

# **PALACE LOOTED BY LUTON**

2/4/37

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**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.