

SOCCER SAVAGES

13.3.85
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Helping hands . . . Luton stewards rescue a policeman struck down by rioters



BATTLE STATIONS . . . lines of police defy the seat-hurling thugs at Luton last night.

Terror as fans go on rampage

THESE were the scenes that shamed soccer last night . . . frenzied fans throwing seats at besieged policemen.

The horrific violence erupted at First Division Luton during their FA Cup sixth round match against Millwall.

Maniac Millwall "fans" ran riot, creating chaos in the town before the match started and holding up play during the game for 25 minutes.

As the sickening violence continued every available policeman in Bedfordshire—plus men from neighbouring Hertfordshire—was drafted in to the stadium.

NEVER

One spectator, journalist David Simpson, was hit under the eye by a coin thrown by a Millwall fan.

He said: "They were the worst scenes I have ever seen at a game. I will never

go to a football match again.

"There were families with little children sobbing their hearts out, seats being ripped out and pound coins hurled into the stands.

"People were quivering with fear."

Supt. Roy Gough, the Deputy Divisional Commander of Luton Police, admitted that police had been taken by surprise by the number of Millwall fans.

He said: "We had expected 5,000 and in fact there were more than 8,000. We were totally unprepared for them."

TRAGEDY

Luton's executive director, John Smith, said afterwards: "What happened tonight is a tragedy for the game.

"Sadly we cannot give a solution to this sort of problem."

Pictures by ROGER PARKER and TONY Ward