

Villa star Wylie

IT'S Nottingham Forest's Cup if this poor Luton display is anything to go by. As against Norwich, their defenders played well against this eager Villa side. But, oh dear, there's a big problem about this Luton attack.

Frankly I can't see them penetrating the Forest defence, which covers and tackles well.

The Luton forwards lacked bite and finishing power—two essential things at Wembley—and they have no one with the ability to draw a defender and create openings.

The only improvement—if any—is at outside-left, where Jimmy Adam looked a better prospect than National Serviceman Tony Gregory. Adam didn't have a great game, but he has speed and the direct approach.

On this show Adam must play at Wembley, despite Luton's desire to try to play the same team in every Cup match.

One man Forest will have to watch is the flying Irishman, Billy Bingham, on the right wing. He is a tremendous worker, fast and tricky, and he's turning half-chances into goals.

In the 32nd minute of this game he appeared in the centre-forward position to seize on to a long clearance, squeeze past two defenders, and slap the ball into the net.

Bingham pounces on an opportunity and like a flash moves

Aston Villa 3

Luton Town 1

By JOE HULME

into the open spaces for the through ball. He certainly gave the Villa defenders something to think about.

If Forest fail to find some way of curbing this fine little player, then they will be in trouble, but don't forget he will be up against his former Sunderland colleague Joe McDonald, who should know some of his tricks.

Apart from the two wingers, the rest of the Luton attack was never in the game.

Struggling

Centre-forward Bob Morton, who looks out of position, was always struggling against centre-half Jimmy Dugdale, while inside-men Alan Brown and George Cummins played as though they had one eye on the Cup Final.

There is little wrong with the Luton defence, in which reserves Seamus Dunne and Terry Kelly played well.

This win now makes Villa virtually safe, but they made hard work of it. Their forwards created openings, but their bad finishing spoilt their good approach work.

The man I liked most was

inside-left Ron Wylie. He has certainly proved a good buy and I haven't seen an inside-man this season work so hard as he did.

Wylie was well supported by right-winger Les Smith and the dangerous Peter McParland, but after a promising start Jackie Sewell faded when he was most needed.

Centre-forward Gerry Hitchens struggled for most of the game but was again on the spot to score two goals in 15 minutes.

The Villa defence is improving fast. Dugdale dominated the middle while wing-halves Johnny Dixon and Vic Crowe tackled the Luton inside men out of it and gave their attack fine support.

As usual, goalkeeper Nigel Sims never did a thing wrong and could well be the answer to England's problem.

Villa equalised in the 63rd minute through a hotly disputed penalty by Smith and in the 70th minute took the lead when Hitchens scooped the ball home after Baynham had failed to hold Smith's cross.

In the 85th minute a long clearance found Hitchens and the centre-forward swerved past two defenders to score via the post.

VILLA.—Sims 7; Aids 7, Winton 7; Dixon 7, Dugdale 7, Crowe 7; Smith 7, Sewell 7, Hitchens 7. ★**WYLIE** 8, McParland 7.

LUTON.—Baynham 7; Dunne 3, Hawkes 7; Groves 7, Kelly 7, Pacey 7; ★**BINGHAM** 8, Brown 5, Morton 5, Cummins 5, Adam 6.

Referee: B. M. Griffiths (Newport) 8.