

LUTON'S GREAT WIN AT SELHURST

A TRIUMPH FOR TEAM WORK

(By CHILTERN)

CRYSTAL PALACE 0
LUTON TOWN 4
Roberts, Payne (2), Dawes.

CRYSTAL PALACE.—Blore; Owens, Dawes (F); McMenemy, Walker, Levene; Coulston, Birtley, Blackman, Watson, Bigg.

LUTON TOWN.—Dolman; Mackey, Smith; Finlayson, Nelson, Fellowes; Hancock, Dawes (A.), Payne, Roberts, Stephenson.

Referee.—G. Millward, Derby.

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LUTON TOWN BROUGHT OFF THEIR SECOND DOUBLE of the season when they gave CRYSTAL PALACE a sample of their power at Selhurst on Saturday. The Palace were a well-beaten side, and were never able to match the speed and skill of the Town, whose form showed a remarkable improvement on recent performances away from home.

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IT WAS A TRIUMPH FOR TEAM-WORK, and there was no weak link in the Town side. On the other hand, the Palace were ragged, and much of their work was indecisive. Actually in the first half, the home side had an equal share of the play, but though they attacked frequently, sterling work by Mackey and Smith gave the wingers little opportunity to become dangerous, and Nelson effectively blocked the path down the middle.

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APART FROM THIS, the home forwards could not raise a shot between them, and those that reached Dolman were innocuous enough. Birtley made the best effort with a great drive that would have counted as a goal had the direction been a little more accurate. Peculiarly enough, the Town forwards were equally poor in finishing at this period, and though they made many fine movements, they never came to anything.

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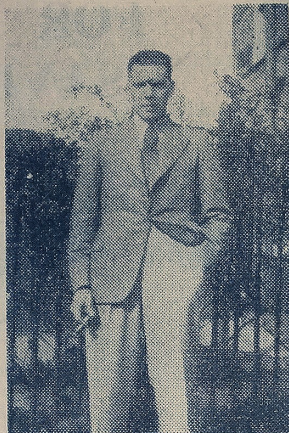
THEY SEEMED TO STOP SHORT when the penalty area was reached, and Blore was not brought into action to stop a direct shot for quite 25 minutes. Play continued on even lines until seven minutes from the interval, when ROBERTS opened the scoring for the Town. Stephenson began the movement, and Albert Dawes provided Roberts with the pass. Despite appeals for offside, he took the ball on and rammed it into the net as Blore came to meet him. There was no possible doubt that the goal was legitimate, though the home supporters did not take the decision kindly.

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THIS GOAL PUT MORE LIFE INTO THE TOWN ATTACK, and had it not been for some good goalkeeping by Blore, who was aided by fortune, both Roberts and Hancock would have added to the score before the interval. As it was, the goal had several narrow escapes, and Luton pressed consistently until the interval. This pressure was continued on the resumption, and with the forwards playing inspired football, it was evident that it would not be long before the lead was increased.

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AS A MATTER OF FACT, IT TOOK EXACTLY SEVEN MINUTES, and PAYNE, who had previously had very little chance of demonstrating his goal-scoring powers, was the scorer. Splendid work by Roberts led up to the goal, and a corner was conceded after a melee. Hancock placed this beautifully, and Payne's head sent the ball speeding like a bullet into the net. The Palace supporters had scarcely recovered from this shock, and the cheering of the Town contingent had scarcely died down, when PAYNE had the ball



FINLAYSON

in the net again. This time he chased down the wing after a long clearance, and beating Walker for speed, screwed the ball through.

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LUTON WERE NOW DOING VERY MUCH AS THEY LIKED, and it was not long before ALBERT DAWES had the pleasure of scoring against his former colleagues. Payne unselfishly put him through with a perfect pass, and Dawes made no mistake with a fast drive. Still the Town attacked, and Stephenson was weaving his way through the defence when he was fouled by Owens. Payne took the penalty kick, but drove wide of the post. Stephenson was injured, and had to leave the field, and this gave the Palace defence some respite.

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HOWEVER, THE LUTON FORWARDS WERE STILL PLAYING BEAUTIFULLY, and goals were always imminent. Dawes and Roberts both went near, but the pressure slackened off somewhat, and an utter rout was avoided. The last quarter of an hour was uninteresting, but Blackman should have reduced the arrears when he was presented with a perfect opening. Dolman made a smart save. The Palace were handicapped by an injury to Coulston, their most dangerous forward, while Walker was also limping badly.

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EVERY MAN IN THE TOWN TEAM PLAYED HIS PART MAGNIFICENTLY. The forwards were on the top of their form in the second half, with Roberts a shining light. Dawes played splendidly, and Payne once more showed that he is one of the most dangerous centre-forwards in the country. Stephenson was too fast and clever for the defence until he was injured, and Hancock did really well in the second half, after not being too successful before the interval.

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THERE WAS NOTHING WRONG WITH THE DEFENCE, and if I had to pick out anyone, it would be Tom Mackey for the way he subdued Bigg. Smith had a good match, and Nelson was in his best form. Finlayson and Fellowes both worked tremendously hard, and helped the forwards to press home their attacks.