

HAWKES CAN END A LUTON WORRY

55/60

Luton 1, Nottm. Forest 0 : by GRAHAM BUXTON

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.

More than that, they can forget ideas about expensive forays into the transfer market if they can unearth more finds like Barry Hawkes. This younger brother of left-back Ken Hawkes has served a longish apprenticeship with Luton and his only previous experience of First Division football were four games on the wing.

His chance came yesterday in his usual position of inside left, and he used it to such effect that manager Syd Owen said afterwards: "While we have players like Hawkes, Luton have no need to worry."

But Luton will continue to worry—and struggle—to win matches if their forwards waste chances like they did in the first half. They had a lack-lustre Forest side on their knees but failed to ram home their advantage because of faulty shooting.

Tony Gregory, Allan Brown, and Gordon Turner all missed chances and the escapes enabled Forest to stage a come-back after half time. But I looked in vain for the move of smoothness in attack that took the Cup to Nottingham and it is hard to imagine that the absence

of Roy Dwight has caused all this damage.

In mid-field, Forest looked good enough when given the opportunity with Jim Iley scheme-in-chief.

Wingers Stewart Imlach and Billy Gray were played right out of the game and centre forward Wilson was made to look very ordinary by centre half Terry Kelly.

Kelly, for so long a second string at Luton, has grown in ability and composure since the chance of regular League Football came his way. Certainly he barred the way down the middle and when this happened Forest, with their wing weakness, could find no answer to the problem.

Manager Billy Walker was not there, otherwise he might have made a loud appeal for more fight and determination.

Having tempted fate by squandering all those first-half chances, Luton were lucky to have the easy opportunity that came their way after 62 minutes. Then, Billy Bingham for once escaped the close attentions of former Sunderland club mate Joe Maconald, to lay on a chance that Allen Brown could not miss.