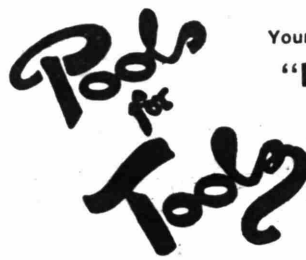


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CONFIDENT FOREST TOPPLE BLACKBURN

JOHN LAWSON at the City Ground

GOAL-GREEDY Nottingham Forest fans were treated to another attacking display by the Reds against Blackburn Rovers here this afternoon.

It took Forest only seven minutes to establish the lead through leading scorer Ian Bowyer and Peter Withe added a deserved second soon after half-time.

Then Sean Haslegrave scored a third in the 76th minute to reward his own contribution to the game and make the points secure.

FOREST	BLACKBURN
Middleton	Bradshaw
Anderson	Fazackerley
Clark	Bailey
McGovern	Metcalf
Chapman	Keeley
Bowyer	Hawkins
Haslegrave	Hird
O'Neill	Silvester
Withe	Svarc
Woodcock	Parke
Robertson	Wagstaffe
Sub: O'Hare	Sub: Mitchell
Referee: D. F. Richardson, Lincoln.	
Linesmen: A. J. Corr, Red; A. Rhodes, Yellow.	

Attendance: 12,972

from leading scorer BOWYER.

Woodcock, who had made such an impressive start, skipped past a challenge on the left to curl a teasing cross to the far post for Haslegrave to head down.

It landed invitingly for Bowyer and although he could not convert the chance first time, he followed up to hammer an unstoppable drive into the net from close range.

The crowd warmed to Forest's aggression and two minutes later they were

but O'Neill steadied himself for a right-foot drive that sped just past the post.

The experienced Wagstaffe prompted a reply from Blackburn. Despite the attentions of Clark and McGovern, he managed to swing in a cross from the right, which Anderson was content to head behind for a corner.

Forest kept their momentum going and after more penetrative work by Robertson, a clearance fell to O'Neill, who beat Parkes and Bailey on the edge of the area, before having a low shot saved by the diving Bradshaw.

Spotlight on Notts

IT'S colour again in the Football Post next Saturday. Then the spotlight is turned on Notts County with splendid studio studies of Ian Scanlon and Pedro Richards, plus their autographs.

Not only will Notts fans get pleasure from the Football Post's "all-star" album but so, too, will soccer fans in general.

The Football Post is a must for all sportsmen and the charge is just the same — just 6p. It represents the best value in sports journalism.

ready to salute a goal from Woodcock, but he was given off-side before shooting past Bradshaw, after good work by Anderson and Haslegrave.

The former Stoke man had made a useful entry to League action at the City Ground and in Forest's next raid, he was just off-target with a low left-foot drive from outside the box.

Clark conceded a corner on the right as Blackburn moved forward, but Chapman rose above everyone else in a crowded box to head powerfully away.

Most of the fluent football came from the Reds, however, and they were close to snatching a second goal through O'Neill.

Robertson was tripped by Fazackerley as he tried to make ground on the left. The Scot's free kick was headed away by Hawkins,

HIGH

Robertson was almost opening up the Blackburn defence everytime he touched the ball and following another skilful run, his cross was inches too high for the leaping Withe, who had started the move.

O'Neill was brought down by Bailey as he tried to make progress on the right and when Haslegrave's free kick arrived in the area, Bradshaw only just beat Withe to punch clear.

Blackburn were only occasionally creating a threat, but when they did, they failed to make the most of their breaks. In one incident they put together a useful attack, but a badly-placed through ball by Parkes gave Anderson the chance to intercept.

Forest advanced once more and Clark released a low, raking ball into the area, but Woodcock just failed to get a touch to the ball and Bradshaw saved comfortably in the end.

OUT

Robertson cut out a pass from Parkes in Forest's area, to send the Reds on the attack for Woodcock and Haslegrave to combine. It ended with Woodcock finding Bowyer, who exploded a left-foot volley wide.

The enterprising Bailey often contributed to Blackburn raids but following one of his sorties, a Wagstaffe centre was cleared by Robertson, who was getting through as much work in his own area as Blackburn's.

Forest came again but O'Neill, trying to force an opening on the right, was crowded out and lost possession.



Ian Bowyer drives Forest into the lead against Blackburn Rovers at the City Ground this afternoon.

With half-time approaching, Forest were in need of a second goal for comfort, but there was a hint that Blackburn were coming more into the picture.

There was danger for the Reds when no one picked up Hawkins in a run from the half-way line, but his probing ball into the area was cut out.

The Reds responded and following more good work by Robertson, Haslegrave shot wide with a first-time left-foot drive.

Forest left the field to applause at half-time, but in the later stages of the first half, Blackburn came more into the game without troubling Middleton.

HALF-TIME:
NOTTM FOREST 1
BLACKBURN 0

The referee, who had angered home fans with several of his decisions in the first half, again upset Forest supporters by awarding a free kick against O'Neill as Forest pressed immediately after the break.

Haslegrave and Withe linked in the first penetrating move of the half, but Haslegrave's low cross was cut out.

Woodcock then combined with Clark and Hawkins as he forced to concede a corner to halt the pair. Robertson's kick was headed away by Metcalf.

Bowyer then broke in typical style from midfield to feed Withe, who in turn found Woodcock, but the young striker was again given off-side as he rounded Bradshaw.

Blackburn hit back and won a free-kick in a dangerous position for a foul by Clark on Hird, but Withe was back in his own area to head away Wagstaffe's kick to the far post.

Robertson, Clark and O'Neill figured in the Reds' next move, but Woodcock was again given off-side.

But in the 52nd minute, Forest gained the rewards for their attacking

Forest were soon searching for a third, with the persistent Withe being dispossessed as he entered the edge of the area. He battled to regain control and made in-roads before being unceremoniously felled by Keeley.

The offence, inches outside the area, brought the former Newcastle defender a booking.

Forest piled on the pressure but Haslegrave, continuing to do well, saw a menacing low cross beaten away.

Despite taking five points from their last three away trips, Blackburn had shown little in the way of a threat, but Forest had a remarkable double let-off.

Haslegrave cleared off the line from Svarc and Middleton made a point-blank save before Haslegrave, still on the line, again got in the way of a goal-bound shot from Hird.

There was a moment of concern for Forest, when an attempted through-ball spun off O'Neill into Svarc's path, but Middleton was quick to leave his line and kicked the ball to safety from the edge of the area.

Wagstaffe tried to raise Blackburn's hopes with a wriggling run, but he was dispossessed by Haslegrave just outside the area. Play switched immediately to the other end and HASLEGRAVE capped a fine game with Forest's third goal.

RESULT:
NOTTM. FOREST 3
BLACKBURN 0

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endeavours with a second goal from WITHE — his second in four days.

Haslegrave began the attack on the right touchline and when he set O'Neill on the move, the Irishman immediately gave Withe his chance.

The big striker to the left of goal saw Bradshaw advancing, but kept his head to dispatch a glorious left-foot drive into the far corner of the net.

Blackburn introduced substitute Mitchell for Silvester soon afterwards, but their hopes of a quick breakthrough were denied by a fine piece of defensive covering by O'Neill.

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