

DREAM IS WRECKED BY CREWE

LUTON Town's Wembley dreams ended at Kenilworth Road yesterday after a night of pulsating soccer condemned them to be also-rans in the second division again.

They gave everything in front of a vociferous crowd of 8,168 but it was not quite good enough against one of the better teams in the second division.

On the night Crewe earned their play-off draw by fighting back from the shock

**LUTON TOWN 2
CREWE ALEXANDRA 2**
(Crewe win 4-3 on aggregate)

of conceding two goals in the first 30 minutes to David Oldfield.

Crewe will be glad they don't have to face him again because it was Oldfield who scored for Luton in the first leg at

Gresty Road. And for all the passion and endeavour that went into last night's return match the Hatters have paid a high price for falling apart in the second half at Crewe when they were lucky to concede only two goals.

Last night it was the massive frame of Ian Feuer which kept Crewe at bay when they opted for an all-out attacking policy to try to build on their narrow lead.

Feuer made three vital saves as Luton took time to get their game together.

Oldfield's strikes, in the 19th and 30th minutes, raised hopes that the Hatters were good enough to overcome the deficit and go to Wembley on Sunday week for the playoff final.

But with Tony Thorpe almost marked out of the game, Luton could not find another goal. The joyful celebrations which greeted Oldfield's second strike lasted less than a minute because Colin Little headed a goal for Crewe after Feuer could only parry a drive by Adebola.

Crewe played some good attacking football after that and Shaun Smith headed the equaliser on 51 minutes after Luton failed to deal with a corner.

They complained in vain that Feuer was fouled as he went for the ball and the aggrieved shouts were even louder soon afterwards when Luton thought they should have had a penalty.

But referee Roy Pearson from Durham ruled that it was only obstruction by Ashley Westwood on Thorpe

BRIAN SWAIN reports from Kenilworth Road

and for the indirect free kick six yards from goal Crewe put everybody into the defensive wall.

This did its job, blocking a drive by Steve Davis.

Manager Lennie Lawrence threw caution to the wind in the closing stages sending on extra attackers Andrew Fotiadis and Dwight Marshall. And Crewe lived dangerously as Luton piled on the pressure.

Luton Town:
Feuer, Patterson, Thomas, Waddock (Fotiadis 66 mins), Davis, Johnson, McLaren, Alexander, Oldfield, Thorpe, Showler (Marshall 80).

Crewe: Kearton, Unsworth, Westwood, Macauley, Smith, Murphy, Charnock, Whalley, Little, Adebola, Rivers.



● **LEADING** scorer Tony Thorpe shows strength and determination as he attacks the Crewe goal during Sunday's play-off semi-final game at Gresty Road. But despite shaking off this defender, the 31-goal striker's final effort went wide and Hatters entered last night's second leg match at Kenilworth Road with a one-goal deficit.