

FA CUP SPECIAL

THEY'RE IN THE

But victory turns sour as yobs go on the rampage

THE WORST violence any mob has inflicted upon Kenilworth Road in my lifetime took the shine off Luton Town's celebrations last night.

Their first FA Cup semi-final ticket in 26 years turned into bitter despair as hooligans from Millwall came to Luton determined to wreck the town, the stadium and the very game that gave them the excuse to gather.

But the achievement by a Town team fighting for First Division survival deserves better than to be buried under the memories of mayhem and madness.

No-one could find answers to the frightening scenes which may have set back Luton Town's hopes of becoming a family club for a very long time.

But so far as the soccer action was concerned, for all the unreal atmosphere surrounding the game, Millwall boss George Graham had no doubts.

"We lost because Luton had the extra class and quality of First Division style," he said.

The Third Division promotion-chasers, who came to Luton with ten consecutive wins behind them, expended plenty of energy and willing determination, and were beaten by a team that put its movements together with much more accuracy.

The decisive goal, brilliantly put away by Brian Stein in the 31st minute, was the perfect illustration of the extra talent the Town displayed.

They should have won

BRIAN SWAIN
reports on last night's big FA Cup quarter-final match with Millwall at Kenilworth Road.

Pictures by
MARK RICHARDS

more handsomely. Ricky Hill, working to make skill overcome physical opposition from Les Briley, had a header cleared off the line just before the goal, and Garry Parker sent in two drives which screamed past the goalkeeper hopelessly beaten.

Meka Nwajobi also flashed a half-volley over the bar, while at the other end Les Sealey hardly had a serious save to make all night.

Once again Steve Foster and Mal Donaghy were mountains in a Town defence that Millwall could not hope to scale.

Both teams deserve credit



● DECIDER: Brian Stein lashes in his 12th goal of the season, with an angled drive which went in off the far post. Anton Otulakowski is the Millwall man

desperately trying to cover. His mistake had led up to the 31st minute strike. He lost control to give Meka Nwajobi the chance to set Stein free.

"It was a very good goal, even if it did come from a mistake," admitted Millwall boss George Graham, who left Kenilworth Road wishing Luton Town good luck for the semi-final at Villa Park next month.



● THAT'S HANDY: Mick Harford tries to pinch a second-half goal. Brian Stein did the early work, with a brilliant right wing run past two men but Harford couldn't quite get his head to the cross. The ref spotted the handball.

Town Match Verdict ★★★★★

SEMI-FINALS!



Match Details

LUTON TOWN 1 MILLWALL 0
HALF-TIME 1-0

TOWN: Sealey; Breacker, Foster, Donaghy, Thomas; Hill, Turner, Parker; Nwajobi, Stein, Harford. Sub: Moss, not needed.

MILLWALL: Sansome; Stevens (Bremner, 75 mins), Smith, Cusack, Hinshelwood; Lowndes, Briley, Chatterton; Lovell, Fashanu, Otulakowski.

THE GOAL: Brian Stein, 31 minutes, quicksilver turn and shot from Meka Nwajobi's short pass after Otulakowski lost control of the ball just outside his own penalty area. OTHER STRIKES: Town nine saved, six wide and one disallowed because Mick Harford used a crafty hand instead of his head; Millwall six saved and four wide. Corners: 6-5 to Millwall.

SOCCER TRAGEDY: Millwall's fans overshadowed almost everything by seeking violence, mainly with the Police, and causing a 25-minute stoppage.

REFEREE: David Hutchinson. Handled everything superbly. A police inspector from Yorkshire, he might have thought he was back on the pit picket battlefield at one stage as the yobs invaded.

ATTENDANCE: 17,470 was the official figure, but at least 2,000 villains from South London smashed their way into the ground.

ENTERTAINMENT: Stark fear took all the shine off what should have been a lovely night for Luton Town, with their first semi-final appearance in 26 years lined up.

THE BRIGHT SPOT: Luton fans, in the main, stayed on their side of the fences and did not get involved. Then Millwall animals were intent on picking fights with the police.

● NEARLY: Garry Parker, whose introduction at Watford a week earlier revived the Town's flagging cup hopes, goes close against Millwall.

His attacking runs caused major problems for the visitors, and this was a second-half drive from a neat lay-back by Brian Stein which flew narrowly wide of the target.



● ELUSIVE: Two defenders try to stop Brian Stein working his magic.