

'I'm greedy for style'

THE DAVID PLEAT VIEW

MANAGER David Pleat admitted after Saturday's victory: "I'm greedy and really I shouldn't be."

He went on to explain: "I'm pleased we won, but I like to win in style and we didn't win in style."

"I never felt we were in any trouble but we should have played better."

Pleat praised the performances of Grimes and Newell and refused to be drawn into an Elliott versus Foster assessment.

Compare

"It's not fair to compare them," he said. "One is very experienced and one isn't. But I feel that in the heart of a defence at First Division level you need an old head."



● TAKE THAT! Villa keeper Nigel Spink gropes as Mike Newell cracks his first goal for Luton.

SLICK LUTON A CLASS APART!

IT STARTED like an old school reunion — and ended with Luton proving they were a class apart.

First Luton sub Andy King and Villa's Andy Gray gave each other a hug during the kick-in period while they presumably reminisced about mutual experiences at Everton and Wolves.

Then Steve Foster exchanged pleasantries with his former colleagues at Villa Park.

And finally Paul Elliott, received with the warmest of ovations that must have dulled his passion for battle, swapped embraces with Hatters' coach Trevor Hartley.

Homework

When at last we got down to business, Hatters dished out a footballing lesson and left Villa with plenty of homework to do if they are to avoid expulsion from Division One.

It was a particularly creditable performance from a Luton side troubled with injury.

LUTON 2 ASTON VILLA 0

By GRAHAM PUNTER

LUTON: Sealey, Breacker, Foster, Donaghy, Thomas, Hill, Nicholas, Grimes, Stein, Newell, North. Sub: King.

VILLA: Spink, Norton, Elliott, Evans, Williams, Kerr, Birch, Glover, Gray, Stainrod, Walters. Sub: Shaw.

Mick Harford was still missing following his knee operation and David Preece dropped out after losing 5lb in weight with a bad flu attack.

Steve Foster and Peter Nicholas, both similarly afflicted, climbed off their sick beds to play.

Ashley Grimes came in for his first full game since August and had perhaps his best game yet for Luton, reviving some of that old Manchester United form as his deft left foot went to work.

Mike Newell — and it's Mike not Mick — looked comfortable with a good first touch and a goal to boost his confidence.

Villa, it's true, had problems of their own with England starlet Steve Hodge suspended. But where Luton found a solution to their difficulties, Villa's salvation rested on hope which was never enough.

Newell's debut goal came after 16 minutes when Birch miskicked to instil panic in his defence, Stein nodded on and Luton's newcomer rifled the ball past Spink.

The second goal, 76 minutes into the game, was handed to Luton by full-back Norton who dithered and dallied in his own penalty area, giving Stein the chance to rob him and score with ease.

Screamer

There were other good chances too. Foster headed against the bar and Newell had a good header well tipped over by Spink.

Stein went close with head and then foot, North hit a screamer past the angle and Newell drove just wide.

Villa's main threats were of Luton's making, first when Nicholas slipped to present Stainrod with a chance that Sealey was lucky to rescue after a fumble.

Then Tim Breacker, who had kept the sparky Mark Walters subdued, hesitated and was robbed by the winger but Sealey saved his blushes with a brave save.