

LUTON CAN SAY THANKS TO ASTON

by FRANK STEVENS

Nottingham F 1 Luton 2

SO much for the idea of a holiday in Spain as a cure for mid-season blues. Forest arrived back from four days at Torremolinos to slump to cool, measured Luton.

This was Forest's third defeat in a row and their promotion challenge looks increasingly shaky, while Luton are emerging as the new dark horses.

Town's more sedate approach was a lot more effective than Forest's go-go method on this soggy pitch.

Though Larry Lloyd turned quickly to pull a goal back for Forest four minutes from the end, they never looked like getting a second, despite their reputation for late comebacks.

Brian Clough's men were just a little too hurried for their own good. The chances were there all right, but a combination of mishit shots and tenacious defending by Luton cramped their style.

Luton went ahead after 54 minutes. John Aston switched to the right to take a corner. Forest tried desperately to dribble the ball away, and Ron Futchner made his way through the scramble to tap the ball home off a post.

Forest had chances galore, but they simply became increasingly frustrated at their inability to do anything.

Their frantic efforts allowed John Aston to break from inside the Forest half and shoot from 20 yards into the far corner—out of Middleton's reach.