

LAST-SECOND TRAGEDY

Owen rings his hands . . . Baynham covers his eyes . . . Hawkes is rooted to spot

SID OWEN was Luton's hero at Blackpool on Saturday. But Sid has never worked harder than he did AFTER the match. His task : to persuade young Ken Hawkes not to think overmuch about the disastrous, dying-seconds blunder that gave Blackpool a replay.

Sid himself called it "a horrible moment . . . just about the most dramatic, last-minute incident I can remember." It came, in fact, in the NINETY-FIRST minute, as 20 fleeting seconds of injury-time ticked away. . . .

Gallant Sid wrung his hands in sheer anguish. The prone Ron Baynham covered his eyes as if to hide the sight of the ball in the Luton net . . . and Hawkes simply stood rooted to the spot, unable to believe just what had happened.

Luton were leading by a Billy Bingham goal, when Hawkes unaccountably decided to pass back instead of clearing upfield.

The pass was hopelessly short. And wide of the on-rushing Baynham. Ray Charnley, anticipating the move,

By DENNIS LOWE
Blackpool 1 Luton ... 1
RATINGS: Skill—Blackpool 7, Luton 8. Entertainment 7. Sportsmanship 9. Control 9.

pounced on the ball and pushed it slowly, agonisingly against the far post and into the empty net. There was no time to kick-off again.

Said Owen later: "Poor Ken—he was so upset, both for

himself and for the team. I've tried to tell him it was just one of those things, and that if we take up in the replay where we left off, we can still do it.

"I was tremendously pleased with their all-out effort against the team that knocked out West Bromwich."

Owen is far too modest to mention the great part he played—but Blackpool manager Ronnie Stuart paid him a fine tribute.

"Sid may be 36—but he proved he's still a great centre-half," said Ron. "His positional play was first-rate—but then he had to be good against Ray Charnley."

Struggling

Charnley was Blackpool's only forward success. He deserved that equaliser, if anyone did. He had already forced Baynham to make three spectacular saves.

But for much of the game Blackpool were struggling to match the craft and pace of the Bedfordshire men—who would surely have had the match tied up at half-time had the finishing of Allan Brown and Bob Morton been half as effective as the nimble approach work of Bingham and George Cummins.

Even Bingham's 85th minute goal was a sloppy affair. The little Irishman's header would have been easy for Farm—but Peter Hauser, running in, deflected the ball out of his keeper's reach.

Beware, Ken !

Stan Matthews, Dave Durie and Farm, who had all been doubtful for the game because of illness and injury, seemed to play tentatively at times, and the unlucky Hawkes, who played Stan throughout very intelligently, can hardly expect the maestro to be so quiet in the replay.

BLACKPOOL: Farm 8; Armfield 9, Garrett 6; Hauser 8, Gratrix 8, Kelly (H) 7; Matthews 7, Mudie 6, Charnley 8, Durie 6, Perry 6.

LUTON: Baynham 8; McNally 8, Hawkes 7; Groves 8, Owen 9, Pacey 8; Bingham 8, Brown 7, Morton 7, Cummins 8, Gregory 6.

REFEREE: K. Howley (Middlesbrough). **LINESMEN:** R. W. B. Leigh (York) J. K. Scott (Northwich).