

Pitch perfect!

Luton 3 Tottenham 1
By PETER HIGGS

LUTON could hardly have chosen a more poignant occasion to ride their magic carpet to the highest League position in their history.

The return of David Pleat, whose nine-year reign contributed so much to their rise, coincided with an outstanding exhibition of plastic pitch football.

Luton, up into third place, cannot seriously be considered championship

Luton pick on Pleat

threats, yet their domination of the nation's best in their own fortress is undeniable.

Where Liverpool fell before Spurs were equally powerless. The artificial surface may deservedly be heading for extinction, but Luton certainly know how to play on it.

It took only five minutes for Mick Harford to capitalise on uncertainty between Steve Hodge and Mitchell Thomas to sweep in Ricky Hill's pass with a perfectly struck 20-yard shot.

Luton increased their lead with a fine example of their quick passing style. Peter Nicholas, Hill and Brian Stein combined sweetly for Mike Newell to angle a 15-yard drive into the bottom corner.

Chris Waddle pulled a goal back when he beat the offside trap, escaped a rugby tackle from Les Sealey and kept his feet and head to steer the ball into the unguarded net.



MICK HARFORD

But if Spurs gave their restricted following some hope, it was killed off five minutes from time as Hill underlined his claims for a recall to the England squad.

Hemmed in near the right touchline, he wriggled past three defenders, swapped passes with Newell and then crossed perfectly for Darron McDonagh to volley a spectacular clincher.

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

TOTTENHAM (4-5-1): Clemence; Stevens, Gough, Mabbutt, Thomas; Claesen, P. Allen, Hoddle, Hodge (Ardiles, 57), Waddle; C. Allen.