

Football Notes and News.

By "Grasshopper."

UNITED LEAGUE.

CRYSTAL PALACE v. LUTON.

Try how they may, it does not seem that Luton can conquer the Crystal Palace team. The Blues have had the distinction of appearing twice at the Palace this season—not in the Cup final, of course. Of the four times the teams have met, Luton have always had to be content with coming off second best. What is worse, the Glaziers seem to have the knack of just getting home by the odd goal, which is far more irritating than if they won by a huge score.

For instance, when the Palace played at Luton last November, they left the field victors by the only goal scored, Luton having to be satisfied with a "nought." We all remember the fight for the cup, on the Palace ground, and the chagrin at again being beaten by a single goal, the score being 1-0 in favour of the home side. On that occasion the Palace, too, made victory secure just towards the end of the game. Then in the United League encounter at Luton, the Blues once more experienced defeat, the odd goal telling against them again, the score being 2-1 in favour of the Glaziers. And now, in the return match, at the Palace, the home side again did "the trick," winning by 2-1—the odd goal once more telling against Luton.

Luton sent a somewhat weak team to London on Saturday. Both Brown and R. Hawkes were absent. The centre-forward was given a rest in view of Saturday's stiff encounter with Tottenham in the Southern League tourney. "Bob," too, was playing at home for the Reserves. Dobson took Brown's place at centre, and gave a good account of himself, though he had scarcely enough weight to tussle with the home side.

Play in the first half was fast and interesting and the teams appeared to be fairly matched. Platt was keeping a good goal for Luton, but just previous to half-time the Palace secured the first goal through Needham. Not to be denied Luton made tracks for the home goal, where they forced a corner. Barnes taking the kick placed to Pickering, who had little difficulty in putting the visitors on a level footing once more, and the score at half-time was, Palace 1, Luton 1.

On resuming the home team took up the attack, but Platt defended splendidly. The game continued fast, each goal being visited in turn, and the homesters were successful in obtaining the lead, Harker beating Platt with an unsaveable shot. Luton rallied, but they could not pierce the opposing defence, and when time was called the score was:—

Crystal Palace 2, Luton 1.