

Palace in prime position

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FOR SOME weeks now it has been a matter of when rather than if Palace are promoted. Yesterday, the equation grew even simpler after their victory over troubled Luton. If Millwall fail to beat Nottingham Forest today then Alan Smith's side are back in the Premiership.

Their performance yesterday was typical of the way they have been playing all season. They were unspectacular but well organised at the back, with a number of options in an attack consisting of Paul

Luton Town.....	0
Crystal Palace	1
Niall Edworthy	

Stewart, Chris Armstrong and John Salako, always dangerous on the break.

Luton, meanwhile, are still very much in the soup. It must be painful for them to contemplate the fact that only a few weeks ago the future held a number of exciting possibilities — the FA Cup, a place in Europe and the promotion play-offs. Now, the only possibil-

ity remaining is relegation to the Second Division.

Yesterday fate did not help their cause. They had the better of the game's half-chances, with David Preece going close with two long range efforts.

The 9,880 fans, Luton's biggest League gate of the season, had barely taken their seats when Palace were celebrating the only goal of the game. Simon Rodger's corner was flicked on by Eric Young at the near post, allowing Chris Coleman to prod the ball home from a few feet out.