

Luton pay for relaxing too soon

by CHARLES WATSON

Lincoln 2 Luton 2

TWO goals in seven minutes in the last half-hour at Lincoln enabled the home side to save a point after having trailed two goals to snappy Luton at half-time.

Lincoln were a shade unlucky to be in arrears at the interval for they pounded the Luton defence for a good 20 minutes in the first half.

Tony Read had given the visitors a fourth-minute lead from close range but leading scorer Barry Hutchinson, with 14 goals to his credit, twice failed to get in a shot when well placed and it was Luton who broke away to score a second goal.

Lincoln's young right back, Tom Brooks, "lost" Ray Whittaker and the Luton winger moved on to draw Peter Wakeham before squeezing the ball into the net.

Hit back

Luton lost their thrust and their play deteriorated as Lincoln hit back ferociously in the second half. This lack of fight up front let City off the hook and they took full advantage.

A succession of corners in their favour followed and it was from one of these, in the 60th minute, that John Hawksby chipped a ball across for centre-forward Roy Chapman to lob it into the net with 'keeper Colin Tinsley out of his goal.

Seven minutes later, another corner—this time taken by Roger Holmes on the right wing—again caught Tinsley napping. He failed to reach a header from Chapman and the ball entered the net for an equaliser. But in the last 20 minutes, Tinsley displayed great form in preventing Chapman grabbing his hat-trick goal on more than one occasion.

In the closing minutes, Luton almost snatched a winner they hardly deserved when Ray Whittaker burst through and launched a terrific shot, the ball striking the crossbar.