Sad exit for the Wallaces

88/89

REFEREE Tony Ward left the pitch surrounded by policemen protecting him from protesting Saints players after a marathon match.

They were incensed with his decision to disallow a Rod Wallace goal in the 69th minute and his dismissal of Rod's 19-year-old twin Ray two minutes from the end.

Southampton.....1
Luton Town.....2
(Aet. 90 min: 0-0)
By BRIAN SCOVELL

But despite their anger at being dumped out of the Littlewoods Cup 15 days after failing in the FA Cup against Derby, also after extra time, the slow-motion replays showed the London referee was correct.

Indestructible Luton, unbeaten in the competition away from home for five years, now meet West Ham in the two-leg semi-final after an amazing game that provided great drama for an 18,872 crowd and a nationwide TV audience.

Dominant

Turning point was the disallowed goal because Southampton were so dominant in the second half after the holders shaded the first that they created ten chances to Luton's none.

The attacking Wallaces, Rod and his other brother Danny, showed their full range of exciting shots and headers which goalkeeper Les Sealey stopped or could only watch go by his posts. Both players also hit the woodwork.

When Danny slipped past Tim Breacker on the left and stumbled, linesman John Connock raised his flag. But referee Ward allowed play to continue and from Danny's cross, Rod forced the ball over the line at the near post.

The official still had his flag up and after consulting him, the refere gave a free-kick 'for a push on the full-back'. Southampton players were enraged and trainer Dennis Rofe had to pull them away.

A goal then might have settled it but Paul Rideout scorned a hat-trick and seconds from the end Danny Wallace saw a shot blocked by Danny Wilson on the line.

It was a different story in extra time as Luton's midfield stifled the service to the wide-playing Wallaces.

Luton took advantage of the reprieve, Mick Harford heading firmly past John Burridge in the 100th minute and Ricky Hill added another eight minutes later. Two minutes from time Rod Wallace made it 2-1.

Southampton manaager Chris Nicholl said: 'We're fed up with this. It was a carbon copy of the Derby cup-tie, when we created a lot of chances, played well and lost. The disallowed goal looked like a classic piece of skill to me. But the referee and linesmen are always right.

HIGH FLIERS ... Danny Wilson (7) and Rod Wallace battle for honours at the Dell