

WEAKENED TOWN TEAMS MET CHAMPIONS TWICE

STRICKEN by illness and injuries, the Town had to meet the League champions, Manchester United, twice over Christmas with badly-weakened teams.

being two goals down at half-time to rescue a point at 2-2.

This match was the medium of an unexpected first appearance for reserve goalkeeper Eddie Marsh, who emerged as one of the heroes because of some thrilling saves.

Defensive errors further forward were the direct cause of United gaining a comfortable lead through SCANLON and TAYLOR in the 28th and 43rd minutes.

Back into the game came the fighting Town with a goal by GROVES five minutes after half-time with a shot from Kelly's free kick that was diverted past Gregg by Edwards.

After that, play, which had always been on the tough side, became rougher and there were signs of frayed tempers.

Never did the Town give up hope, but United missed chances of sealing victory and had only themselves to blame that they were deprived of it a minute from the end when BROWN rose high to nod through a cross from Hawkes.

What the 26,458 crowd will remember is the way in which the Town fought back to gain their first Division I point from the champions in this thrilling match.

The Town did another reshuffle in attack for this match, with Brown reverting to the middle in place of Gregory and a not-very-successful Cullen having a first outing at inside-left in the senior side.

In both matches, the reserves, Kelly and Pacey, turned in very useful performances, and Marsh showed that the club need have no anxiety about putting him in when necessary.

Town's Hour Of Glory

THE Town's hour of Christmas glory came the following day at Kenilworth-road when, further handicapped by the absence of Baynham, they fought back from