

NO LINE FOR NORWICH "SPIES"

Chelsea 3 Luton Town . . 3

THIS was always likely to be a difficult match for the Town, and they did well, considering the much-changed team they had on duty, to come away with a point from Stamford Bridge this afternoon.

On the other hand, looking at it from the other point of view, Chelsea, cut down to 10 men for 78 minutes, put up a great fight and did very well to avoid defeat.

Anybody from Norwich who was watching the Town with an eye to next Saturday, and I believe Manager Archie Macaulay was here, would not be able to draw much of a line on comparative form.

Without four of their regulars, the Town wore a strained look, and for much of the first half their play looked as if they had overmuch thought on next Saturday's big occasion.

By and large, I thought the deputies did well. Collier had something of a shaky first half, perhaps brought about by the rather unlucky loss of an early goal, and he was further unsettled when the second came. He should have saved the first shot. Afterwards, though, he showed complete confidence in his handling of the ball, and brought off several good saves.

There was no doubt that the driving power of Owen was missed, but for all that Kelly put up a very competent performance in a quiet sort of way, as he always does when brought into the first team.

Once again Groves and Pacey were much in command of the situation, but both McNally and Hawkes had troubles at times against the clever wing play of Brabrook and Blunstone.

The forwards did not move with the smoothness they had been showing in recent weeks, but McGuffie, brought in at inside-right for the first time, put up a very resolute display and was a bit unlucky not to snatch the winning goal.

In the first half it was Morton who was most dangerous, with Bingham worrying Whittaker whenever he was brought into the picture. Turner, back in the first team for the first time in two months, signalled his return by snatching a couple of opportunist goals but Gregory, who seemed to be troubled by the thigh injury that nearly stopped him playing last Wednesday, had a very thin time against Sillett.

All in all, a difficult match to weigh up, not only because of Chelsea's handicap, but because of the obvious preoccupation of some of the Town players with a much more important event.

This was a valuable and quite needed point which will serve to allay any worry about that crowded League programme in April.

Attendance: 29,175.