

THORPE SPOT ON FOR POINT

Chesterfield 1 Luton Tn 1

A GOAL their fans never saw saved a valuable away point for Luton Town at Saltergate on Tuesday night.

The match was in danger of being abandoned as fog thickened up at half-time and while a re-shaped Hatters side battled through to consolidate second place in the table, some of the sub-standard action was well suited to the weather.

And manager Lennie Lawrence confirmed afterwards that he will consider changes for Saturday's home game with promotion-chasing Millwall.

Left back became a problem position at York, when Mitchell Thomas had his nose broken, and in need of surgery.

At Saltergate Darren Patterson was recalled at right back, with Julian James switching to the left.

Caught

But it was central defence that was caught out when Chesterfield took a 15th-minute lead. It took 13 minutes for news to reach the Press-box at the top of the main stand that Kevin Davies had headed in from a deep right-wing cross by Chris Beaumont. Town fans behind that goal had a good view of it, and the inquest in the pub later reached a unanimous verdict that the Town marking was nowhere.

The same fans saw nothing of the equaliser, 100 yards away, five minutes before the interval. They and the Pressbox heard a roar as Tony

**REPORT
BY
BRIAN
SWAIN**

Thorpe fell over as Chris Perkins tussled with him and referee Phil Richards gave a penalty. Thorpe converted his seventh spot kick of the season for his 23rd goal.

The ref extended half-time to 30 minutes to wait for visibility to improve.

It did, but the football was not pretty to watch. With Chesterfield thinking about their big FA Cup quarter-final with Wrexham on Sunday, and Luton battling for form and determined not to be beaten, soccer entertainment was in short supply.

Decent

Chesterfield manager John Duncan had no complaints. "I wanted a win, but to draw against a team like Luton is not too bad," he said.

Town boss Lawrence said his team's start was poor, then improved considerably "to decent, not good."

Chesterfield had marginally the better of it, but Luton had ground out a result.