

CHANGES TELL, BUT TOWN GET A POINT

CHELSEA LOSE GOALKEEPER WITH CONCUSSION

Turner Makes Notable Return To Luton Side

By Chiltern

Chelsea 3 Luton Town . . 3

SHOCK for the town this morning was the news that, not only was Ron Baynham unfit because of a boil on an arm, but Allan Brown had to stay in bed because of a sudden attack of tonsillitis.

Alan Collier, 20-years-old former Youth International, came in to make his League debut, and the inside-right vacancy was filled by bringing in 21-years-old Alwyn McGuffie from the reserve team. McGuffie had a spell in the first team last season at right-half, but this is the first time to my knowledge that he has been used as an inside forward.

With Owen and Cummins rested, Kelly and Turner came into the side, which wore a most unfamiliar look. Chelsea made changes after their heavy defeat on Wednesday, with Whittaker coming in at left-back and Nicholas being included in the forward line for the first time since November.

The pitch was wet after heavy rain this morning and it was Bob Morton who captained the team in the absence of both Owen and Brown.

Chelsea were away from the start and a miskick by Pacey from a centre by Brabrook might have been serious had the rest of the Chelsea forwards been awake to the situation.

The Town's first dangerous raid came when Pacey went right up but was tackled inside the penalty area. Then came a free kick to Chelsea when Groves blatantly pushed Nicholas some five yards outside the penalty area. The free kick brought a strong surge to the Town end and it ended with Mortimore shooting yards too high.

Then it was McGuffie, penalised for a foul on Tindall, who brought more activity inside the Town penalty area, which was eventually cleared by McNally.

A well-placed corner by Gregory gave the Town their best chance so far, and there was a hectic scramble in front of goal as Bingham deliberately headed the ball into the goalmouth.

Beautiful work by Bingham, who had beat Whittaker, was followed by a pass to McGuffie, who tried to find Morton but hit the ball too hard, and Matthews was able to come out to clear.

TWO QUICK ONES

With seven minutes gone Chelsea took the lead through BRABROOK, who went low to head in a centre from Greaves. With Collier at full length, the ball went in off the inside of a post.

The Town hit back hard to force two corners, both of which looked potentially dangerous, and Matthews had a hand in clearing each.

Then the Town equalised

How The Goals Came

BRABROOK for Chelsea after 7 minutes.
TURNER for Luton after 12 minutes.
NICHOLAS for Chelsea after 28 minutes.
BLUNSTONE for Chelsea after 46 minutes.
McGUFFIE for Luton after 47 minutes.
TURNER for Luton after 52 minutes.

made a strong drive that Tindall hugged firmly to his body.

Chelsea were in trouble when Crowther made a throw-in to Tindall, who dropped the ball when harassed by Morton, but it was scrambled away successfully by Scott when the centre came across.

For a time the Town's numerical superiority told its tale, but then there was a sharp Chelsea break in which Greaves made a lot of ground before parting with the ball in the direction of Brabrook, who, however, was foiled by Collier's quick reaction.

In the next minute, the 28th, Chelsea regained the lead through NICHOLAS, who followed up strongly to hammer the ball home after Collier had been able to only half save a hard drive by Greaves.

SHOULD HAVE SAVED

There was no doubt that Collier should have saved the first shot and it was a slice of bad luck for the Town.

Chelsea were certainly putting up a brave show in view of their handicap and again they swept to the attack through Blunstone whose pass to Greaves brought real danger until the inside-right rammed the ball too close to Kelly who cleared.

There was no doubt that the changes that had been forced on to the Town were telling their tale because there was not the cohesion and strongness in attack we have been seeing these last weeks.

Brilliant work by Bingham made a half-chance for McGuffie, who was not quite quick enough to accept it, and the Town were very much in the game at this juncture.

For some time there was not much danger from either forward line, until Brabrook brilliantly beat Hawkes twice in a very narrow space and flashed across a centre that Nicholas just failed to meet with his head.

Straight from this, there was a sharp break by Bingham who, from 25 yards, shot left-footed a foot or so wide of a post.

There was no sign of a return by Matthews, who seemed to have received a serious injury.

Chelsea's four-man attack was switching about quite a bit, and when Blunstone popped up in the inside-right position it was only at the cost of a corner that Groves managed to stop him. Trouble was coming from both Blunstone and Brabrook.

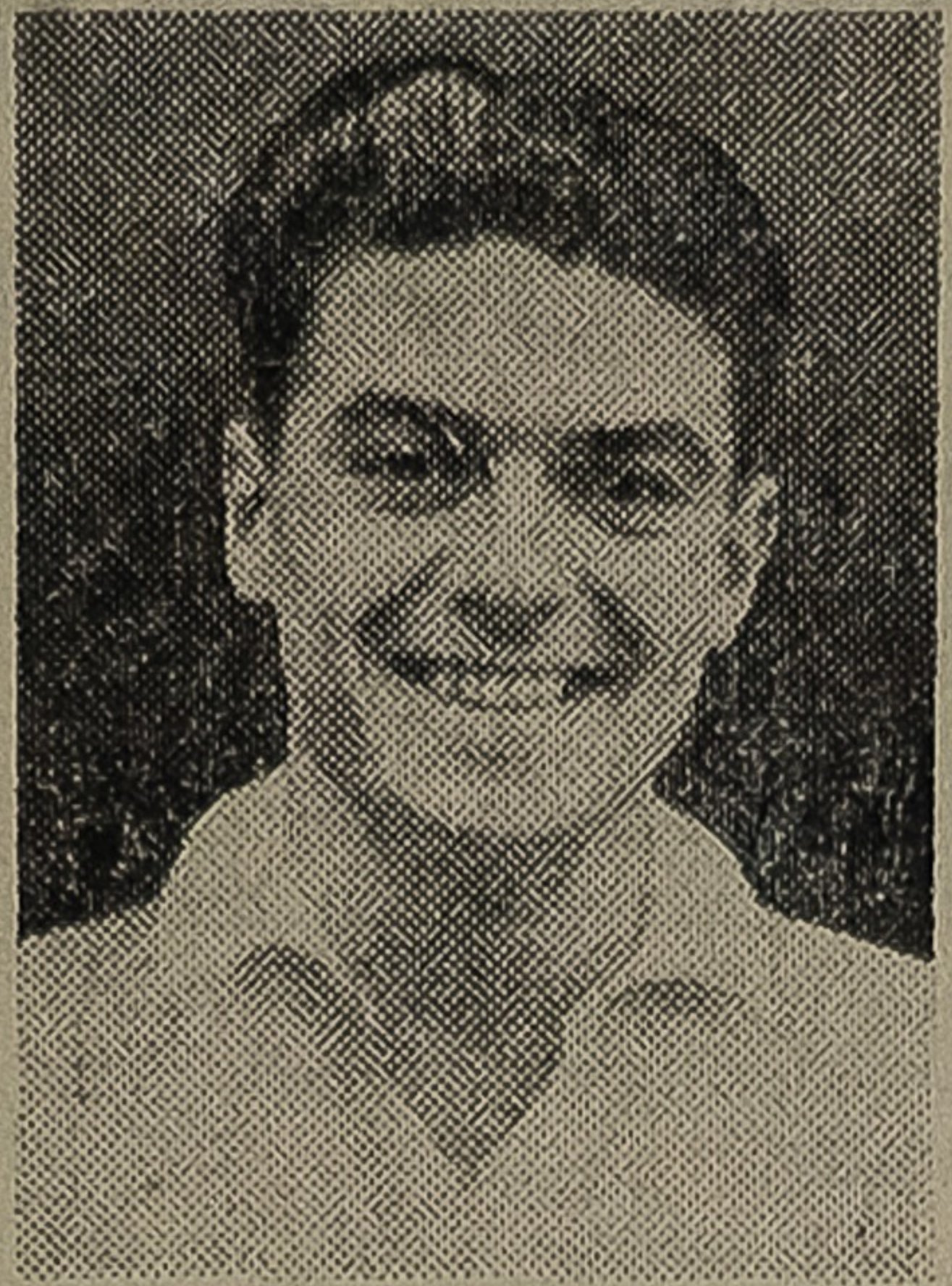
Then came a tremendous, low drive from Mortimore that Collier, at full length, just managed to finger-tip inches around the post.

Towards half-time there was some Town pressure, but no real sign of punch in front of goal.

PENALTY CLAIMS FAIL

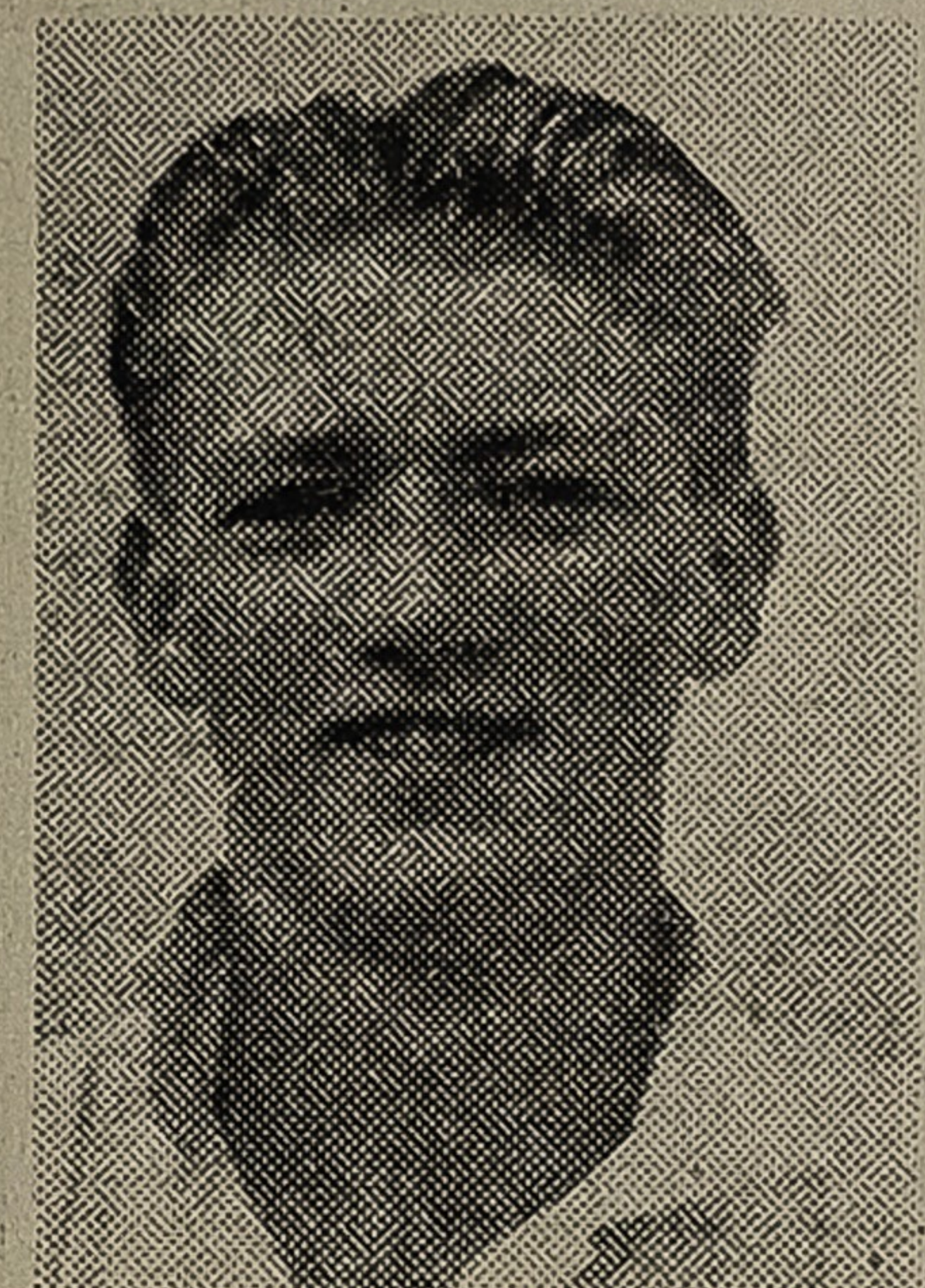
Just before half-time Morton was pulled down heavily inside the penalty area, but Town claims for a penalty were waved aside, and all they got was a corner, from which Groves headed wide.

Twice, attempts by McGuffie to break through were thwarted



Turner signalled his return to the 1st XI by a goal in the 12th minute. The ball ran loose and it was a simple job to put it into the net.

Forty minutes later Gordon again found the net, with a header.



McGuffie's appearance in the 1st XI was marked by a goal in the 47th minute. He worried Tindall into a mistake and almost walked the ball into the net.

by good defensive covering, and although Chelsea had now been forced back on to the defensive, the Town did not give much sign of scoring. Half-time:

CHELSEA 2
LUTON 1

The second half opened sensationally, with a goal to either side by the time it was two minutes old. First of all Chelsea gained a corner on the right and BLUNSTONE gained possession, brushed off at least two tackles and, having weaved his way into the penalty area, crashed the ball into the roof of the net, giving Collier no chance.

A minute later—the 47th—the Town broke away and McGuffie, following up strongly a through pass, worried Tindall into a mistake, and was able to almost walk the ball into the net.

During the interval it was said that Matthews was suffering from concussion and was unlikely to take any further part in the match. Meanwhile, there was more work for Tindall in snatching away from the feet of Turner a cross from Bingham.

TURNER AGAIN

There had been more life in the play this half, and Collier did well to keep out a header from Brabrook, who met a rather wild shot from Nicholas.

With 52 minutes gone the Town drew level through TURNER, who blinded the ball into the net with his head after good work by Bingham and Morton.

Chelsea should have gone back into the lead almost immediately because Greaves was left with a near open goal as Pacey failed to clear but Collier bravely came out to smother the shot.

Back came the Town, and a brilliant through pass by Turner left McGuffie some 15 yards from goal with a shooting chance. He hit the ball hard and true and it cannoned off the face of the crossbar for as narrow an escape as Chelsea are likely to get.

This game was full of possibilities now and Bingham

THE LINE-UP

CHELSEA: Matthews; Sillett (P), Whittaker; Mortimore, Scott, Crowther; Brabrook, Greaves, Tindall, Nicholas, Blunstone.

LUTON TN: Collier; McNally, Hawkes, Groves, Kelly, Pacey; Bingham, McGuffie, Morton, Turner, Gregory.

Referee: K. Collinge, Sale.

three times threatened the Chelsea defence without quite managing to produce the finish.

Then Turner was rushed brusquely off the ball as he shaped to shoot and in this raid Chelsea collected another injury. This time it was Whittaker who needed the trainer's attention.

He was soon all right again and play re-started with a heavy raid by the Town that broke down in the region of the penalty area, but they came back again with McGuffie, working hard, vainly trying to find Morton down the middle.

TOWN THREATEN

Twice Crowther tried to force a way through the Town defence, only to be stopped on each occasion by Groves, who set the next Luton attack in motion by finding Bingham, whose centre was headed behind for safety by Mortimore.

McGuffie came close to putting the Town in the lead after some fine preliminary work by Bingham and a clever header by Morton, but Tindall somehow pulled down the shot from well above his head. Again the Town threatened, but this time there was a weak finish by Gregory, who pushed the ball tamely straight at Tindall.

Back came Chelsea and Greaves was unlucky with a terrific shot that whipped inches wide of the post, with Collier at full stretch.

Crowther was spoken to by the referee for a bad foul on Morton and following a free-kick, Turner had a strong drive headed away by Crowther.

Morton and McGuffie were developing quite an understanding and from a flick by the centre-forward the inside-right was unlucky to be caught just offside.

There was still little or nothing in it, with Chelsea putting up a gallant fight against the odds and Collier had to be quick to push over the bar a lob by Crowther that threatened to creep in.

Then Collier was in action again, punching away Brabrook's corner. This was followed by a quick Town breakaway that looked promising until Scott just managed to beat Bingham in a race for the ball.

When Brabrook was pulled down by Groves, racing across to cover, there was a free-kick to Chelsea but it was promptly cleared, and then Hawkes handled some six or seven yards outside the penalty area to prevent a through pass going on to Brabrook.

Free-kick expert Sillett came up to take it and crashed the ball a couple of feet wide of a post and shook his hands in exasperation as he watched the ball go wide.

INFRINGEMENTS FREQUENT

McGuffie was fouled as he sought to break through and Morton swung first time at Groves's kick but I do not think he got a touch because if he had I think he would have been a certain scorer. As it was, the ball gathered speed off the pitch and gave Tindall quite a sticky problem.

Infractions were becoming frequent now and there was another case of handling, this time by McNally about six yards outside the penalty area and bang in the middle of the goal. Again Sillett came up, and got the ball

through the defensive wall, but Collier was there to make a splendid save.

It was still a hard fight, with Chelsea very much in the game despite their handicap.

Another free kick came their way, to be punctuated by boos as every award against the Town was from this very partisan crowd. This time it was Kelly who raced across to crash into Brabrook and from the free kick Sillett shot well wide.

Turner was spoken to by the referee for tripping Nicholas and play was becoming scrappy in the extreme. Then came some heavy Luton pressure in which Pacey had a hard drive blocked and Chelsea, for a few seconds, were really at action stations.

A brilliant break-through by Bingham from McGuffie's pass brought hopes of the winner, but after he had beaten Whittaker, Crowther raced across, and Bingham's centre went behind.

Blunstone missed a chance of putting Chelsea back in the lead when he shot over from just in-

side the penalty area after Kelly had made a mistake.

CONFIDENT COLLIER

It began to look like stalemate now, with neither side really promising to snatch the odd goal, though Collier, playing with plenty of confidence this half, pulled down in highly confident style a long centre by Sillett.

From this the Town broke away through Bingham, and Gregory, from a fairly good position, only half hit the ball which rolled gently to Tindall.

Then Collier had to throw himself to his left to push away a dangerous cross from Blunstone, and there was a bit of trouble for the Town defence at this juncture, until a wild kick by Scott reached Collier first bounce.

Bingham put the defence in trouble with an ill-advised back pass, but the ball was scrambled away out to Mortimore, who drove well wide. Result:

CHELSEA 3
LUTON 3

NEW "BABES" LEAVE CRADLE IN ONE SEASON

THE recovery of Manchester United since the Munich disaster has surely been one of the most remarkable achievements in the history of Soccer. It was thought Manager Matt Busby would need five years to lift his latest bunch of bouncing 'Babes' from the cradle to the heights, yet he has done the trick in a single season.

Underlining the United come-back is the fact that not only is the first eleven shining—the reserve side in the Central League is also stocked with young talent.

Take the near-embarrassment of inside - forward riches. There's plenty of advocates that England should "cap" the complete United senior trio of Albert Quixall, Dennis Viollet and Bobby Charlton. It could happen for next month's Wembley meeting with Scotland.

Meanwhile, in reserve at Old Trafford are three talented teenagers in John Giles, Alec Dawson and Mark Peason, who could all be seriously challenging for first team recognition a year hence.

Dublin-born Giles has yet to make his League debut for United, but I'm told he has the hall-mark of brilliance. The star he understudies,

Quixall, has described John as nothing less than "the most outstanding prospect in the game today."

Giles may have to wait a while for First Division lime-light . . . but you can expect him to be "capped" by Eire for the coming European Nations Cup match against Czechoslovakia.