

Brave Town bow to super Sealey

A BATTLING Ipswich Town bowed out of the Littlewoods Cup in a rousing fourth round battle with Luton Town at Portman Road last night.

A goal after four minutes from Brian Stein settled the tie, but seldom can an Ipswich team have piled on so much pressure and shown such commitment without being rewarded by a goal.

It was a match full of passion and endeavour as Ipswich, inspired by the example of Brennan in midfield and Lowe up front, stretched the Luton defence to the limits.

Sealey was masterful in the Luton goal as Ipswich peppered him with shots and headers, particularly in the closing stages. All the home efforts were in vain, but the team could not possibly have tried harder and they received a generous ovation from their supporters at the end.

It was a memorable cup tie from which Ipswich can look back on what might have been. Referee Trelford Mills could have awarded a couple of first half penalties and one felt that if Ipswich could have scored one they might have run riot.

Even in injury time Lowe charged Sealey over the line as he challenged for a cross from Rimmer, but the referee rightly protected the keeper.

It was frustrating for Ipswich to draw on all their reserves of courage and still lose, but football tends to bring reverses when they are least deserved.

Luton made the perfect start going ahead in just under five minutes when Mark Stein, deputising for the injured Harford, slipped the ball through a square defence for his brother Brian to shoot past the exposed Hallworth.

It was a smart move executed at speed that stunned an Ipswich defence and caught them cold.

In the 14th minute Ipswich gave their supporters hope when D'Avray rose to head a free kick from Brennan over the bar, a clear indication that the much-vaunted central defensive partnership of Foster and Donaghy was by no means impregnable.

There was a fierce battle raging in midfield, particularly between Brennan and

Ipswich Town 0, Luton Town 1

Wilson, and gradually Ipswich forced themselves into the game and started to give Luton a torrid time.

Breacker escaped loud appeals, mainly from the crowd, for a penalty when he appeared to handle a cross in the penalty area, but the referee gave him the benefit of the doubt.

Little was seen of Luton as an attacking force until the 24th minute when Harvey and Johnson, two of the Hatters' lesser known players, combined to put Breacker clear on the overlap, but his cross was turned behind for a corner by Stockwell.

Three minutes later came a controversial moment when Ipswich were denied a penalty. Dozzell headed the ball into the Luton area and Harvey appeared to push Lowe as he tried to get in a shot.

Just why referee Mills decided to award an indirect free kick outside the area remains a mystery. Justice was certainly not done when Foster charged down Harbey's shot.

Dozzell was lectured for barging Johnson as the tension increased and Ipswich kept pushing forward and producing telling moves.

Sealey went down to save a swerving low long shot from Zondervan and then the ball ran loose to Brennan who let fly from 25 yards. It was a sizzling drive which Sealey did well to stop.

After 36 minutes Wilson was booked for upending Zondervan who had been quite lively on the right on the Ipswich midfield without being able to reach the by-line.

Cranson headed wide from a corner by Brennan and Donaghy fouled Lowe only for D'Avray to head Brennan's free kick over the top.

Apart from their goal, Luton's only other effective raid in the first half was in the 44th minute when Hallworth saved after build up from the Stein brothers and Nwajiobi.

Hallworth dived to his left to turn aside a shot from Brian Stein in the 52nd minute, but then it was Ipswich all the way until the end.

Three minutes later Dozzell and Rimmer worked an opening for Harbey to

cross, but he placed the ball too close for Sealey as Lowe challenged.

Then Harbey crossed again and this time Dozzell got in a splendid header that Sealey touched over the bar.

Brennan took a knock on his right foot but battled on as though nothing was wrong. Indeed the Ipswich spirit was magnificent and Donaghy only just turned the ball away from the raiding Lowe and then Brennan cracked a fierce 20-yard volley a foot or so too high.

There was an anxious moment for Ipswich when Mark Stein almost intercepted a back header from Yallop, but it was almost all one-way traffic.

Sealey's alertness denied D'Avray in the 69th minute and four minutes later Deehan was introduced in place of the tall target man.

Deehan mistimed his header as the far post from Lowe's cross, but afterwards brought another great save from Sealey when he aimed a header inches under the bar.

Sealey went down to cope

with a low shot from Rimmer as Ipswich battled until the very end.

There were two second half bookings, one for Rimmer and the other for McDonough as the referee tried to keep things calm.

When McDonough fouled Brennan in the 78th minute the crowd chanted "off, off" as the referee called him over — but he delivered a lecture instead of the red card.

Ipswich gave everything on the night. No-one could possibly have asked for more.

The teams IPSWICH TOWN: Hallworth; Yallop, Harbey, Rimmer, Dozzell, Cranson, Lowe, Brennan, D'Avray (sub. Deehan 73 mins.), Zondervan and Stockwell. sub. Humes.

LUTON TOWN: Sealey; Breacker, Harvey, McDonough, Foster, Donaghy, Wilson (sub. Black 48 mins.), Brian Stein, Nwajiobi, Johnson (sub. Oldfield 85 mins.) and Mark Stein.

Referee: Mr. Trelford Mills (Barnsley).

Attendance: 15,643.

Golden goal

IPSWICH Town Development Association Golden Goal time against Luton Town was 4 minutes 51 seconds.



● MICH D'Avray soars above Luton centreback Steve Foster but his header was too high.

'Ipswich threw everything at us'

LUTON Town manager Ray Harford, delighted to have seen his team end Ipswich Town's undefeated home record, said: "Ipswich threw everything at us and it was a marvellous backs to the wall performance by us. Ipswich put us under terrific pressure, but I would not say

that we were lucky because we defended so well."

Talking of the disputed penalty incident when 19-year-old Richard Harvey pushed David Lowe in the penalty area, Harford admitted: "Richard Harvey's challenge was clumsy and showed inexperience, but I don't think it was intentional. Some referees would have given it."

Harford described the Luton winner as "a fine goal with clinical finishing".

Ipswich manager John Duncan said: "The players did all that I could have expected of them."