

The genius of veteran Jesse Pye

By **JOHN BALLANTINE**

Luton T. 3, Nottingham F. 0

AFTER their 3-goal defeat at Luton all the Notts Forest players save one must have wondered if Jesse Pye carried a slide rule in one boot and calipers in the other.

The exception was centre-half Horace Gager, who was convinced that Pye had a slab of concrete in place of a right foot. In the 11th minute Gager, once Luton's pivot, had a tussle with Pye on the edge of the box, won it and tried to clear upfield with a terrific kick. The ball rebounded off Pye's boot and rocketted into the net past the startled, helpless Walker.

To the motor building technicians who make up the bulk of Luton's fans, Pye's precision passing was pure joy. The veteran ex-Wolves and England star was rejuvenated. He played like a lad of 18. After that early slice of luck he could do no wrong. He "made" the two goals for Turner (33 minutes) and Davies (59 minutes).

His strategical genius produced at least another six golden chances which were squandered by his colleagues.

Notts could not match Luton's quicksilver forwards who weaved about the field like goldfish in a bowl.

Speed the asset

Speed is Luton's number one asset though whether it has been produced by dressing them like ballet dancers I cannot say. Young Groves, who replaced George Cummins at inside-forward, causing the former Everton star to ask for a transfer, had a fair match. He scored a solo goal, but was ruled offside.

Gager and Ron Blackman were Forest's stars. In a late Notts revival Bernard Streten, in the Luton goal, put on an "Aunt Sally" display which few continentals could equal.

After saving two drives in quick succession with catlike leaps everyone, including Notts players, applauded for a minute.