

PROFESSIONAL JOB LEAVES FOREST

76/77

POINTLESS

THE VICTORY over Nottingham Forest on Saturday was less exciting than the Blackburn game, but much more gratifying. Forest, unbeaten at home since last August, were a much bigger threat than Blackburn, but made to look second class by a highly professional Town performance.

Alan West, Lil Fuccillo and Brian Chambers fought hard to hold the midfield for the first half, then win it after the break.

The defence, brilliantly marshalled and covered by Paul Futcher, was outstanding as Forest tried to storm through, and the Town always looked sharper on quick breaks. Short passes were used to good effect and Forest gradually looked as though they knew they

were second best on the day.

In boxing terms they had punched themselves out without being able to hit the target, and the Town hit them with two knock-out blows in the second half.

Goalkeeper John Middleton dropped the ball to give Ron Futcher the first goal in the 54th minute from a corner by John Aston, and in the 72nd minute Aston, the sharpest forward on view scored a gem of a goal, sprinting from

the half-way line to collect a clearance, beating his full-back and placing the ball carefully wide of Middleton from the edge of the penalty area.

Larry Lloyd's consolation goal for Forest, in the 86th minute, came too late to upset the Town's composure.

TOWN: Aleksic; Price, Buckley, Faulkner, Paul Futcher; Chambers, West, Fuccillo; Husband (Geddis, 86 mins), Ron Futcher, Aston.

FOREST: Middleton; Anderson, Clark, McGovern, Lloyd; Bowyer, Chapman, Robertson; Haslegrave, O'Hare, Woodcock. Sub: Barrett, not used.

THE GOALS: Ron Futcher, 54 mins, from corner by John Aston; Aston, 72 minutes, brilliant solo run and devastating finish.

ATTENDANCE: 18,225.