

New Forward Formation Shows Much Promise

By Chiltern

NOTTINGHAM FOREST 1

Leverton

LUTON TOWN 2

Soo (pen.), Brennan

After much experimenting and some costly buying, it would seem that the Town have found a forward line at last which will prove a match-winning combination.

Their success at Nottingham cannot be measured truly by the number of goals scored, for the Forest had several lucky escapes, but there was an abundance of promise for the future and every reason to look forward to an improvement in the goal average.

This was a fine win, for despite the fact that the Forest had last-minute shocks which involved three changes, they put up a desperate fight.

Teams who are in the danger zone always do and the Town lifted themselves away from it by taking both points.

For once in a way, the Town settled down promptly and never really lost the grip they took in the early minutes. They were always the better side and had far more method and more constructive ability than the opponents who were often hopeful rather than methodical in their play.

BILLINGTON HIT THE POST

The first half was mainly in favour of Luton and Billington came close to giving them the lead from a free-kick. Unfortunately, the ball cannoned against the foot of the post. Ottewell, too, was unlucky with two rip-roaring drives with which the young deputy goalkeeper, Ward, dealt in capable style.

For the first part of their reward the Town had to wait until seven minutes after the interval when Small was fouled in the penalty area and SOO scored from the spot.

This was the signal for hard Forest pressure, but they frittered away their best chance of equalising when Edwards shot wide with a penalty-kick after Gager had fouled him.

After that their spirit rather waned, and the Town, making ground cleverly, were again the more threatening. Billington hit the bar with a fine shot from long range, and then pulled the ball wide when left with only Ward to beat.

OPPORTUNISM BY BRENNAN

A fine piece of opportunism by BRENNAN brought them their second goal six minutes from time. The inside-right picked up a pass just inside the penalty area and beat two opponents before planting the ball well out of Ward's reach.

Two minutes later, LEVERTON replied for the Forest from close range and this brought a fighting finish by the home side who threw in everything in an effort to salvage a point, but were foiled by the Town's strong defence.

There was no weak spot in this department and all pulled their weight magnificently. Streten was so well covered that he had few direct shots with which to deal.

The forwards were fast and direct and Ottewell often caught the eye with his hard work in midfield. Billington led the line in something like his old style and Small had a big success on his first appearance in the League side.

Brennan adds life and punch in the middle of the field, and obviously must remain at inside-right. O'Brien promises much and will fill the bill even better when he has had more experience in English football.

NOTTS FOREST: D Ward; Brigham, Hutchinson, Barks, Rawson, Simpson; Scott, Wheatley, Leverton, Edwards, Lee.

LUTON TOWN: B. Streten; Cooke, Hughes; Soo, Gager, Gardiner; Small, Brennan, Billington, Ottewell, O'Brien.

Referee: J. Tregellas, Birmingham.