

FOOTBALL POST

Vol. LXIX No. 6 NOTTINGHAM, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1976 Price 6p

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WITHE STRIKES IN FOREST GOAL-RUSH

JOHN LAWSON at the City Ground

NEW signing Peter Withe made an instant impression here this afternoon, but it was left for his striking partner John O'Hare to haul the Reds level after conceding an early goal.

Carlisle had swept into a seventh-minute lead through Mike Barry, following a John McGovern error.

But Forest bounced back midway through the second half to take a two-goal lead through Ian Bowyer and Colin Barrett.

FOREST
Middleton
Barrett
Clark
McGovern
Chapman
Bowyer
Curran
O'Neill
O'Hare
Withe
Robertson
Sub: Anderson
Referee: K. A. Harbort, Sheffield.
Linesmen: D. I. Buckley, Red. K. C. Ferguson, Yellow.

CARLISLE
Ross
Carr
Gorman
Bennymann
MacDonald
Parker
McVitie
Barry
Leishon
Rafferty
Martin
Sub: Owen

Attendance: 12,479

ball decisively to head away.

In a quick counter attack by Carlisle, ex-Mansfield player Lathan put Rafferty through unmarked to the right of goal, but he hurried his goal attempt and Middleton watched the drive whip past the post.

SPACE

Then good work by Martin created another moment of anxiety for the Forest defence, but his cross from the left was over-hit beyond the far post.

O'Hare turned sharply inside the box to win Forest another — corner and

the line and bounced into the net off Ross's heel.

The goal brought more concerted effort from Forest and following a Withe-O'Hare move, Robertson burst through the middle to hammer in a shot, which bounced off Ross to safety.

Withe was involved in Forest's next raid. From his first cross, O'Hare was dispossessed by Bennymann and when Forest's new striker returned the ball into the box, the hard-working O'Neill volleyed just wide.

The crowd were warming to Forest's adventures and it seemed only a matter of time before a second goal arrived.

Carlisle were always looking for the chance to break out quickly and when Chapman pushed Rafferty 25 yards out, the free kick almost led to them regaining the lead.

Bennymann touched the kick to Carr, who, spotting Middleton off his line, tried a delicate chip-shot, which bounced off the top of the bar and behind.

KEEN

Withe, desperately keen to make an impression, had the fans applauding with a spectacular overhead kick, which cleared the bar.

Forest's wingers were making a mounting impact and when Robertson's trickery took him clear on the left, Curran won possession, but his final ball for Withe lacked accuracy and a chance was lost.

Carlisle, soaking up increasing pressure, were happy to concede another corner, but Chapman rose to meet Curran's kick and was marginally off target with a powerful header.

Forest maintained the tempo and O'Neill was again in at the root of an attack which led to Bowyer feeding Withe, who cracked a shot just wide of the angle.

The former Birmingham striker was then only inches away from a debut-goal with a stunning left-foot shot which crept over the top with Ross stretching.

The siege of the Carlisle goal continued until half-time, but through recovering from their uneasy start,



Carlisle United defenders Bobby Parker and Ian MacDonald move in on Nottingham Forest striker John O'Hare. The ball hit the upright, rolled across the goal line and touched the goalkeeper's legs before going in the net to put Forest level.

the Reds still had no lead to show for their overall supremacy.

HALF-TIME:

NOTTM FOREST 1

CARLISLE 1

Forest picked up in the second half where they left off in the first and immediately asked questions of Carlisle's defensive qualities.

A Robertson corner, which Withe glanced on at the near post, drifted across the face of the goal with no one on hand to punish.

Carlisle's reply ended when Robertson obstructed McVitie. Carr's free kick found the leaping Rafferty, whose header comfortably cleared the bar.

O'Neill, who had got through so much good work in the first half, prompted another threat, but his right-foot shot was pulled across goal with the advancing Withe unable to make contact.

A Carlisle attack, built up between Martin and Rafferty, looked menacing with the former Plymouth striker nearing the by-line, but Clark read the situation well to win the ball in the tackle and clear.

Twice in quick succession Withe appeared to be obstructed by MacDonald

as he went for loose balls inside the area, but referee Hackett refused Forest's appeals.

The Reds were beginning to look a little short of ideas on how to crack open the Carlisle defence again, but Robertson and Withe almost did the trick.

Robertson cleverly set himself up for a left-wing cross, which Withe, beating MacDonald in the air, headed powerfully into Ross's hands.

O'Neill then ghosted through to the left of goal and released a drive which flew well wide of the angle.

Forest took a long time in building their next attack but when Barrett landed a cross into the area, Withe was penalised for an unfair challenge on goalkeeper Ross, who had to receive lengthy treatment.

MISSED

In the 69th minute, Forest missed a golden chance of taking the lead.

Following a probing ball into the box, Withe was brought down as he turned past MacDonald and the referee unhesitatingly pointed to the spot.

Curran stepped up to take the kick, but, having sent Ross the wrong way, saw his

spot-kick flash wide of the post.

It was his second miss from the spot this season, but Forest immediately recovered from the disappointment to take the lead in the 70th minute through BOWYER.

It was a piece of Robertson magic that led to the chance being created and after warming his way into the area, he supplied a cross from which Bowyer produced a flying header across the goalkeeper and into the far corner of the net.

It brought delight to the crowd and in the 72nd minute they were delirious after a third goal from BARRETT.

This time O'Hare's control in a tight situation allowed Barrett to rush in and hammer in a shot which hit Ross, but still found its way into the net.

In the 78th minute WITHE capped a splendid debut, when he hit home Forest's fourth goal from close range, following Robertson's corner.

A brilliant Robertson cross gave BOWYER the chance to head home the fifth goal in the 89th minute.

RESULT:
NOTTM. FOREST 5
CARLISLE 1

Forest launched an attack from the kick-off with Curran speeding past Martin and Gorman, before losing out to Parker.

Withe's first involvement came when he challenged for a Middleton clearance, but Carlisle centre half MacDonald won the ball in the air.

Withe earned a free kick for a push by MacDonald in Forest's next attack, but the free kick came to nothing, as Forest struggled to make an early impression.

And in Carlisle's first attack of note, the visitors jumped into a shock seventh minute lead.

MISTAKE

The goal came as a result of a mistake by McGovern, who thought the ball had run out of play on the by-line.

He stepped over it, allowing Rafferty to gain possession and the ball was fed across the goal for BARRY to sweep a right-foot shot past Middleton and into the net via a post.

It was hardly the kind of start Forest envisaged, as they set about to rub out the memory of Tuesday's League Cup defeat.

Curran sparked hopes of a quick equaliser, but when Withe turned on his cross into the middle, MacDonald got an outstretched boot to the ball to end the danger.

Curran won a right-wing corner, but the towering MacDonald again won the

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