

Hats off to Pleat's men

LUTON have found the away form that promises to earn manager David Pleat's culture club genuine acclaim as promotion candidates.

They endorsed last week's 5-1 triumph over Bryan Robson's Middlesbrough with this impressive display that gives them the First Division's best away record with 13 points from five games.

Nathan Blake responded to manager Dave Bassett's ultimatum to his strikers with a goal after only 18 minutes. It was United's first in four matches. Right-back Kevin Gage made a surging run past two defenders and his cross needed only a touch.

Sheffield U	1
Luton	3

Dave Horridge

Goal-line clearances by Ceri Hughes and Julian James prevented further goals as the Yorkshire team promised the revival their fans had demanded.

Yet gradually the flow changed and, as Luton counter-attacked, Paul Telfer's cross was headed goalwards by Mitchell Thomas and Brian Gayle deflected the ball into his own net.

United appeared to be in charge again after the break and the unmarked John Reed looked likely to

restore their lead until his close-range shot was blocked by Jurgen Sommer.

Then James demonstrated the finishing United lacked when he converted Dwight Marshall's low cross at the far post. That was in the 72nd minute and six minutes later Kerry Dixon stooped to head substitute Scott Oakes's centre into the net.

It inspired an angry response from around 200 home fans, who gathered outside the main stand demanding the departure of chairman Reg Brealey and his board, following a four-match run that has seen the team who were relegated last season collect only two points and one goal.