

Quick Forest Blows Set Town Struggling

By Chiltern

LUTON TOWN 4

NOTTINGHAM FOREST 3

After the excitement of the Cup-ties, this League match at Kenilworth-road proved a drab affair, relieved only by the bursts of scoring, and some flashes of brilliant play by the Town forwards.

There was almost the atmosphere of the end-of-the-season about it all, and the Town, after beginning as if they would run the Forest off their feet, found themselves in the position of having to fight back to wipe out arrears.

That capacity for hitting back was one of the best features in the match from the Luton point of view, for things looked none too healthy when the Forest twice took the lead in the early stages of the second half.

Big surprise about it all was that the Forest forwards were able to score as many as three goals, for they never moved in really menacing style, and owed most of their success to the marksmanship of reserve outside-right KAILE, who was drafted in on the opposite wing almost at the last minute.

Twice in seven minutes he cut through the Town defence to beat Streten with cross drives.

His first goal gave the Forest a 2-1 lead, but matters were levelled a minute later when SMALL headed through a centre from Brennan.

Before the Town could settle down to their task of regaining their earlier advantage, KAILE had done the trick again, and the Forest seemed to be within reach of precious points until a mistake by THOMAS led to him crashing the ball past his own goalkeeper.

ARNISON NODDED THE WINNER

That was almost the end of matters for the Forest, for the Town took command, and 15 minutes from the end, ARNISON nodded in a high centre from Kiernan.

The Town were seen at their best in all but finishing power in the opening 20 minutes, and with the advantage of a first-minute goal by BRENNAN gave the Forest defence, often shaky and ill-at-ease, an unhappy time.

Forest were seldom dangerous until Streten failed to clear a high free-kick, and WILKINS was left with a chance which he accepted with alacrity.

Best of the Town forwards was Brennan, who was always dangerous, while Kiernan made a valuable contribution to the work in attack.

Waugh improved after an indifferent first half, and Small, though not consistent, had moments when he left the defence almost standing.

Little went right for Arnison after he had missed an easy chance early on, but he was much more like his old self after the interval.

Three goals conceded suggests that the defence was again "suspect," and there was still much to be desired in the matter of co-ordination and covering.

Hall came back to something like his best, and shut out Hullett almost completely, while Watkins had a good game at right-half, and Gardiner was always chasing and seeking to give support to the attack.

Although Cooke was uncertain at times, he was the more successful back, for Mulvaney is still feeling his way in this class of football, and needs time to settle down.

As for Streten, he has to bear the burden of blame for the first goal, and his display as a whole was not one of his best, but he will regain all his confidence and assurance as the defence shakes down again, as it surely will soon.

LUTON TOWN: Streten; Mulvaney, Cooke; Watkins, Hall, Gardiner; Small, Kiernan, Arnison, Brennan, Waugh.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST: Walker; Thomas, McCall; Burkitt, Gager, Ottewell; Scott, Love, Hullett, Wilkins, Kaile.