

OFF!

No butts about it, Grimes

Norwich 0 Luton 0
By RICHARD SHEARMAN

ANY JOY Luton might have gleaned from this dull draw was tempered by the sending off of Ashley Grimes in mysterious circumstances six minutes from time.

As Norwich crowded into the Luton box for a corner, Grimes appeared to make a butting gesture — no more — to gee up his own left back, Rob Johnson.

Suddenly the referee was in there, pulling out the book, and Grimes was walking.

Referee Michael James, of Horsham, gave the official reason as 'violent conduct towards his own player'.

He added: 'I can't say any more. It will go in my official report but this was a sending off offence.'

Grimes refused to comment beyond: 'You'd better ask the ref.'

Luton manager John Moore was equally reticent, except for saying: 'I can't condone what Ashley did. He placed the team in danger by his actions.'

Chanting

For two teams holding fourth and fifth positions in the League, the game merely reinforced the view that the gap between champions and also-rans is a great and growing one.

Norwich continued an unbeaten League run stretching back to December 6, but also notched their sixth consecutive draw at home.

'Will we ever win at home?' was the plaintive chant from Norwich fans towards the end, a question that was only one part abuse and 99 parts genuine dismay.

They had their moments, but then so did Luton. Neither side lacked commitment or bravery, with Bruce of Norwich and Donaghy of Luton both having outstanding games.

Bruce may have cracked a bone in his leg in a first half clash with Grimes, but insisted on playing on after a check-up at half-time.

NORWICH (4-4-2): Gunn; Brown, Bruce (Biggins, 90), Butterworth, Spearing; Gordon, Crook, Phelan, Putney; Drinkell, Rosario.

LUTON (4-3-3): Sealey; Breacker, North, Donaghy, Johnson; Hill, Nicholas, Grimes; Stein, Harford, Newell. Sub: McDonough.

Referee: M. James (Horsham).



ASHLEY GRIMES . . . 'violent conduct'