SCORING CHANCES MISSED BY TOWN

Handicapped Forest Held On To Their Lead

By CHILTERN

NOTTINGHAM FOREST 2, LUTON TOWN 0

THIS was a match that the Town badly needed to win in order to improve their chance of avoiding relegation and, as things turned out, they should have done.

What prevented them from doing so was the old failing of inability to make use of their scoring chances and a general lack of drive and penetration in attack.

A neutral onlooker would not have thought that anything very vital was attached to this result from the way in which the Town approached their task in the first half.

After a bright start, in which they came very close to taking a first-minute lead when Turner swung on to the ball, which unfortunately went straight to Armstrong, who would have been helpless otherwise, their play lacked the sense of urgency appropriate to the occasion.

They were not helped by the fact that Forest took the lead in the tenth minute, when WILSON was on hand at close range to glide in a cross from Booth, and it seemed as if that was something approaching a major disaster.

Attempts to equalise were thrown back with monotonous regularity, mostly by the strength of the Forest half-back line, because there were signs of a distinct weakness at full-back.

Some raids developed promisingly in midfield, but they came to very little, though Gregory should have equalised when, almost on the goal-line, he hooked the ball the wrong way.

The incident that should have served to change the course of this match occurred seven minutes from half-time, when Thomas slipped on the muddy surface and twisted his back.

FOREST'S HANDICAP

That caused him to switch with Gray, and it was a long clearance by the latter that led to Forest's second goal two minutes later.

It went to Wilson, who slipped it through the middle to BOOTH. Baynham hesitated whether to advance or not; did so, but was short, and although harassed by Kelly, Booth squeezed the ball just inside the post at the second attempt.

Even though they were two goals down, the Town should have been able to turn the tables, because the Forest were under a considerable handicap for the

whole of the second half with Thomas virtually a passenger.

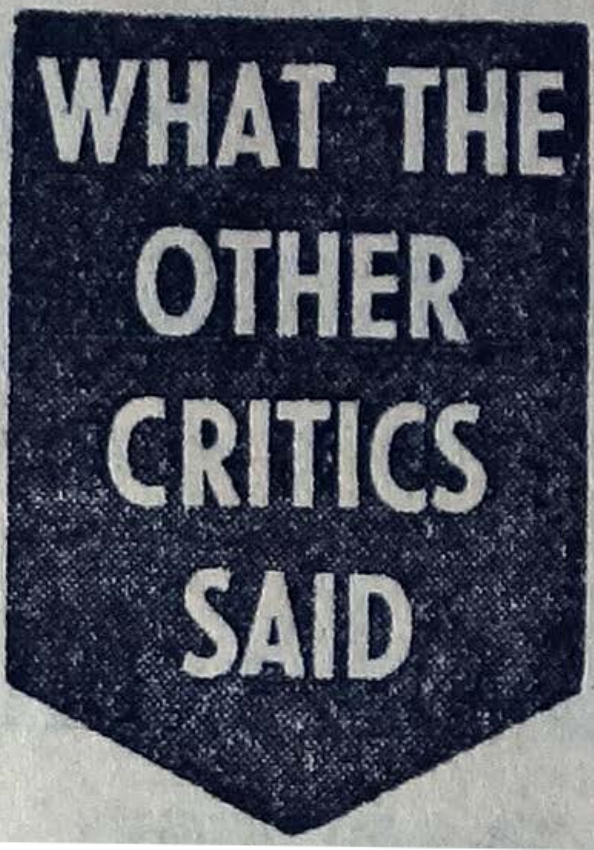
But, as in the Cup Final, they failed to make the most of their advantage and despite long spells of pressure, could not break down the Forest defence which packed the penalty area relentlessly.

Even so, some easy chances came the way of the Town, the simplest of which was missed by Brown who shot over when it seemed an impossibility to do so.

Forest had some luck, but they kept on fighting and despite a series of corners and free kicks for fouls and handling, Luton failed to open their account.

Easily the best of the forwards was Bingham, even though he was very much a marked man. Patrick seldom strayed from his side and there was always Imlach coming back to lend a hand, too.

Over-robust tackling failed to daunt the winger, but he had not



"What can save either of these sides from relegation I cannot think. It was a shameful First Division display. As for Luton, last May's other Wembley side, they desperately need a leader. They didn't seem to care in this go-as-you-please display. There were times when Luton appeared to stand still in the face of the Forest raids, and up forward were content with flicking the ball to each other."—"The People."

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"Luton, whose defence was often at full stretch, seemed to have no idea how to finish attacks. For instance, in a hectic 12-minute spell just after the interval they forced seven fruitless corners in succession. In the second half, Brown and Bingham — the one Luton forward who seemed to know what to do with the ball—made remarkable misses. It all added up to a very depressing afternoon for Luton, now well-established at the bottom of the First Division table." — "Sunday Dispatch."

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"Both teams looked relegation-haunted. Luton sadly lacked spirit. Against handicapped opponents, they threw away a golden chance of temporarily relieving their relegation worries. Their inside-forwards were not in the same class as brilliant little Billy Bingham, a right-winger who created all the danger to the struggling home side."—"News of the World."

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"Power-play by wing-halves Jeff Whitefoot and Jack Burkitt had much to do with the success, but there was no answer to the menace of Luton's Billy Bingham, who created nearly all the danger and looked the most cultured of a ragged attack line. Brown might have been better used as an inside-forward than a leader."—"Empire News."

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"Forest won again, to clamber a little way out of the relegation zone and to trample Luton a little deeper into it. Yet Luton may still have the better chance of survival. In Billy Bingham, the little leprechaun of an outside-right, they have someone who may yet save them if he is not driven to frustration by the men inside him."—"News Chronicle."