

BEST POST-WAR WIN AWAY FROM HOME

Defence Held, Then Town Forwards Struck Hard

By Chiltern

NOTTINGHAM FOREST 1 LUTON TOWN 5

After a first half in which they struggled in vain to find their best form in attack and yet scored twice, the Town made the Forest feel the full force of their finishing power afterwards and went on to secure their biggest post-war away victory.

In the end, there was no doubting their complete superiority, for the Forest became a thoroughly demoralised lot, crushed by the striking power of the Town front line and humbled by the sight of their supporters streaming off the ground while play was still going on.

From the Town, this was the sort of form that makes promotion a bright prospect because, not only was there complete soundness in defence which held firm when the Forest might have built up an early lead, but the forwards clicked into top gear when they realised that their previous tactics had been wrong.

Before the interval, all too frequently, the Town's movements broke down in midfield, not only because there was over-much use of the short pass, but because also the final pass was often erratic.

It was during this spell that the Forest's best chance occurred, for they had much more of the play than the Town.

The more scoring chances came their way, too, but they lacked steadiness in front of goal and although Baynham was severely tested at times, on the whole the Town defence was too strong for the home forwards.

Baynham earned frequent applause for his first-half work and there is little doubt that had he not been in such tremendous form, the Town would have been in a different situation at the interval than that in which they found themselves.

TACTICS WERE CHANGED

Rather surprisingly in view of the run of the play, they were two goals ahead, secured by PEMBERTON in the 16th minute with a shot that Farmer caught and then lost possession of the ball after he had slipped, and CUMMINS with a hard drive that beat the unsighted Farmer after Turner had passed to him from a free kick.

Only a couple other shots of note came from the Town before half-time but, afterwards, there was a different story.

Instead of the square, short pass, they began to use the quick through one and, immediately, the front line looked the potent force we know it can be.

Reward came quickly in the

shape of a goal after 55 minutes by DAVIES, left with a simple chance by Turner after Morton and Cullen had done the early work.

For a time the Forest were almost over-run by the Town's brilliance but there came a let-up in which the home team got back into the game for a spell, and 15 minutes from time WILSON raised fluttering hopes with a successful shot from the edge of the penalty area.

Fluttering and fleeting were all that these hopes proved to be, for the Town made certain that there would be no late disaster such as they have experienced before, by crowding on the pressure again.

Then it was that the fundamental weaknesses of the Forest defence were exposed, and, in the space of a minute, first Morton, then Cullen, made openings for TURNER to score twice. Even then the Town were not done, and Turner all but completed what would have been one of the fastest hat-tricks on record.

ALL DEPARTMENTS DID WELL

This was a match in which all departments of the Town team did their job most adequately.

Honours went to the defence for their strong work when the eager Forest forwards were on the goalward path, and Baynham's handling of the ball throughout was masterly.

In great form again was the middle line, with Pemberton having perhaps his best game in the first team so far and standing out for his coolness and his accurate use of the ball.

Owen was equal to every demand, being a tremendous barrier down the middle of the field, and the hard-tackling Shanks completed a half-back line in which much of the Town's strength was vested.

Behind them, Aherne, on his 200th appearance was in complete command, and although Dunne was sometimes troubled by the speed of Small, his powers of recovery stood him in good stead.

When the forwards hit their best after the interval it was a brilliant best, in which they produced fine, forceful football and showed great finishing power.

Ably led again by Morton, whose role was provider of chances rather than that of an opportunist in this match, they worried this previously-sound Forest defence into mistakes.

Morton kept his line moving, and there was good support for him at inside-forward, with Cummins sweeping out some grand passes and Turner again a dangerous spearhead and doing much work in midfield as well.

In the second half they looked a different attack altogether, and there was a good response from the wingers, with Davies laying on a number of centres and Cullen showing a marked improvement on his previous appearance at outside-left.

Wisely, he came through on the inside a great deal, and this proved to be a dangerous move.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST: Farmer; Whare, Thomas; Morley, McKinlay, Burkitt; Moore, Martin, Wilson, Cluroe, Small.

LUTON TOWN: Baynham; Dunne, Aherne; Pemberton, Owen, Shanks; Davies, Turner, Morton, Cummins, Cullen.

Referee: A. W. Luty, Leeds
Attendance: 11,793.