

Superb Baynham is Luton hero

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Nottingham Forest 2, Luton 0: by ROBIN GREEN

THIS relegation battle proved to be a hard tackling affair, in which Forest, showing more class and punch, just deserved the points.

In many respects, this was a repeat of last May's Cup Final—the Midlands had right back Geoff Thomas injured for most of the game and he played throughout the second half on the right wing with Billy Gray giving a superb display as an emergency defender.

Tackling throughout the match was razor keen, and referee Callaghan, of Rochdale, had a busy time with the whistle.

Luton should have taken the lead in their first attack. From a Bob Morton pass, Gordon Turner was left with a glorious chance, but home 'keeper John Armstrong parried the inside right's close-range shot in great style.

Once Forest settled down, they produced the necessary punch forward and in the 10th minute a Billy Gray-Colin Booth move gave centre-forward Tommy Wilson the chance to net from close in.

The Hatters tackled desperately when under pressure, but at times the backs were apt to panic and the man who really saved them when the heat was on was goal-keeper Ron Baynham.

He made a succession of superb saves, one in particular from Jim Iley who played at inside left—his fifth position for Forest since leaving Spurs.

The outstanding home forward was ex-Wolves player Booth, and David Pacey was never able to get to grips with him.

Forest suffered a severe blow when right-back Thomas twisted his back and had to go on the wing. They did not give up, however, and shortly afterwards scored a second time.

Wilson found Booth with a smart pass, and although the inside man's attempt to lob the ball home was blocked, he got a second chance and swept it past a surprised Baynham from a narrow angle.

Luton had their share of attacking after the interval, but lacked penetration against a rearguard which did not stand on ceremony.

Gray played Tony Gregory out of the game and showed a good appreciation of his emergency duties.

The home wing halves, too, Geoff Whitefoot and Jack Birkett were dominant and they gave home 'keeper Armstrong effective cover.

All the same Luton should have scored a quarter of an hour before the end when centre-forward Allan Brown kneed a Morton cross over the top from a few yards with only Armstrong to beat.