

ROGERS IS PALACE'S ONE THREAT

By DEREK WILD

C. Palace ... 1 Luton ... 2

MALCOLM ALLISON continues to puff his Havanas and sip his champers, Crystal Palace continue to lose, and, perhaps more amazingly, the Selhurst Park fans masochistically continue to turn up in droves.

Nearly 20,000 saw their favourites continue their slide towards total obscurity on Saturday, when a no more than ordinary Luton side became the latest to show just how bad Palace are.

Manager Allison, for once wearing a worried frown behind the cigar smoke and bubbly, afterwards proclaimed that he thought Palace were at last beginning to show more togetherness. And, certainly, they offered a bit more of their old grim determination against Luton.

Luton flatter

Luton rather flattered to deceive. They have scored more goals than anyone else in the Second Division and, at first, they looked really dangerous, with crisp passing up front, giving Aston acres of room on the left flank.

But it was not until the 51st minute that Anderson dived forward to head them into the lead from Aston's free-kick. Rogers scooped home Tambling's cross for the equaliser after 58 minutes, but Butlin soared to head Luton's winner from Hindson's cross just three minutes later.

Crystal Palace. — Hammond; Mulligan, Taylor, Cannon, Barry, Jeffries, Possee, Cooke (Swindlehurst 65th min.), Whittle, Tambling, Rogers.

Luton. — Horn; Shanks, Thomson, Anderson, Faulkner, Garner, Hindson, Ryan (John), Butlin, Finney, Aston.



WINNER BY A HEAD

BARRY BUTLIN is pictured above tucking away the Town's winner — the ball is on its way in, and Butlin is dropping back to earth while the Palace defender is still trying to compete with Butlin's aerial power.