



● Luton's Andy King (10) in the thick of the action at Forest.

THE value of electrifying pace to stretch and unsettle a defence was demonstrated to Luton's cost on Saturday.

As David Pleat continues his search for a striker he will be mindful of the way Forest winger Franz Carr instilled confusion and chaos.

Carr opened up the motor town team by finding an extra gear, making others appear to be struggling in neutral.

It would be wrong to suggest that one man was Luton's undoing. Forest were a very good team whose league position belies their all-round ability.

But it was Carr who captured the imagination and who thrilled the crowd, at least the home contingent.

Hatters made one change from the side that beat Newcastle a week earlier, Garry Parker starting a game for the first time since August as a late replacement for thigh strain victim Ricky Hill.

Suspended

Forest were forced to make several changes with Davenport suspended and Birtles the victim of a twisted ankle.

Midfielder Neil Webb was installed as a striker to play alongside Nigel Clough, and Robertson made a return to the side.

Although Luton had chances to score and a fair share of the attacking, winning more corners, Forest never allowed Luton's foot-balling pattern to develop.

Pace ace too hot for Luton

Players who so often fulfil vital functions were never quite able to assert themselves on Forest's disciplined regime and as a consequence Luton's play faltered before it flowed.

The nature of the game could have been changed had Andy King's difficult hook shot gone in just two minutes into the game.

Scrap

Stein had a golden first-half chance after making space for himself with a slick drag-back but the weak shot curled wide.

Most of the penetrating passes in the first-half came from Parker who reminded us of his

capabilities with some perceptive play before fading in the second half.

Hatters were still in with a shout until the 32nd minute when once again they conceded a goal to an edge-of-the-box free kick.

Like in the semi-final and like at Anfield this season, it seemed all too simple for the ball to be driven into the net, Clough doing the damage on this occasion.

Les Sealey, producing another superb performance, kept Luton in the game just after the break with a wonderful save from Clough after Carr's pace had created the chance.

The Carr show was beginning to get on the road. He brought a

superb save from Sealey and then created another chance for Clough, with Sealey again equal to the task.

Created

Just as Hatters were going down under the cosh they rallied and Sutton did brilliantly to keep out a point-blank header from Donaghy.

Minutes later King found himself with just Sutton to beat but the keeper got his finger tips to the low shot.

Hatters' revival ended when Webb's header

was pushed onto the crossbar by Sealey but the striker recovered to turn the ball into the net.

That 79th minute goal killed Luton and the last 10 minutes saw an exercise in survival with Carr causing havoc.

FOREST: Sutton, McInally, Walker, Butterworth, Pearce, Carr, Metgod, Bowyer, Robertson, Clough, Webb. Sub: Walsh.

LUTON: Sealey, Breacker, Foster, Donaghy, Thomas, Parker, Nicholas, Preece, Stein, Harford, King. Sub: North (M).