

LUTON FUMBLE

31-10-1981

By **BOB MORLEY** Luton 1 C Palace 0

VICTORY by a penalty goal wasn't quite what Luton manager David Pleat had in mind when Crystal Palace visited Kenilworth Road—but it was enough to keep Luton top of the Second Division.

"I would have liked us to have won with a bit more style," said Pleat, "especially after our six-goal triumph against Grimsby, our previous home match, but I always felt we were worth the points."

That's Palace's fifth 1-0 defeat of the season but Manager Dario Gradi saw the brighter side of it all. "I was particularly pleased with Galliers, who was making his full debut for us. He will settle in quickly."

"Our other new boy, Kevin Mabbutt started well, faded, then came back strongly as we pressed near the end."

Moss slotted in the penalty that separated the sides after Palace's man-of-the-match Cannon tripped White. Two earlier Luton appeals for a penalty had been rightly ignored.

We were treated to a frantic final 15 minutes in which Luton's Stephen and White along with Palace pair Gilbert and Galliers were booked—Findlay was also cautioned for handling the ball outside his area.

Luton were generally pedestrian and Palace, with Murphy fighting for every ball, dominated the midfield.

Galliers and Brooks mixed neat touches with some inefficient tackling.

LUTON: Findlay 6—Stephen 6, Saxby (inj.) 7, Goodyear 7, Donaghy 6—*HILL 8, Horton 6, Fucillo 6—Stein 6, White 5, Moss 6, A. A. A. 6.

salled yards wide was
typical of the whole