

SIX FOR LUTON

CRYSTAL PALACE DEFENCE OVERWHELMED

(By "CRUSADER")

FIRE and determination were the principal factors in LUTON TOWN'S victory over CRYSTAL PALACE, and the big margin of success was thoroughly deserved, and in no way exaggerated the superiority of the winners. It was the first time this season the Hatters had taken toll of their big advantage in the run of the play, and was a heartening experience for the crowd.

THE PALACE started with a dash and coolness that threatened to put the Town back to the bottom of the League table, but the manner in which their pace was met, and the resolute and eager response



MARK CROOK

of the forwards in particular, completely reversed the balance of play, and before the interval it was apparent that the Palace were in for a drubbing unless their sturdy defence could pull out something extraordinary

A FINE EFFORT by Dawes and a few tricky spasms by Carson in the first half, with several good shots from the other two inside forwards also, were almost the sum total of the Palace share of the game. Now and then, especially after each of the two goals the Town scored before half-time, the Palace made desperate attempts to rally, and now and then they produced a little sparkling movement which usually ended with a good shot, but it was not often they came to very close range.

SHORT RANGE stuff was seen at the Palace goal. Read was kept very busy indeed, and only his plucky and skilful goalkeeping kept down the score in the first half. He was hurt, but courageously continued to hold the fort, and his backs gave him fine assistance, but the halves were quite unable to stem the forcefulness of the Luton attack, in which approach was allied to determined finishing.

THE FIRST TIME the ball went into the net was from the foot of Crook, a natty overhead kick that landed the ball inside the net right away from Read, but the referee discounted the effort by giving offside a player who was yards away from the ball and making no attempt whatever to interfere with the game. Moreover,

Parry was with his goalkeeper under the bar when the shot scored.

LUTON'S persistence was rewarded soon afterwards, when COOK headed in finely from a well-placed flag kick by Crook, and this gave the Town forwards an appetite for more, with the result that after several scrimmages in the Palace goal area COOK again headed in from a headed pass by Crook, and the interval arrived with Luton better placed than in any other game this season.

OPENING exchanges of the second half were very much like the beginning of the game, but this time Luton put more life into their work from the start, and the Palace goal was furiously assailed. Read did great work before he was beaten again, and this also was credited to COOK, who was on hand to finish good work by the left wing.

FOURTH goal came from STEPHENSON, Luton being right on top, and he jumped very high to head in from Turner's flag kick. Read, who had done wonderful work, had to be assisted from the field after this goal, and the crowd did not let him leave without showing their appreciation of his very fine display. Wilde took on the unenviable job, and that he knew a little about it was proved by several saves, though, of course, he had not the skill of Read.

THE TOWN FORWARDS were continually round the Palace goal after this, and TURNER put on the fifth goal with a shot that flashed past Wilde at a rate that left him aghast. CROOK completed the story with a goal after Stephenson had done the initial work, and Turner later hit the upright, and many shots were close. They were saved by Wilde, although the Town forwards did not continue to press home to the full their advantage.

IN DEFENCE, the Town were sound, Coen doing his part well, and Kingham and Smith were very safe, especially the former. Nelson again gave a good exhibition of thoughtful pivotal play, and Kidd put up one of his best games. Colquhoun was noticeable with good passes to his wing, though he could have been better in recovery.

FORWARDS were a level lot, all giving of their best all the time, and it would be unfair to single out anyone of them. The goals scored by Cook were provided by the dash of his colleagues, and he himself brought into the finishing that spirit that harasses even the steadiest defenders.

READ kept goal grandly, and Parry was the better of two hard-working backs, while Wilde played sturdily at centre-half in a third-back role. The flank halves were too often outpaced. The forwards were skilful at times, Carson especially being crafty, and all could shoot when they had the chance.

LUTON TOWN	6
CRYSTAL PALACE	0

LUTON.—Coen; Kingham, Smith; Colquhoun, Nelson, Kidd; Crook, Roberts, Cook, Stephenson, Turner.
PALACE.—Read; Haynes, Parry; Turner, Wilde, Smith (W. S.); Carson, Manders, Dawes, Waldron, Bigg.
Referee.—A. W. Smith, Histon.