

PACEY HURT, BUT HOPES TO BE FIT

If He Is, An Unchanged Team Is Probable

BY CHILTERN

FOR the Town it will be a case of breaking completely new ground tomorrow night when they meet Crewe Alexandra at their Gresty-road ground and I can find no record of the paths of the two clubs ever having clashed before.

Few of the Town players have appeared on this rather cramped enclosure, though Ron Davies almost certainly did during his days with Chester and there is a probability that Gareth Salisbury did so during his time with Wrexham.

THE injury position allowing, Manager Bill Harvey will almost certainly announce an unchanged team, and the only doubt yesterday concerned Dave Pacey, who slightly wrenched an ankle, and was also having treatment for a bruised thigh muscle.

However, trainer Frank King was reasonably optimistic that he will be fit, and said that there was no doubt about Alan Daniel, who received a kick on a thigh muscle.

In choosing his teams for last Saturday, the manager made allowance for a defensive injury by holding back Allan McBain.

McBain Could Be In Line For Debut

HIS line of thought was that if a wing-half were injured, then John Bramwell could move up, as he did in the closing stages of last season, and so make room for McBain to make his debut.

Should the rather unexpected happen, and Pacey not satisfy the trainer about his fitness, then there seems no reason to suppose that the manager will decide on any other move in order to fill the vacancy.

Crewe Have Doubt About Dave Ewing

CREWE began their career in Division III by losing narrowly at Mansfield after having held the lead from the 29th minute until Mansfield equalised after 74

minutes, and secured the winner two minutes from the end.

A change may be forced upon them because former Manchester City centre-half, Dave Ewing, strong man of their defence, received a knock, and it was not at all certain yesterday that he will be able to play.

Before Saturday's match, Crewe switched their forward line about, with Haydock, due to play at inside-left, appearing at outside-right, King moving to inside-left from inside-right, where Wheatley, down originally for the wing, played.

Increased Defensive Strength Gives Hope
SO their line-up, which is unlikely to be changed much tomorrow was: Hickson; Whelan, Leigh; Keery Ewing, Riggs; Haydock, Wheatley, Lord, King, Smith.

This is a match that the Town could well win in view of the added strength that was shown by the defence against Walsall on Saturday.

Afterwards, the manager was pleased with the way in which they had knitted together, and he feels that a fair quota of away points should come their way this season.

Certainly, it was a pleasant change to see a Luton centre-half as dominant when the ball was in the air as was Fincham.

Defensive Covering Was Much Better

THIS single fact is going to take a lot of strain off the remainder of the defence and

FOR THE RECORDS	
LUTON TOWN	1
Turner	
WALSALL	0
LUTON TOWN: Bay-	
ham; Daniel, Bramwell;	
Morton, Fincham, Pacey;	
Walden, Turner, Davies,	
Salisbury, Jardine.	
WALSALL: White; Palin,	
Sharples; Dudley, Mc-	
Pherson, Wills; Meek, Hod-	
kisson, Foster, Newton, Fell.	
Referee: S Yates, Bristol.	
Attendance 9,079.	

should make for an increase in confidence all round.

For him, it was a satisfactory debut, and he gave Foster very little scope.

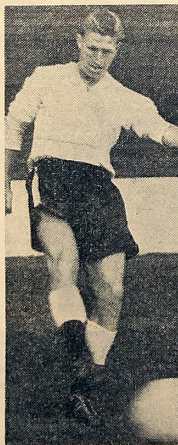
All in all, there was better defensive covering and few of the holes that appeared with such alarming regularity last season, appeared.

Both Morton and Pacey took a strong grip on things and Daniel and Bramwell did extremely well against as dangerous a pair of wing-men as they are likely to meet this season.

Few Real Threats To Town's Lead

INDEED, Fell, who so nearly joined the Town, represented the chief threat to the Town's narrow lead because he might well have scored with a couple of shots.

With one of them, after 61 minutes, he was right out of luck because the ball smacked against



Dave Pacey

the far post with Baynham beaten. However, those instances apart, threats of disaster to the Town were few and far between.

Unfortunately, from the spectacle point of view, this was a battle fought out mainly on defensive lines, with Walsall showing a lot of concentration on defence.

Turner Scored The All-Important Goal

AS a result, only limited opportunities came the way of Davies, who was hustled and hustled by McPherson, but he distributed the ball well and made a couple of scoring efforts that might have succeeded.

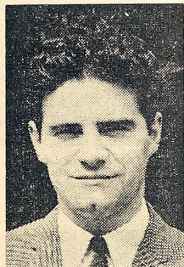
It was the familiar name of Turner which appeared in the list of scorers, and what proved to be

the decisive goal came in the 20th minute.

After having beaten Sharples on the outside, Walden pushed the ball inside, and Turner, from the edge of the penalty area, sent it wide of the unsighted White with what I suspect was something of a half-hit shot, but effective for all that.

Still Problems To Solve In Attack

IT was, perhaps, unfortunate for the Town attack that they should have to meet such a strong defence, strongly committed to offside tactics, in their first match.



Allan McBain

and it really was difficult to make a fair assessment of what might happen in the future.

However, on this showing, there are still problems to be solved. Despite a tendency to run into trouble, Walden was much more dangerous than Jardine, from whom little came, and, while Salisbury did not make a completely satisfactory first appearance, he went close to scoring; two or three times.

Goal Should Give Turner Confidence

THEN, he raced into a gap down the middle for passes from either Davies or Turner, and was beaten only by the quickness of White in leaving his goal.

Turner did more than enough to illustrate that there is still some good football in him, and his goal should do much for his confidence as he resumes a career with the Town that seemed to have ended at the end of last season.

Former Town centre-half Gordon Dreyer, now scouting in this area for Middlesbrough, was at the match to watch Davies