KEEPER'S PENALTY SAVE TURNS LITTLEWOODS CUP THRILLER

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SAVING GRACE ... Dibble pushes aside Winterburn's penalty

Picture: by STUART ROBINSON

Arsenal 2 Luton 3

ANDY DIBBLE, the goalkeeper who could be leaving Kenilworth Road, became Luton's Cup hero yesterday in Wembley's most exciting final for years.

Dibble brilliantly saved a penalty from Arsenal's Nigel

from Arsenal's Nigel Winterburn to spur Luton on to a memorable Littlewoods Cup victory.

And then Dibble emerged from the champagne and cheers to say: "I still don't consider myself the Luton No.1 and I want first team football."

Chance

The 22-year-old Welsh international, who seized his chance when Les Sealey was injured, added: "Les has been in all season, he's almost fit and the manager might opt for him next week.

"I just take it a game at a time. I shall see what happens over the next couple of weeks, it's up to the club if they want to make me a positive offer."

Wherever Dibble ends

By BARRY FLATMAN

up next season he's sure of a glowing reference... from rival manager George Graham.

Arsenal boss Graham said: "Their goalkeeper was absolutely superb. He kept them in the game when they could have been finished."

And Dibble admitted: "I knew I had to save that penalty or things would have been all over for us.

"I did not guess which way to go with the save until Winterburn was taking his run-up. Thank God, I guessed right."

Luton manager Ray Harford enthused: "Dibble was my man of the match. He was absolutely brilliant. When the penalty came I thought we were dead and buried."

But Luton could

lose Wembley hero

The emotional torment clearly took its toll on Harford, who added: "I feel ten times worse today than when we lost to Reading in the Simod Cup final. This was the greatest win in my time at Luton yet I could not even smile for the photographers."

Row

Luton cashed in on Dibble's heroics to equalise through Danny Wilson, before Brian Stein snatched his second goal of the game seconds from time to give Luton their first major trophy in 102 years.

A euphoric Stein then revealed how he smoothed over a bust-up after his younger brother Mark stormed out of the Luton hotel after being made substitute.

"I told him he was being a bit silly," said Brian.

"He was obviously very disappointed because he has been in the side all season, but he is young and a bit head-strong. In the end he saw I was making sense."

And Brian added: "I couldn't believe it when I scored the winner. I asked the referee how long was left and he just blew the whistle."

Meanwhile, Luton's teenage winger Kingsley Black received an extra boost when he heard he had been called into the Northern Ireland squad for Wednesday's friendly against France.

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