

UNITED LEAGUE.

LUTON v. CRYSTAL PALACE.

This match, played on Monday at Luton, was in the nature of a benefit to Fred Hawkes and Fred White, the Town's two local professional halves. There was only a small attendance and the game was played in wet, miserable weather. The result was a victory for the Palace by the narrow margin of 1-0.

Teams:—

Luton: Platt; Jackson and McCurdy; F. Hawkes White and R. Hawkes; Schofield, McDonald, Slater, Pickering, and Barnes.

Crystal Palace: Hewitson; Wills and Edwards; Astley, Ryan and Innerd; Needham, Harker, Weston, Woodger and Roberts.

Referee: Mr. L. Bullimer (Northampton).

A mishap occurred in the first minute, for McDonald and Edwards came into violent collision and had to leave the field, the Lutonian with a severe injury to his cheek-bone and the Palace man with a cut on the head. Edwards was able to return in a few minutes and McDonald returned a little later. He continued until half-time but he was evidently in pain and received medical attention during the interval. It was then found that the cheek-bone had been driven into his face and the team were forced to play during the second period with only ten men.

Unfortunately, this accident ruined the experiment in the re-arrangement of the forward-line. It rendered impossible any effective combination by the right wing and did not tend to improve the position of Slater, the Bolton lad who was on trial as a centre-forward position. The latter is a clever, plucky youngster with a very good idea of how the game should be played but his ten and a half stones make him far too light for first-class football.

The match partook very much of the same character as those with the Glaziers during last season. The Palace were more at home on the slippery ground but were the inferior team everywhere except in front of goal, where coolness means everything. Here, the difference between the methods of the two lines of forwards was most apparent. The Lutonians showed a hesitancy which was their own undoing and their shots were generally little more than gentle taps. On the other hand the men from the Palace let drive as soon as the opportunity offered itself and took very good care to put as much powder as possible behind their efforts.

Comparing the methods of the two elevens, little surprise can be expressed at the result. Luton deserved to win and no doubt would have done so had they been able to play their full complement of men. In the first half they were much the better team, but nothing was scored before half-time. The second moiety was not very old when the Palace drew first blood through a mistake by Platt. The Luton goalkeeper succumbed to his old weakness of leaving his charge when things looked dangerous. Before he could get back Roberts let drive with a hot-shot which Platt just managed to touch put was powerless to turn aside. Several chances fell to Luton, but bad luck and bad judgment told their tale and the end came with the Palace still leading by 1-0.