



LUTON TOWN 1 LINCOLN CITY 0

Fleetwood 84



Strike ace Fleetwood is saviour for Hatters

11/12

MATCH STATS

LUTON v LINCOLN

10	SHOTS ON TARGET	3
2	SHOTS OFF TARGET	5
7	CORNERS	3
7	OFFSIDE	4
12	FOULS CONCEDED	16
3	YELLOW CARDS	4
1	RED CARDS	1

STAR MAN: Stuart Fleetwood (Luton)

ATT: 6,316

ENTERTAINMENT: ★★★★★

REF RATING: Stephen Martin 6/10

LUTON: 4-4-2: Tyler 6, Dance 7, Antwi 7, Beckwith 5, Howells 7, Morgan-Smith 6 (Kissock 67, 7), Hand 8, Lawless 8, Willmott 6 (O'Connor 57, 6), Crow 6 (Watkins 45, 7), Fleetwood 8. **Subs not used:** Samuel, K Pilkington.
LINCOLN: 4-4-2: Anyon 7, Sinclair 7, Watts 6, Nelson 6, Nutter 7, Russell 7, Fuseini 7 (O'Keefe 86, 5), Power 8, Barraclough 5 (Nicolau 67, 6), McCullum 7 (Smith 71, 6). Perry 6. Subs not used:

By Steven Coney

IT MAY be too early to talk about who will lift the Blue square Bet Premier title in May, but Gary Brabin's Luton certainly produced a champions' performance to grind out victory over a resolute Lincoln.

The Hatters played for over an hour with ten men and weathered a second-half storm to grab an 84th minute winner as Stuart Fleetwood gave the Imps the elbow once again.

The £40,000 deadline day signing from Hereford scored three times against Lincoln last season, knocking them out of the FA Cup in the process.

And the 25-year-old sunk the sorry Imps once more to continue Luton's unbeaten start to the season and pile more pressure on under-fire Lincoln manager Steve Tilson, who have won only once in their last 24 matches either side of relegation from the Football League.

In contrast, this third successive clean sheet sees unbeaten Luton climb ahead of Wrexham and up to second in the table, and Hatters boss Brabin was delighted with the spirit of his players.

"It's a really fantastic win," Brabin said. "Lincoln are no mugs and we knew they were a wounded animal, we didn't start well."

"When we went down to 10 men, we knew it was going to be a long day but we didn't want to hide behind the sending off because we weren't good enough."

"We did things right in the second half and I knew we always had a goal in us."

Fleetwood was causing the Lincoln defence all sorts of problems, but then Dean Beckwith made Luton's day much harder after 23 minutes.

Kyle Perry fell to the ground off the ball holding his face and referee Stephen Martin ruled that Beckwith had swung an elbow, giving the centre-back his marching orders.



MARKSMAN: Stuart Fleetwood, partially hidden, glances in Luton's winner

PICTURE: Gareth Owen

With Brabin's defensive resources already well stretched, Jamie Hand dropped into the centre of defence with Danny Crow taking his place in midfield.

But the sending off didn't seem to faze Luton. Fleetwood got through again but his volley from the edge of the box clipped the crossbar and went over.

The visitors should have gone into the break on level terms but lively Gavin McCallum twice fired wide when in good positions.

Lincoln had plenty of possession

in the second half and created a number of good opportunities with Perry missing three good headed chances.

And with just six minutes left on the clock, Fleetwood struck. Substitute Adam Watkins took a short corner to fellow replacement John Paul Kissock who skipped past two men on the byline before firing the ball low across the area which found Fleetwood a couple of yards out and the 25-year-old duly obliged.

The visitors' miserable day was

compounded with defender Mitchell Nelson picking up a second bookable offence in stoppage time, a decision Tilson labelled "embarrassing".

The Imps boss, who vowed not to quit earlier in the week, said: "We played better when they had 11 men and we both had chances but it's the same old story. They got a bit of magic from Kissock on the byline and scored."

"We had enough chances again to score two or three goals but we've got to be more ruthless."