

Violent Grimes to take the rap

86/87
Norwich 0

Luton 0

By JIM HOOLEY

HEARD the one about the Irishman who was sent off for threatening one of his own team? Nobody from Luton finds it very funny.

Picture the scene: With six minutes left in a tense battle dominated by mean defences, Norwich make one last desperate attempt to avoid a frustrating sequence of six successive home draws.

Robert Rosario's header bounces on top of the bar and in an undignified scramble, Luton clear their line for a corner. Before it is taken Ashley Grimes is clearly shouting insults across the goalmouth to full-back Rob Johnson.

An everyday story of First Division folk under pressure you might think, but not referee Mike James who called Grimes over, wrote his name in the little black book and next to it 'violent conduct towards a team-mate.'

Next thing, Grimes, one-time Manchester United player who was once sent off for manhandling a referee, trudges towards the dressing room. But there was to be no tea and sympathy from his manager.

Collision

John Moore said: 'Some players are more emotional than others but we all have to keep our discipline. Ashley put my team in danger of losing by what he did.'

For that Grimes can expect another carpeting this week and a club fine.

Grimes, whose bizarre dismissal casts a cloud over the season in which he has resurrected his First Division career as a tenacious and skilful attacking midfielder, was hardly flavour of the month in the Norwich dressing room either.

Referee James could easily have cautioned him for some overzealous tackling and during one first half collision Norwich's Steve Bruce broke a small bone in his right leg.

Bruce played for more than an hour through the pain but needed to be carried off after making a match-saving tackle on Mike Newell between Grimes' late dismissal and the final whistle.

Norwich will discover how long they must cope without their most influential defender after an X-ray today.