

Football Notes and News.

[By "GOALPOST."]

SOUTHERN LEAGUE.

LUTON BEATEN AT THE PALACE.

The most sanguine did not expect Luton to win at the Crystal Palace on Saturday, seeing how strong the "Glaziers" have been going this season. The Londoners stand next to Southampton, the leaders, and the most that one could have expected was that the Blues might have shared the points. This they did not, however, succeed in doing, the Palace winning by 2-0. Last season, we remember, it was 4-2, but at home Luton won 4-0.

Saturday's game, however, was practically as much in Luton's favour as it was in favour of the Palace, and had the visitors drawn first blood, there is little doubt that they would have bagged a brace of points. Luton's forwards appear to have missed one or two rather easy chances, and that meant everything against a team like the Palace.

The teams were:—

Palace: Johnson; Collins, Needham; Innerd, Ryan, Brearley; Garratt, Haywood, McGibbon, Lawrence, and Woodger.

Luton: Platt; Dimmock, McCurdy; F. Hawkes, Jones, R. Hawkes; Brown, Haycock, Menzies, Moody, and Stansfield.

It will be seen that the Palace were still without Swann, Roberts, and Bauchope, but the respective substitutes helped materially in gaining the victory. Luton lost the toss, and kicked off against the sun. The Palace were called on to defend first, but the Luton attack was not strong, and a run to the other end might have brought the Palace a goal. Lawrence had a chance from a pass by Haywood, and at the time the Luton defence was rather shaky. The amateur was slow, however, and the chance was lost. Just after, Garratt centred neatly, and Brearley nearly scored with a fast drive. The Palace right wing pair were prominent for good work, but Luton eventually got away. A free kick close in gave the visitors a chance, and Brown attempted to take full advantage, but his shot—a really good one—was magnificently saved by Johnson.

This turned the game in favour of the Palace, and McGibbon rushed through after Ryan had passed the ball ahead, and beat Platt with a long-range shot. Luton lost no time in trying to get on an equality, and clever work by the halves and forwards in combination took them well into the Palace lines. Menzies cleverly beat Collins, and gave Moody a chance, but before the latter could shoot, Johnson ran out and cleared. He had to give away a corner, however, and it was cleared with difficulty. A run to the other end was checked through Garratt getting offside, but the free kick came to nothing. Garratt again got up and dropped in a nice centre, which should have been easily converted, but Lawrence made a slip as the ball came to him. Some give and take play followed, Luton being dangerous at times. Just on half-time Woodger and McGibbon tested Platt without success. Half-time: Crystal Palace 1, Luton 0.

Luton made a promising movement on resuming, but it came to nothing. A pass from Woodger gave McGibbon a chance to add to the Palace score, but Platt saved, giving away a corner in doing so. Luton were completely hemmed in for a time, but they packed their goal judiciously. Woodger got the better of the opposition at length by dribbling close in, and beating Platt with a shot that hit the post on its way to the net. The centre kick was snapped up by the home forwards, and Lawrence just missed scoring with a fast ground shot.

Luton revived after this, and a great shot from Bob Hawkes served to prove that the Palace goalkeeper is in great form at present. Johnson just got to the ball by literally throwing himself at it. After Lawrence had hit the cross-bar, Luton attacked with some persistency. They deserved to score, but luck and Johnson were against them, and after about ten minutes' hard pressure they slackened down. The Palace got down, and Platt was lucky in getting the ball away with three of the home forwards in front of him. Up to the finish the exchanges were even.

Result: Crystal Palace, 2 goals; Luton, nil.