



SECOND LEAGUE.

LUTON v. LINCOLN CITY.

STILL LOSING.—FINE GOAL-KEEPING BY DAW.

Though Luton have made creditable draws at Leicester, Grimsby, Middlesbrough, and Gainsborough, they have not this season been fortunate enough to win a game away from home. On Saturday, they visited Lincoln and the same tale of misfortune was told. Curiously enough, the defeat was by 2 goals—exactly the same margin as experienced in the past two seasons, when the Cathedral city was visited.

Neither team was at full strength. Luton were without Draper, who has joined the Militia, and McInnes appeared at centre-forward, Durrant being on the right wing. The gate realised £60.

Those of the home crowd who had measured the Lutonians by their lowly position in the League soon had cause to open their eyes, for the visitors went straight for Webb. The City defence was too strong, and though the Lincoln custodian had the first shot to stop, Daw's charge was soon assailed. It was from a pass by Pugh that the score was opened, the Welshman tapping the ball to Scott, whose shot was repelled, but Hartley, almost under the bar, had an easy task in shoving it through. Mr. Green was doubtful of the legality of the point, and had to consult both linesmen before allowing it. Luton had a good share of the game from this point to the interval, but there was no more scoring.

On resuming, Luton showed that they meant business, but Lincoln "bucked" up, and 15 minutes from the restart M'Cairns, the ex-Notts County man, ran clean through and scored. This only seemed to infuse energy into the visitors, and their front rank was continually on the aggressive. Towards the close, the homesters put on heavy pressure, and the Luton defence was sorely taxed, corner succeeding corner, but Daw was impassable, some of his saves being remarkably fine.

Once M'Cairns struck the under side of the bar with a bouncing shot, and at another time Daw rushed across his goal in the very nick of time to catch a shot like a bullet from Pugh, which seemed certain to score. So the end came:—

LINCOLN 2. LUTON 0.

NOTES.

A band had marched on the ground just before hostilities, playing the well-known air of "The Lincolnshire Poacher," which is the territorial regiment's march, and the two points poached from Luton will serve to keep the Cathedral men in a very good position in the League. Amongst the visitors—universally admitted a well-balanced and clever team, and one deserving a much higher place in the chart—Eckford and the three defenders seemed the pick of the players, Eckford's determination being particularly notable. He was never beaten, really, and led many an attack which deserved success. The Lincoln halves hardly backed up their forwards as well as they might, but they were excellent at defence, Cowley, the Hinckley Town importation, being particularly smart.