

LUTON THROUGH IN LAST MINUTE

Huddersfield 0, Luton 1: by ANDREW EVANS

HUDDERSFIELD were odds-on favourites to win a Fourth Round replay on Wednesday when there seemed no prospect of a Luton goal 90 seconds from the end of their Cup game yesterday.

True, Luton had played some smart down-the-middle football, with Alan Brown and Gordon Turner using the ball firmly on the three-inch snow blanket. But no one expected a score.

Then it happened. Left half David Pacey sent a pass to Turner, who fired the ball inside for left winger Tony Gregory to chase. Gregory got it to shoot into the net and so gave last year's Finalists a place in the last 16.

It was an injustice to Huddersfield.

Their attack, sponsored by inside forwards Dennis Law and Les Massie, was the more frequent and more menacing. For more than an hour the Luton defence was at full stretch in dealing with this pair and right winger Kevin McHale. They floundered whenever the ball was in their goalmouth.

Left back Alan Daniel nearly cut a clearance into his own net before half-time. But in the 55th minute he put in the clearance which deprived Huddersfield of a certain goal.

Ron Baynham, Luton's international, who had a superb game, could not intercept a centre from the left. Before he could recover his goal, centre forward Jack Connor had fired in a shot which rebounded off a defender. McHale took possession, drove for the empty net—and Daniel came from nowhere to kick the ball off the line.

Huddersfield never had another chance like that, although their half-backs and forwards worked hard.

In some of Luton's raids Bingham several times had Huddersfield in difficulties but they survived for

McHale to test Luton's defence. Morton headed over after Brown and Bingham had entangled the home defence but mistakes were frequent. Baynham made a great save from Law.

Gibson saved Huddersfield with a smart clearance when Dunne's free kick bounced into a packed goalmouth. Connor and McGarry then tested Baynham with headers.

Huddersfield had the edge in what was mostly a kick-and-rush contest.

Taylor cleared off Huddersfield's line after Bingham had drawn Wood.

Hawksworth beat Pacey and Daniel to put over a low centre, but Massie was penalised. Luton hit back and Brown almost beat Wod after an unwise pass-back by Coddington.

Kelly passed back calmly to stop Connor reaching a pass from McHale and Luton packed their defence against Huddersfield's final bid.

A draw would have been a fair result. No one could expect top-class football in the circumstances. Both teams did their best—especially the Huddersfield half-backs, Ken Taylor, John Coddington, and Bill McGarry. Their first-time tackles and unhesitating clearances threatened to play Luton out of the game.

Somehow Luton held on, with centre half Terry Kelly and full-backs Seamus Dunne and Daniel clearing when a Huddersfield goal seemed imminent. And then came that surprise winner. They say that teams need luck to get to Wembley. Luton had their share yesterday.