

VISITORS ON DEFENSIVE

Halom goal sinks poor Forest

JOHN LAWSON at Boundary Park

A 31st minute goal by Vic Halom sentenced Nottingham Forest to an uphill task against lively Oldham here this afternoon.

Oldham clearly deserved their lead against a Forest side struggling to raise their game.

The Reds, however, improved after half-time, but lacked the penetration to worry the home defence.

OLDHAM: Platt, Wood, Blair, Bell, Hicks, Hurst, Chapman, Irving, Halom, Young, Robins, Sub: Valentine. **FOREST:** Middleton, Saunders, Clark, McGovern, Anderson, Bowyer, Barrett, O'Neill, Withe, Rutlin, Robertson, Sub: Haslegrave. **Referee:** K. Styles. **Linesmen:** L. J. Enner (red), J. Shawcross (yellow).

Forest had to withstand pressure from the start, but with Anderson doing well in his new central defensive role, the Reds coped with the opening Oldham attacks.

Middleton had an early touch when he confidently held a driven cross from Irving and then Anderson headed clear under pressure from Halom at close range.

In the seventh minute, the former Sunderland striker lobbed the ball into the Forest net, but was clearly in an off-side position.

SECURE

Oldham came strongly again and a move involving Bell, Wood and Robins looked promising, until Robins' centre flashed across the face of the Reds goal.

Robertson, to whom Forest looked for penetration, created the Reds first threat, but his cross from the left was gathered by Platt.

At the other end there was momentary confusion when Halom headed down a Hurst free kick and Clark was content to concede a corner.

Robertson was at the heart of Forest's next raid, taking a pass from O'Neill and forcing Hicks to head behind for an unproductive corner.

Although Forest were not enjoying as much of the attacking play as they have become accustomed to in away matches, they had looked reasonably secure in the vital first 20 minutes.

Then Chapman was given

Attendance: 10,597

a chance to test Middleton from the edge of the box, but placed his left-foot shot wide.

There was more concern for Forest when McGovern was dispossessed inside the box, enabling Irving to try a low-angled drive. But Middleton got down quickly at the near post to smother his effort.

Clark broke a period of Oldham pressure with a long run that ended with a shot that Platt, who had positioned himself well, saved.

Oldham full backs Wood and Blair were keen to involve themselves in attacks and, following one overlapping run by Wood, Middleton distinguished himself by clinging on to his fierce cross from the right.

The sting had gone from Oldham's attacks, but in the 31st minute they bounced back to take the lead.

The architect of the goal was Young who waited for the opportunity to cross from the by-line and when the ball arrived in the danger zone HALOM got up to head past Middleton from close range.

The breakthrough spurred the home side and a minute later Young was denied a shooting chance with a decisive challenge by Anderson on the edge of the area.

Then, following a free kick just outside the Forest area, Irving drilled a shot into Forest's defensive wall. Good work by Robins kept the pressure on Forest, but his cross from the by-line was inches too high for the lurking Halom.

A touch of class from Bell, who left Barrett trailing, sparked off another Oldham attack, but Middleton collected his dangerous-looking centre as Halom stormed in.

BACK PEDALLED

Forest were looking for the first time this season, an ordinary side and they continued to back-pedal in the face of Oldham attacks.

Middleton, whose handling had looked safe for most of the time, put Forest in trouble when he dropped a cross from Bell, but the

Reds somehow escaped further punishment with Young and Robins waiting to pounce.

With little movement down Forest's right, the chief Forest threat remained with Robertson, but the Scot was well policed by Oldham defenders.

HALF-TIME

OLDHAM 1
NOTTM FOREST 0

There was more imagination and purpose about Forest's play at the start of the second half.

Butlin twice won corners and after Robertson's first kick had been easily cleared by Hurst, Platt punched away Bowyer's corner soon afterwards.

Robertson gave Forest more hope of an equaliser with a typically elusive run into the Oldham area, and although he appeared to be pushed off the ball, the referee waved play on.

With Robertson continuing to make a bigger impact, Forest moved forward more fluently without bringing a save from Platt.

When Withe touched on a Robertson cross, Bowyer surged through to hammer in a left-foot shot that was deflected over the bar by Bell.

BARRIER

Whenever Forest looked capable of finding a way through, they always found a considerable barrier in Hurst.

Oldham carved out their first danger of the half, when Young sent a teasing ball into the area, but Saunders won an important tackle with Robins.

Robins cut in from the right sideline to release a low left-foot shot, but it lacked pace and Middleton saved with ease.

As Forest attacked once more, Robertson, having won a corner on the left, saw his kick held under the bar by Platt.

Oldham quickly countered and it was as well for Forest that Anderson blocked a goal attempt by Chapman.

Forest had a chance of an equaliser when Clark strode forward into an inviting gap as Oldham appealed in vain for a free kick. The Reds' full back transferred to Withe, but he failed to hit his shot cleanly and it drifted harmlessly wide.

Oldham replied immediately and after Halom had been put clear by Blair it needed a fine reflex save from Middleton to keep Forest in touch.

Forest were playing their best football of the match and their huge following urged them on in search of an equaliser.

RESULT:

OLDHAM 0
NOTTM FOREST 1

SCOTTISH (Premier Division)

Aberdeen	3	Dundee U	2
Celtic	2	Motherwell	0
Hibs	1	Hearts	1
Kilmarnock	6	Ayr	1
Partick	2	Rangers	1

SCOTTISH I

Clydebank	2	Dumbarton	0
Dundee	1	St Johnstone	0
Hamilton	0	Airdrie	4
Montrose	1	Arbroath	2
Queen of S	3	Falkirk	0
Raith	1	E Fife	0
St Mirren	5	Morton	1

SCOTTISH II

Albion	5	Stranraer	2
Berwick	2	Meowdowk	3
Dunfermline	1	Cowden	1
E Stirling	0	Stirling A	3
Forfar	1	Brechin	2
Queen's P	0	Clyde	4
Stenhouse	3	Alloa	0

1 2 X DRAWS Score Draws (3pts)

BRISTOL R v CHARLTON
DUNFERMLINE v COWDEN
HIBERNIAN v HEARTS
TOTTENHAM v STERLING
GILLINGHAM v PRESTON
SWINDON v TRANMERE
BLACKPOOL v WOLVES

No Score Draws (2pts)

WREXHAM v BURY
WALSALL v C PALACE
PORTSMOUTH v PETERBORO

HOMES

STENHOUSE	LIVERPOOL
ST MIRREN	SHREWSBURY
BOURNEMOUTH	KILMARNOCK
ROCHDALE	WATFORD
NEWCASTLE	ABERDEEN
DUNDEE	CHELSEA
DERBY	CREWE
READING	NOTTS CO.
COLCHESTER	LEEDS
OLDHAM	BOLTON
EXETER	BLACKBURN
PORT VALE	WBA
PARTICK	Q OF STH
ALBION	RAITH
CLYDEBANK	HALIFAX
BRECHIN	CELTIC
MILLWALL	BIRMINGHAM

AWAYS

ARBROATH	BRIGHTON
MANSFIELD	BURNLEY
SHEFF U	SUNDERLAND
HUDDERSFELD	IPSWICH
M'BANK	AIRDRIE
STIRLING A	LEICESTER
CLYDE	MAN CITY

Forest Res — Cont
Forest Res. 3
Liverpool Res. 3

Londoner Ray Cattoose meets Ray Holdcroft, of Stoke, in the top of the bill contest at Nottingham's Albany Hotel on November 15.

RESULTS AND TABLES

DIVISION I

Birmingham	2	QPR	1
Coventry	1	Sunderland	2
DERBY	2	Bristol C	0
Leeds	2	Arsenal	1
Liverpool	3	A Villa	0
Man Utd	0	Ipswich	1
Middlesbrough	0	LEICESTER	1
Newcastle	1	Stoke	0
Norwich	0	Man C	2
Tottenham	3	Everton	3
WBA	3	W Ham	0

DIVISION II

Blackburn	1	Luton	0
Blackpool	2	Wolves	2
Bolton	2	Fulham	1
Bristol R	1	Charlton	1
Cardiff	0	Sheff U	2
Chelsea	2	Southampton	1
Millwall	4	Hereford	2
NOTTS CO	2	Carlisle	1
Oldham	1	FOREST	0
Orient	*	Hull	*
Plymouth	0	Burnley	1

DIVISION III

CHESTERFIELD	*	York	*
Gillingham	1	Preston	1
Northampton	0	Brighton	2
Portsmouth	0	Peterboro	0
Port Vale	2	Grimsby	0
Reading	2	Chester	0
Sheff W	0	MANSFIELD	2
Shrewsbury	1	Oxford	0
Swindon	1	Tranmere	1
Walsall	0	Crystal P	0
Wrexham	0	Bury	0

DIVISION IV

Bournemouth	4	Aldershot	1
Colchester	2	Brentford	1
Crewe	3	Swansea	1
Exeter	3	Southport	1
Halifax	2	Stockport	1
Hartlepool	0	Huddersfield	1
Rochdale	1	Doncaster	0
Scunthorpe	*	Darlington	*
Watford	1	Barnsley	0

DIVISION III

Brighton	13	8	2	30	14	19
Wrexham	12	8	2	24	10	18
Shrewsbury	13	8	2	25	12	18
Lincoln	13	6	5	20	13	17
Swindon	14	7	3	22	17	17
Crystal P	13	6	4	15	11	16
Bury	13	6	4	21	19	15
Mansfield	12	6	2	20	11	14
Preston	13	4	6	23	16	14
Rotherham	13	4	6	21	16	14
Sheff Wed	13	2	5	18	14	14
Reading	13	6	2	19	18	14
Tranmere	13	4	5	12	13	13
Chester	15	5	3	10	14	13
Peterboro	15	3	3	16	24	13
Gillingham	12	4	4	17	19	12
Port Vale	14	3	4	17	22	10
*Chestrild	12	4	2	6	13	21
Walsall	13	3	4	6	13	21
Oxford	13	2	5	6	20	24
Northampton	13	3	1	8	12	22
Grimsby	12	3	2	7	10	20
Portsmouth	13	1	6	6	11	21
*York	12	2	2	8	11	27

DIVISION IV

Bradford	13	9	2	23	17	20
Camb Utd	13	7	4	24	10	18
Rochdale	13	6	5	24	14	17
Stockport	13	7	3	20	14	17
Bournemouth	13	5	6	26	13	16
Huddersfield	13	6	3	4	16	12
Southend	14	4	7	25	13	15
Watford	13	6	3	4	19	17
Colchester	13	4	2	5	23	17
*Darlington	12	6	2	4	17	14
Exeter	15	4	4	17	17	14
Aldershot	13	5	4	15	16	14
Barnsley	14	5	4	5	18	13
Crewe	14	4	5	17	15	13
Swansea	12	5	3	4	21	23
*Scunthorpe	11	5	2	4	16	10
Torquay	12	4	3	5	17	11
Doncaster	13	4	3	6	20	22
Newport	13	2	5	6	8	15
Brentford	13	2	4	7	19	22
Halifax	13	2	4	7	9	20
Southport	13	1	5	7	8	22
Hartlepool	13	1	5	7	12	25
Workington	13	1	4	8	6	22

* Today's match not included

Clough missing

FOREST manager Brian Clough and defender Sammy Chapman both missed this afternoon's game at Oldham. Chapman was named in the Forest first team party, but did not travel to Lancashire today.

Assistant manager Peter Taylor would not comment on why both Clough and Chapman were missing.

DEAKIN QUILTS

HEANOR TOWN striker Chris Deakin has been forced to give up football because of a persistent back injury.

MIDLANDS INTER. LEAGUE
Shrewsbury A4, Notts Co A3

SCHOOLS

Leics U 15 0, Nottm U 15 3
Leic U 14 3, Nottm U 14 4
Derby Under 13 1, Nottm Under 13 1
Derby Under 12 1, Nottm Under 12 1

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