

NO FINESSE—BUT WHAT A CUP-TIE!

84/85
(FAC)

LUTON TOWN 0,
WATFORD 0

YOU had to be a committed fan of either team to enjoy Monday's cup clash with Watford.

The neutrals, very much in the minority among the biggest Kenilworth Road crowd for over two years, complained about the lack of football skills.

Up to a point they were right—but for nerve-tingling excitement, and the constant switch of emotions as each side went close, it was 90 minutes of all-out action to satisfy the fans of both sides.

Neither deserved to lose, and with so much at stake it was right that everyone should have last night's second chance at Vicarage Road.

Millwall manager George Graham sat in the stand and marvelled at the level of commitment and pace injected into a confrontation that never had time to stop and think.

Some believe that the Town and Watford will have bashed each other into a standstill before either has earned the right to entertain the Third Division side in the quarter-finals.

But Luton boss David Pleat had no such worries: "Millwall can't possibly be harder to beat than Watford," he said last night.

Boxing terms are probably the best to describe Monday's clash. It was a heavy-weight slugging match, with both teams shrugging off potential knock-out blows.

Watford were missing the pace of John Barnes and the midfield talent of Kenny

SPORTS EDITOR Brian Swain reports on Monday's FA Cup fifth round local derby at Kenilworth Road. Pictures by Mark Richards and Nigel Wigglesworth. The report and pictures from last night's replay at Watford will be in today's Luton Leader.

Jackett, while the Town had to drop David Preece and Peter Nicholas and accommodate Wayne Turner and Ray Daniel in midfield.

All 22 men, and referee Brian Hill, came out of the game with honour, and so did the fans. The voices of rivalry were raised loud, but there was never a touch of nastiness to spoil the occasion, and even when some of the tackling was over-fierce players got up and got on with the game.

Mick Harford looked a better centre-forward than Luther Blissett, and gave Steve Terry some worrying moments, particularly in the 26th minute when he met a free kick by Turner with a header which hit a post with Steve Sherwood beaten.

Watford matched that in the second half, when Nigel Callaghan curled a free kick against the Town's bar. They thought that free kick should have been a penalty, for a foul by Tim Breacker on Jan Lohman, while the Town might well have been given a chance from the spot when John McClelland sent Brian Stein tumbling with 20 minutes to go.

The Town had more pressure over the 90 minutes, but Watford made fewer chances look more dangerous.

There were crisis moments in both goal areas, but Les Sealey had the more difficult goal attempts

to save, and kept the Town in the game with a superb tip-over from Jimmy Gilligan's first-half header and a spreading save with his legs from the same player in the closing stages.

Lohman did a valuable job for Watford by denying time and space for Ricky Hill to flourish, and the whole game suffered in that respect—it was played at breakneck speed with no-one given a second to put some thought and care into it.

In a sense Watford imposed their style and determination on proceedings. To their credit, the Town settled down to play within that restriction, and matched the visitors as every man gave everything.

LUTON TOWN: Sealey; Breacker, Foster, Donaghy, Thomas; Hill, Turner, Daniel; Nwajioji, Stein, Harford. Sub: Parker, not used.

WATFORD: Sherwood; Sinnott, McClelland, Terry, Rostron; Taylor, Lohman; Callaghan, Gilligan, Blissett, Sterling. Sub: Bardsley, not used.

GOAL ATTEMPTS: Town three saved, ten wide, one hit a post; Watford five saved, ten wide, one hit the bar. Corners: 12-5 to the Town.

ATTENDANCE: 18,506, the Town's highest since a visit by Spurs in January 1983, and 3,000 above last season's third round match against Watford at Kenilworth Road.

REFEREE: Brian Hill, Kettering—might have played the advantage rule better on occasions, but handled things pretty well.

ENTERTAINMENT: Typical local derby, with skills and frills abandoned by two teams determined to attack each other as much as possible.



● **LUCKY MAN:** Goalkeeper Steve Sherwood gropes in vain as Mick Harford's 26th-minute header from a Wayne Turner free kick beats him. But unlucky Harford hit the post.