

Forwards' Wonderful Second Half Display

PAYNE NETS TWICE AND MISSES A PENALTY

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.

The Selhurst bogey has at last been well and truly laid but it has taken LUTON TOWN sixteen years to beat CRYSTAL PALACE there. It has been a field on which the hopes of a succession of Luton teams have been dashed, and that 5-1 defeat last season, following the Cup-tie with Manchester City, was still fresh in our minds when we reached the ground on Saturday.

That had something to do with the Town's failure to gain promotion, but the result of this latest encounter, with Luton gaining their most decisive victory of the season, may be a step towards securing the much desired prize.

PROMOTION FORM

It was a great victory in every way, and had the Town doubled their quota of goals, it would have occasioned no surprise, so utterly did they outplay the opposition in the second half. Promotion form, it surely was, and that much criticised department of the team—the forward line—showed once more that it can play as good football as any quintette in the country.

In the ten minutes immediately after the interval, they would have tested the best defence in the world, for they found that irresistible mood the Luton supporters sampled last week when Cardiff were thoroughly thrashed.

BRILLIANT FOOTBALL

Brilliant football it was. Great scheming, uncanny passing, and deadly shooting. The five forwards backed up by the flank halves could do nothing wrong during that period. Everything moved smoothly, and the home defenders could only flounder about, and wonder what was going to happen next.

Three goals came in almost as many minutes, and another should have been added almost immediately afterwards, but Payne, to whom a penalty kick is usually as good as a goal, actually shot wide from the spot.

The kick was awarded for a foul on Stephenson by Owens. The winger was hurt, and though he resumed after attention he had to go off the field shortly afterwards, and did not take undue risks subsequently. This was the sensible course to take, for Stephenson's services are much more useful than further goals would have been.

I firmly believe that had not the winger suffered this mishap, the Town would have been top scorers for the day. There was no holding the left wing, and they did very much as they liked with the right flank of the Palace defence.

MIGHT HAVE BEEN MORE GOALS

These three quick goals following one obtained by Roberts seven minutes before the interval, completely disheartened the home side, and the Town forwards still held the stage despite the fact that Roberts was often alone on the left. The Town naturally eased up somewhat in the last twenty minutes, though but for good goalkeeping by Blore, their win would have been bigger.

In the first half, there was a different tale to tell, for after Luton had started as if they would soon put the issue beyond doubt, the home side took a hand, and for some time did more of the attacking. They certainly had the more chances, but their shooting was weak, and they made the mistake, too, of trying shots from long range.

Dolman dealt with all these, and was rarely in difficulties. Birtley made one great effort, a slashing cross drive that passed just the wrong side of the post.

FORWARDS A PUZZLE

However, the Palace lacked cohesion, and Mackey, Smith and Nelson ably held up the attack. Several free kicks for fouls were the most dangerous efforts they had to contend with.

The Town forwards were a puzzle in this period. They were playing like world-beaters in midfield, and their work was stamped with class. Clever footwork and deft passing, took them to the edge of the penalty area, and there the attacks fizzled out like a damp squib. It was a fact, as the scribe sitting beside me kept on pointing out, that Blore had no direct shot to save in the first twenty-five minutes.

Indeed when they took the lead, the Palace were a little unlucky to be in arrears. Owens and Dawes (F) had been playing right on top of the Town forwards, and Payne had been pulled up two or three times for offside. This policy led to their downfall, and to the first goal being scored.

There was much discontent among the home crowd when the referee allowed the goal to stand, and the Palace players made vain appeals.

ROBERTS SCORES

The scorer was ROBERTS, and he finished off a movement that was started by Stephenson and carried on by Dawes (A). The defenders stopped, and appealed for offside, but Roberts, who was behind the ball all the time, took no notice, and made straight for goal. Blore advanced, then hesitated, but before he could do anything Roberts had swept the ball through.

That was the beginning of the end as far as the Palace were concerned, for the Town forwards seemed rejuvenated, and it was only the agility of Blore that prevented Roberts and Hancock from adding to the score before the interval. The home defence had had a bad time in these last few minutes, but managed to stem the tide before the interval.

Then on the resumption came the shocks that astounded the home crowd, who still had hopes that the Palace would find their shooting boots, and at least level the scores.

PAYNE'S TWO GOALS

Albert Dawes gave the first indication of what was to come with a dazzling run. He swerved and feinted his way through, and would surely have scored had he not been pushed. As it was, he got in his shot, but was just too high.

Then Roberts veered out to the left wing, beat the opposition, and crossed to Payne, whose shot was blocked. Roberts secured the ball again, and this time a corner was forced on the right. Hancock placed this brilliantly, and PAYNE, who

had been left unmarked for the moment, connected with his head, and sent the ball rocketing into the net.

From the re-start, Luton scored again. PAYNE chased a long pass along the left wing, and easily beat Walker. He got the ball well under control, and shot as Blore came out to meet him. The ball appeared to pass through the goalkeeper's legs. It was a great goal, for the angle was so acute that it seemed impossible to score.

DAWES THIS TIME

A brief home attack followed, and then a long clearance found Payne in the middle of the field. He deftly lobbed the ball over Walker's head to ALBERT DAWES, who took the ball on, and beat Blore with a grand shot.

Then came the foul on Stephenson, and Payne's miss from the penalty spot. The Palace suffered a misfortune, for Coulston came off the worse in a collision with Tom Smith, and had to leave the field.

Play had lost a lot of its interest, though Dawes and Roberts both deserved to find the net again. The Palace were rarely dangerous, but Blackman should have reduced the lead when he was left with a perfect opening. However, Dolman got his hand to the shot, and stopped it on the line.

GREAT TEAMWORK

Great teamwork was again a feature of the Town's display, and they played throughout with fine spirit. They had to face a rather stiff wind in the first half, and it was then the defence had most work.

Smith was a little troubled by the speed of Coulston at first, and if he had played closer to him would have found his task easier. He tackled hard, however, and kicked a good length. Mackey, resuming after missing a couple of matches through injury, was in great form, and gave Bigg very little chance of showing what he could do. He scarcely put a foot wrong, and his play was forceful throughout.

Nelson capably held Blackman, and in the first half his head stopped many dangerous centres. It was good to see him clearing first time, and he did not dally in the penalty area as has been his wont.

Finlayson played his usual strong game, and was always a driving force behind the right wing. Fellowes gave absolutely no quarter in his tackles, and if anything, was more robust than usual. In the first half hour, his passes often did not find Roberts or Stephenson, but afterwards, he fed them brilliantly, and gave them plenty of work.

ROBERTS SHINES

Roberts played another grand game, and was perhaps the best forward on the field. He fetched and carried, schemed, and showed wonderful footwork. His shooting, too, has improved beyond all recognition, and he might have scored more than once but for Blore's clever anticipation.

Stephenson always seemed to be able to leave the opposition behind, and made some thrilling runs. The left wing is playing at the top of its form now, and had the outside man not been injured the game would probably have resulted in a debacle.

Albert Dawes played far and away his best game since joining the club, and evidently relished playing on his old ground.

DAWES ON THE MARK

The Palace have one of the biggest grounds, if not the biggest, in the Division, and he had plenty of room to work in. It is my opinion that he has not yet got used to the smaller pitch at Luton. In this match he showed all his old skill, and was always dangerous. He worked the ball beautifully, and showed why he was considered the best marksman in the Division.

He is sure to score many goals for the Town, and there is no doubt that on this form, the club has made a capture.

Payne was well marked in the first half, and did not have much chance to display his ability. He made one or two rushes, but in the second half, he completely "lost" Walker, and gave another example of his exceptional opportunism. Walker was suffering from a leg injury, but could not match the dash of the Town leader.

Hancock had his best time in the second half. Before the interval, he found Fred Dawes a worthy opponent, and several attacks broke down when they reached the extreme right. He was plucky but could not always get the ball across.

After the resumption, he proved as dangerous as any of his colleagues, and was the instigator of many fine movements. He did not take the ball into the middle as much as against Cardiff, and altogether he is making a success of this position.

The Palace are a moderate side, and the heavy going took much out of them. The ground was sticky, and Luton found this more to their liking than did the homesters.

TURF GOSSIP



BIRMINGHAM

WARD END SELLING STEEPLE-CHASE: EBON KNIGHT, with Ferrans the danger.

MOSELEY SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE RACE: RED MONEY to win from There He Goes.

HIGHFIELD HANDICAP STEEPLE-CHASE: PEDIGREE to beat Scotch Wood.

SMETHWICK HANDICAP STEEPLE-CHASE: 1, ROYAL ASCOT; 2, Royal Mail; 3, Marconi.

LONG DISTANCE H'CAP HURDLE RACE: DISTORT to beat Hot Water.

MAIDEN HURDLE RACE: BRITISH QUOTA, with Broken Hill next best.

Nap: DISTORT.
Double: DISTORT and EBON KNIGHT.

SPECIAL SYSTEM SELECTION
DON BRADMAN to win the 2.30 race at Birmingham.