

BUNN AGONY AS FOREST GO TOP

N. FOREST 3 LUTON 1 By **GRAHAM PUNTER**
Hodge 2, Davenport Moss

84/85

NOTTINGHAM FOREST went to the top of the First Division on Sunday after beating a Luton side that outplayed them for long periods.

Missed chances cost Hatters a game they could and should have won if quality of football is any barometer of success.

Twice Luton missed open goals and three times the woodwork saved Forest, while a breakaway goal turned the match in favour of Brian Clough.

David Pleat chose to play both Wayne Turner and Frank Bunn in midfield with Ricky Hill and the blend worked well, Turner fetching and carrying in the old Brian Horton role and freeing Bunn to support the strikers.

Turner, mysteriously substituted, had an excellent game and looked comfortable in his new role, while Bunn, despite the miss of the match, carried a tremendous workload, defending like a tiger and then leading attacks.

Tactically David Pleat looked to have outsmarted Cloughie as his defence pushed up, leaving Forest strikers Christie and Davenport rushing into offside positions.

Composure

At the other end Forest's "retreating wall" style merely allowed David Moss to give right-back Bryn Gunn a torrid time and for Luton to create no end of chances.

A ball from Hill after just 50 seconds could have changed the nature of the game. Stein was clean through but shot wide.

Hill, showing wonderful composure, dipped in a shot that keeper Sutton tipped onto the bar and over.

Luton forced more corners than Forrest and nearly every one caused anxiety in the home side's defence with Moss's kicks being headed on by Paul Elliott. After 26 minutes Nwajiobi was on the end of Elliott's flick but his header smacked into the crossbar.

Bunn spoiled an otherwise inspired afternoon when he shot wide from six yards after the most simple of chances had been lined up for him by Nwajiobi following an attacking right-wing run by Mitchell Thomas.

In the dying minutes a perfectly flighted cross from Moss fell at

Keeper on the alert

IF THE keeper in your local team starts playing like a professional, watch out — there could be a thief about.

A pair of blue goalkeeper's gloves, in a keeper's Sondico wallet, were stolen from Andy Dibble's car.

The vehicle was parked in Gordon Street while Andy was having a meal following Luton's match with Liverpool on September 4.

This week Andy appealed to Herald readers to help trace the gloves. Anyone finding them can hand them in at The Herald offices in Church Street or at Luton Town FC.

Bunn's feet but again the post got in the way.

Luton were easy first half winners on points but Forest, blessed with the experience of playing a patient, waiting game, soaked up the pressure.

After 59 minutes the game changed completely as Luton fell behind. Ironically it was Ian Bowyer, the man Pleat tried to sign in the summer, who unlocked Luton's defence with a raking pass that sent Steve Hodge clear of the pursuing Thomas to shoot low past Dibble.

Committed

Luton were now committed to sacrificing a degree of caution and after 71 minutes they paid the price, thanks also to a large helping of luck.

Substitute Garry Mills's shot was covered by the diving Dibble. But the ball deflected off Thomas, hit Dibble's legs and fell in exactly the right place for the grateful Daven-



● Emeka Nwajiobi in the thick of it at Forest

port, who scored with ease.

Three minutes later the game was effectively over as Hodge raced away again to score Forest's third.

David Moss restored some dignity with a superbly struck goal from a free kick just outside the box, awarded after Nwajiobi was fouled by Fairclough.

But it was all too late. And Clough added insult to injury by taking off, presumably injured, centre-back Paul Hart with 16 minutes to go, even though he had earlier used his substitute.

FOREST: Sutton, Gunn, Hart, Fairclough, Swain, Wigley, Bowyer, Metgod, Hodge, Christie, Davenport. Sub: Mills.

LUTON: Dibble, Thomas, Elliott, Donaghy, Grimes, Hill, Turner, Bunn, Nwajiobi, Stein, Moss. Sub: Parker.