

HARD FIGHT FOR

ROD FERN, still a favourite with Town fans despite being kept in the Reserves until last week, stormed back into league soccer at Cardiff when the Town picked up a valuable point in a goalless draw.

The game was played in swirling rain, with a wind so strong that corner kicks floated into the goalmouth were being carried half-way to the centre spot long before they were within reach of strikers.

Graham Horn came back into the side at Keith Barber's expense, and earned his place by some good saves, but Fern was the man who caught the eye.

BEST TOWN ATTEMPT

In terrible weather conditions, and with only 5,000 fans scattered across Ninian Park's expansive terraces, good football was out of the question, and both sides were happy to settle for the draw.

But Rod Fern's skills

73/74

A VITAL POINT

stood out when he was put on after an hour, in place of Peter Cruse. With his wispy hair flying in the wind, Fern steamed through the midfield time and time again, and put in the Town's best scoring attempt with a 20-yard drive which brought a great save from Bill Irwin.

Cardiff, struggling at the wrong end of the league table, were in no mood to allow the Town to play football, and in a rugged match there were several unwelcome clashes.

Don Shanks collected two items he could have done without — a stud-marked gash in the thigh which needed three stitches after the match, and a booking for a foul on Villers.