

LUTON AND THE UNITED LEAGUE.

LUTON SECURE THE CHAMPIONSHIP.

DEFEAT OF LOUGHBOROUGH.

visit of the Luton team to Loughborough on had an important bearing on the United championship, for a win meant making the top certainty for the "stripes", while a loss would endangered Luton's position. A strong side was and it proved capable of doing what was the "Luffs" being beaten by three goals to Loughborough team was weakened by the rough injuries, of Horace Pike and "Tich" was otherwise at full strength. Mr. A. G. (ottingham) was the referee, and the Luton

eleven was composed thus :—Goal, Williams ; backs, McCartney and McEwen ; half-backs, Davies, Stewart and Docherty ; forwards, Gallacher and Coupar (right), Donaldson (centre), McInnes and Little (left).

The ground was in good condition, but there was a very strong wind blowing from end to end, and Luton, losing the toss, had to face it in the initial portion of the game. The play was of a very even character from the kick-off right up to half-time, and both sides missed opportunities of scoring. Although playing against the wind the Luton defence was much too strong for the Loughborough forwards, McEwen and Stewart particularly distinguishing themselves. Coupar, too, fell back among the halves and rendered valuable assistance, and when half-time came the score-sheet was blank. After the change of ends the Luton men attacked strongly and in about five minutes from the re-start Gallacher dribbled round Hardy, the Loughborough left back, and scored a really brilliant goal. Then a few minutes later a foul was awarded against Mumford, and Coupar, taking the kick passed to McCartney, who shot hard into goal. The ball would have travelled just wide of the post had not Donaldson rushed up and put the finishing touch on, the ball going through off his jaw. Shortly afterwards McCartney kicked the ball on to a home forward and Tuthill secured, beat McEwen, and scored a very fine goal. Before the finish Donaldson, with one of his characteristic rushes, secured another point for Luton, shooting the ball into the corner of the net. This being all the scoring the game finished with the following totals :—

LUTON, 3 ; LOUGHBOROUGH, 1.

The state of the ground suited the team much better than it has lately and the play of the men was a great improvement on recent shows, despite the strong wind. Docherty played a very fine game in the second half and sent across many useful centres. McInnes, too, worked very hard and put in some splendid play. The backs shielded Williams well, but the little the custodian had to do was done satisfactorily. The forwards played a rushing game, the backs and halves sending the ball up towards the goal. Little, though he tried hard, was evidently out of place on the extreme wing. Loughborough played a hard game and put in all they knew. The wind spoiled the combination, but the game was wonderfully free from fouls.