

Anxious and too long

MANAGER David Pleat spoke of a costly anxiety that ran around Kenilworth Road as the Town's unbeaten home record was ended by a side that had not won in eight previous attempts.

The temptation to play long and hope Mick Harford could win what the manager called 'a fight ball' was too great to resist. And the boss felt the crowd was so anxious that they simply egged on his men to keep making the same mistake. It rarely looked like upsetting a good defence, in which Alan MacDonald usually did well against Harford, with Andy Tillson sweeping.

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Rangers snatched victory with a 47th minute goal by skipper Simon Barker. Ian Holloway and Andy Sinton worked the opening after David Preece and Steve Thompson lost the ball near the halfway line.

Roy Wegerle had been dropped by the Rangers, and Paul Walsh, on loan from Spurs after effectively being sacked for punching reserve coach Ray Clemence, led their lively attack with dash and determination, and on the run of play Rangers deserved the points.

Match details

TOWN: Chamberlain; Jackson, Rodger, Peake, Dreyer; Pembroke (Teller 81 mins), Thompson (Nogan, 81 mins), Preece; Stein (Harford).

RANGERS: Stejskal; Bardley, MacDonald, Tillson, Maddix, Brevet (Holloway 9 mins); Barker, Wilson, Sinton; Walsh (Bailey 81 mins), Thompson.

GOAL: Simon Barker, 47 mins.
OTHER STRIKES: Town six saved and four wide. Rangers six saved and eight wide. Corners: 8-3 to Rangers.

REFEREE: Paul Durkin, Portland.
ATTENDANCE: 9,185.
ENTERTAINMENT: In very short supply for Town fans.