

HATTERS BATTLE TO QUELL CLOUGH'S MEN

83/84



Les Sealey . . . under pressure at Nottingham

WAYNE Turner passed a pre-match fitness test to enable Luton manager David Pleat to field an unchanged team for the seventh successive match against Forest this afternoon.

Forest fans were presented with the opportunity of watching Brian Stein and Paul Walsh, who scored two goals each in the England Under-21 4-1 victory over Denmark at Norwich on Tuesday.

Pleat, however, made a change in the substitute's position which went to Raddy Antic, preferred to Trevor Aylott.

Luton attacked straight

NOTTM F v LUTON Eric Harris reports

from the kick-off, when it took a hefty clearance by Bowyer to relieve the Town's early pressure on Forest's defence.

When Luton came forward again, Todd was forced to push the ball back to his keeper under heavy pressure from Moss,

who took advantage of Horton's accurate pass.

There was a chance for Luton after only four minutes when Donaghy's cross, pushed over in the face of a stiff tackle by Swain, was poked narrowly wide by Bunn.

Forrest, however, were not without their own attacking ideas, and Sealey was forced to race to

TODAY'S TEAMS

NOTTINGHAM FOREST: van Breukelen, Anderson, Swain, Todd, Hart, Bowyer, Wigley, Wallace, Birtles, Hodge, Walsh (C). Sub: Davenport.

LUTON TOWN: Sealey, Stephens, Turner, Horton, Elliott, Donaghy, Hill, Stein, Walsh (P.), Bunn, Moss. Sub: Antic.

REFEREE: J. Worrall (warrington).



the edge of his area to snatch the ball off Birtles' head.

Forest's first corner in the 10th minute provided a nasty moment for Sealey, who was forced to push Wigley's kick over the top for another flag kick which the Town's defence eventually cleared.

Sealey again had to show his anticipation by galloping yards out of his area to erase the threat posed by Anderson's long through ball which was intended for Birtles.

The best chance so far fell to Luton in the 15th minute when Walsh did well to push over a deceptive cross which Stein, despite an acrobatic dive, headed just wide.

Despite the lack of goals there was plenty of entertainment and Forest fans almost had something to celebrate when Bowyer's shot was blocked by Turner.

Two minutes later Forest seemed capable of going in front but Sealey denied them an opening goal by making a smart save from Hodge.

Forrest were beginning to pile on the pressure and Wigley won their third corner when he made an easy job of beating Turner before the ball was pushed behind.

But Luton's defence was coping well despite being under pressure although the Town were by no means out of the game.

Horton joined Luton's attack in an attempt to provide the game with its first goal. But his speculative shot, in the 24th minute, was an easy effort for van Breukelen to scoop up.

Wigley put Luton's defence under additional pressure when, after beating Donaghy, he pushed his cross to the far post.

It was met by Colin Walsh, who ruined the move by heading straight into Sealey's waiting arms.

Donaghy, like Horton, also moved up for a dig at goal. But it was another wasted effort because his shot was yards over the top.

A foul by Stephens on

Bowyer gave Forrest their next chance but the free kick was wasted as another opportunity went begging.

Forest were beginning to take a firm grip on the game and the Town's hesitancy in a tackle gave Swain a free low shot which almost caught the diving Sealey by surprise.

H-T: Nottm Forest 0 Luton 0

Luton opened the second half with Hill winning a free kick after being fouled by Swain.

But the kick never looked like producing a goal to break the deadlock.

If anything, Luton had to rely on Forest not making the most of their chances, and another was wasted just after the start of the second half when Wigley was far too slow with his attempted shot.

Paul Walsh was responsible for the Town's first second half corner which ended with Donaghy ballooning Moss's cross high above the bar.

Overhead

Then Turner headed the ball behind as Forest surged forward again in their desperate search for the game's first goal.

It almost came after 53 minutes when Birtles, standing with his back to the goal, pushed his overhead kick just a fraction over the bar.

Luton were making little headway while Forest were beginning to take a firm grip on a game which desperately needed a goal.

It could have come in the 57th minute when Sealey was forced to make an agile save from the dangerous Wigley.

The elusive goal finally arrived but, much to Luton's dismay, it was scored by Forest.

Bunn could have considered himself unlucky to concede a free kick which was worked wide in the right to Wigley.

He drove the ball into the middle, where it was met by **WALLACE**, who pushed it low into the corner of the net past Sealey's groping fingertips.