

Fans' Day Out Was Not Quite Perfect

By Chiltern

NOTTINGHAM FOREST 2

Linaker, Lee

LUTON TOWN 0

All that was needed to make this sunny day a perfect one for the hundreds of Luton fans who made their first away trip of the season was some measure of success by the Town.

Before the match began, the supporters were full of life and enthusiasm. They rattled their rattles, clanged their bells, and waved their black and white straw hats.

Before the end the noise had subsided considerably, for it was obvious midway through the second half that the Town were not going to avoid defeat here.

Yet, at one time, it seemed as if a vastly different story was to be told, for in the first 20 minutes the Town played so well that they merited a lead.

That reward was denied them, and a totally unexpected reverse set them struggling just when they should have been forcing home their advantage.

This came after 24 minutes when the ball rebounded off LINAKER'S legs when he and Streten were tussling for it near the edge of the penalty area.

Though Hall gave chase, he could not prevent the ball from crossing the line, and the Forest supporters had something to cheer about almost for the first time in the match.

This did not throw the Town out of their stride immediately, for they mounted some fierce attacks and went close to gaining the equaliser, though generally speaking, their finishing was not in the top class.

What few were anticipating was that the Forest would gain the upper hand in the second half, and that the Town, would largely fade out of the picture as an attacking force.

AND ANOTHER GOAL FOR FOREST

This was the case though and the Forest after missing some very simple chances, increased their lead through LEE after 65 minutes.

Previously, Shanks had had a shot headed off the goal-line by Thomas, but other near things were few and far between, and there was little prospect of a successful Town rally once they were two goals in arrears.

Once again, the forwards were responsible for some clever, pattern-weaving football in midfield, but they were far from being sufficiently decisive at close range.

Waugh was the one who seemed most likely to pull the game out of the fire, and he was always a source of anxiety to the Forest defence. Arnison was next in order of merit, and it is greatly to the credit of Horace Gager that he was able to keep the centre-forward so much in check.

Brennan and Duggan both contributed useful work in the first-half, but seemed out of touch afterwards, and Shanks had rather a poor day.

The defence has often played better, and the yawning holes which a moderate forward line was able to exploit were a revelation.

Gardiner was outstandingly good, and Owen made quite a successful reappearance, but Hall has yet to find his form of last season, and was not nearly so successful as was Gager.

The defence, as a whole, looked shaky because the covering was inadequate. Wilson found Lee a handful, and Cooke, though keeping Linaker reasonably quiet, was not so solid as usual.

Streten was safe enough and by coming out to narrow the angle, got his side out of trouble on three or four occasions.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST.—

Walker; Thomas, Hutchinson; Elliott, Gager, Morley; Linaker, Johnson, Edwards, Ottewell, Lee.

LUTON TOWN. —

Streten; Wilson, Cooke; Gardiner, Hall, Owen; Shanks, Brennan, Arnison, Duggan, Waugh.

Referee: F. S. Milner, Wolverhampton.