

LUTON v. LINCOLN CITY.

ANOTHER LEAGUE DEFEAT.

There was another poor gate on Easter Monday, when Lincoln City were the visitors in a Second League con-

test, little more than 1,000 people being present. The weather was good and bad by turns, bursts of sunshine being interspersed with showers of rain and hail. There was, too, a very strong wind, which had a good deal to do with spoiling the play. The visitors were able to put their full strength in the field, but Luton had Dowson and J. Brown away through injuries. The sides lined up as follows :—

Luton : Daw ; Williams and McCurdy ; Brock Holdstock and McInnes ; W. Brown, Hawkes, Burbage, Eckford and Dimmock.

Lincoln City : Webb ; McMillan and Gibson O'Rourke, Bannister and Cowley ; Pugh, Scott, McCairns, Hartley and Henderson.

The referee was Mr. Price (Nottingham), and the linesmen Messrs. A. F. Peters (Kettering) and W. Wilson (London).

The visitors won the toss and chose to take advantage of the wind in the first half. They were the first to become dangerous, and Daw made a fine clearance from a stinge. Burbage initiated an attack on the strangers' goal, and a free-kick was given against one of the Lincoln defenders. This was not improved upon, and neither was a foul against the visitors a little later. Henderson, the City left-winger, secured the ball and started a sprint, but he was off-side and had to pull up. Burbage next made a brilliant individual effort to break through the opposition, but he was badly fouled. A free-kick was awarded for this, the visitors' goal having a narrow escape. Lincoln then attacked and McCurdy cleared neatly, while next Daw made a good save, though at the expense of a corner. Pugh put in a fine shot which was quickly got rid of, but the Lincoln forwards returned to the attack with great energy and McCairns sent through the goal. The point was allowed in spite of a strong appeal on the ground that the ball was handled. From the re-start Burbage made another gallant attempt to score, but he was unsuccessful. From a free-kick to Lincoln Daw fisted away, but in the next minute further disaster befell Luton, Hartley scoring Lincoln's second goal. For a very brief period after this Luton pressed, and a corner was obtained. Williams sent in a fine long shot, which was fisted away, and then another corner fell to the home side. Lincoln were soon pressing again and Daw twice saved grandly. McCairns, after being given off-side, went through and netted the ball amid ironic cheers, and next Burbage made a good attempt to break through at the other end, but met with rough treatment. After the Luton centre-forward had been again fouled he narrowly missed scoring. A scrimmage occurred close to the Lincoln goal, a corner resulting, but this was not improved upon. Half-time then came with the following score :—

LINCOLN, 2 ; LUTON, 0.

Hardly had the second half begun than Daw had to save, and then Luton attacked, Dimmock heading wide. There was quite a heavy crop of free-kicks for comparatively trifling offences, and next Daw made another smart save. Play became miserably slow and uninteresting. Luton could do nothing right, while Lincoln were determined to risk nothing, having a good lead and played an almost purely defensive game. They played three backs and four half-backs, and again such a defence the Luton forwards were quite helpless. Although in quite a safe position the Lincoln backs kicked out a great deal and several times put the ball over the stand. One or two corners were obtained by Luton, but were not improved upon. When at length the game ended—by which time the majority of the spectators had disappeared—the score stood thus :—

LINCOLN, 2 ; LUTON, 0.