

The Southern League.

BEATEN BY THE PALACE.

Luton Die Gamely.

WONDERFUL GOALKEEPING.

Not the most sanguine supporter of Luton hoped that victory would crown the efforts of Luton at the Palace on Saturday afternoon.

The game took place in the presence of some 10,000 spectators though the crowd, spread over such a large area, looked smaller.

The following were the teams:—

Crystal Palace—Johnson, Collins, and Needham; Innerd, Ryan and Brearley; Garratt, Hayward, McGibbon, Lawrence, and Woodger.

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

Referee, Mr. F. Kyle.

The grass was very green, and looked in excellent condition. The touch lines are a long way off the spectators, and there was a splendid view for all concerned. The sun shone brilliantly, and the Palace was at its very best.

It would be useless to deny that the Palace supporters were looking for a substantial margin against the visitors, for had their men not vanquished the most powerful teams in the League? There was a little premature applause when one of the home side appeared, but it was a false alarm, as he returned at once to the dressing-room.

The Palace were the first to emerge, five minutes from the kick-off, and they had a great reception from the crowd. The Luton partisans greeted the blues quite as loudly considering the small number of supporters present from the town of straw.

The home captain won the toss, "Bob" guessing the wrong side, and as the sides proceeded to take up their ends, some facetious person in the crowd began playing the "Dead March" on a tin whistle. Ominous beginning!

The Luton men kicked off, and at once Collins had to kick away. Brown missed a nice pass from Menzies, and play hovered on the side of the field until Menzies got in a long drive, which went wide.

The Palace then attacked on the right, but F. Hawkes came to the rescue. Jones headed away Garratt's centre, but some loose play left the ball to Lawrence, who sent a grounder just by the post.

Stansfield ran away on the left after the Luton goal had had another escape, in which Jones figured prominently.

The Palace were pulled up on the 18 yards' line, but relief was afforded by a free kick, and Brown then got in a terrific drive, which Johnson could only fist out, regardless of consequences.

Luton then had a good piece of play nullified by off-side, but worse was to befall them, for McGibbon receiving a long pass from Ryan, raced for a ball which went some 25 yards from goal, Platt dashed out, hesitated, and the goal was lost the home centre forward netting very surely.

Brown sent by the post on the subsequent play, and generally the visitors had as much of the play as the home side.

Luton kicked out twice to clear, and then a foul by Jones on the centre forward brought the ball still nearer the goal, but F. Hawkes again put out.

The Palace for a time exerted their supremacy, but some thrusting play by the Luton right wing took the sphere down the field, where the backs relieved the pressure.

McGibbon put by the post, and then Luton got to the other end, where Menzies struck Needham with the ball, which went behind for a corner.

Johnson had to handle, but he was impeded, and the free kick afforded relief.

Woodger was accidentally brought down by F. Hawkes, to the accompaniment of groans from the home supporters, but the free kick was of little use, for Luton broke away, the backs again clearing.

The Palace men seemed cleverer than Luton's lot. Twice off-side brought the home forwards back to mid-field. Menzies received a good pass from Haycock, and, feinting to pass to the wings took a shot at goal instead. Johnson missed the ball, which went just wide.

This was certainly hard luck for Luton, for the shot alone deserved a goal, to say nothing of the manœuvre which prompted it.

Stansfield gave Johnson a grounder to save, and once again it brought him to the ground.

The Luton goal had a perilously narrow escape just afterwards, but Jones got in the way of the ball, which went out. Moody made a bad pass, which put the Palace in possession again. Collins tried a long shot, and then McCurdy kicked out, to get rid of Garratt's attention.

The visitors were beautifully looked after by the home defenders. McGibbon was allowed too much rope, and he got in one shot which might have scored.

Twice Stansfield gave Johnson warm shots to save, but he was equal to each demand, though the attentions of the visiting side were rather inconvenient from the Palace point of view.

"Peter" rushed out to clear from "Lady" Woodger, and injured the Palace outside left, so that play had to be suspended for a couple of minutes.

A visit to each end followed, that at the Palace goal being short-lived. Bob tried one of his long drives, but to no purpose.

Luton were successful in putting McGibbon off-side, and the referee's decision was greeted with remarks which seemed to show that the spectators were not quite so impartial as the "Poet" Craig would have us believe.

Play slackened off a bit at this point, and Luton were fortunate to get a corner given them by the left half, but Jones could not direct the ball straight enough from the flag kick to pierce the net, the sphere going just wide.

Bob Hawkes came through a crowd of players, with the ball at his feet and cleared nicely. Lawrence then made a sad mess of a chance, and he spoiled another effort by getting off-side.

Half-time—

PALACE
LUTON

1
0

The sun, which had shone in the eyes of the Luton men up to the interval, was meanwhile setting fast, and by the time the men returned to the field the sunshine had vanished; and no

longer missed the side which played from the left end."

Menzies was brought down in the first minute, and a foul was awarded against the Palace. Luton could do little with the free kick, but Moody put in a long shot, which Johnson easily cleared.

A corner was awarded the Palace, but was badly placed by Woodger, and Luton quickly found the half-way line, only for the ball to be placed in touch.

Again and again the ball was thrown in, but only to be put out again. Suddenly McRibben was seen in front of the Luton goal, and pushing Dimmock out of the way, he shot hard at goal, but once more Platt was safe, though he had to give away a corner, which was of no use.

Stansfield was fouled by the right half, but, though Bob took the kick, and Brown received the ball, the referee awarded the Palace a free kick for hands, though the ball hit Brown in the face.

Rain began to fall at this point. The game had to be stopped, for Garratt was injured, and had to receive the attention of the trainer.

He soon recovered, and took part in an attack by the Palace, and succeeded in getting in a shot at goal, but Platt was not troubled.

Woodger, however, was more successful, for, getting away on the left, he took a long drive at goal, and the ball, striking the goal post, went into the net. Thus the home side were two goals up.

Luton played with some dash and an extra amount of skill after this second reverse, but they failed to shoot at goal as often as could be desired.

Woodger was allowed to go on, though off-side, but he could do nothing with the ball, thanks to Dimmock.

Johnson made a grand save from Bob Hawkes, and it was remarkable how he got to another of Bob's specials.

Needham had to kick out when in tight quarters, but the Luton pressure was of short duration, for Woodger broke away, and forced a corner, Platt twice having to save.

Menzies took the ball from Haycock, when he should have allowed the inside man a shot, and was ruled off-side.

Luton should have been awarded a penalty for hands against the Palace, one of the backs handling the ball as the Luton centre was about to shoot half-a-dozen yards from the goal.

Then Haycock was treated in a way which might have brought upon him the displeasure of some referees, but a corner was all the compensation which Luton had for this incident.

Luton repeatedly made incursions, and during one of these Brown centred finely, and Johnson dashed out and punched away before Moody could head the ball.

Lawrence had a most glorious chance of adding to the score, as he had only Platt to beat from a couple of yards out, and by some means he skied the ball over the bar.

The Palace goal was in great jeopardy, but the Luton men could not get a shot in, always apparently wanting to get a clear chance at goal before potting.

Woodger led an attack on the left, but a foul on Platt prevented it from proving of any use.

Needham was hurt in the subsequent play, when endeavouring to intercept a pass by Brown, but he quickly recovered.

A long dropping shot by Brown fell in the top of the goal net.

McCurdy set Stansfield on the move, and he nicely passed to Moody, but once again the ball just went by the post from Moody's foot.

This was the last flutter of either side, and the final solo on the whistle following at once the game closed with the scores:—

CRYSTAL PALACE
LUTON

TWO GOALS
NIL