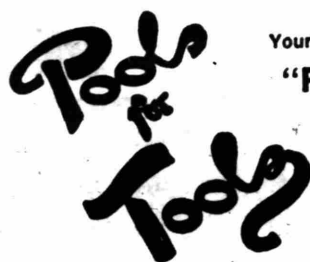


FOOTBALL POST



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EARLY SHOCK THEN BARRETT SAVES IT

JOHN LAWSON at the City Ground

TERRY AUSTIN, a £20,000 replacement for Paul Mariner, gave struggling Plymouth a shock 12th minute lead against injury-hit Nottingham Forest here this afternoon.

The breakthrough came after Colin Barrett, Forest's midweek Cup hero, had missed a third minute penalty.

Forest spent most of the time on attack, but lacked the width to unduly trouble a battling Plymouth defence.

FOREST: Middleton, Anderson, Clark, Barrett, Lloyd, Bowyer, O'Neill, O'Hare, Bowery, Chapman, Woodcock
Sub: Haslegrave

PLYMOUTH: Ramsbottom, Randall, Horswill, Delve, Sutton, Green, Hall, Peddley, Austin, Bannister, Collins
Sub: Barke

Referee: J Reynolds, Ecclestone
Linesmen: L A Bates (red), E Young (yellow)

In the absence of John McGovern, Lloyd captained Forest and he was soon marshalling his defence as Plymouth attacked from the kick-off.

But in the third minute, the depleted Reds wasted a gilt-edged chance of taking the lead, when Barrett missed a penalty.

Woodcock, back in the side after injury, robbed Peddley in midfield to burst through into the area. Sutton and Peddley gave chase and it was the former Ipswich defender who brought Woodcock crashing to the ground.

Referee Reynolds had no hesitation in awarding a penalty, but with Curran and Robertson missing, the responsibility fell on Barrett, the two-goal hero in mid-week.

STOPPED

He strode forward to hammer a right-foot shot low to Ramsbottom's right and the keeper got down quickly to parry his effort. He also stopped a follow-up shot from Barrett and then Bowery had a close-range drive scrambled away.

It was a great disappointment for Forest, but they continued to take the attack to the visitors.

Chapman forced his way past two challengers outside the Plymouth box, before finding O'Neill, but a promising move broke down following a misplaced pass from O'Hare.

Plymouth had made little impression on the Forest

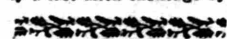
Attendance: 15,180

defence, but in the 12th minute stunned home fans by sweeping into the lead.

And much of the credit for the goal must go to Bannister, signed from Bristol Rovers on Thursday in a £15,000 deal.

He took the ball from a throw-in on the right to trick his way past Barrett and work along the by-line. Having opened up the Forest defence, he released a perfect pass for AUSTIN, who rapped a right foot shot into the bottom corner of the net.

Forest immediately came back into the picture and only a last ditch challenge by



A MERRY CHRISTMAS

Because of the holiday season the next issue of the FOOTBALL POST will be on January 8. We take this opportunity of wishing all our readers a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.



Peddley prevented Chapman creating an opening for himself. Then Anderson had Ramsbottom stretching full-length in front of his goal to snatch a vicious cross.

The Plymouth breakthrough prompted Forest into a tactical switch, Chapman moving to the back four with Barrett reverting to midfield.

Concerted pressure followed, with Barrett and Bowyer prominent in one attack that ended in Woodcock putting a cross behind.

Forest looked in danger again when Peddley robbed Lloyd midway inside the Plymouth half to race forward, but Clark got back to retrieve the situation.

It developed into a dour battle for a Forest side clearly lacking the width provided by Curran and Robertson.

And there was always the likelihood of a second Plymouth goal from a

breakaway. On one occasion Middleton had to dive bravely at Bannister's feet to smother a raking cross by Delve.

MENACING

Clark won the ball decisively in a tackle with Hall to give Bowyer the chance to curl a menacing cross into the middle and O'Hare was only just squeezed out on the edge of the six-yard box.

The driving determination of Chapman acted as a spur to Forest, but Plymouth continued to break down Forest's attacks when they neared the 18-yard area.

There was a worrying moment for Forest when Lloyd was injured in a clash with Middleton and Bannister but after treatment he was able to resume.

A long through ball by Chapman sent Woodcock off on a run that produced a left-wing corner off Sutton. Bowyer's kick was aimed for Lloyd and although the big central defender was stationed in the box, there was no suggestion of a second penalty award.

The Reds came back, however, and after Ramsbottom had pushed away an O'Neill cross under pressure from O'Hare, Bowyer pulled a left-foot drive across the goal and out of play.

O'Neill and Anderson were involved in another persistent move that led to Woodcock crossing for Barrett to head just outside the angle.

BLOCKED

Forest could not be faulted for enthusiasm and Ramsbottom had to scurry around his area to prevent the Reds capitalising on another heated attack.

Bowery eventually brought the ball free from a packed goalmouth but his attempt was blocked.

Forest remained on the attack and Ramsbottom had to be alert at the near post to deal with a Barrett cross.

Just before half-time, a foul by Horswill on O'Neill gave Anderson the chance to land a free kick into the Plymouth defence but Sutton rose well to beat Bowery in the air and head away.

It was Forest's last attack of the first half and they left



Mike Green concedes a penalty as he brings down Tony Woodcock in the area at the City Ground this afternoon

the field facing an uphill task in the second period.

HALF-TIME:
NOTTM. FOREST 0
PLYMOUTH 1

The crowd urged Forest forward after half time and Clark won a corner in the first minute. Bowyer's kick was not cleared and Chapman hammered in a low drive that bounced off a defender.

Woodcock, whose darting runs had caused Plymouth most problems in the first half, was brought down inches outside the box when Forest attacked again.

Forest appealed for another penalty, but the referee awarded a free kick and O'Neill's cross was scrambled away.

At the slightest hint of danger, Plymouth pulled ten men back into defence, denying Forest any gaps to exploit.

A foul by Green on Bowery gave Forest a free kick just outside the box, but it was quickly taken and Anderson was dispossessed as he tried to thread his way through.

PROBLEMS

O'Neill shook off a challenge by Delve to win a right-wing corner off Horswill and the kick posed problems for Plymouth.

Bowery, who had switched to a midfield role with O'Hare moving forward, headed-on for Barrett. But his shot on the turn was held on the line by Ramsbottom.

Bowery again won the ball in the air following an

O'Neill free kick but Randall was on hand to hook the ball away.

Plymouth were always dangerous on the counter-attack and Bannister, trying his utmost to impress on his debut had a goal disallowed.

Bannister and Austin figured in the build-up that forced Lloyd to concede a left-wing corner. When the ball arrived in the box, Sud-



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don headed-down for Bannister to stoop forward and head-in, but the referee spotted an infringement against Plymouth's new signing.

FAILED

Forest were almost in with another chance, following a finely-weighted through-ball by Lloyd. Woodcock caught the Plymouth defence out, but just failed to make contact with only Ramsbottom to beat.

A run by Bowery had Plymouth's defence in some confusion and with Bowyer sneaking in unnoticed, it was as well for the visitors that Green turned the ball away. Plymouth readily conceded

ed corners and although Lloyd got his head to one Bowyer cross, he was off target.

A flick-on by Barrett to O'Hare caused problems for Plymouth and Green was fortunate to escape a booking when he chopped the Scot down.

It seemed a more dangerous tackle than one seconds later by Anderson on Bannister — an offence that produced a caution for the Forest full-back.

WIDE

Green was again the offender when O'Hare was pulled back, but the referee waved play on with Forest in possession. Nothing, however, came of the attack.

A menacing run on the left by Woodcock ended in a cross that was headed away by Sutton and Clark moved forward to shoot wide from outside the box.

Plymouth, with only one away win to their credit since returning to the Second Division last season, sensed their chance of victory and continued to frustrate Forest.

There was hope for Forest when Anderson was in space to drill a cross into the middle but Delve made a vital clearance at the near post.

Bannister became the second player to be booked. BARRETT equalised for Forest in 87 minutes.

RESULT:
NOTTM. FOREST .. 1
PLYMOUTH .. 1