

## TOWN OFF TO A GRAND 3-0 VICTORY

## NEW ATTACK WAS FAR TOO HOT FOR THE FOREST

## Pye, Turner And Davies All Find Nottingham Net

Luton Town - - 3 Nottingham F. - 0

[By Chiltern]

THERE was a big crowd at Kenilworth-road this afternoon for the opening match of the season, in which Nottingham Forest, led by a former Luton captain, Horace Gager, were the visitors, and it was perhaps a sign of the impatience of the fans for the new football season to open that the welcome for both teams seemed warmer than usual.

The Town wore their new garb of gym vest-type shirts with short sleeves and no collars and shortened shorts. This was much on the continental style, and I am told that the players like the idea very much.

There was a big welcome for Jesse Pye, making his first appearance in a League match for nine months, and interest was shown in how John Groves and Jim Adam would settle down.

After the heavy rain the ground looked in excellent condition, and it was very well grassed.

The Forest had a league debutant in Keith Turner, 20-years-old inside-right, while Groves was making his first home appearance in a League game. Gager won the toss and set the Town to defend the Kenilworth-road end.

About 20,000 saw the Town on to the attack straight away, only to be held up by Burkitt, who switched the ball right to the other end with a swing to Blackman.

He raced through, but there was no one well positioned to receive his centre, and Aherne stopped the danger by pushing the ball back to Streten.

There was a good deal of determination about the Town forwards' work in the early minutes.

It was this factor on the part of Davies that sent Turner through to bring a gasp from the crowd.

It was all in vain because the referee had whistled for a foul against the outside-right.

## TURNER THE SPEARHEAD

The change in the Town's tactical plan was early obvious, with Pye usually lying deep and Turner being used mainly as the spearhead.

For some little time play ran the Town's way without Walker being brought into serious action, but at the same time there was real threat from the Forest in sharp breakaway in which Blackman was playing a leading role.



The 13th minute of the new football season was a lucky one for Luton, for centre-forward Jesse Pye won a duel with Nottingham Forest centre-half, Gager, and sent the ball into the net for his side's first goal of the season.

When the Forest had a turn a shot by Keith Turner was blocked, and straight from the clearance the Town broke away to take the lead through PYE after 13 minutes.

There was some element of good fortune about it, but the work that led up to it was worthy of a goal.

First, Adam found Pye in an open space, and the centre-forward feinted to pass Gager but did not quite succeed, and in fact the centre-half had a chance to clear. He did his best, but Pye stuck out a foot to stop the ball and it went into the top of the net well out of Walker's reach.

This was a happy beginning to Pye's comeback. He was working hard to get his forwards moving, and with no little success.

Having got in front, the Town were now in full cry, and there was a round of applause for Adam, who turned the ball in over his head as he fell backwards, but this time Walker was well positioned to save.

The chance of an equaliser fell to McLaren from a half-clearance by Owen but although he seized the opportunity to shoot, his direction was at least a yard too high.

## FOREST FORWARDS BLOTTED OUT

There was more cohesion about the Town attack though not quite so much thrust at close quarters as we had hoped to see, so far at any rate.

Although the rain had eased, it had left a legacy in the shape of treacherous turf on which the players were now finding a secure foothold difficult.

The Forest attack was still being seen only spasmodically, mainly because their inside forwards were being blotted out, and because there was little support for Blackman.

Streten was not using the ball nearly so accurately as is usual, and several times he put it into touch in making a clearance.

Although Forest were having a reasonable share of the play they made little impression, and it was still the Town who were making the more headway.

## MCLAREN MISS

Turner raced in to square the ball low, and Pye and Adam both went down in a heap in front of goal without being able to apply the touch which would have made it a success.

Under pressure, the Forest defence was looking none too reliable.

Then in a quick breakaway McLaren had a chance to equalise from the penalty spot with only Streten to beat.

He aimed for the far corner, but missed the target completely with his low drive.

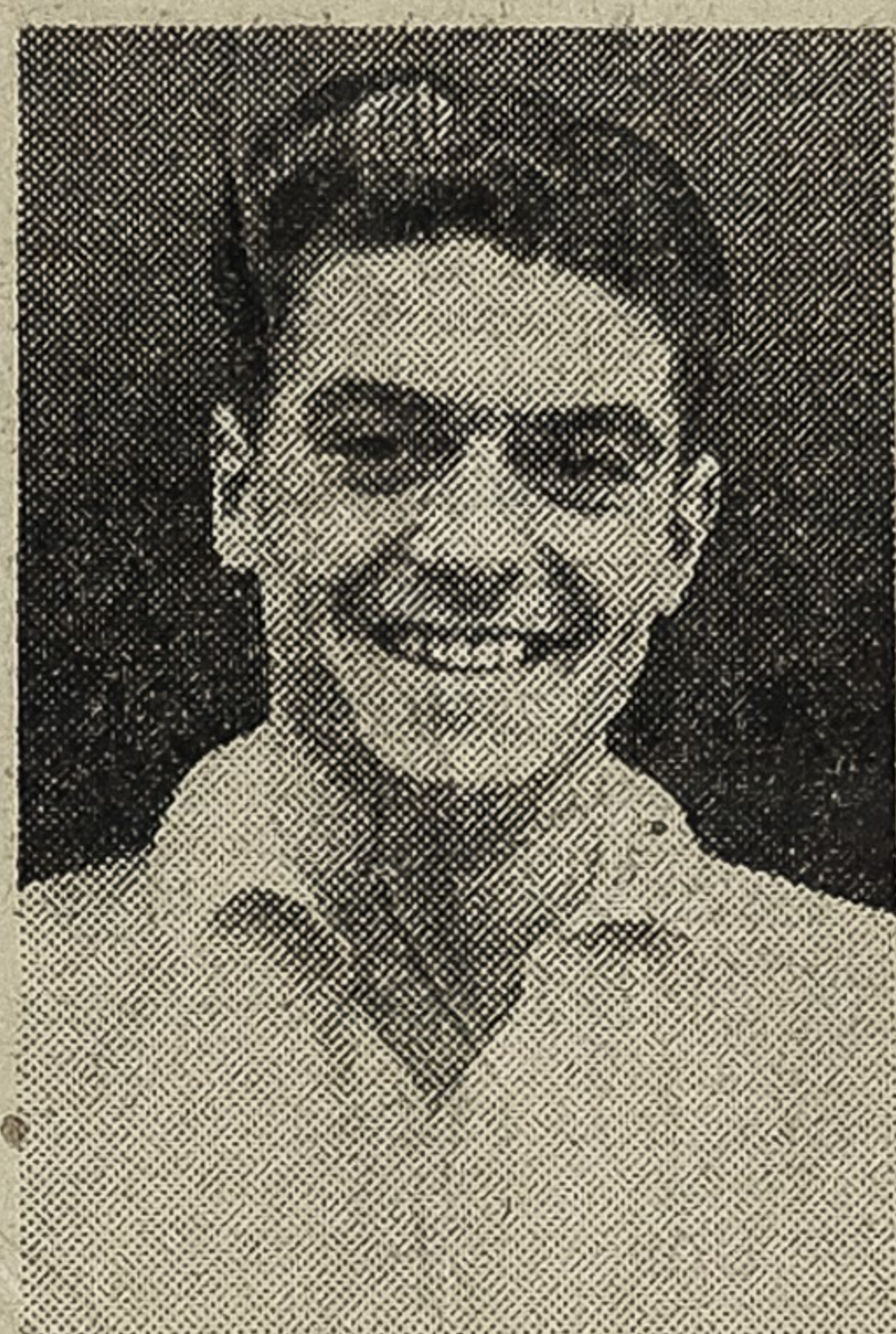
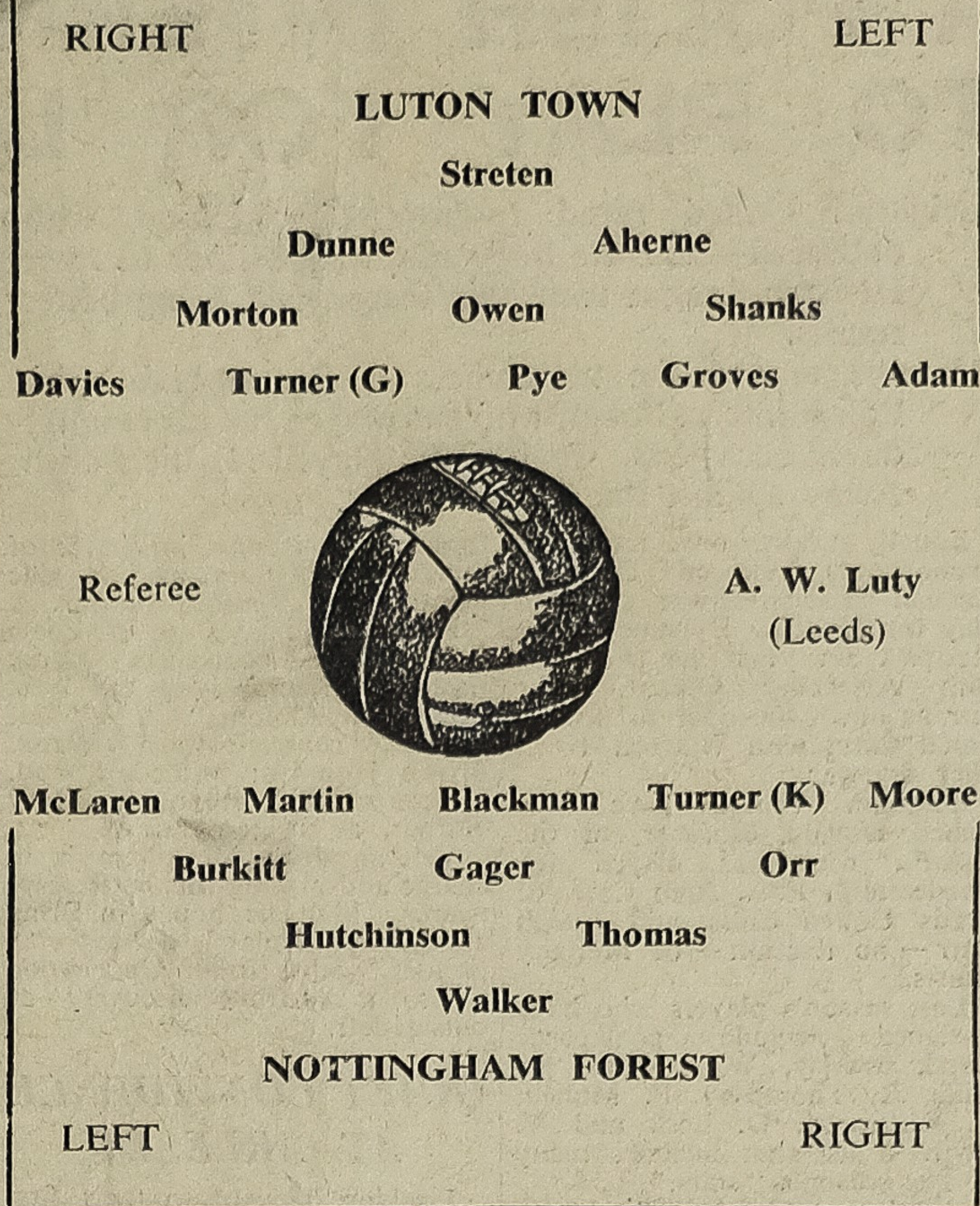
That was disaster narrowly averted, and could be laid at the door of indifferent marking.

The rain had stopped now, and there was even a hint of sunshine.

A swift thrust by the Town again nearly added to their lead. Walker, going down to save a shot by Davies, found the ball going away from him, and Turner, racing in at top speed, met it first time, but the goalkeeper got his body in the way to save a certain score.

Then the Town did score through GORDON TURNER after 32 minutes.

Pye made the opening possible, after which he



Gordon Turner got Luton's second goal after 32 minutes, when he accepted a pass from Pye and shot past goalkeeper Walker from 10 yards.

switched the ball to the inside-right. Turner was there, and after seeming to miss his chance, came across the other way and shot past Walker from some 10 yards.

This was now a comfortable situation for the Town who deserved it because they had shown more skill and craft in attack and were tighter in defence.

## FOREST GO CLOSE

Twice the Forest went close, first when McLaren came through and lay in the penalty area appealing and then when Blackman just failed to connect with a centre.

From this the Town broke away again, and Groves should have increased the lead when Turner pulled the ball back to him, but he shot straight at Walker, who saved at point-blank range.

The Forest were looking more lively in attack now, but were showing little sign of increased finishing power.

With the ball shooting speedily off the greasy turf, control was always difficult.

Adam was unlucky to be caught just offside when Pye sent him racing through with only Walker to beat, and there was no doubt that the Town were looking much the more convincing and better-balanced side.

Towards the interval there was a lot of inconsequential play by both teams. With the turf cutting up, conditions were difficult.

## NARROW ESCAPE

Again the Forest had a narrow escape when Turner, from Davies, crossed the ball in front of goal and Adam put it behind.

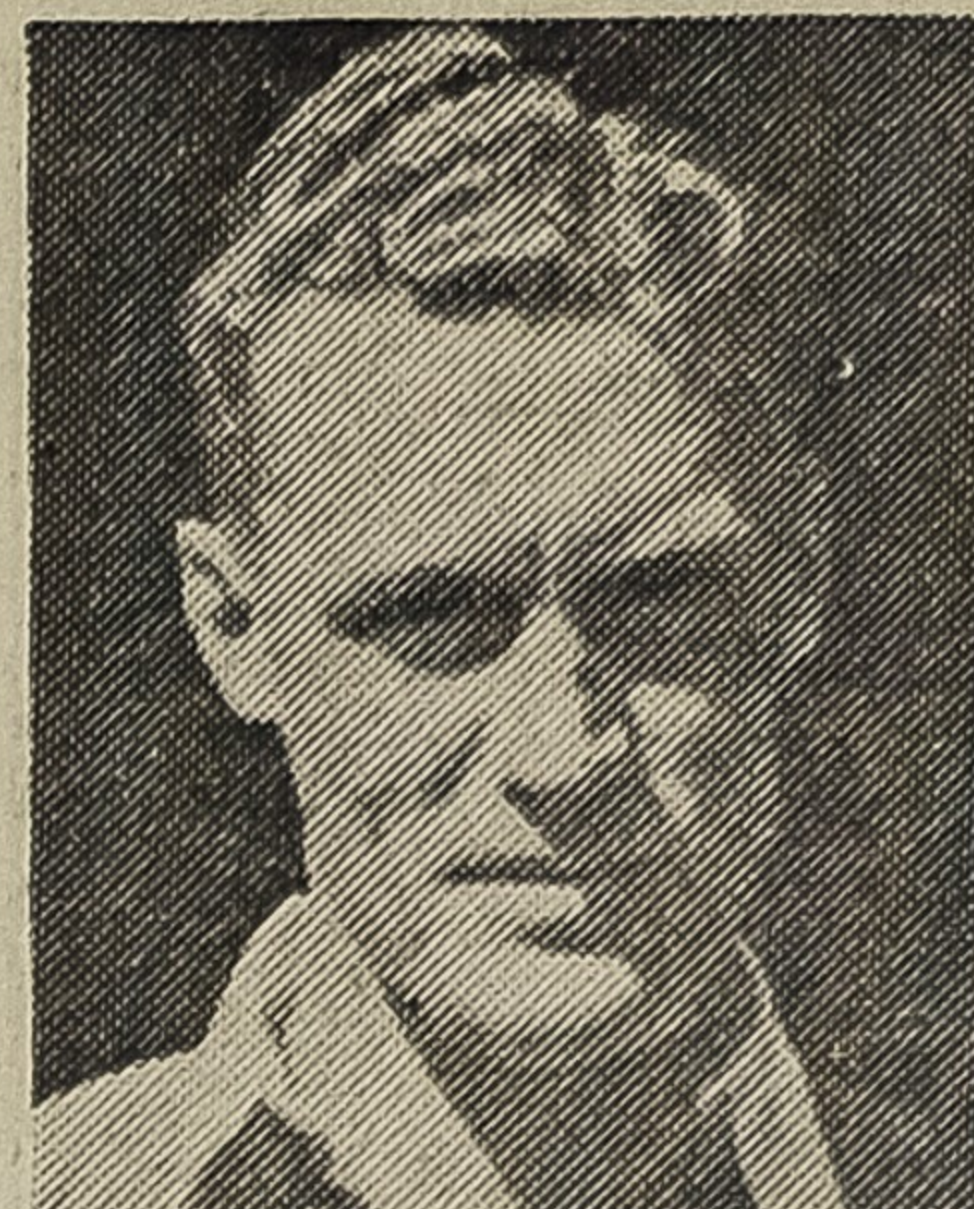
Forest gained a corner, their first in the match, when Owen headed behind as he was challenged by Blackman, but like so many of the Forest raids, it fizzled out without Streten being called on.

Then Martin headed over from a cross by Blackman, who was having to carve out for himself what opportunities were coming his way. Half-time:

LUTON ..... 2  
NOTTM. FOREST .... 0

The second half began with a brisk Forest raid that might have proved dangerous but for Morton, who tackled Martin successfully.

Play remained at the Town end for a while with the Forest gaining a free kick a couple of yards outside the penalty area for obstruction by Shanks. Moore crossed the ball from this, but



Davies got the Town's third goal after 59 minutes with a shot from the wing that deceived Walker.

Turner, who was not having a happy debut, changed places with Moore, and this brought some liveliness to their front line.

It was not long before the Town were back again with the ball still moving about briskly, and Adam headed into Walker's hands from Davies's centre.

The Forest had not given up, and Streten had to throw himself sideways to grasp a header by Blackman.

Yet, the more threat was always contained in the Town front line and only Gager prevented Turner from improving on a beautiful pass made by Pye.

More switching in the Forest front line took Moore to outside-left and McLaren to outside-right.

## BLACKMAN ON THE TARGET

For a time both defences took a grip and still the Forest were having quite a reasonable share of the play without looking dangerous. That is until Blackman found himself in an open space and blazed away.

Streten got two fists on the ball and sent it to Owen, who booted it behind for a corner. This Streten cleared safely.

Then it was the Town's turn, and neat passing led to Groves running through with a clear field. He ended by turning the ball past Walker, but the goal was disallowed on the ground of offside, a decision with which the crowd was far from being in agreement.

Clever work by Adam took the Town on the attack, but then he spoiled it by trying a too-close pass to Pye, which was intercepted.

Streten was earning his corn now, and he made two brilliant saves, one from Burkitt and another from McLaren.

Streten's feat brought him an ovation from the crowd, and he was in action again the next minute, pouncing on the ball at Martin's feet from a corner. The danger was averted by Owen giving away a corner on the other side.

Certainly, the Forest were earning marks for their fighting spirit, which they continued to show, though their hopes were forlorn at this stage.

Pye then fastened on to a pass by Groves, only to be hustled off by Hutchinson.

## MORE SWITCHES

McLaren was now back on the left wing, with Moore at inside-right.

Play had swung the Forest way, and Streten punched away a centre by K. Turner.

Another fine run by Pye nearly ended in another goal, but Groves raced in to try to beat Walker to the ball. He did not connect properly, and the ball went skidding away almost at right angles.

The Town were still threatening to add to their lead, and they should have had a penalty when



Adam was hustled off the ball by Hutchinson, but the referee waived aside all their appeals.

Then, with barely a minute to go, Forest nearly scored, and no one would have grudged it to them, when Blackman dribbled the ball past Streten, but Dunne was on the spot to take it away.

Forest had not given up, and they gained a corner when Owen kicked over the bar. Finally, this was cleared by Streten. Result:

LUTON TOWN ..... 3  
NOTTM. FOREST .... 0