

Hawkes could have thrown himself into the sea

Blackpool1 Luton Town1

KEN HAWKES, 25, Luton's left back who had virtually played Stanley Matthews out of this Sixth Round tie, knew that he had made the blunder of a Cup lifetime.

That is why he bathed and dressed quickly, shrugged off the sympathetic words of his Luton team-mates, and took the slow, painful steps through the players' tunnel to the scene of his crime. Crime? In a footballing sense of course it was a crime.

Luton were within seconds of a semi-final place when Ken, his goal in little or no danger, decided to play just that little bit **too** safe and pass back to goalkeeper Ron Baynham.

It is history now that Blackpool leader Ray Charnley raced on to Hawkes' back pass, drew Baynham from his goal, and rolled the ball a breathtaking inch or two inside the upright.

But back to Hawkes, sitting on the concrete barrier behind the Luton goal, the debris of a 30,000 crowd fluttering around him.

'I watched'

The dark-haired, terribly upset Durham boy who, until that last-second drama, had had a dream game against Matthews the Great, said: "I know there was no danger. But I thought I heard Ron Baynham call. He may have been telling me to kick the ball out of play. Almost anywhere would have done."

"I passed back, but I didn't hit the ball properly. I could see it wouldn't get to Ron. Then I saw Charnley rushing forward and watched him score. I wanted to throw myself into the sea."

Luton captain Syd Owen, chairman Percy Mitchell, and everyone else in the Luton party tried to console Hawkes. "It could have happened to any of us," said Owen.

By

JACK WOOD

Later chairman Mitchell tried another approach when he told Hawkes: "Don't worry. You played Matthews better than I have ever seen him played. It means a replay. But it merely means another bonus for our boys on the way to Wembley."

A nice piece of propaganda from Mr. Mitchell. But on the evidence of a great second half... the first half was shocking... Blackpool will shake Luton after that last-second reprieve.

Charnley, who so coolly took his late chance, was unlucky not to score twice after the interval, when a rocket shot was brilliantly saved by Baynham and Gregory got his foot in the way of a fierce drive.

Bingham's 85th-minute header which seemed certain to win the game for Luton came from a Morton centre. It bounced awkwardly under Farm's body with the long-legged Hauser getting himself mixed up in the netting in a desperate final effort to clear.

Luton stars were the imperturbable Owen Hawkes, McNally, and Cummins who, on this show, is one of the best inside forwards in the country.

REPLAY: Wednesday (3.0).

Blackpool: Farm; Armfield, Garrett; Hauser, Gratrix, Kelly; Matthews, Mudie, Charnley, Durie, Perry.

Luton: Baynham; McNally, Hawkes; Groves, Owen, Pacey; Bingham, Brown, Morton, Cummins, Gregory.