

BARTRAM ATTACKS 'HOODOO'

*Away flops worry
lucky team with
a home complex*

By MIKE LANGLEY

SPECTACULAR Sam Bartram, the goalkeeping great now managing Luton Town, played golf for sixpences this week while thinking of ways to smash a hoodoo and grab £528 for his team tomorrow.

The £528? That's the £8 bonus and £40-a-man talent money the Luton lads will get if they win their fifth-round F.A. Cup trip to Third Division Barnsley.

The hoodoo? Luton have not won away this season, but Bartram believes tomorrow will be the big day.

And why not? He manages the luckiest team of all Cup time, the team who lost 7-5 on aggregate to Manchester City in the last round, but battle on towards Wembley because rain washed out City's 6-2 lead in their first, abandoned meeting.

"You need a little bit of luck in the Cup," says Bartram with a huge grin. It wasn't a little—it was a lot. But will it hold?

EXTRA TRAIN BOOKED

The folks of Luton think so. A second special supporters train has been ordered because this Bedfordshire motor-making town has been hit by an epidemic of Cup fever matching the great Wembley days of two years ago.

"We've sent for more tickets too," says Bartram, "and may be running out again. Our allocation of seats went in an hour."

Four thousand fans are lined up for the off tomorrow. One supporter, second-hand already walking the 182 miles to Barnsley, the grim Yorkshire home of grimly determined footballers.

Bartram says: "They're a hard, tough side who never stop running but, after watching them twice, I'm still very confident. All I hope for is a nice, firm ground."

Big Sam, after dicing with the possibilities of forward switches and a recall of Elre international George Cummins, decided after a final practice yesterday to stick loyally by an unchanged team: Standen; Dunne, Bramwell; Morton, Kelly, Groves; Noake, Ashworth, Turner, Brown, Fleming.

Today they set off for their Cup headquarters in Sheffield, discussing on the journey the reason for their away flops.

A PUZZLE

"It beats me," admits Bartram. "We're playing all right and it's not a question of stamina, but things go wrong in the last half."

"It's so different at home. We take a bit of a whacking at Kenilworth-road and have won our last eight matches there."

If Luton draw (and I think they will) the replay will be staged next Wednesday afternoon at 2.30.

Barnsley, lightless home of Football League President Joe Richards, yesterday vetoed an evening replay.

Luton secretary Phil Coley says: "We wanted a floodlit game partly because it is difficult to get enough gatemen and other officials in the afternoon and because an evening kick-off would draw a bigger crowd."

Five miles away in Harpenden, director Tom Hodgson has found an omen. Tom, former Luton back, keeps the last pub in the town.

Two weeks ago, when Luton were battling against City, his son moved into the first. It's name: The Silver Cup!

DOWN YOU GO

It's TURNER'S turn to throw the ball to a Luton colleague in a game of ups-and-downs. The others (left to right): FLEMING, NOAKE, BROWN, ASHWORTH, and BRAMWELL.



LET'S ALL PULL TOGETHER, LADS!



Happy in their work after a Cup training session are Luton lads (left to right) DUNNE, ASHWORTH, BROWN, MORTON, and STANDEN.

