

Mighty Mac blasts Luton into replay

Nottm. Forest 1 Luton 1: by PHILIP OSBORN

70/71 (FAC)

BURLY MALCOLM MACDONALD, magnificently disputing the notion that icy surfaces favour the small men, earned Luton their Cup replay with a remarkable exhibition of sure footedness. The former full-back swung his huge frame to power in a shot from a Jimmy Ryan cross. The ball cannoned back off Forest defender Peter Hindley. But Macdonald incredibly maintained his footing to leap high and head a fine 69th-minute equaliser.

It was Mac's 20th goal of the season and crowned a yalliant fight back by the Second Division side.

On a rock-hard, skating rink pitch, turning was a nerve-racking proposition and bravery counted for as much as skill.

For half an hour much criticised Forest, who hadn't won in their previous 10 outings, had the edge in both qualities.

Jimmy McIntosh, a mini-priced Scottish import playing in only his third game, put them in front in the 16th minute.

The winger from Montrose bundled in the ball for his first goal since Forest paid £5,000 for him in September. The chance came when Luton goalkeeper Tony Read missed a John Winfield free-kick.

SKILFUL

Read claimed afterwards: "I was pushed out of the way." But referee Harry New ignored Luton's protests.

McIntosh, a sharp, skilful little player and the arrogant Peter Cormack, another Scot, cheered the home side with some superb touches.

Luton's first threat came in the 33rd minute when Macdonald seized on a bad back pass and fired into the side netting.

The move literally brought the woodwork down, for Winfield, desperately trying to cover the shot, ran into the back netting and the impact snapped a post.

After a 15-minute delay while a new post was erected, Luton snapped into action and the bold Roger Hoy, an inspiring midfield man, had a header blocked by Cormack and then nodded a corner just over.

The key to Luton's revival was a change in tactics by Macdonald, who had been well held by Liam O'Kane, Forest's light-weight pivot, in the first-half.

After the break, Macdonald adopted a deeper role. From one of his moves John Ryan, surging up to help his attack, was thwarted by a goal-line block from Barry Lyons.

But after Macdonald had levelled the score, Forest re-kindled their earlier verve. And it was Macdonald who came to Luton's rescue, hooking away the ball after Read, who had a nightmare match, had missed another McIntosh cross.

HECTIC

In a hectic closing spell Forest three times came agonisingly close to making it a repeat of their 2-1 1959 Cup Final win over Luton.

Only the conditions beat Ian Moore and Cormack when a nudge would have brought a goal from a McIntosh pass.

And then Jack Bannister and John Ryan made goalmouth clearances from the two Forest front men.

Forest manager Matt Gillies blamed the unnatural break for his side's surrendering the lead. "We lost our momentum and Luton were able to get into the game," he said.

Luton rate themselves as favourites for Tuesday's replay, but Gillies insists: "If we create as many chances then as we did today, we should win."

NOTTM FOREST. — Barron; Hindley, Winfield, Chapman, O'Kane, Jackson, McIntosh, Lyons, Cormack, Richardson, Moore. Sub: Rees.

LUTON. — Read; Ryan (J G), Bannister, Hoy, Nicholl, Slough, Ryan (J), Court, Macdonald, Keen, Givens. Sub: Busby.