

Billy Wright protests 'He was a yard offside'

By DESMOND HACKETT: Luton Town 1 Wolverhampton Wanderers 0

THERE were only three seconds of silence in this 90-minute thriller at Luton last night and in that hushed pause Luton Town beat Wolves in one of the greatest games I have ever seen. Thirty-four minutes of high-powered action had gone when wee Mike Cullen came tearing in from the wing, put the ball behind Billy Wright, and sent centre forward Bob Morton tearing away from just inside the Wolves' half.

As the sturdy figure of Morton moved forward Bert Williams came out of goal, was beaten, and left lying on the edge of the penalty area.

Morton moved on to the glory of his goal, and just before the ecstatic crowd exploded in a thunderous salute of cheers there was an agonised cry of "No, no" from Wolves manager, Stanley Cullis.

Billy Wright protested that Morton was offside.

After the match he told me: "I thought Morton was about a yard offside but there was no point in chasing him because I had no hope of catching him."

The game was 90 minutes of torment for manager Cullis, who writhed in agony as the team hurled themselves with an almost passionate fury at the Luton defence.

But that Luton defence sturdily, coolly, drove them off.

Luton never once ceased to play fast, thoughtful football, not even when their tortured fans begged them to "boot it" in the white-hot excitement of the last minutes.

WONDER SHOW

Cullen, who had a wonder first half, went up with right-back Dunne and almost scrambled a goal after 20 minutes.

A minute later the saucy Scot Cullen laid on a pass and Morton's shot was saved by a desperate effort by Williams.

Thirteen minutes from the end manager Cullis was up on his feet ready to roar home a goal by Booth but Pemberton kicked off the line—then impudently grinned his relief.

It looked a certain penalty for Luton when Wright handled the ball but referee Oxley let that one go. It was about the only time he erred in this rapidly switching game.

In the last five minutes Stretton made a flying save from left-back Shorthouse.

Cullen was slow in laying on a certain goal after the Wolves defence had been shattered. Stretton saved from Slater, and Cullen and Groves missed by inches.

This should give you some idea of how this unforgettable game so furiously flowed.

Luton won because they went through their well-drilled moves with terrific discipline.

Owen, once again the master defender, wiped the four-goal look off centre-forward Murray.

Wolves, for all their 90 minutes' racing pace, were without any

apparent pattern. The forwards appeared to make up their moves as they went along.

While Luton played with calm efficiency Wolves made it look so much hard labour.

The Daily Express has a five-star limit to match ratings. Well, this was five-star plus.

As England team manager Walter Winterbottom said to me: "This will bring back your missing millions"—how right he is.