

Topsy-turvy Pleat finds little cheer

Oldham 0 Luton 0 By Ray Clarkin

A MISERABLE Boundary Park must have appeared to David Pleat light years away from Tottenham's palatial surroundings.

Pleat turned his back on a desk job at Spurs last week, preferring to keep on the tracksuit at Luton.

His side repaid his faith in them with a hard-working display, but rarely did they look like winning more than a point. In fact, they almost lost that in a ferocious final minute. Oldham's Steve Redmond struck a post and when the rebound from Richard Graham was blocked on the line, all hell let loose as Luton's defenders tried to hack it clear.

Referee Kevin Lynch singled out Norwegian Gunnar Halle for taking a kick at Julian James and sent him off. But Halle said: "I went for the ball and don't know who I kicked."

Pleat said: "It has been seven topsy-turvy days, but it's all over now. If I had any regrets I would keep them to myself. You must not look back. I don't know how I would be in another role, but I get pleasure from watching these boys develop."

Oldham, with striker Graeme Sharp temporarily in charge after the departure of Joe Royle to Everton, should have won. The fans want the manager's job to go to Andy Ritchie and handed a petition to the board after the match.