

Brown has the blues

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DETERMINED and composed defending carried Norwich to the top of the First Division, accompanied by only a mild ripple of applause.

And afterwards Norwich manager Ken Brown admitted that the delight of one of the most exciting days of his career had been terpered by the Luton ban on away fans.

"This is the first time I've ever been at the top as a player or manager," said Brown, "and I can't help feeling sorry for our fans.

The way Norwich withstood an early battering while they were still trying to get the measure of the synthetic pitch

Luton 0 Norwich 0 : by PHILIP OSBORN

suggests they can maintain a serious title challenge.

"People say we haven't played any of the top teams yet but our answer is to that is "bring on the big boys, we are ready for them," said skipper Steve Bruce before his Player of the Match champagne.

Bruce's dominant work at the heart of the defence and

the magnificent reflexes of Graham Benstead were key factors as Luton controlled the first half.

Benstead gave a fine, alert performance. The highlights were a spectacular one-handed save to tip a Marc North shot onto the bar and a dive to beat away a Steve Foster header.