# Striker's return is a happy overture

**LUTON TOWN 2 NOTTM FOREST 1**

**PHILIP Gray's return to League action put the happy ending to the Easter prelude when he went on as sub against Nottingham Forest.**

A remarkable match was full of quick and exciting soccer, with a wet and slippery pitch causing problems for both sides, defenders in particular.

## Good football

Three-games-a-week Forest were weakened by injuries after their Rumbelows Cup final defeat by Manchester United, but played some good football.

For Town fans it was a treat to see them come back confidently after the blow of conceding a goal in the second minute.

It was ironic that Kingsley Black should score it, with time and space to get the left foot shot exactly right after Roy Keane and Thor Orlygsson had mounted a swift raid down the Forest right wing.

But that was the worst damage Black was allowed to do, with Julian James having a storming game in keeping him at bay, and crowning it with a brilliant winner, his first goal of the season.

As Forest marked space from a corner by David Preece, James hurtled upfield and flung himself horizontally to power a diving header into the net.

Mick Harford's 11th goal of the season had given the Town the equaliser, and they were unlucky not to win by a bigger margin. Harford had a header from a cross by David Preece ruled out for offside, and Imre Varadi clipped the top of the bar with a header from a free kick by Mark Pembridge.

Teddy Sheringham had one in the net for Forest, but that too was offside.

## The match details

TOWN: Chamberlain; James, Dreyer, Peake, Harvey; Stein, Kamara, Pembridge, Preece (Gray 72 mins); Varadi (Hughes 79 mins), Harford.

FOREST: Crossley; Crosby, Walker (Kaminsky HT), Clough, Williams; Orlygsson, Keane, Gemmill, Black; Glover, Sheringham. Other sub: Warner.

THE GOALS: Kingsley Black for Forest, two minutes, careful left foot shot after cross by Thor Orlygsson was pulled back beyond Town defenders slipping and sliding on the wet surface; Mick Harford for the Town, 12 minutes, crisp low shot after Mark Pembridge, David Preece and Chris Kamara built a sweeping passing move down the Town's left; Julian James, powerful diving header from a right wing corner by Daid Preece in the 24th minute.

OTHER ATTEMPTS: Town eight saved, six wide, one clipped the top of the bar and one disallowed for offside; Forest four saved, three wide, and one disallowed for offside. Corners: 6-5 to the Town.

REFEREE: Tom Fitzharris, Bolton. Excellent.

ATTENDANCE: 8,014. Very good on a cold and very wet night.

ENTERTAINMENT: Smashing, the best we had seen at Kenilworth Road for a long time, with the slippery conditions adding to the pace of the game. What a bonus to have another cracker a few days later for the visit of Manchester United!