

BLACKPOOL.....1

Taylor (4)

LUTON TOWN.....3

Howard (58) Brkovic (59, 90)

BY JAMES WILLIAMS

BELEAGUERED Blackpool boss Colin Hendrie said he was disgusted with his side's performance after they gave away a golden opportunity to grab League points.

Blackpool went ahead against the table-toppers after four minutes and looked quite capable of keeping that lead against a Luton side which has won all its games this season.

But, after half-time, the Blackpool game plan completely fell apart and Hendrie watched as his defence was torn apart and his midfield trio completely outwitted.

He said: "I am disgusted. Disgusted because the players knew what to do, but they just forgot all about what they had been told.

"There are some people feeling very sorry for themselves in our dressing room at the moment, but they should be asking themselves what went wrong. This is very much down to them."

Hendrie confirmed that

star midfielder Richie Wellens is to leave the club sooner rather than later which will further compound his managerial problems.

Blackpool have already turned down a bid for the 24-year-old from Bristol City, but expect a bigger fee to be offered this week.

Hendrie hopes that he may get involved in a player-exchange deal as Manchester United will get 50% of any Wellens fee in a sell-on clause.

Meanwhile, Hendrie is understood to have approached former team-mate David Batty in a bid to add some midfield steel to his side on a short-term basis.

Blackpool went ahead after just four minutes. A lovely free kick from Paul Edwards was headed down by John Murphy into the path of Scott Taylor who blasted home his fourth of

Hendrie in Black mood after side blow game

the season from 12 yards out.

With Mark McGregor doing well in midfield in the early stages Blackpool looked comfortable although keeper Lee Jones had to be agile to keep out a Steve Howard header after 30 minutes.

It was Howard's pace and skill in the air which gradually began to take its toll on a lightweight home back four.

Certainly after half-time Howard really started to cause

BLACKPOOL		LUTON
47	Possession %	53
4	Corners	9
6	Offsides	10
17	Fouls	21
1	Yellows	3
0	Reds	0
2	Shots On	16
3	Shots Off	2
0	Hit Woodwork	0

BLACKPOOL: Jones 5, Richardson 5 (Parker 84), Clare 6, M Flynn 6, R Edwards 6, Bullock 6, Grayson 5 (M Flynn 61), McGregor 5, P Edwards 6, Taylor 6, Murphy 5.

LUTON: Beresford 7, Keane 7, Davies 8, Coyne 8, Davis 8, Nicholls 8, Brkovic 8, Robinson 8, Underwood 8, Vine 8, Howard 8.

problems and in the 58th minute after a series of goal-line scrapes Blackpool finally conceded - Howard scoring with a brave low header.

A minute later he turned provider when his through ball caused chaos in the

home defence and Ahmet Brkovic nipped between Rob Clare and keeper Jones to score a cheeky second. Blackpool did try and bail themselves out of trouble with Mike Flynn bringing a superb save from Marlon Beresford with five minutes to go.

But it was soon to no avail when Brkovic again left defenders in his wake to score Town's third on 90 minutes.

Town manager Mike Newell said afterwards: "The players must now really start to believe in themselves. We are top of the table and deserve to be there.

"I believe in them. They are good enough to stay top as long as they keep taking games by the scruff of the neck like this one.

"We have the pace and the skill to beat any team in this division."