

Western League.

HANDSOME WIN BY LUTON.

Crystal Palace Fail Badly.

On Monday afternoon some thousand spectators assembled at Luton to witness the match against the Crystal Palace in the Western League, and they were rewarded by seeing Luton easily account for the visitors.

The following were the teams:—

Luton : Jarvis ; Folley and Gregory ; F. Hawkes, White, and Fleckney ; Brown, Bradley, Menzies, Moody, and Stansfield.

Crystal Palace : Johnson ; Thorp and Needham ; Innerd, Ryan, and Hullock ; Garratt, Lawrence, Swann, Bauchop, and Woodger.

Referee, Lieut. W. C. Glover (Leicester).

A brief incursion to the Luton end opened play, and Luton made tracks for the other end, but Johnson saved the ball from going through, Luton, at the same time appealing for a penalty, alleging that Moody had been fouled in the penalty area.

Luton had the better of the succeeding play, which generally was not of a very interesting character, the Glaziers putting up a very vigorous defence. Brown once attempted to centre the ball, but struck an opponent, and then Moody was beaten by Johnson, who had the advantage of the use of his handst.

Brown was cheered for a very plucky piece of play, which resulted in a dangerous centre being fisted away by Johnson, just as Moody headed unsuccessfully at the ball. Gregory shot hard at goal, and caused the goalkeeper to handle, and a melee followed in front of the goal, but Brown placed just outside the post.

Ryan was the victim of an accident, receiving a kick from Bradley as he was trying to head the ball, but he made a remarkably quick recovery. Bradley next hit Menzies on the back of the head with the ball, which he was endeavouring to place to Stansfield. Unlucky Bradley !

Bradley once nearly broke through, following a dashing manoeuvre in mid-field, and a little later he got the ball into the net, but received the sphere in an offside position, and the referee promptly whistled for a free kick.

Lawrence opened the scoring, following a good piece of play by the whole of the forwards. The ball was put across by Woodger, too far out for Jarvis to reach it, and Lawrence had no difficulty in getting the ball into the net, thus giving the Palace the lead.

They were not destined to hold it for long, for Menzies suddenly found himself in front of the up-rights, and letting go, he beat Johnson with a terrific drive, which just touched the goalkeeper's knuckles as it went past into the net.

Brown, by a clever piece of play on the wing, beat Needham, and made tracks for goal. Then at the critical moment he sent to Moody, who shot hard, Johnson falling down at saving, and before he had a chance to get up, Stansfield popped the ball into the net. Half-time:—

of sight of their own chimney stacks. Such forward play as they served up on Monday is good enough for goals anywhere and against any team, and I am looking to see them come.

The Palace goalkeeper gained a cheer all to himself for his goalkeeping. He looked astonishingly fit did Johnson, fit to "whip his weight in wildcats" as the Yankees put it. He achieved some very showy clearances, but had he saved the third goal he might have done so without astonishing anybody. He had a lot of practice given him by the Luton sharp shooters. Brown had a day out, Needham never being able to hold him. His centres were marvellously accurate and the manner in which he placed his corner kicks right along the face of the cross bar was wonderful. All the Luton forwards did well, in fact, and as the line is now, I hope to see it for some time.

The Palace tried the short passing game and when this failed, tried to pierce the home defence with individual efforts. These were ineffectual though Woodger, took a lot of shaking off the ball. The Palace did a lot of pretty work but they never finished well. They worked in too little room. Jarvis, who deputised Platt, did well. He saved a penalty, receiving a shot from Swann in the region of his pericardium. It made him blink a bit, but he got the ball away all right. Peter Platt could not have done it better. Altogether it was a good game, and the crowd thoroughly appreciated Luton's smart play.

One was pleased to see White's form at centre-half. It was quite a revival, and we are looking for more of the same sort. Though he had not McGibbon to face, the dashing soldier centre-forward, he was very faithful in regard to the few things which comes his way. In fact," McGibbon had turned out, I think he would have found White generally at his side to give him a remindful nudge that the race is not always to the swift.

LUTON 2 goals,
Crystal Palace 1 goal.

On resuming, Swann fairly caught Luton napping, and put in a weak shot just by the post. Moody followed with a good attempt over the bar, and then Menzies added a third goal, Johnson being beaten through, the ball hitting Needham on its passage along to the net.

The crowd cheered considerably at this renewed success. Woodger raced away, and was closely pursued by Gregory, who saved the situation by kicking behind. The corner threatened some danger, as Luton could not get the ball away, and for a time the Palace had the better of the play. Then Lawrence broke away on his own, and shot hard at Jarvis, but the ball went straight to him, and he cleared.

Moody brought off a little surprise just after. He beat Needham for the ball, and then drew in, pretended to pass across the mouth of goal, causing Johnson to fall forward to intercept the pass, and then coolly placed the ball between him and the post into the net.

Two corners served to provide some exciting play, in front of the Palace goal, and Johnson fisted the first away, and had a hand in repulsing the second. Menzies, with a neat left foot touch, placing the ball just wide. The home side again scored, for Menzies added the fifth goal with an unstoppable shot.

Swann was making tracks for goal, when he was intercepted by Gregory, who put the visitor down very heavily. The referee gave a penalty, which Swann took, but Jarvis made his fifth save from these shots during the season.

Moody got an offside goal, following a hot attack, and Stansfield was tripped, but was allowed to go on. Lawrence looked like getting a goal, but Jarvis popped up again at the critical moment and saved.

Bauchop worked his way along on the left, and Jarvis had to throw himself full length at the ball to push it behind for a useless corner. Offside pulled up Woodger, and generally, the Palace were giving the Luton defence quite as much as they could do to repel the repeated attacks of the visitors. They were unable to penetrate the defence, however, and the end came with the score :-

LUTON 5 goals,
Crystal Palace 1 goal.