

SEALEY DOUSES FOREST'S FIRE!

THE HATTERS sponge soaked up another away storm to come back down the M1 with a well-earned point.

Forest battered Luton with everything they had in the first-half, but the visitors' flood-barrier — in the shape of Les Sealey — held them at bay.

Boss Ray Harford's troops are rapidly perfecting the art of defying endless pressure — without overworking Sealey.

The defence, which was so porous last term, especially away from Kenilworth Road, has now kept two clean sheets on the trot.

Aided by the occasional slice of lady luck, the back four was solid, just as it had been at Everton seven days earlier.

Steve Foster played with eleven stitches and a protective pad under his headband to cover the terrible gash he picked up against Burnley, and was never afraid to go in where it hurts.

The ever-improving John Dreyer had his best game yet for the club, when after a couple of initial scares he tamed the threat of young Gary Crosby.

NOTTM FOREST 0 LUTON 0 By MICHAEL WEINSTEIN

Hatters travelled to Nottingham with three forwards and the intention to attack, but Forest's onslaught pushed them back and limited their effectiveness in front of goal.

Starved

Mick Harford struggled gamely with a dead leg sustained in the midweek cup tie with Burnley until the 72nd minute when he made way for Ian Allinson.

But the attack lacked "composure" in the words of the manager and at times was starved of imagination.

Midfielders Ricky Hill and Steve Williams were pressed mainly into defensive duties and there was little time for their magic to shine through — though the latter was guilty of some horrendously over hit through balls.

Hatters had one good chance in each half.

Starlet Kingsley Black hit a thunderous shot against the bar in the 11th minute of the first period just after Sealey had pulled off a vital double save from Nigel Clough.

Half-an-hour into the second period, David Oldfield watched his shot trickle agonisingly



• POWER... Clough lets fly as Johnson closes in.

past the far post after Williams had sent him clear.

And if the youngster had kept his head 10 minutes later he would have seen Black in acres of space, but he lost the ball as he dithered.

Meanwhile, it was Sealey who caught the eye.

Cannoned

Clough's 23rd minute free kick cannoned off the keeper's chest and fell to Tommy Gaynor, whose return hit the bar.

And when Forest's Colin Foster picked up the rebound, Sealey was there again to deny him on the line.

Soon after the re-start he was equal to Stuart Pearce's shot and all

was relatively calm until the introduction of Franz Carr 12 minutes from time.

The crowd was baying for Carr's presence and his introduction inspired his team-mates just as their heads began to drop.

With his first touch he set up Neil Webb whose drive struck the post and only Foster's brave intervention prevented Brian Rice from following up. The skipper flung himself in front of the shot and was left lying winded in a heap.

Just seconds later Carr jinked to the line and found Webb, but Foster was there again to block the England midfielder's blistering shot.

THE LINE-UP

FOREST: Sutton, Chettle, Pearce, Walker, Foster, Hodge, Crosby, Webb, Clough, Gaynor (Carr 78), Rice. Other sub Flemming.
LUTON: Sealey, Johnson, Dreyer, Williams, Foster, Donaghy, Wilson, Oldfield, Harford (Allinson 72), Hill, Black. Other sub Breacker.

• Attendance 15,340.