

BRAZIL'S TREBLE CHANCE PAY-OFF

Luton 0
Ipswich 3

81/82
(FAC)

By DENNIS SIGNY

LUTON boss David Pleat joined the growing ranks of those tipping Ipswich for glory this season after seeing his side swept aside by Bobby Robson's men.

And Pleat even reckons that Ipswich have the quality to land the "impossible treble" of League, FA Cup and League Cup.

"They are obviously high and all working for each other. The involvement from their full backs is something you don't see in the Second Division," said Pleat.

"They are strong physically and skilfully. They know how to be patient. If we can learn one or two lessons from this game it won't upset us too much.

But Luton had been in with a chance until Alan Brazil broke the deadlock in the 61st minute with his 11th goal of the season.

And Ipswich, who had rarely been in top gear until then, went on to clinch a more than comfortable victory with a couple of goals from Eric Gates.

Gates steered in a George Burley cross after 70 minutes to climax a brilliant move.

Then Gates added the third four minutes from the end from a pass by Mick Mills, playing his 700th game for Ipswich.

That makes it an impressive club record 9 wins in a row—plus 24 goals—for the treble chasing First Division leaders.

Killer

But until Brazil's killer goal it was anyone's game and the Second Division leaders, unbeaten since November, and with six home wins in succession under their belt, must have fancied their chances.

A long punt downfield by Paul Cooper was headed on by Paul Mariner. And there was Brazil, steaming past a defender to coolly place the ball firmly in the back of the net.

Terry Butcher, who needed treatment on his nose following an accidental kick by Brian Stein in the 38th minute, was substituted by Kevin O'Callaghan when Ipswich went two up—and were in no danger.

Luton, who brought on Raddy Antic for Mark Azlewood when it was 1-0, will be left remembering what might have been.

Their best moment came after 21 minutes when Ricky Hill neatly sidestepped two defenders with a touch of class and hit a left foot shot against the Ipswich crossbar.

But Cooper had a fairly comfortable afternoon in the Ipswich goal, despite Luton's threat and promise.

Stein even slammed a chance of a consolation goal well wide in the dying seconds.

Man of the Match: Arnold Muhren (Ipswich).