

WHAT THE OTHER CRITICS SAID

"Luton hall-marked this game by craft in the centre and incisive progress near goal. Forest replied with a brand of football some of their fans have not seen for many a day. Where then was the difference that made the score? In Luton's goal Eddie Marsh had a nightmare of a game."—"The People."

"If Luton manager Dally Duncan leaves for Blackburn this week, he will remember his last trip with the club. True, they were beaten—but only after a near-classic duel of cut and thrust stuff."—"News of the World."

"Luton lost some of their edge in the second half, and the home attack, responding brilliantly to some fine prompting by Whitefoot, regained control. . . . Although they continued to play thoughtful football, Luton lost a lot of punch and repeatedly fell into the off-side trap."—"Sunday Express."

"On the whole, Luton were generally playing second fiddle, but never gave up fighting. In fact, they were always in the game with a chance until, under relentless pressure and baffled by quick switching of the home forwards, even their immaculate defence showed signs of wilting."—"Sunday Dispatch."

"Whether it is superstition or skill, Luton skipper Sid Owen will endorse any praise for Wilson. Owen marshalled his defence brilliantly, but found Wilson, Quigley and Dwight too sprightly in the second half."—"Daily Express."

HIT BACK ONCE, BUT COULD NOT TWICE

Forest Halves Gained Second-Half Grip

BY CHILTERN

NOTTINGHAM FOREST 3, LUTON TOWN 1

NO team can afford to give the opposition a goal start away from home. That is literally what the Town did at Nottingham last Saturday when the Forest were made a present of a goal after three minutes.

Fighting back, the Town overcame that shock start, but they could not hit back after the Forest scored again three minutes after half-time.

On the run of the first half play, the Town could have changed around in the lead because they were more skilful than the home side and played some very impressive football.

GRAY it was who gave the Forest the lead after Marsh had failed to hold a corner from Dwight but, with the Town settling down, TURNER put them on level terms after Brown had sent him racing through with a delightful pass.

It was after this that the Town most looked like steering to victory, and they certainly had bad luck when Adam shot against the foot of a post and when Turner had a goal disallowed for offside, a decision that caused some discussion afterwards.

At half-time, it looked as if a point at least would come the way of the Town, but the situation changed after 48 minutes when DWIGHT met a centre from Wilson on the drop and the ball landed in the corner of the net well out of Marsh's reach.

Try as they did, the Town could not recover their first half form, mainly because the Forest half-back line took a solid grip on the game and the result was a minor eclipse of the inside forwards, with the exception of Turner.

Another contributory factor to the falling away was that Forest consistently used the offside trap with almost uncanny accuracy, and this was something that the Town seemed completely unable to combat.

So, few opportunities came their way, but there was always the chance of snatching a point until eight minutes from the end, when Gray pushed the ball between Owen and Hawkes and WILSON did the rest.

After a good first half, Cummins was subdued afterwards, and Brown, whose distribution had been quite accurate earlier,

just could not rid himself of the grip of McKinlay.

Maybe the Town would have stood a better chance had they made more use of the wingers, especially Adam, who showed he had the beating of Whare, but could not obtain an adequate supply of the ball.

The same applied to Bingham, and the speed of this pair might have been the way in which to negative the offside tactics. Turner, vainly taking up the open space, was easily the most dangerous of the forwards.

In defence the Town were not so sound as usual, and the constant switching of the home forwards seemed to upset the tightness of their covering.

Maybe their confidence was upset by the early mistake of Marsh and his consequent mis-handling and fumbling of the ball and, although he made a couple of smart saves, there is no doubt that Baynham was badly missed.

Pacey was more successful on this occasion than Morton, and even Owen, with his understanding with Baynham broken up, looked ill at ease at times against the bustling, fast-moving Wilson.

Yet Owen fought bravely enough to bring order and compactness to the defence, but as a unit they were below their best.

Dunne tended to give Gray too much room in the early stages, but improved later, and Hawk-battled away against a succession of players who popped up in the outside-right position.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST.—Thomson; Whare, McDonald; Whitefoot, McKinlay, Burkitt; Dwight, Quigley, Wilson, Baily, Gray.

LUTON TOWN.—Marsh; Dunne, Hawkes; Morton, Owen, Pacey; Bingham, Turner, Brown, Cummins, Adam.

Referee.—J. Kelly, Chorley. Attendance: 30,187.