

DRAW AT SELHURST.

LUTON TOWN'S RETURN TO FORM.

(By "CRUSADER.")

As usual, little justice was done to Luton Town's display at Selhurst by the London Pressmen. Here and there one gave them credit for deserving a draw, but the Palace players themselves conceded that the Town had the better of the game and were unlucky not to carry away the spoils. Though there was room for improvement, as there always is, it was a very fine struggle between teams evenly matched, and the pull the Town had was due to the better team spirit and cohesion prevailing. Every department played for the other, and every player was striving to help his colleagues and to do his best for the side, and that was why they had the better of the game.

CALLENDER SAVES PALACE.

The Palace have many fine players, and as a team might have done better had they been steadier and considered positioning more. It was in this phase that the Town were superior, for backs, halves, and forwards ran into position splendidly, and though the ground was very slippery, the result of heavy showers shortly before the game when the ground was very firm, and foothold was somewhat difficult, they played very good football. There was a tendency to slowness in gathering the ball and forging ahead by the Town inside men, but even then they were the more dangerous in front of goal, and with a little luck might have chalked up quite a respectable score. However, Callender, who is surely one of the finest goalkeepers in the country, was on his best behaviour, and saved the Palace from defeat.

THE TOWN'S BULWARK.

The game was cleanly contested, the only player disposed to lose his head a little being Hilley, the Palace left-half, and he was lucky that a penalty was not awarded against him in the closing minutes of the game when he made a blind rush into the back of Thompson as the latter was tackling the Palace goalkeeper, who was prone on the ground with the ball underneath. Yet he was a clever player, and most of the Palace assaults came as a result of his fine constructive work. There was very little to choose between the teams on the balance of play in the first half, and each goalkeeper had similar strenuous calls. Harper made magnificent saves from Turner, Cherrett, and Blakemore, and Callender from Reid, Thompson, and Rennie. The Palace backs were vigorous and strong, and made full use of their weight, and were much alike in style. On the other hand the Town pair were different. Richards was the bulwark to stem the fiercest assaults, and Till drew upon his most skilful resources successfully.

The nearest approaches to goals, however, came from the Town, and the whole of the attack, well supported by the middle men, worked with an understanding that surprised the Palace crowd, who had anticipated a victory. At the change of ends the score-sheet was blank.

PALACE	0
LUTON	0

The early stages of the second half were much in favour of the Palace, who, instead of trying the combinative game of the first half, took advantage of the conditions, for rain came down in a torrent, and the wide swinging passes from wing to wing, or the long kicking of the home backs and halves called for the utmost vigilance and alacrity of the Town defence. Richards' fine strength was a great factor in this hot period, and he performed heroic work. When the bluegeon failed the Town took up the attack, and from now until the end were the better side. There were tense moments round the Palace goal, and one or two narrow escapes before the first goal came in the thirteenth minute of the game. From the Town back division on the left flank the ball was turned into the centre, thence to the left wing, and again to the middle. Here Thompson held it for a moment with his back to the goal, and then transferred to REID, who shipped away to the right and then sent in a glorious shot that went like a flash across the turf and beat Callender all the way. It was a great goal. Unfortunately for the Town the Palace equalised within a minute as the result of

an error by Harper. Hilley made a dribble, and eventually tried a long shot along the ground. Richards allowed the ball to go while he obstructed the Palace inside forwards. It would have gone out, apparently, but Harper was not quite sure, for he went out and fielded the ball. However, he dropped it, and before he could recover CHERRETT had run up and turned it into the net.

The Town played better than ever after this. They kept the game open, and though the Palace played strongly at times, and the right wing often threatened danger, Callender had the ticklish work to do, and made many splendid saves. He was beaten by Thompson with a header from Clark's centre and the ball appeared to strike the post and the net just inside, but it twisted out. The whole of the Town players rushed up, confident that a goal had been scored, but no sign was made by the referee, though he consulted the linesman after an appeal by the Town players, and that official confirmed the referee's opinion that it was not a goal. A Palace player after the game corroborated the Town players' view, and certainly it seemed to me that the ball was inside the post. The effort was such a fine one, that a goal was deserved. Subsequently Callender saved in brilliant fashion from Thompson, who had earlier hit the upright, from Reid, and Rennie, while he "killed" centres from Clark and Dennis, and twice saved on the line at full length when a goal seemed certain. Harper had nothing like the same difficult stuff to stop, and the Palace defenders were very glad to hear the final whistle.

THE PLAYERS.

Harper did well against his old club except for the one fatal blunder. Richards again played a magnificent game at back, and his strong and certain work was a feature of the Town's defence. Till was equally capable in a more stylish way, and even though Graham is fit and well it is difficult to see how Richards can be displaced on this form.

The middle men were at their best, too. Black had no superior on the field, and both in tackling and nursing showed great skill and stamina. He lasted this hard game better than any previous game, and almost on time made desperate efforts to snatch victory by dazzling work. Millar was almost as good, and the understanding with Woods and Dennis produced many fierce onslaughts. Rennie had a few spells when he seemed to be slow off the mark, but, on the whole, played finely, and the best part of his game was the persistent effort to find Thompson with through passes.

It was the work of Rennie and Woods in this respect that made Thompson the most dangerous forward on view. His leadership was splendid. He whipped the ball out to his wing, or gave natty passes to his immediate colleagues, while he often forged through to try a shot. Reid may not be an ideal forward for making openings, but his goal was a gem, and the only fault one would find was that Clark should have had more passes. Woods gave a lot of trouble by shrewd ball control and drawing of the opposition, and did useful work as a fourth half-back. Dennis got many nice passes from the inside man, and Thompson even more. Clark was a lively factor when he got a chance, and never failed to middle the ball well, while Dennis played a splendid game on his reappearance with the first team, and was a constant source of trouble.

Callender played a great game for the Palace, and had two good backs. Hilley was the pick of a useful middle line, and Grant the best forward. There were about 9,000 spectators.

CRYSTAL PALACE	1
LUTON TOWN	1

CRYSTAL PALACE.—Callender; Cross, Orr; Gallagher, Smith, Hilley; Grant, Turner, Cherrett, Blakemore, Clarke.
LUTON.—Harper; Richards, Till; Black, Rennie, Millar; Clark, Reid, Thompson, Woods, Dennis.

Referee.—W. E. Greenland, London.