

THE UNITED LEAGUE.

CRYSTAL PALACE VICTORIOUS.

Luton played the Crystal Palace eleven on the Ivy-road ground on Monday. Result:—

Palace	...	...	...	...	...	...	2 goals
Luton	...	...	...	...	...	...	1 goal

The following were the teams:—

Luton:—Platt; Blackett and McCurdy; McDonald, White and Gallacher; Warner, Wiles, Brown, Pickering and Barnes.

Crystal Palace:—Hewitson; Edwards and Walker; Grant, Birnie and Innerd; Roberts, Needham, Woodger, Wallace and Thompson.

Referee, Mr. A. J. Kipps (London.)

Wiles duly made his appearance in the team, and as far as can be judged he had football in him. The ground was all against a finished display, mud covering the whole field. When the men ran about the splash-splash reminded one of the trampling of a herd of cattle in the mud—if the players will pardon the comparison. The Palace early gave a taste of the game they intended playing, for they were very quick to get off with the ball, and they always made the best use of it. Roberts had the pleasure of getting in the first shot of the match, whilst Wallace was close behind him with another. The Luton goal had a very desperate escape just after this, McCurdy rescuing the ball on the goal-line. The Palace forwards were very aggressive and made another dangerous assault on the Luton citadel, and this time Platt came to the rescue with a huge punt.

Pickering narrowly missed the goal, whilst it looked as if Hewitson would be beaten by a subsequent shot for the goalkeeper saved very feebly. Brown would have scored on a dry ground from another chance, but he struck the back with the ball, and then at the second attempt grazed the foot of the goal-post. The best shot up to this point was one which Pickering levelled at the goal Hewitson saving just under the bar, and throwing away. Woodger, who is an amateur, looked all the world a scorer, but his movement was divined by Platt who fisted the ball round the goal for a fruitless corner.

Needham had the pleasure of scoring the Palace's goal, though it was rather unlucky for Platt that he should have been out of his place. He went off to one end of the goal to stop a shot, but McCurdy repulsed the ball. Needham then obtained possession, and as Platt was rushing from one end of the goal Needham put the ball by him in such a position that Platt could not recover himself. ~~Had Platt remained where he~~ was at first the ball would have come to him, that is if the Palace man had shot as he did.

Directly after the restart Wallace unaccountably missed the goal, Platt lying flat on his back in repulsing a shot, but the inside right hesitated and the backs successfully covered the goal. Blackett displayed that very conspicuous fault of his of late of leaving his place, with the result that Roberts broke away and sent in a very dangerous centre which Platt fisted away. Blackett still remained in the middle of the field when Thompson received a grand pass. McCurdy slipped in endeavouring to tackle him, and Blackett being absent, Thompson rushed the ball up to goal and beat Platt, who came out to meet him as a last resort.

Pickering was painfully slow in taking advantage of an open goal, and before he could lift his foot the defence were down on him like a ton of bricks, and the Luton man was soon rolling in the mud and the ball half way up the field. To Pickering fell the credit of initiating the movement which led to the Luton goal. Rather cleverly he hooked the ball over to Barnes who sent across a lightning centre. The ball travelled too fast for Brown and Wiles to get it, and before Warner, hanging back in reserve for such a move, fastened on the ball and rushed it into the net, incidentally, too nearly scalping himself in the meshes of the rigging.

Luton lost the game through Blackett's absence from duty. Joe knows as well as anybody how a back should play, and the spectators would be better satisfied with him if he will leave attacking alone. Wiles made a good impression. He is stiffly built, he had few opportunities of showing his true worth, but should prove very useful to Luton.