

Forest trap flops as Allan Brown scores four

By JOHN GAMKIN

Luton Town 5 Nottingham Forest 1

RATINGS.—Skill: Luton 9, Forest 6. Entertainment 8.
Sportsmanship 9. Control 8.

FOREST'S off-side trap, the most famous of its kind in English football, could so easily become a painful boomerang at Wembley three Saturdays hence.

Under the Kenilworth Road lights last night the Luton Town forwards provided a classical example of the way to defeat these tactics in this Cup Final preview.

Rehearsals normally are no guide to form, and Forest were short of four probable Wembley men, one in each department of the team last night. Nevertheless, this victory might well sway the course of events on May 2.

It was won so devastatingly that Luton, the 5-4 outsiders for Wembley, must now feel confident that they will have the edge over Forest on the famous green turf.

Offside traps demand full-backs who lie wide on the touch-line. Last night Luton punctured Forest's thin red line of defence in the middle, and frequently turned its flanks on the wings.

Precision passes

Right from defence, the whole Luton team used direct and long passes, and the white-shirted forwards, showing intelligent anticipation, were often advancing **BEHIND** the defensive line while the ball was still in flight.

So well did they work that only five offside decisions were given against them.

Scotland's Allan Brown, who helped himself to four goals, thus twice found the nearest Forest defender ten yards behind him when he slipped the ball past Willy Fraser, his luckless compatriot.

Twice the opening was made by Eire's George Cummins, the provider of inch-perfect through passes. If Cummins outwits Geoff Whitefoot so completely at Wembley, Forest will be in real trouble.

Lots of room

More than 20,000 happy Luton folk claimed that the Cup is as good as won as they left the ground. They should not lose sight of two important factors.

Brown, the experienced inside-right was marked in this game by Calvin Palmer, an 18-year-old left-half who left him bags of room. At Wembley, Brown will be marked by Forest captain, Jack Burkitt, who won't allow him so much space.

At Wembley, too, Chick Thomson will be in Forest's goal in place of Fraser, who has now let in 12 in his two first team matches. Thomson, I think, would have stopped at least two of the goals.

But I can understand manager Billy Walker demanding more action from some of his men.

Too casual

Apart from a lack of thrust at inside forward, the team played far too much casual, aimless football.

For my money I like a horse which shows good form in training gallops. At Wembley Forest may discover that concentration and good football are not things which can be turned on like tapwater.

GOALS—Luton: Brown (23, 28, 59, 78), Bingham (41); Forest: Quigley (84).

LUTON: Baynam 8; McNally 8; Hawkes 7; Groves 8; Owen 8; Pacey 8; Bingham 9; Brown 8; Morton 8; Cummins 8; Gregory 7.

FOREST: Fraser 6; Whare 6; Thomas 8; Whitefoot 6; McKinlay 7; Palmer 5; Gray 7; Quigley 6; Wilson 7; Barrett 5; Imlach 7.

REFEREE: K. Taylor (Wolverhampton)