

Of all the clubs in all the world, we had to lose in this one

WHAT a place and what a way to end our five-match unbeaten run.

Although, it was ironic that we came across such a rubbish referee at such a dump of a ground.

It's hard enough to swallow a defeat by Colchester at the best of time but when the referee hands them the match it really sticks in your throat.

I reckon Steve McGavin must have promised him a share of his meat pie stock before the kick off.

Considering we played with ten men from the 30-minute mark and nine men for the last half hour, the team put up a superb defensive performance.

In similar circumstances many previous Blues sides would have let their heads drop and suffered a heavy defeat. But the Big Chief's braves were unlucky to go down by the single goal despite being outnumbered and surrounded by the Colchester boys.

Unfortunately this flurry of red and yellow cards is going

VIEW FROM THE STAND

By Ron Barnett

to make our disciplinary record read like a violent crime report.

We have now had two more red cards than any other team in the division and are amongst the leaders in the yellow card league.

Our reputation as one of the Division Two bad boys will probably encourage more referees to judge our players harshly and bring about more bookings and dismissals.

We are in an an official 'catch 22' situation.

To add insult to injury, no doubt the FA will have a word or two to say about our record and the £20,000 suspended fine they imposed on us at the end of last season.

Now, I realise it's unfair to have a moan about one of the club's best players, especially when he went off injured at Colchester. However, I want to have a whinge about Jamie Bates.

For most of the season I've

been betting on him scoring the first goal of the match at what seemed very attractive odds of 20-1, and several times he has come close.

On Saturday, when he finally broke his club duck, it was 15 minutes too late and an equaliser - and the bookies pocketed my money again.

Mind you, it was worth losing a few quid to see Blaster Bates hit that great free kick. I wonder what his odds will be from now on.

Next stop Preston, who have also just lost their unbeaten run. It's always a tough place to get a result but, who can ever forget that great goal from Hakan Hayrettin back in 1993?

A few more of those on Saturday would do very nicely.

We then have a one-week mid-winter break. Maybe we should offer our services to FIFA to play in a world club tournament in Brazil!

● Read Blues' midfielder Steve Brown's exclusive Park Life column only in next week's BFP Sport.