

KEMBER HITS THE JACKPOT

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By PETER GORMAN

Palace 3 Luton 3

STEVE KEMBER, reprieved as Palace's caretaker boss, had "ticker" trouble during this six-goal gusher.

Three first-half goals in only two minutes and a late equaliser by Neil Smillie left Kember gasping.

He gasped: "What a fabulous attacking game. I'm happy with the result—but the old ticker was going a bit because of all the excitement."

The fans also loved every exciting minute and cheered the players off the Selhurst Park mud instead of providing a demo as some of them had promised.

They were in no mood to moan after this six-hit show soothed Palace's relegation jitters and helped Kember in his long ambition to get the job full-time at the end of the season.

CLASSY

Luton, still classy but starting to give away too many goals, remain top and hot favourites to crash into the First Division big-time—though they have now gone four games without a win.

But manager David Pleat admitted: "We are stuttering a bit at the moment, but we will come out of it. It is difficult to keep winning unless you are a super team."

"I am not happy with our present form, but morale is OK and I will tell the players to stay calm and keep their heads up."

He added: "We are not falling down because of this result—it was about fair."

There was one sour note for Palace. Striker Tommy Langley was substituted in the second-half and stormed angrily off the pitch waving a finger towards the dugout.

Smillie grabbed two goals and Kevin Mabbett whipped in another while Raddy Antic, David Moss and Brian Stein shared the Luton goals.

The Moss effort was from the penalty spot when Paul Hinshelwood grounded Steve White and Kember admitted: "We had no real complaints about that."

All the goals, apart from the penalty, were well-taken with Smillie's first probably the best.

Dave Boulter aimed his cross at Langley and a neat flick gave Smillie the chance to hook a smart shot into the roof of the net.

PALACE—Barron 6, Hinshelwood 6, Boulter 6, Murphy 6, Wicks 7, Gilbert 7, GILL 6, Smillie 7, Langley (wdn) 7, Mabbett 7, Cannon 6, Sebbs 7, Hilaire 7.

LUTON—Fidlay 6, Stephens 7, Turner 6, Horton 7, Goodyear 7, Donaghy 6, Hill 7, Stein 6, WHITE 8, Antic 7, Moss 6.