

PALACE PROGRESS MAINTAINED.

LUTON TOWN PROVIDE COMFORTABLE POINTS.

FIRST HALF FAILURE.

(By "CRUSADER.")

CRYSTAL PALACE 3 goals
LUTON TOWN Nil

PALACE.—Callender; Little, Cross; Hamilton, Coyle, Greener; Harry, Blakemore, Cherrett, Hawkins, Clarke.

LUTON.—Purdy; Graham, Till; Neal, Rennie, Millar; Moffat, Thomson, Thompson, Agnew, Dennis.

Referee.—Mr. J. C. O'Neill, London.

The score accurately reflects the difference between the teams during the first half. In that period the Palace won the match. Afterwards did not matter much, for while the Town probably had a trifle more of the play than the Palace, they were not good enough to clinch the attacks against a defence that never slackened in the slightest degree, and proved far more capable than its record would suggest. A comparison of rearguards would still leave me disposed to prefer the Town trio, but the decisive factor in the match was the strength and resolution of the Palace middle line. They were masters of the game in the first half, and masters of the Town attack in the second, or, to be more precise, they did so much good work that the home rearguard was not put to

SUCH DESPERATE STRAITS

as the Palace last line of defence. My advocacy of Will Jennings during the last three years has met with a good deal of criticism, and I have never disputed that from certain aspects it has been justifiable criticism, but the main argument of the theme has been the value of the big man in the fierce fights that have to be waged on "foreign soil." Skilful football is always preferable, but there are times when skill has to give way to physical merit, and while I have great hopes of seeing Andy Rennie rise to greater heights than Jennings has ever touched, for he is young enough to do so, I am bound to say that if ever we missed Richards and Jennings since they were put among the casualties, we did so at Selhurst on Saturday, especially in the first half. There was

VIRILITY AND EARNESTNESS

about the Palace attack that showed itself in the first few minutes, when Hawkins knocked out Graham. I do not say that there was anything unfair in the tackle, but it was typical of the Palace resolution and strength: no "drawing back." They simply tumbled into the Town defenders if there were a possibility of getting some advantage from audacity. That sort of thing can only be met by like spirit, and it was not forthcoming until after the change of ends. One could hardly credit the difference after the refreshment stage. The Town halves copied to some extent the tactics of the Palace, and they met with a lot more success, and had the whole team played in the first 45 minutes as in the second, the Palace would not have taken both points. It was

"A MAN'S GAME"

the Palace played in getting their goals, all of which were worthy efforts. The first came when CHERRETT snapped a pass from Hawkins, and hit the ball hard as it came to his foot, and Purdy had no chance to save. The second was a different sort of goal: a sudden bit of enterprise by GREENER, and again Purdy was beaten by a ball that passed like a flash among a crowd of players. CHERRETT got the third with a very fine header from Harry's centre, and he had been such a splendid leader that he was entitled to his successes. The ball was given plenty of boot by the Palace players fore and aft, and the policy of quick following up was profitable, the Town halves being beaten time and again by sheer speed and forcefulness.

In the second half there was

A SURPRISING IMPROVEMENT

by the Town, but the attack was crippled by the fact that Norman Thomson and Agnew were usually playing lieutenant to the middle men. Perhaps it was as well they did, for they often got the ball by foraging for it, but the Palace backs found it easier to deal with three men than with five, and the consequence was that the game was getting old before Callender was severely tested. Still, the fact remains that there was a vast improvement in the Town's play, and there was practically nothing to choose between the teams in this half. Better testimony to the revival of the middle men cannot be desired.

Purdy kept goal much better than in recent games. He made

SPLENDID SAVES,

and twice in the second half the cry of "Goal" was arrested on the lips of the spectators as he saved from Hawkins and from Cherrett. That was one satisfactory feature. Graham suffered for a long time from the knock-out he received just after the start, but he came into his own as the effects wore off, and played finely. Till was once more the outstanding defender of the whole match. Harry, who has been the "big noise" of the Palace attack for the last three seasons, had a very poor afternoon. If he eluded the attentions of Millar, he was mastered almost every time by Till.

I have referred to the middle line. Millar was the best, and yet he had little time to help his forwards, for he had

HARD WORK

to hold his own with the Palace right wing. Neal got a bad blow on the knee, and he was limping for a long time in the first half. Afterwards he was more assertive, and during the last quarter of an hour he was good enough for the most exacting of us. Rennie had his severest test since he came into the side, for Cherrett was on full song, and I daresay the Town's young pivot is realising more and more that in this football spoliage is a big factor. I am not going to discourage him, for he made some very fine passes, but

he was inclined to kick hard and high at times, rather than low and accurately. He is learning in every match.

The forwards got

VERY LITTLE SUPPORT

from the middle, and Agnew and Norman Thomson were strengthening the middle line when they should have been assisting Jim Thompson. There was little combination of a sustained nature. Now and then a clever individual effort, or a dual movement, but the fine, swinging football we saw during February games was missing. Dennis was almost unemployed in the first half, and Moffat in the second. Jim Thompson made some strong shots in the second half, and one beauty deserved to score. Until the inside wings leave the middle men to do their own work, however, I cannot see a repetition of the successes and goal-scoring of the last two months. There is not so much team work, and there is sore need of a rallying spirit to pull the team together when things are going hard against them.

The Palace have a fine goalkeeper in Callender. The backs kicked hard and tackled keenly. Coyle was the choice player in a line full of grit and muscle, and he is going to be a star. The forwards would have been very poor but for the strong leadership of Cherrett, who was quite the most conspicuous forward in the game. They have made great progress recently, and if they maintain this standard they will finish high on the table. There were 12,000 spectators.

SOUTHERN LEAGUE.

LUTON RESERVES WIN.

By four goals clear Luton Town Reserves defeated Guildford United on Saturday at Luton, but the score was more convincing than the play. Guildford have been doing very well of late, but they did not maintain their best form, and the Town had by far the better of the game. REID got the only goal of the first half with a characteristic shot that non-plussed Smith. LITTLEWOOD headed the second goal after Miller had hit the bar, and LOVE scored from a penalty-kick for "hands." In the closing stages the Town attacked fiercely, and after Smith had made several splendid saves, LITTLEWOOD got the fourth goal from Miller's centre. The Town were the better side throughout. Mingay and his backs were very safe, and the halves were nearly always the masters of the Guildford attack. Miller was the most dangerous of the home forwards, though the line worked very hard, and much more effectively than of late, Flitton again showing up well as deputy for Robinson.

HOCKEY.

BEDFORD MODERN SCHOOL have had a busy week, and against LEYS SCHOOL at Cambridge, they drew, each side scoring 3 goals. It was a fine performance for the Modern School, for Leys have played hockey for a number of years.

On Wednesday the MODERN SCHOOL met MAGDALENE SCHOOL (Oxford) and lost their first match of the season, the home side winning by 4 goals to 3. The Modern School were without their captain, Mason, and Shepherd.

On Thursday the SCHOOL lost to BEDFORD THURSDAY after a capital game by 2 goals to 1. The School played well together, but missed several shots in the second half.

On Saturday PETERHOUSE COLLEGE (Cambridge) were visitors to the School ground. Both teams were strong and Peterhouse had two Blues. At the beginning Peterhouse had the better of it and scored after a good passing movement. Later they scored again and led at the interval by 2 goals. In the second half the School, playing down the slope, had the better of the exchanges, and scored through Shepherd and Mason, a splendid game ending in a draw.

Luton Town Sports Club visited St. Albans on Saturday, and beat the City after a fine game by 3-1.

LAWN TENNIS.

HERTS BEAT WARWICK AT HARPENDEN.

Before a good attendance of spectators at the Harpenden Tennis Club's ground on Saturday afternoon, Hertfordshire beat Warwickshire by five rubbers to four, and qualified for the semi-final round of the men's inter-county championship on hard courts. Results:—

F. H. Jarvis and E. Higgs (Herts) beat Sir Edward Iliffe and G. F. Birtles 6-1, 6-0, beat H. K. Lester and K. M. Alexander 6-2, 6-3, beat I. B. Jenkins and H. M. Winstanley 6-1, 6-2.

A. T. Hill and T. D. Stoward (Herts) lost to Iliffe and Birtles 6-3, 3-6, 4-6, lost to Lester and Alexander 1-6, 1-6, lost to Jenkins and Winstanley 7-5, 4-6, 7-8.

G. N. Ogilvie and J. R. Blake (Herts) beat Iliffe and Birtles 3-6, 6-2, 11-9, lost to Lester and Alexander 5-7, 4-6, beat Jenkins and Winstanley 2-6, 6-3, 6-4.

GENT'S SOFT HATS at wholesale price. New shape, cut edge, striped band; 5/6.—Harold Cook, Tailor, 28 and 30, High Town-road (next to Picture Palace), Luton.—[ADVT.]