

# FOOTBALL POST

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# FOREST GOAL DELUGE BLUNTS THE BLADES

JOHN LAWSON at the City Ground

**NOTTINGHAM FOREST blitzed Jimmy Sirrel's Sheffield United side with a display of exciting skill and aggression here this afternoon.**

The all-action Reds turned on the power from the start and two goals from Ian Bowyer and another from Barry Butlin gave them a 3-1 interval lead, the visitors' goal coming from a Chico Hamilton penalty.

And the story was the same after half-time with Terry Curran, Peter Withe and Viv Anderson scoring the goals that took Forest into a five-goal lead.

**Attendance: 17,801**

The crowd were warming to Forest's aggression and they almost answered the call for a goal.

Robertson had the Sheffield defence back pedalling with an elusive run and when Withe touched on his pass to O'Neill, the Irishman drifted to the left of goal and his final shot struck the bar and bounced out.

But Forest were not denied for long and in the 12th minute they snatched a deserved lead through leading scorer BOWYER.

## PRESSURE

Following a bout of concerted pressure, Clark, up with the attack, headed the ball into the danger zone and Bowyer had time to find his balance before hammering an unstoppable drive into the net.

It was Bowyer's sixth goal of the season and, for a

in the way of Edwards' drive to save the Reds.

Forest immediately swept downfield and following a move involving Withe, Butlin and Robertson, Bowyer completely miskicked.

Then a thoughtful ball into the area by O'Neill gave Withe a shooting chance on his left foot but the new striker was inches off target with Brown again dashing across his line.

The action flowed at both ends and Sheffield had a great chance of an equaliser following a mistake by Robertson. It was his pass that was intercepted and when Edwards found himself clear and with Middleton failing to advance, the young United striker shot agonisingly wide.

There was another reminder of United's counter threat when Lloyd had to win a crucial challenge against Edwards following a delicate Hamilton cross.

From the corner that followed Guthrie pivoted to pump a volley just wide. Soon afterwards a long range effort from Woodward went in the same direction.

Forest needed a second goal and it almost arrived after a penetrating run by Curran, who slipped a pass to O'Neill but the Reds midfielder did not hit his shot cleanly and it trickled wide.

## HIGH

Robertson was next to pose a threat, ghosting past Woodward and Franks on the left, but his driven cross was inches too high for Withe.

Forest maintained their buoyancy and in the 37th minute they stretched their lead with a goal by BUTLIN.

Clark once more made the extra man in Forest's attack and when his cross arrived in the box, Butlin slid in to stab the ball past Brown.

But three minutes later Forest's lead was halved, HAMILTON scoring from the penalty spot.

Edwards aimed an innocuous cross into the middle and when McGovern made an effort to block its path on the edge of the area, referee Richardson ruled that the Forest defender handled. Although Middleton moved in the same direction as Hamilton's kick he could not keep it out.



**Ian Bowyer moves up to the attack and blasts the ball into the Sheffield United net at the City Ground this afternoon to give Forest the lead**

**FOREST:** Middleton, Anderson, Clark, McGovern, Lloyd, Bowyer, Curran, O'Neill, Withe, Butlin, Robertson.  
**SHEFF UTD:** Brown, Franks, Garner, Flynn, Colquhoun, Calvert, Woodward, Edwards, Guthrie, Ludlam, Hamilton.  
**Subs:** Barrest, Kenworthy.  
**Referee:** P J Richardson, Lincoln.  
**Linesmen:** M J Heath, red flag; G A Rose, yellow flag.

Butlin, back in the Forest side, headed on a Middleton clearance in the early minutes but Flynn was covering behind Colquhoun and turned the ball comfortably back to Brown.

Middleton was in action again when he left his catch confidently to catch a Colquhoun free kick which landed on the penalty spot.

## SETTLED

The visitors settled down much quicker than Forest and twice within the space of 30 seconds had chances to take the lead.

The first danger came from a low cross shot by right back Franks and Middleton, having failed to gather it first time, flicked the ball to safety with his outstretched leg as Edwards waited for the chance to pounce.

The Reds failed to get the ball away and Woodward smacked a typical drive just over the top.

Forest replied and Robertson set himself up for a right foot shot, which was deflected for a corner and from Bowyer's kick, Withe climbed to produce a header which Brown saved.

Forest pressed forward with more drive and determination and Bowyer, working his way through the middle, had Brown stretching with a shot that crept just wide of the post.

change, it meant that Forest did not have to fight their way back from behind.

Robertson and Curran continued to stretch the United defence and the visitors were fortunate not to concede another goal as Forest turned on the style.

Lloyd, making his first home appearance for Forest, had had little to do but when called upon he won an aerial duel convincingly against Guthrie as they challenged for a menacing through ball from Woodward.

United steadied themselves and almost halted themselves level following a persistent right wing thrust by Calvert. His cross to the far post found Forest's defenders outnumbered but Anderson got

Your TV matches

**BBC**

Blackpool v Plymouth  
Swindon v Shrewsbury

**ITV**

Forest v Sheff. Utd.

## ABANDONED

The Aston Villa v Rangers friendly game was stopped after 53 minutes and the referee took the teams off the pitch when the crowd poured over the fences.

Forest, however, were camped out side the Sheffield area and a Robertson centre nearly led to a second goal for Butlin.

The recalled striker swept past Colquhoun but Brown dived bravely at his feet to save.

Nevertheless, a seventh goal was still a distinct possibility as the Reds continued to entertain their largest crowd of the season.

## LECTURE

Robertson almost did the trick when he jinked inside before releasing a 20-yard shot, which Brown gathered at the second attempt.

There was a hold-up after O'Neill and Guthrie had clashed off the ball, but the referee contented himself with a lecture to both players.

Curran remained a constant menace and when he crossed from the right Butlin rose at the far post to head just over.

Then Bowyer, searching for this hat-trick, received a square ball from Clark and rapped in a drive which Flynn blocked.

**RESULT:**

**NOTTM. FOREST ..... 6**  
**SHEFF UTD ..... 1**

Forest immediately bounced back and in the 43rd minute re-established their two-goal lead with BOWYER scoring his second goal of the match.

Again it followed heated pressure on the Sheffield goal and when O'Neill slotted a ball through, Curran jostled for possession with Brown and he did enough to force the ball free for Bowyer to stride forward and shoot high into the net despite a late challenge.

**HALF-TIME:**

**NOTTM. FOREST ..... 3**  
**SHEFF UTD ..... 1**

Sheffield, who introduced substitute Kenworthy for Edwards at half-time, were immediately on the defensive in the second half.

And in the 49th minute the Reds burst into a 4-1 lead with a brilliant goal by CURRAN.

The Forest winger gained possession on the half-way line and left three Sheffield defenders trailing in a thrilling run.

## FIGHTING

He fed the overlapping Anderson and moved into the middle to take the return and beat Brown from close range.

It was an outstanding effort by Curran and just the start Forest needed to consolidate their position.

Throughout the match there had been outbreaks of fighting and when one young fan ran on to the pitch, play was held up until police led him off.

It was all going wrong for

United and when Woodward and Franks opened up the Forest defence, Kenworthy ran in to blaze an excellent chance wide.

Forest were producing arguably their best football of the season, and in the 58th minute WITHE added his name to the list of scorers.

O'Neill kept his composure to bring the ball out of defence and after Bowyer had carried on the move, Curran gave Withe the kind of chance he could not miss.

The crowd chanted for a sixth goal and it almost arrived when O'Neill had a shot blocked after Curran had headed down a Robertson cross.

## CHALLENGE

In the 61st minute, however, Forest stormed into a five-goal lead when ANDERSON broke past a double challenge on the edge of the box to fire in a