

It's Stein

LUTON manager David Pleat talked glowingly about Rangers' plastic pitch—and who could blame him! He had just seen his reconstructed team record their third successive victory on Loftus Road's Omnaturf surface. Two goals in the last 12 minutes also earned his side their first League win since the opening day of the season.

"The pitch is like a carpet," said Pleat. "It's a very interesting surface and it makes you want to play."

"Our players were looking forward to this match, despite being beaten heavily at Tottenham last week, because it encourages skill and technique."

Alan Mullery, the QPR manager, was not so happy—his side have conceded eight League goals in the last two home matches.

He said: "One or two players have doubts about the system we are playing."

"It's all down to confidence and we'll just have to work on it."

Rangers, so cool and authori-

by PETER WOOD

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tative last season, have suddenly become one of the most erratic teams in the First Division.

They showed their undoubted style in spells, but lacked that most vital of ingredients—belief in themselves.

Luton took the lead after 19 minutes when Ashley Grimes's left-wing centre was powerfully headed in by Steve Elliott from seven yards.

David Moss hit a post from an acute angle before Rangers equalised.

Goalkeeper Andy Dibble, the 19-year-old Welshman, failed to punch clear a Gary Bannister centre and Mike Fillery pounced to chip the ball in.

That goal lifted them, but they had to wait until the 51st minute to get their second.

Simon Stainrod moved swiftly down the right and his cross was toe-poked in by Bannister for his 10th goal of the season.



Luton pushed forward courageously and were rewarded when Paul Elliot, who had an outstanding game in the heart of the defence, headed in David Moss's far-post cross.

With seven minutes left, England international Brian Stein stumbled past two tackles to side-foot the ball home.

Unfortunately, a crowd of only 12,051 witnessed the entertainment and disappointed Pleat said: "After the 5—5 draw with Newcastle here recently, I thought the game would have attracted more people."

"The supporters will definitely see some exciting matches here this season."