

FOUR GOALS BROWN LED A SCORING SPREE

Vital Fact Was That The Trap Was Sprung

By Chiltern

LUTON TOWN 5, NOTTINGHAM FOREST 1

EVERY now and again, the Town forwards turn on a brilliant display of power football that has the opposing defence reeling and wondering just what had hit them.

They had one of those matches on Thursday evening and their punchy form could not have been more timely since it was pitted against the defence of their fellow Cup-Finalists, Nottingham Forest, who went away licking their wounds and with plenty of food for thought before their next meeting three weeks today.

I am not losing sight of the fact that Forest were short of three regular defenders, Thomson, McDonald and Burkitt, whose return, doubtless, will bring increased efficiency at Wembley.

However, the whole point about this match was that the Town, in effect, were opposed to the plan which they will have to combat at Wembley.

For some seasons, Forest have been the acknowledged offside experts. These tactics are not calculated to bring a team popularity, but they can be extraordinarily effective if operated properly.

Or, conversely, if not tackled properly. Before they started, the Town forwards knew what to expect and they laid their plans accordingly.

As a result, by quick and intelligent use of the ball the trap was sprung to such an extent that the number of times the Town were caught in it could be counted on the fingers of one hand.

Forest were in trouble early on, but escaped and it was exactly 14 minutes before Baynham was called upon to handle a direct shot.

Start of the Forest rot began in the 24th minute when Cummins collected the ball in midfield and made a magnificent through pass to Morton, who was just onside.

Following up was BROWN, who was in a much better position than Morton, who unselfishly slipped the ball to him and all the inside-right had to do was to tap it into the net.

Again Cummins found the gap six minutes later and this time BROWN was admirably placed to flick the ball in as Fraser advanced.

On the other hand, the Forest

forwards found few loopholes in the Town defence, though there were one or two scrambles in front of goal from which Baynham usually emerged with the ball.

With four minutes left to half-time, the Town struck again when Gregory swung over a beautiful first-time centre to which BINGHAM rose high, and the ball went from his head, just under the bar, beating the clutching fingers of Fraser.

Still looking the more dangerous side, the Town increased their lead after 59 minutes when BROWN found the far corner of the net with a low, oblique drive after Morton had had a shot beaten down.

After this, Forest were in plenty more trouble and Morton was dead out of luck when, from a near-impossible angle, he hit the inside of a post, while Gregory missed the far post by inches, with Fraser well beaten.

With ten minutes left, BROWN completed a great triumph by helping himself to his fourth goal when he made yards of ground to meet a corner from Bingham that Fraser had been unable to cut out.

After that, the Town, understandably, allowed their machine to run down, which brought some Forest pressure and a goal from close range by QUIGLEY two minutes from the end.

BROWN HAD THE SUPPORT

Brown, of course, emerged as the hero of this match because of the way in which he took his chances, and he certainly emphasised his great value as a match-winner which he has shown so many times since Christmas.

I know that Brown will be the first to pay tribute to the support he received from his colleagues, and those who caused the Forest defence most trouble were undoubtedly Bingham and Cummins.

Right through, Bingham's speed and cleverness were a constant menace to the Forest left flank, and Manager Billy Walker is probably more than pleased that he has reinforcements to throw in against this will-o'-the-wisp player.

There is no doubt that Cummins can be the one to beat the offside trap. His slide-rule passes were a constant source of danger in this match, and his distribution was almost uncannily accurate.

MORTON HARASSED McKINLAY

Then, in the middle there was Morton, worrying McKinlay by the fluent way in which he moved around and, judging by this match, the centre-half can count on having to cover a lot of the Wembley turf.

In the last two matches, Morton has shown a return to crispness and directness and he is keeping the line together splendidly.

Gregory had the disadvantage of having to overcome a poor sort of start, but he showed determination in getting himself into the game and had some hand in three of the goals.

Strength in the middle line was a great Town asset because the Forest forwards, who showed distinct signs of their liking to play constructive football, frequently found their raids firmly nipped in the bud.

So dominant was Owen that Wilson received no chance and there was quick tackling, and excellent positional play from Groves and Pacey.

Gray, who will be at inside-left at Wembley, caused some trouble from outside - right though, by and large, Hawkes played him well enough, and McNally decisively came through on top from his tussle with Imlach.

Behind them all was the phlegmatic Baynham, never harassed by any amount of pressure and his complete competence must have registered again in the mind of the watching England team manager, Walter Winterbottom.

LUTON TOWN: Baynham; McNally, Hawkes; Groves, Owen, Pacey; Bingham, Brown, Morton, Cummins, Gregory.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST: Fraser; Whare, Thomas; Whitefoot, McKinlay, Palmer; Gray, Quigley, Wilson, Barrett, Imlach.

Referee: J. K. Taylor, Wolverhampton.

Attendance: 22,352.