

'LUTON'S FANS ARE IN FOR A TREAT'

LUTON SKIPPER Alan West today promised the Luton fans a treat tomorrow night when the Hatters take on Blackburn Rovers.

"We have to beat Blackburn," he said. "We have to do it for the fans. We showed on Saturday that we can still turn it on away from home. We have to show we can do it for our own supporters.

"We were terrific at Nottingham," said West, who produced his best display of the season. "I was so chuffed with the lads it wasn't true. Forest are no mugs. They are a fine side. They threw everything at us in the first half but we were able to soak it up.

"In the second half we went back at them and beat them. I have not been playing well myself, not since the match at Sheffield. It was marvellous to have a good match and help the lads win such an important game.

"We all know we have to do it again against Blackburn."

West's comments just about sum up a great victory. In the first half Forest showed just what a good side they are.

In the second half Luton did the same. They are now in sixth place, six points away from a promotion place. They

**Nottingham Forest 1
Luton Town 2**

By ROGER DUCKWORTH

can collect four of those vital points at Kenilworth Road this week. After Blackburn tomorrow Charlton come to town on Saturday.

Faultless

As West says: "We got a few people looking over their shoulders. As our manager has always said — it's still on."

After last week's show against Holland, it's a pity England manager Don Revie didn't take the opportunity to



A despairing dive by Aleksic can't prevent Forest scoring

have another look at sweeper Paul FUTCHER.

If there is a better number six in the country I have yet to see him. On Saturday FUTCHER gave another show of the highest value. Time and again he walked away with the ball after heavy bombing raids by the mobile Forest forwards.

He must take the man-of-the-match award. But the entire back line gave a

convincing display, and the duel between Luton centre-half John Faulkner and Forest striker John O'Hare was a treat to watch.

At the end they grinned at each other, shook hands and walked off, both knowing that the Luton man had won the day.

And behind the defence Milija Aleksic had a superb match in goal, giving another faultless display.

He made two unbelievable saves from Tony Woodcock and couldn't be blamed for Forest's late goal, scored by centre-half Larry Lloyd in a goalmouth ruck.

Aleksic shrugged afterwards: "I never saw it. He poked it through somebody's legs."

In midfield West was outstanding, and his sheer effort and enthusiasm for hard work were largely responsible for the Town turning round all square.

His energy rubbed off on to Brian Chambers and Lilly Fuccillo, who both worked hard and used the ball with skill and cunning.

Luton were under so much pressure in the first half that Jimmy Husband became virtually a midfield player, but his talents were more con-

ventional in the second half as Luton fought their way ahead.

The first goal came in the 55th minute. John Aston curled over a corner, the goalkeeper fumbled it, the centre-half missed it, and Ron FUTCHER stabbed a gentle shot at goal. It cannoned off somebody's shin and rolled over the line after hitting the inside of a post.

It was a bit lucky but it was all Luton needed to set about the Forest. The game developed into a real thriller.

Luton were never satisfied with their one-goal lead and their determination to keep attacking left their defence a bit exposed at times. Robertson put a glorious chance over the top and Aleksic made those two wonderful saves from Woodcock.

Solo effort

Aston wrapped it up in the 71st minute with another of those calmly-collected solo goals. He chased a long ball from defence, went to the left of the goal and beat Middleton with a crisply struck left-footer.

Fuccillo, limping from a "dead leg," came off just as Lloyd scored for Forest with five minutes left. David Geddis, who is on loan from Ipswich, went on and soon proved that he is ready for first-team football.

It was his League debut, and although he had only five minutes to make his point, he made it clearly. He looks to have good control, a lot of speed, and the ability to get the ball across with either foot.

Luton's fourth successive League victory has given their fans something to think about. Let's hope they can keep up the good work tomorrow.

MATCH DETAILS

LUTON TOWN: Aleksic; Price, Buckley; Chambers, Faulkner, Paul FUTCHER; Husband, West, Ron FUTCHER, Fuccillo (Geddis, 85 mins), Aston.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST: Middleton; Anderson, Clark; McGovern, Lloyd, Bowyer; Chapman, Haslegrave, O'Hare, Woodcock, Robertson. Sub: Barrett.

REFEREE: Mr A. J. Hamil (Wolverhampton).

GOALS: Ron FUTCHER (Luton) 55 mins; Aston (Luton) 71 mins; Lloyd (Forest) 85 mins.



Ron FUTCHER, on the ground half hidden, pokes in the first goal