

Sent-off Gregory may rue temper

By COLIN GIBSON

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JOHN GREGORY'S flash of temper, which led to the second sending off in his career, could not have come at a worse time for the Queen's Park Rangers and England international midfield player.

Bobby Robson, the England manager, on his final scouting mission before naming his squad to face Luxembourg in the European Championship on Nov. 16, saw Gregory's 70th-minute dismissal for kicking goalkeeper Les Sealey.

The sending off will not have disturbed Mr Robson as much as the ease in which Gregory was sidetracked from the need to pull QPR level after Paul Elliott's 10th minute goal.

David Pleat, the Luton manager, commented: "Gregory is a good player but he tends to get involved in too many incidents. If the referee had seen one of his niggles earlier he would have been sent off long before the 70th minute."

Terry Venables, the Rangers' manager, however, was convinced that Gregory was hard done by. However, there can be little doubt that the exciting running of Ricky Hill and Brian Stein, of Luton, will have left a more favourable impression with Mr Robson.

Source of encouragement

Hill and Stein, along with teenager Gary Parker, who was on schoolboy forms at Rangers, looked at ease on the controversial artificial pitch. That must be encouraging for Luton who plan a similar surface in an indoor stadium at Milton Keynes.

Parker, making his first full League appearance of the season for Luton, was the architect of the decisive goal. Collecting the ball on the edge of the Rangers area, he side-stepped a challenge before putting over a pinpoint cross to the far post where the impressive Elliott headed fiercely into the roof of the net.

Elliott, named by Mr Robson in the last under-21 squad, could have enhanced his claims for international honours. He was commanding in the air and even demonstrated the ability to turn quickly on the tricky Loftus Road surface.

QPR.—Hucker, Neill, Dawes, Waddock, Wicks, Fenwick, Micklewhite, Stewart, Allen, Stainrod, Gregory.

Luton.—Sealey, Stephens, Turner, Horton, Elliott, Donaghy, Hill, Stein, Walsh, Aylott, Parker.