

TOWN GO OUT IN ITALY

LAZIO 2, LUTON TOWN 2

THE TOWN HAVE been knocked out of the Anglo-Italian tournament. A well-earned draw against Lazio, in Rome's Olympic Stadium, was not enough to take them through to the semi-finals.

But the Town's first entry into the tournament — unhappily it is also likely to be their last — has been reasonably successful, and manager Harry Haslam thinks that it has provided some invaluable experience for the club

By **BRIAN SWAIN**
Sports Editor

and for the players.

And he had nothing but praise for his team

after their fighting draw with Lazio.

He said: "The Italians tried to kid us that they were going to play a weakened side. Don't you believe it. They went all out to win. Two of the team, Chinaglia and Mazzola are

Italian internationals — and world class at that.

Chinaglia was the man who dealt the first blow against the Town's hopes of a victory in Rome. Just after the interval he scored direct from a free-kick.

Graham Horn missed it. "He knew it was a silly goal," said the manager later, "but that's football."

The Town did most of the attacking, with Lazio relying on the traditional Italian system of slowing it down at the back, soaking up pressure, and then breaking quickly and accurately in the quest for goals while the other team is still stretched.

The Town drew level through Peter Anderson's header following a build-up involving young full-back Paul Price and Jimmy Ryan. Chinaglia put Lazio back in front, and John Ryan scored the Town's second equaliser after having two shots charged down during a concerted Town attack.

Mr Haslam said: "It was a good all-round team per-

formance. We had 75 per cent of the play, but the shots just wouldn't go in. John Moore had a shot which hit one post, cannoned off and hit the other, and still didn't go in.

"Peter Anderson had a shot that was going for goal until it hit Alan Slough and was deflected over the bar.

"Paul Price had a good game, and he and Bobby Thomson were both able to overlap and join in the shooting."

Lazio are second in the Italian First Division, and the manager reckoned the Town did well to hold them to a draw especially as they were without players of the calibre of John Aston, Barry Butlin, Graham French and Don Shanks.

All in all, said the Manager, the Town's first venture into European soccer had been more than useful. The players had sampled different tactics and experiences, and that could only be for the good of the club.

Knocked out by team they beat!

THE TOWN finished third out of the eight clubs in their group in the Anglo-Italian tournament. But because the system has to produce semi-finalists from both countries, an Italian team with a lesser record goes through to the next stage of the competition.

It is one of the farcical elements of a tournament which may well now be going through its final season.

and a look at the two league tables for this year's competition suggests that English soccer has much greater strength in depth.

Each group of eight was dominated by its English teams.

So the Town, who lost only one game in the tournament, failed to qualify in their group. Fiorentina, who lost to the Town, did qualify, despite having a worse record than Luton's.

Group Two was even more offbeat. Blackpool won every game they played, but did not qualify for the semi-finals, because they were

Winners: Italian losers

second in the table, on goal difference, to Newcastle.

Bologna are in the semi-finals—yet they did not win a single match.

The final league table in the Town's group was:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Crystal Palace	4	3	1	0	10	4	7
Man. Utd	4	2	2	0	8	3	6
Luton Town	4	2	1	1	8	4	5
Hull	4	2	1	1	4	3	5
Fiorentina	4	1	2	1	4	4	4
Lazio	4	0	2	2	4	7	2
Verona	4	1	0	3	5	11	2
Bari	4	0	1	4	1	8	1