

LUTON TOYED WITH PALACE

PAYNE GOT 2, BUT HE MISSED A PENALTY

COULSTON HURT

By LAINSON WOOD

Crystal Palace.....0 Luton Town.....4

LUTON'S ace goal-getter, Joe Payne, should be made to practise penalty kicks all next week.

A miss against Blackpool in next Saturday's Cup-tie is not likely to be so inexpensive as it was at Selhurst, for Luton were four up when, with amazing nonchalance, Joe strolled up to the ball and hit it wide of the post from the gift spot. Bad lad!

It was the more ironical because a minute or two previously Payne had added a couple to his growing list of League goals as deftly as you or I might flick a crumb off the tablecloth.

One was a header turned to a hair; the other the cheekiest flick past Blore as the goalkeeper came out too late to tackle him.

RUBBING IT IN

To crown a grand ten minutes in the second half Payne, when he could have shot himself, passed to Albert Dawes so that that young man could have the satisfaction of scoring against his old colleagues.

But this Luton victory was no one (or two) man show. It was a triumph of team work, of consolidated football over the loosely put together stuff of the Palace.

Every man in the side had his share in it. For half an hour it looked as if the Palace might spring a surprise. Their defence played well enough to prevent the Luton attack getting its customary grip, and in Coulston they had an outside right who gave a deal of trouble.

COULSTON LIMPS

Unfortunately, Coulston was limping painfully after 20 minutes, and half an hour from the end he had to go off altogether.

If the Luton dominance was slow in coming, it was most pronounced when it arrived. Had it not been for centre half Walker, the score against the Palace might have looked like a Bradman Test innings.

Roberts scored Luton's first-half goal when the Palace defenders, thinking he was offside, let him go through. Still, Luton were full value for their win. They were toying with their opponents at the finish.

CRYSTAL P. 0, LUTON 4

Palace are good starters but very poor finishers. They do not seem able to last out, especially on heavy turf.

During most of the first period they were in the ascendancy, and so good was their defence that Blore did not handle the ball for 20 minutes.

Luton never settled down in this half, and they took a most unexpected lead when Roberts was allowed to go through, what time the Palace men stood still and appealed for offside.

After the interval there was only one team in it, and on their second-half showing Luton are worth a place in a higher sphere.

The visitors' forwards ran riot for a long time and scored three goals in as many minutes.

Roberts opened the score after 38 minutes. Payne headed the second seven minutes after the interval, got the third in the next minute, and gave a pass to Dawes (A.), who added number four two minutes later.

PALACE LOOTED BY LUTON

By TED HUFTON, England and West Ham

Crystal Palace 0, Luton Town 4

The dominant impression of this match is that Luton are a very sound workmanlike team, and the Palace are a poor combination.

One always had the impression, right from the start, that Luton would be the winners, and that it was only a matter of time before the Palace let them through.

Actually the Palace were just good enough to stop them getting a grip on the game before the interval—but afterwards it was a question of how many Luton would get.

Luton were fielding their probable Cup-team to meet Blackpool, with the exception of Dawes, who is ineligible. The defence was far too strong for anything the Palace could attempt, and the forwards were definitely good.

I can well understand why Payne gets so many goals for them. The forward line works to a plan. The wing men combine effectively with the halves. This draws the defence, and Payne, quick and thrustful, is given opportunities.

PALACE "LUCK"

On the other hand, the gods were not kind to Palace. They had two outstanding men, Coulston, on the right wing, and Walker, the centre-half, and both were injured.

Coulston was the best forward and had given Luton a lot of trouble with his centres. He was hurt just before the interval and had to leave the field twenty minutes from time.

Walker, the best defender, hurt a knee in a tackle, and while he played on he appeared to suffer a definite handicap.

Luton's team work was worth watching, and yet their opening goal was a fortunate one. Roberts thought he was off-side when he got the ball. So did Palace, but where the Palace stood still for the whistle, Roberts went on and scored. Palace crumpled after that, and in the second half they were glad to give a corner to relieve the pressure. It was a fatal mistake for from it Payne got his first goal with a header.

Almost from the kick-off the ball was put between the Palace full backs and goalkeeper and Payne nipped in and beat the oncoming Blore.

He failed to complete the hat-trick, though he had a splendid chance. Stephenson was brought down in the area, but Payne's spot-kick was wide.

Payne made amends soon after, literally presenting Dawes with the fourth and last goal.