

FOREST TOWN'S FIRST HOME VICTIMS

Determination A Factor In Improved Display

By CHILTERN

LUTON TOWN 1, NOTTINGHAM FOREST 0

A MEMORABLE occasion at Kenilworth-road this, not only because it avenged last season's Cup Final defeat but because it ended the run of depressing home results by the Town.

While the margin does not look convincing, there was no doubt at all that the victory was deserved and was achieved by an improved display in which determination and fighting spirit played a leading role.

Yet, the superiority of the Town might have been wasted because of the prodigal way in which they squandered their scoring chances in the first half during which they should have built up a commanding lead.

This question of finishing power is an all-important one and the lack of it on the part of the Town may prove to be just one of those phases through which a team goes occasionally—at least that is what we must hope.

For most of the time before the interval, Forest were back on the defensive and, aided by some good fortune, they crossed over on level terms, without having given even a hint of their Wembley brightness.

Certainly, they were seen in a rather better light in the second half, but their attack did not become sufficiently geared up to cause the Town defence real trouble and Luton always looked the more purposeful.

BROWN GOT WINNER

With 62 minutes gone, Bingham swept past McDonald, beat him for speed and, closing in, squared the ball low to BROWN who, from point-blank range, crashed it into the net.

Other scoring chances went astray and there was a late flourish by the Forest in which Iley shot inches wide and Wilson put over after having been allowed to go on from what seemed to be palpably an offside position.

This was a victory achieved by a Town team that was below strength because of injuries which have been such a handicap this season.

The situation gave an opportunity for Barry Hawkes to make a first senior appearance in an inside-forward position and a very good job he made of it, to.

Working hard, he was most effective and deserves other chances. Recalled to the team after being dropped, Gregory began the match in such fashion that it seemed as if the Town

need look no further for the answer to the problem outside-left position.

Unfortunately, it did not last, but if Gregory could achieve more consistency, there is no reason why he should ever be out of the team in view of his obvious natural ability.

Perhaps it would have helped him had he seen more of the ball, but the obvious trump card was Bingham, who, however, had to contend with some close marking by McDonald.

Quite smoothly, Brown kept the front line moving, but Turner, although doing better than on his previous appearance, has still to regain his old shooting power.

There could be no complaints about the defence, in which the half-back line was a solid foundation, with Kelly holding Wilson and Morton and Groves in dominating form.

So well did Dunne and Ken Hawkes play that Imlach and Gray were kept surprisingly quiet, even though they switched positions in the second half, and Baynham gave another display of clean, sure handling.

LUTON TOWN: Baynham; Dunne, Hawkes (K); Morton, Kelly, Groves; Bingham, Turner, Brown, Hawkes (B), Gregory.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST: Thomson; Patrick, McDonald; Whitefoot, McKinlay, Burkitt; Imlach, Quigley, Wilson, Iley, Gray.

Referee: S Cowan, Manchester.
Attendance: 16,634.

WHAT THE OTHER CRITICS SAID

"For the first time, before their own fans, Luton showed fight and produced bite for the whole 90 minutes. Superior in every department in the first half, they were not discouraged by the fact that Forest had all the luck—and they themselves had missed so many chances through bad finishing." — "News of the World."

"Sheer inability to get the ball into the net nearly robbed bottom-of-the-table Luton of their first, and deserved, home victory." — "Sunday Dispatch."

"Luton's re-arranged side looked a much better proposition than in recent games." — "Sunday Pictorial."

"If they can continue to show the same fighting spirit, coupled with more accuracy in finishing to round off their approach work, Luton can forget their fears about a return to the Second Division." — "Sunday Express."

"Luton, if behind in skill, at least compensated for some of their deficiencies by whole-hearted effort." — "The People."

"In winning their first home match of the season, Luton showed a determination that made up for shortcomings in approach and finishing power." — "News Chronicle."

"Barry Hawkes, 22, could prove the answer to one forward problem. He had an impressive first match in his real position of inside-left." — "Daily Mail."