

● **Wembley defeat avenged**

BINGHAM IS TRUMP CARD

Luton T. 1 Nottm. Forest 0 by WALTER GREEN

OUT of this smooth—and sometimes rugged—Cup Final repeat, Syd Owen's Luton strugglers became heroes and won more than sweet revenge for Wembley. They found their form at last and scotched, for a while anyway, the premature relegation talk which, oddly was featured in Town's own programme.

"If relegation is to be our lot it will not be for the want of fighting," said the programme.

As if to underline the point, Town set about this super-confident Forest with an all-out will to win that should have brought them a three-goal lead by half-time.

Long before they scored, Chick Thompson seemed more baffled than anyone that his goal was surviving. Gordon Turner missed a sitter and Allan Brown two easy chances before Brown snatched the clincher in the 61st minute.

He owed the goal to a great opportunist run by wee Billy Bingham that gave him an easy tap-in chance.

Bingham had a great day. He rattled Jack Burkett into errors and, finally, Burkett found himself being booked. I rate Bingham one of Syd Owen's trump cards.

Another is long John Groves, surely one of soccer's most improved wing halves. This lively six-footer didn't put a foot wrong and commanded the air about him with the most accurate heading I've seen from a defender in a long time.

More and more, Groves resembled Syd Owen at his best. Town's weakness just now is in

goal. Ron Baynham had another spell of uncertainty which might well have given Forest a point they did not merit, especially after a second half display in which they tended to forget the game's finer points.

Billy Gray was almost given a goal from a stray 30-yard effort when Banyham dropped the ball. The ex-England keeper failed to hold a centre first time.

LUCKILY FOR TOWN, FOREST HAD ONLY ONE MAN WITH A SHOT — EX-WING HALF JIM ILEY. HE'S A REAL FORWARD POWER PACK THESE DAYS AND HE MISSED ONLY BY INCHES WITH ONE DRIVE.

Forest's wingers were kept out of the game and Quigley had an unhappy time against Groves. Bobby McKinley, I thought, was less than his usual commanding self, and a times seemed to be seeking the title of the best passer-back in the four Leagues.

Forest needs more urgency in thier forward play.