

Perry opens his account as title favourites are beaten for first time on their travels

Forest felled by spirited Hatters

LUTON TOWN FC

LEAGUE ONE
LUTON 2 07/08
Perry 52, Bell 88
NOTTINGHAM FOREST 1
Bennett 90

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A MUCH-IMPROVED Hatters side inflicted Nottingham Forest's first away defeat of the season as the gloom started to lift from Kenilworth Road.

Goals from Chris Perry and David Bell gave Luton fans plenty of reasons to be cheerful ahead of Wednesday's Carling Cup match against Everton.

Not even a late consolation from Forest's Julian Bennett could ruin a morale-boosting display against the League One promotion favourites.

Hatters coach John Carver said: "Before Forest came here we were told they were a footballing side but all I can remember of them today was their long throws. We didn't let them play and that's a credit to the players.

"It's disappointing to concede a late goal but overall we're delighted with the performance and the result."

With Luton's away form continuing to let them down, Carver stressed the need to keep taking maximum points at home.

"It's baffling why we can play like that at home but not away," he said.

"We've got to win our home games to have any chance of promotion. We need two or three wins in a row now to breed confidence but this is a great start."



IN THE THICK OF THINGS: Paul Furlong (above) and Jaroslaw Fojut (below) battle away for Hatters against Forest yesterday

England cricket star and local boy Monty Panesar made a special guest appearance before the match and would have been bowled over by Luton's start to the game.

Hatters dominated possession and tested Forest keeper Paul Smith 12 minutes in with a Paul Furlong header.

Captain Chris Coyne was immense at the back and nearly opened the scoring when the Aussie launched himself at Darren Currie's corner that was rather dramatically punched away by Smith. Moments later a Bell free kick was on target but saved more conventionally by the Forest keeper this time.

Three minutes from the break recalled Dean Brill saved Forest's one effort of the half with a good stop.

On-loan Ben Alwick was recalled by Spurs midweek so Brill was reinstated and didn't disappoint, proving equal to Sammy Clingan's curling free kick, by turning it around the post.

There were four changes to the side that lost at Crewe and a reshuffle moved Perry from his usual centre half position to right back. The diminutive defender took to his new role well and was rewarded with his first Luton goal on 52 minutes.

It was presented to him by Darren Currie who, closely marked, delivered a perfectly weighted ball from the byline. Perry, up from the back, had to be brave to dive in low at the far post and bundled the ball over.

Forest came to Kenilworth Road unbeaten on the road but on this form it was hard to see how they'd racked up three wins and three draws. Big summer signing from Celtic Neil Lennon was particularly out of sorts and looked like a player

relying on his former glories – a lot like his new team.

The twice European Cup winners sold out their ticket allocation and the away support contributed to a lively atmosphere throughout although there was little for them to cheer.

On 73 minutes a rare Forest attack had Hatters panicking when Grant Holt fed Junior Agogo, but Brill parried brilliantly with one arm to deny a certain goal.

Luton's 'killer' second might have come ten minutes from time. Furlong should have done better with his header when Matthew Spring's volleyed cross left the goal gaping. A better connection was needed instead of his deft flick which went well wide.

But when the winning strike came on 88 minutes it was well worth the wait. A quick interchange between Spring and Furlong opened up the Forest defence and put Bell through. The skillful winger let the ball run across him and picked his spot in the corner with such precision Smith barely dived.

Some of the shine was taken off when Forest grabbed a consolation at the death.

Sub Wes Morgan met a Forest corner with a firm header that Spring blocked on the line. His clearance only reached Bennett who took the ball down beautifully before smashing the ball through the crowd.

stats corner

MAN OF THE MATCH



Chris Coyne

Skipper led by example – shame the defence did not keep clean sheet

THE SQUAD

Brill; Perry, Coyne, Fojut, Goodall; Currie, Spring, Edwards, Robinson, Bell; Furlong, Subs: Jackson, Morgan, Hutchison, Andrew, McVeigh

MATCH FACTS

SHOTS ON TARGET

LUTON 7 NOTTINGHAM FOREST 4

SHOTS OFF TARGET

LUTON 7 NOTTINGHAM FOREST 3

CORNERS

LUTON 6 NOTTINGHAM FOREST 7

OFFSIDE

LUTON 2 NOTTINGHAM FOREST 1

BOOKINGS

LUTON
Perry 41
NOTTINGHAM FOREST
Wilson 38

REFEREE

CARL BOYESON (EAST YORKSHIRE)

ATTENDANCE

8,524

FOOTBALL LEAGUE ONE

Bournemouth	1	Walsall	1
Cheltenham	2	Crewe	2
Gillingham	3	Bristol R	2
Hartlepool	1	Brighton	2
Leeds	4	Millwall	2
Luton	2	Nottm For	1
Oldham	0	No'hampton	1
Port Vale	2	Swindon	1
Southend	0	Carlisle	1
Yeovil	1	Swansea	2

Played Friday

Tranmere 3 Huddersf'd 0

Playing today

Doncaster v Leyton Orient

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Carlisle	13	7	3	3	20	10	24
Swansea	12	7	2	3	22	12	23
Tranmere	13	6	5	2	18	10	23
Leyton O	12	7	2	3	19	19	23
Southend	13	7	1	5	21	16	22
Leeds	13	11	2	0	25	7	20
Notts Forest	12	5	5	2	19	8	20
Brighton	13	6	2	5	15	12	20
Swindon	12	5	4	3	20	12	19
Northampton	13	5	4	4	19	18	19
Yeovil	13	5	3	5	11	13	18
Hartlepool	12	5	2	5	19	16	17
Luton Town	13	5	2	6	17	17	17
Walsall	13	4	4	5	14	16	16
Doncaster	12	4	3	5	15	14	15
Crewe	13	3	5	5	14	20	14
Huddersf'd	13	4	2	7	10	22	14
Gillingham	13	4	2	7	12	26	14
Bristol	13	2	7	4	14	18	13
Millwall	13	3	3	7	11	20	12
Oldham	11	3	2	6	11	14	11
Port Vale	13	3	2	8	11	17	11
Cheltenham	13	2	4	7	11	21	10
Bournemouth	13	2	3	8	12	22	9

