

QPR AND LUTON SO

BORING 83/84

By BILL MEREDITH

Luton 0, QPR 0

ONE disgruntled fan muttered: "It was as bad as watching England." It was worse. This was like watching two Englands.

The only imagination Rangers showed was in springing the offside trap; the only imagination Luton showed was in constantly being caught by it.

These clubs, managed by two of the most highly-rated young managers in the business, gave a thoroughly poor performance.

At least David Pleat, of Luton, had the honesty to admit his disappointment: "We have had a few negative results—and I can't afford at the moment to go for style and football," he said.

"I have to come to terms with the fact that we work for directors and that results are important. We have drawn with Liverpool and QPR, two of the best teams, but I have not been really happy."

Poor quality

Terry Venables, manager of Rangers, admitted that his team had a "stinker."

"We are entitled to one now and again," he said "After all, we have been involved in more than our fair share of really good matches this season."

This certainly was not one of them. Not only was the football of a poor quality; some of the tackling was, to say the least, dubious.

Rangers lost Charles as early as the 12th minute after a heavy tackle by Horton; Fenwick earned "revenge" with an even worse charge on Horton, which left the Luton player with a 12-inch gash on his thigh.

In between, the niggling went on amid the constant discordant note of the referee's whistle blowing for offside and other infringements. The only relief came when it was all over.

Luton.—Sealey; Stephens, Thomas, Horton, Elliott, Goodyear, Hill, Stein, Walsh, Donaghy, Aylott.
QPR.—Hucker; Neill, Dawes, Waddock, Wicks, Fenwick, Fillery, Stewart, Charles (Allen 12 mins), Stainrod, Gregory.



Jeremy Charles is carried off on a stretcher after an incident with Brian Horton which set the pattern for an ill-tempered match at Luton.