

PENALTY WAS ONLY THING PAYNE MISSED

By PETER WILSON

Crystal Palace 0, Luton Town 4

A MARGIN of four goals is what one might call quite a gap and, had Payne not missed a penalty—about the only thing he did miss—it would have been five.

To be thoroughly unpleasant, I do not see that the Palace are going to do much better with their present team. With the exception of Birtley and McMenemy none of them, on Saturday's performance, seemed to have the faintest idea of what it was all about.

Yet, paradoxically enough, they had more of the play for the first quarter of the match.

But from the time—about ten minutes before the interval—that Roberts scored, from Payne, with the Palace defence appealing as vehemently as a Test team for off-side, Luton were well away.

Albert Dawes started things in the second half with a run in which he beat the whole defence and at the end of which it looked as though the cross-bar had sagged in the middle just to make his shot clear the top.

Then Payne put Luton further ahead, following a corner, and half a minute later he got another from the sort of angle that would have baffled Euclid and Izaak Walton put together.

Payne was concerned in the next goal, too, when he went through on his own, drew Blore out of position, and then, at the exact psychological moment, passed to Dawes for the inside right to tap it in.