

Grimes in bizarre send-off

86/87

Norwich 0 Luton 0: by PHILIP OSBORN

THE BIZARRE dismissal of Luton midfielder Ashley Grimes for remonstrating with a team-mate provoked angry words from his manager. But John Moore's words were not directed at referee Michael James. They were aimed at Grimes who, until his outburst, had been the pick of Luton's players.

Grimes was furious when Norwich striker Robert Rosario was allowed to meet a corner and head against the bar in the 84th minute.

Grimes gestured with his head towards Rob Johnson, as if to demonstrate he felt his team-mate should have beaten Rosario to the ball.

To everyone's surprise the referee ordered Grimes off and brushed aside protests from Luton skipper Mick Harford and goalkeeper Les Sealey.

Afterwards referee James said: "Grimes was sent off for violent conduct towards a Luton player. It's awkward, but it's a sending-off offence."

Luton boss Moore said: "I've got to go along with the referee Grimes remonstrated with a team-mate and put us in danger of losing. You must have respect for other players." But Moore praised Grimes' play.

The strange incident took another twist later when Norwich players said they thought Grimes had spat at Johnson. But no one in the Luton camp would comment.

In a match restricted by a crowded midfield Grimes, who is seeking a new contract with Luton, looked the man most likely to create an opening.

Norwich extended their unbeaten League run to 14 games through the bravery of skipper Steve Bruce—who played for an hour with a suspected broken leg.