

FINE SPELL BY TOWN DID THE TRICK

Forest's Offside Tactics Unpopular With Fans

By Chiltern

LUTON TOWN 3 NOTTINGHAM FOREST 0

This was the heaviest defeat Forest have suffered at Kenilworth-road, where they are still awaiting their first victory, and they never looked likely to turn the tables on Saturday.

Quite a lot was at stake in this match—the Town needed the points to keep within striking distance of Huddersfield, while the Forest had the tempting bait of talent money dangling before their eyes—but much of the play was disappointing.

Main blame for this could be pinned on the firm ground and the lively ball, but the Town overcame this twin handicap long enough to make certain of finishing on the winning side.

After an opening that brought more yawns than thrills, the Town suddenly struck promotion form in a spell that lasted about 20 minutes immediately before the interval.

During it, Walker, in the Forest goal, was beaten twice and was distinctly fortunate not to have the melancholy task of picking the ball out of the back of the net more often.

First glimmer of brightness in the rather drab scene came in the 28th minute when WATKINS judged his jump to a nicety and headed through a free-kick from Jones as Walker went up for the ball.

That was the tonic the Town needed, and the Forest defence had a sticky time afterwards. Turner shot over from three or four yards and Davies, Mitchell and Pye all went close before a move that developed so quickly that it caught the Forest defence spreadeagled, brought the Town their second goal six minutes before half-time.

PYE MADE SECOND GOAL

The Town were on the defensive and Pye suddenly appeared inside his own half to collect a pass from Shanks. There seemed to be no immediate danger, but Pye made a perfect through pass on to which MITCHELL, racing between two defenders, fastened and he hit the ball into the net as Walker came out in despairing fashion.

To all intents and purposes this spell settled the match, for although Forest re-arranged their forward line with Moore in the middle, Leverton at inside-right, and Martin, who had been very much out of touch, on the wing, they could not stage a rally.

Certainly there was more liveliness from the visiting forwards, with most danger coming from Moore, but apart from a missed chance by Collindridge and a header by Capel that brought the best out of Baynham, there was little danger to the Town goal.

Offside tactics employed consistently by the Forest during the second half not only threw the Town attack out of gear, but incurred the displeasure of the crowd and brought several bouts of slow handclapping.

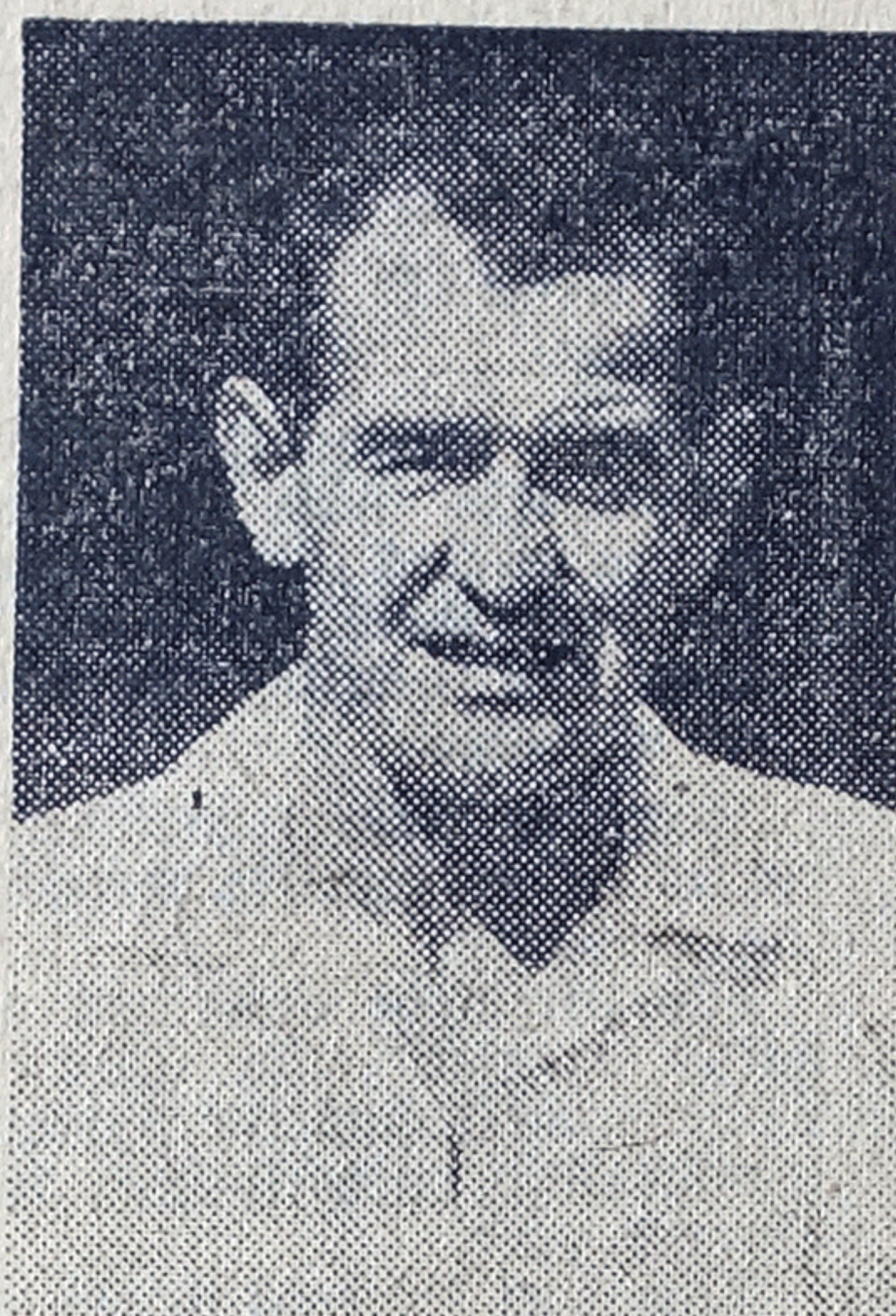
However, two minutes from the end the trap was sprung successfully when DAVIES beat Walker with a great low shot after a long run down the left by Mitchell.

INSIDE MEN UNSUCCESSFUL

Except that there was some weakness at inside forward, this was quite a competent display by the Town. Neither Turner nor Watkins really left much impression on this match, and it was left to Pye and Mitchell to pose the main danger to the visitors' defence.

There was a good deal of help, too, from Davies, whose goal should encourage him to use his shooting power more frequently.

In the defence there was



Jesse Pye

little to worry about, with Shanks making a successful return after 10 weeks' absence from the team and Owen dropping back into his old form on his switch to centre-half.

Morton turned in a splendid game, with the result that the Forest inside trio, faced by a solid middle line, found themselves left with little scope.

Apart from a tendency to allow Collindridge to get the ball under control, Jones was well in command of the situation, and there were few mistakes by Pemberton, who is playing confidently and well.

Again, Baynham was outstanding in the way in which he caught high centres, and he was never in the slightest difficulty.

LUTON TOWN: Baynham; Jones, Pemberton; Morton, Owen, Shanks; Davies, Turner, Pye, Watkins, Mitchell.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST: Walker; Thomas, Hutchinson; French, Gager, Burkitt; Moore, Martin, Leverton, Capel, Collindridge.

Referee: R. E. Smith, Newport.
Attendance: 18,599.