

LUTON SCRAPE HOME.

Palace Give Hard Fight.

(By "CRUSADER.")

Just how uncertain is football was shown in the match on the Town ground last Saturday. I daresay there were some thousands of coupons dispatched from Luton, and on the strength of the easy victory at Aberdare the Town figured on most of them as certain winners. What hopes and fears there were during the last quarter of an hour of the game? With the Palace playing like demons, and only one goal required to effect a share of the spoils, it must have been an anxious time for a considerable number of the on-lookers.

On every hand during the days that have elapsed it has been remarked that the Town were fortunate to win, and the general view is that the Palace deserved to share. I, too, think they were none too well tended by fortune, but the Town played so hard and unstintingly that they would have been unlucky to lose. It is a long time since we saw the hat trick at Luton, but Shankly accomplished the feat, for he got through twice in the first half, and once afterwards, and the Palace got their goals in the second portion of the game.

Until a severe attack by the Town brought the first goal, the Palace had always looked the better side, but there was a faltering about their defence, and when the goal came it was the result of a great dash by Richards, who completely surprised the opposition ere he enabled SHANKLY to register the first point. Immediately afterwards the Palace defence again got spreadeagled, and Miller centred for SHANKLY to head the second goal. A bad mistake by the Town backs ended with TURNER notching for the Palace, and after SHANKLY had got the third goal for the Town, BLAKEMORE got another goal for the visitors with a penalty kick given against Till for "hands." Fierce rallies by either side marked the concluding stages, and, but for splendid work by Purdy, the Palace would probably have scored yet another success. Thrilling sprints and good centres from Harry were features of the first half, and again when the game was wearing late he made frantic efforts to save a point.

The Palace were best served by Harper, their goalkeeper. McCracken and Greener, with Harry and Blakemore as the pick of the attack. They seemed to be a bit faster than the Town, and lasted the game very well, but what the Town lacked in understanding was compensated for by their extra willingness, and every player did his utmost to ensure victory. Purdy was wonderful in goal, and Graham played a grand game at back. The middle men were about normal, which means that they played a strong spoiling game, though Millar had a heavy job in meeting Harry. The right wing was the cleverer, but all worked with great spirit and enthusiasm forward, and for this reason merited success.

LUTON TOWN 3 goals

CRYSTAL PALACE 2 goals

LUTON.—Purdy; Till, Graham; Richards,

Jennings, Millar; Miller, Shankly, Little-

wood, Dennis, Thompson.

PALACE. — Harper; Blake, Cross;

McCracken, Hamilton. Greener; Harry,

Turner, Cherrett, Blakemore, Clarke.

Referee: Mr. A. L. Grinstead, East Ham.