

Newell boy is Villa shaker

By STEVE RICHARDS

Luton 2 Aston Villa 0

CAUTIOUS manager David Pleat felt as early as ten minutes that Luton would win.

"But I like to win in the best style and I think we did some untidy things and might have given away a couple of goals," he said.

"Maybe I set too high a standard...."

Yes, Mr Perfectionist Pleat, you do.

Luton have one of the bets-looking teams in the First Division even if much-praised left back Thomas's distribution wouldn't have got him an England autograph let alone a cap on the day.

Most of the Luton fireworks came from home debutant Newell, their £80,000 striker Wigan.

He got the first goal, helped in the second by Stein in the last quarter-hour and had another near effort well saved by Spink.

Stranger

It was also a star day for a midfield generator who is now almost a stranger at Luton — Grimes.

Grimer, out of the team since August, was the key man in an unusual 4-3-3 Luton formation until he tired.

Villa still played 4-2-4 away, which may be one reason why manager Graham Turner did not appear at the post-match press conference. He had his players behind a locked dressing-room for more than an hour.

Turner said later: "I can't tell you everything I said in there. It would be unprintable. But we did have a constructive talk about what went wrong."

Both centre-backs played against their former team. Elliott had a lot to handle returning to Luton.

But super-confident Luton skipper Foster, who got out of bed to play despite a heavy cold, ruled the Luton defence.

LUTON: Sealey 5—Breacker 7, Foster 6, Donaghy 6, Thomas 5—Nicholas 6, Hill 5, GRIMES 8—Stein 7, Newell 7, North 6.

ASTON VILLA: Spinks 6—Norton 5, Evans 6, Elliott 7, Williams 6—Birch 6, GLOVER 8—Kerr 6, Stainrod (w'dn) 6, Gray 5, Walters 7. Sub: Shaw.

REF: R. Lewis (Kingston) 7.