave more than a hint that he will be a useful addition when he settles down and he produced a couple of drives that were encouraging.

Very little progress was achieved by McKechnie, while Gibson was something of a disappointment and it may be proved finally that a defensive position will have to be found for him.

Particularly away from home, the defence is having to carry a heavy burden. They fought hard enough on this occasion, but Rivers was worried by the experienced North-

cott, as was Thomson by speed of King.

Both Edwards, in a defensive capacity, and Moore, who was more forthright in attack, played useful parts and the Town had a pretty fair share too.

Only blot on the otherwise competent display by the Town was the build-up to the second goal which he certainly could have prevented.

TORQUAY UTD.—Adams; Burgess, Brewster; King; son, Smith, Cox; Spratt, Northcott, Kirkman.

LUTON TOWN.—Thomson, Jardine; Edwards, Rivers, Moore; Riddick, Gibson, Reid, McKechnie.

Referee. — W. Clement. West Bromwich. Attendance, 5,010.