

TOWN LIVE TO FIGHT AGAIN

Roger Duckworth



Verdict

FOR long periods Luton could not see the wood for the trees at Forest in an action replay of the 1959 Cup Final this afternoon.

But this third round tie at Nottingham was rather spoilt by a 15-minute stoppage in the first half when the Forest goalpost snapped below ground level and the teams had to leave the field.

It was an untidy game and Luton, who took a huge following to the Midlands, went behind in the 18th minute when McIntosh converted a Winfield free-kick from the left after Read had missed his attempt at clearing.

In fact, there was more cup fever from Second Division Luton's following than from the First Division side. But a cold mist creeping in from the River Trent behind one of the stands did not add to the atmosphere of the afternoon.

Header

But in the 70th minute, MACDONALD put Luton back in the game. A magnificent run on the right by the delicately-balanced Jimmy Ryan ended with a low cross. Macdonald's full blooded first-timer was blocked but the rebound came back towards him and he headed home.

Luton deserved this break for their second half revival.

They gradually closed in on the First Division side who lost their impetus after a magnificent first half-hour.

Benaud improves Test chance

John Benaud underlined his chance of selection for the Australian Test team with an innings of 66 for New South Wales against Queensland in their Sheffield Shield match today.

Benaud stood firm as New South Wales were dismissed for a disappointing 227, in reply to Queensland's first innings 268. He got his runs in 131 minutes, with the aid of ten boundaries, and gave only one difficult chance.

Wade v Court in final

Virginia Wade will meet Australian Margaret Court in the women's final of the Western Australia tennis championships. Mrs Court today swept through against Australian-born Mrs Gail Chanfreau, of France, 6-2 6-3.

NOTTS FOREST 1 LUTON 1

THE goalpost collapsed and Luton trailed to an 18th minute goal in an amazing FA Cup third round encounter at Nottingham

Play was delayed for 15 minutes in the first half after the goalpost incident, but in a second-half revival Macdonald equalised for Luton.

By **ROGER DUCKWORTH**

Luton were at full strength with the exception of John Moore, who has been out for some time, and Roger Hoy was said to be fully recovered from his month-old thigh injury.

Viv Busby was named as substitute to underline Luton's attacking ideas in this important step in the season's programme.

Forest left out Welsh international Ronnie Rees and included Richardson at No. 10.

The Nottingham pitch was clear of snow but very hard, and both goalkeepers were forced to wear their tracksuit trousers. And at the kick-off an ominous-looking mist was seeping over the stands.

Robbed

Luton had an early scare when a clearance from Nicholl was barged down by Moore and the ball crept unguarded into the Luton penalty box. But Read was quick off his line and he gathered the ball safely and booted it clear.

And as Forest made the early running, McIntosh put in some good work on the right before being robbed by Bannister and Court.

But Luton were itching to get going and Hoy, with the help of Jimmy Ryan, gave full back Winfield some close attention when he tried to be too clever on the touchline and Luton broke on the right via Macdonald who was just unable to get a centre across.

Cormack and Moore combined well for the First Division outfit but Slough did well in racing across his goal to rob them.

This resulted in a corner which was taken by McIntosh and in an almighty mix-up Luton looked in trouble. Full-back Hindley burst forward with a close range shot but it was gallantly blocked and heartily cleared.

Pressure

Forest were playing some fast, close football and after Luton had been robbed in defence, full-back Hindley again appeared on the scene and flashed across a centre which Cormack, in a good position, headed just wide.

The Luton attack was having little chance of getting under way and again Forest surged forward, but Nicholl did a great job in cutting out the threat from McIntosh.

Macdonald won a corner at the other end to ease the pressure and the flag-kick, taken by Jimmy Ryan, was headed across the goal by Givens — but to no avail.

After being under pressure so heavily it appeared that Luton must concede to Forest's ambitions. And in the 18th minute this happened.

A foul by John Ryan on

Cormack resulted in a free-kick just to the left of the penalty box. It was floated over by full-back Winfield and Town goalkeeper Read aimed a flailing fist but missed and MCINTOSH was on hand to nudge the ball into the net.

Luton hit back and Hindley was forced to concede a corner which was taken on the left by Jimmy Ryan. Nicholl, the most over-worked man on the field, went up to help but former Oxford keeper Barron did well to fist clear with his right hand as Luton powered in.

Town were beginning to look a bit desperate but a long throw from Hoy into the goalmouth looked promising until Macdonald was penalised as he fought to get his header into his sights.

In the 33rd minute there was an amazing incident. Luton put in a strong attack and Macdonald lofted a shot towards the Forest goal. The ball went into the side netting but full-back Winfield who was racing back to try and cut it out hit the net at full speed and the goalposts collapsed.

Deflected

The left-hand post lay drunkenly at a 40 degree angle and Town manager Alec Stock was quickly on the pitch to order his players to the dressing room.

The Forest players followed them and a posse of ground staff workers set about repairing the goalposts to the accompaniment of music from the loudspeakers and ironic comments from the fans.

The stoppage lasted 15 minutes and an announcement was made that the posts have been broken below ground level.

The game restarted with a goak kick by Jim Barron but Luton powered their way back into the picture and a free-kick taken by Keen was headed clear of a crowded Forest goalmouth.

A move between Hoy, Keen and Court fizzled out in the penalty box but gradually Luton were beginning to get a bit of their own way.

And when a centre from John Ryan found Macdonald in the goal area, Forest were grateful to concede a corner. It was taken by Court and a good header from Hoy was deflected over the bar by a soaring Forest player.

And as Luton won two corners in succession, another centre from John Ryan was headed over by Hoy and Luton began to look as if they were starting to find their feet.

HT: Nottingham Forest 1 Luton Town 0.

The second half began with another hold-up when Forest centre-forward Cormack and Luton's Nicholl clashed from



It's there. Forest's McIntosh salutes his own goal with Luton's Tony Read on the deck and Ryan and Nicholl flat-footed

the kick-off. The Forest man was injured but resumed after treatment. Nicholl carried on with the left arm ripped off his shirt.

After some midfield play Givens lost an opportunity when he shot high after some good work on the right by Jimmy Ryan, but as the game wore on the mist which had accompanied Luton all day began to close in on the pitch.

The edge began to wear off the Forest attack as the second half progressed and Luton began to take charge in the middle of the field.

Unmarked

Luton were doing their best to pull that goal back and a long throw from Keen bobbed dangerously in the penalty box before Chapman did a good job of controlling it and clearing as two Luton forwards raced in.

Then Givens burst onto the scene from the left wing and from an unmarked position put over a good cross which was headed clear before Macdonald could get on the scene.

In the 61st minute Macdonald stripped the Forest defence and found Bannister with a good pass out to the left. This produced a corner for Court and from the half clearance John Ryan put in a long low shot which beat Barron but which was rather

luckily blocked on the goal line by Hindley.

Luton equalised in the 70th minute through Malcolm MACDONALD.

It was made by Jimmy Ryan. He kept his feet on the icy surface and beat his full-back with a beautiful swivel movement. He crossed low and Macdonald, running in greedily smashed the ball first time at Barron's goal.

It was blocked but bounced back temptingly to the head of Macdonald who nodded it into the net with Forest all at sixes and sevens.

The Reds tried to hit back through Richardson but his good shot from a right wing cross went hopelessly wide and in the 75th minute he was replaced by Rees.

With minutes left, Macdonald was hurt in a collision with O'Kane but was able to carry on after treatment from Reg Game.

Young wins final

Wilson Young, 22-year-old computer salesman, fulfilled expectations when he won the Skol 110 metres professional handicap at Meadowbank, Edinburgh, by one metre from last year's winner George McNeil.

MATCH FACTS AT A GLANCE

TEAMS

FOREST: Barron, Hindley, Winfield, Chapman, O'Kane, Jackson, McIntosh, Lyons, Cormack, Richardson, Storey-Moore. Sub: Rees.

LUTON TOWN: Read, John Ryan, Bannister, Hoy, Nicholl, Slough, Jimmy Ryan, Court, Macdonald, Keen, Givens. Sub: Busby.

Referee: Mr H. New (Bristol).

GOALS

MCINTOSH (Forest) 18 mins

MACDONALD (Luton) 70 mins

Attendance: 23,230