

43/94 (CAC)

# Luton heroes pelted with bricks after cheat storm

By NEIL CUSTIS: Cardiff 1 Luton 2

**LUTON'S FA Cup heroes last night spoke of their terror after being pelted with bricks and other missiles at Ninian Park.**

The crowd turned ugly after Luton's David Preece scored a controversial 70th-minute winner Cardiff claimed was clearly offside.

Scott Oakes, one of Luton's scorers yesterday, said: "It was terrifying out there. At one stage I was hit by a piece of brick about three inches thick and it has caused my arm to swell up.

"Most of the lads have got bruises after being hit by pieces of brick, stone or coins flying down from the terraces throughout the game. It was obviously very dangerous."

A steward had to be taken to Cardiff Hospital after having ammonia sprayed in his face by a fan. Another steward had his thumb broken.

Trouble flared over the winner as Ceri Hughes was in an offside position when Preece scored.

Luton manager David Pleat even apologised to Cardiff chairman Rick Wright for the goal.

Wright said: "There could have been major problems with the crowd over the goal. I hope the FA realise that their officials are causing these situations."

Cardiff already face a £25,000 fine over crowd trouble at both Fulham and at home to Swansea this season.

## Cheated

But Cardiff boss Eddie May insisted his side felt "cheated."

Now May and chairman Wright are sure to land in hot water with the FA after slamming referee Roger Dilkes and linesman Brian Rice.

May stormed: "I know cheated is a strong word but I don't care what anyone says or what action is taken against me because my team was cheated. To lose a Cup tie like that is a disgrace. I feel very bitter."

Chairman Wright, still shaking with rage half an hour after the final whistle, added: "That linesman should be brought up for bringing the game into disrepute."

"We have 11 boys in there who should be looking forward to a replay at the very least but instead they have been cheated."

Referee Dilkes said a directive had been sent out telling both clubs and officials that if a player is not interfering with play the goal stood.

Dilkes said: "If you read the directive you will see the linesman was completely right."

The goal left the Cardiff fans and players feeling bitter after a cut-and-thrust cup tie.

Whether Hughes was near the ball or not, the

## Sun star man

**TREVOR PEAKE** (Luton). Used all his experience to help out the kids around him.

## Sun ratings

CARDIFF: Grew 6 (Kite 6), Brazil 6, Searle 7, Millar 5, Baddeley 7, Perry 7, Thompson 6, Richardson 7, Bird 6, Dale 5 (Stant 7), Griffith 6.

LUTON: Sommer 7, James 6, Peake 8, Dreyer 7, Telfer 7, Oakes 7, Preece 6, Hughes 7, Hartson 6 (Dixon 6), Linton 6, Harper 7.

home defence were trying to play him offside and so left Preece free to latch on to Hartson's through-ball.

It was bitter blow for the Second Division side, who just five minutes earlier had scored a glorious equaliser.

Striker Phil Stant had been on the pitch only 12 minutes when he swivelled to latch on to a Gary Thompson header and release an unstoppable volley past Juergen Sommer.

That goal had levelled a brilliant Scott Oakes opener just six minutes before the break.

The home side had been playing a dangerous offside game and finally it was sprung.

Cardiff keeper Mark Grew, struggling with a groin injury, released a poor kick and Preece stormed on to it.

He avoided one challenge and then released the speedy Oakes who cut inside, skated past Paul Miller and fired into the bottom corner.

Cardiff were down, but not out and even when they had to change keepers at half time maintained their composure.

But tactical master Pleat had again outwitted his opponents, just as he had Kevin Keegan's Newcastle in the previous round.

Employing Alan Harper just in front of the back four, Luton were cutting off all the channels and Cardiff were reduced to shots from narrow angles and long range.