

LUTON HOLD UP PALACE

Some Wily Old Stagers at Selhurst

By FRANK THOROGOOD

Crystal Palace 2

AFTER long resistance our despotic grounds have now been compelled to yield the blessed impression of foot-marks, and to see the happy evidence of the rain was alone worth a visit to Selhurst Park. If the ball has not yet come to heel in the most desired manner, it is now giving the players far more encouragement, and the schemers of yesterday's match were on better terms with themselves.

One such schemer was Peter Simpson, who, though hampered by opponents, trapped a good pass, turned swiftly round and got the first Palace goal, but his dominance was short-lived. Kean of Luton, enjoyed the softer ground and the veteran international did a lot of quiet and useful work at right-half.

Since watching the Palace go under to Bristol Rovers the team at half and forward has been reinforced by men who had shaken off injuries. What may be reckoned their best available left wing attack reappeared; but the changes at half were more readily appreciated in this game. At full-back Hayward was again in form, whereas Parry often found the Luton right wing too clever for him.

It was from that wing whence the equalising goal came before the interval. Pease scoring with a fast and raking cross-shot from Bell's pass.

Regaining the lead through Roberts after the second half had lasted 20 minutes, the Palace could only keep it for a brief interval and the goal that won Luton a point again came from Pease. It originated

Luton 2

from a free-kick and Pearson, the old Chelsea man who played a useful game in his new company, was the forward who delivered the handy centre.

Third League football is no convalescent home for men who have figured in the higher ranks and Pearson is already aware of the fact. The same remark applies to Pease, an international forward who got both goals and reminded us afresh that he made his name at Northampton.

On the run of the play I thought Luton were the better balanced side. Kingham is still a reliable back, although he could give no points to Hayward, of the Palace, and the arch schemer at half was McGinnigle, who kept Simpson on a very tight rein after that player had surprised the defence eight minutes from the start.

Pease had a good understanding partner in Martin; Bell found in Barrie a decided obstacle and Rennie never produced anything like his best shooting form. On the chances offered Luton should have won the match.

Harry, often well prompted by Turner, was certainly the more dangerous winger on the Palace side, but Norris, though showing good ball control and trying Mittell with a fine header near the end, has not yet settled down in the forward line. Both Dunn and Mittell felled the ball well, though the Luton man showed less ability than Dunn with the low coming shot.

Palace: Dunn; Hayward, Parry; Turner, Barrie, Wilde; Harry, Norris, Simpson, Roberts, Earle.

Luton: Mittell; Kingham, Mackey; Kean, McGinnigle, Fraser; Pease, Martin, Bell, Rennie, Pearson.