

Football Notes and News.

[By "GOALPOST"].

Southern League.

LUTON v. CRYSTAL PALACE.

HAYCOCK DOES THE "HAT TRICK."

By their magnificent win over the Crystal Palace on Saturday afternoon, when the Glaziers were fairly beaten 4-1, Luton Town have jumped up in the League table over the heads of three or four other clubs, and now stand seventh from the top. This is very satisfactory, and there is one thing now certain—we shall not finish up nearly so far down as we did last season, when we stood in the 18th position from Queen's Park, last season's leaders of the Southern League.

However, both teams have divided the points this season, the same as last. It will be recollected that last season Luton won at home 4-0, but lost at the Palace 2-4. Last October, the Glaziers won on their own ground 2-0.

There was not such a good "gate" on Saturday as one could have wished. It was an ideal day for football, but the crowd scarcely exceeded five thousand. Luton played the same team as on the previous two weeks, Moody and Platt being still absent. The visitors, for some unknown reason, played three reserves, though their first team men were said to be fit and well. The following were the teams:—

Luton: Jarvis; McCurdy and Gregory; F. Hawkes, Jones, R. Hawkes; Brown, Haycock, Menzies, Johnson and Stansfield.

Palace: Balding; Collyer, and Needham; Thorp, Lewis, and Brearley; Garratt, W. Lawrance, Bauchop, Lee, and Woodger.

The Palace won the toss, and set Luton to play against a strong sun. Immediately the locals opened the attack, and in the first few minutes, with a little steadiness, Johnson might have opened the score. A brief Palace attack was followed by sustained pressure by Luton, and Haycock and Menzies came near with good shots. The efforts, however, were spoiled by undecidedness. A fine clearance by Needham failed to set the Palace going, and Luton had many chances, but they usually finished weakly. A splendid run and centre by Woodger looked dangerous, but slackness by the other Palace forwards let the chance go by.

An injury to Needham caused a stoppage, and on resuming, play went in favour of the visitors. With more method in front of goal they would have scored on more than one occasion. A corner looked like giving them the first point, but McCurdy headed away from almost under the bar. After a Luton attack the visitors were again busy, and forced a corner. This was cleared at the expense of another corner, and from the second Bauchop had real hard luck with a header which landed the ball on the crossbar. Luton took a bigger share in the game afterwards, but although they were often dangerous, half-time arrived with a blank score.

Resuming Luton at once pressed, Haycock missing an easy chance from a corner. A minute later Johnson headed on the bar. The Palace attacked, and were repulsed luckily. A fruitless corner to Luton followed, but they kept up the pressure, and Needham cleared smartly. Then the home forwards came again, and after clever work on the right wing Haycock tricked two men and scored with a rattling shot.

Luton kept at it, and after Balding had made a fine save a glorious chance was missed by more than one of the home forwards. Needham was again injured, but resumed after the necessary attention. Woodger made a smart run, but McCurdy saved his side, and repeated the performance by clearing a shot from Garratt on the goal line.

Then the locals took up the running again, and from a fine centre by Brown, Haycock scored the second goal. The visitors fell away considerably after this, and from a centre by Stansfield, Haycock again scored, thus accomplishing the "hat trick." Needham then retired, and Luton pressed strongly. A fourth goal was scored by Brown, and when the Palace improved towards the finish Bauchop reduced the deficit with a splendid effort.

Result: Luton 4 goals, Crystal Palace 1.

On the whole, it was not much of a game. The Palace had the upper hand in the first half, a matter that was largely due to the fact that the home side went in for short passing. Of course, it was impossible to try tapping the ball with success on a cut up turf.

The match had a rather unlooked for result. With matters even at half-time, one did not expect to see Luton win by such a big margin. True, thus was due to Haycock's three goals. In performing the "hat trick" at football, the inside right was the hero of the afternoon. Though Haycock's first goal was rather doubtful, there could be no question about the other two. They were all three scored within about equal intervals of each other. Brown's was also a magnificent goal, and Balding could not be blamed for any of the shots that beat him.

If the Palace forwards had been more lively Luton would not have left the field with such a big lead. The visitors were exceptionally weak in front of goal, as was proved time after time when they had the home defence in a muddle. Bauchop was not at all a reliable leader of the attack, and it was marvellous the opportunities that were lost in this way. For Luton Jarvis played a cool, reliable game, and stopped some really good shots. The locals showed better form in the second 45 minutes, and there was no question as to the winning team being the better side.