

Luton praised but Moore is cautious

By Trevor Williamson

86/87

Luton 4, Nottingham Forest 2

STEVE FOSTER, Luton's experienced captain and centre-back has signed a three-year contract with the club and reckons before it runs out they will have won one of soccer's honours.

Luton's manager John Moore described it as one of the team's best performances and he and several of the players felt Forest made them work harder than Liverpool had the previous time this season when they ran in four goals.

Yet despite his natural joy and enthusiasm over a handsome victory—and five star entertainment from both teams—Mr Moore sounded a cautionary note.

He said their hopes could be dissipated by a run of serious injuries. As it was Hill, their England international midfielder, was hurt in training and replaced by the adaptable Grimes.

Steins on mark

Key to their victory was the goal-scoring of the brothers Stein, Brian and Mark. Mark upstaged his more experienced brother by heading home in the first minute; then in the second, after Newell headed a Wilson free kick onto the bar.

When asked how tall he was Mark Stein said with a grin, "Three foot nothing." But it is still enough to beat Forest's

shaky defence, as Luton staged their own Big Bang with the explosive start.

Foster, in typical bucaneeing style, emphasised the point by heading in the third, (17 mins) while Brian Stein completed a family outing with the best goals of the game—a curling shot (68 mins) from the edge of the box.

Full marks to Forest who adapted better to the plastic pitch as the game sped on and after Forest's goal (62 min) Bowyer drove in a Clough cross which the Luton captain deflected.

In the final 10 minutes, Birtles escaped his marker and thumped home a pass from the industrious Clough and had they been a fraction more accurate with their shooting, and Sealey not quite so nimble in foiling the ubiquitous Webb, they could even have snatched a win.

It was that type of game, but Luton deserved the maximum for taking their chances.

Luton Town.—Sealey; Breacker, Johnson, Nicholas, Foster, Donaghy, Wilson, B. Stein, Newell, M. Stein, Grimes (McDonough, 67).

Nottingham Forest.—Segers; Butterworth, Pearce, Walker, Metgod, Bowyer, Carr, Webb, Clough, Birtles, Mills.



Newell of Luton fires in a shot despite the efforts of Metgod as Bowyer looks on.