

Young celebrates move to Palace with debut goal

CRYSTAL PALACE paraded £1.7million worth of new talent, but there were no meaningful conclusions to be drawn about their prospects of a successful League season.

Eric Young had the satisfaction of scoring on his debut after an £850,000 move from Wimbledon, but it will take time for him and Humphrey to settle into a defence entirely reshaped over the past year.

Luton, having cheated relegation last season, looked like prime candidates for the drop on the strength of their first-half performance, but their young and largely home-grown side showed greater promise after the interval.

Wright missed the companionship of the injured Bright up front for Palace, but he still posed the Luton defence frequent problems as a lone attacker.

He forced Chamberlain to a sharp, low save as early as the fifth minute and was denied what could have been a winner when the Luton goalkeeper brought off a miraculous stop with his legs from a close-

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90/91 **Clive Ellis**

range shot in the 60th minute.

Palace, who defended in numbers, also got players into forward positions in the first half and took the lead after 15 minutes when a floated free-kick from Hodges, another close-season signing, was headed into the corner by Young.

Luton had precious little to offer until they equalised with a glancing header by Dowie from James's excellent left-wing cross on the run in the final minute of the first half.

The goal appeared to breathe new life into Luton, and they created greater space in the second half with Hughes, playing only his second League game, showing considerable poise and potential in midfield.

Luton Town: Chamberlain; Breacker, James, McDonough, Beaumont, Dreyer, Elstrup, Preece, Dowie, Hughes, Black.

Crystal Palace: Martyn; Humphrey, Shaw, Gray, Young, Thorn, Barber, Thomas, Salako, Wright, Hodges.

Referee: A Gunn (Barnes Hill).