

Emotional homecoming for Town old-boy Westley

95/96

Ipswich 0, Luton 1

Luton boss Terry Westley was overjoyed by his side's victory over Ipswich at Portman Road yesterday.

He raced on to the pitch at the final whistle to congratulate his players, bringing back memories of David Pleat doing much the same thing when the Hatters avoided relegation from the First Division some years back.

A Suffolk boy, Westley signed schoolboy forms for Ipswich Town on his 14th birthday when Ron Gray was chief scout. Westley later became manager of Diss Town and then Football in the Community Officer at Ipswich.

"Any victory would have made me chuffed to bits, but to be in charge of a team that wins at Portman Road is an absolute dream. It was an emotional game — a big day for me.

"The manager of any team at the foot of the table must feel that his job is on the line after a defeat, but

I am feeling a lot better after this result."

George Burley, the Ipswich manager, stayed in the dressing room for some time after the final whistle for a post-mortem with his players.

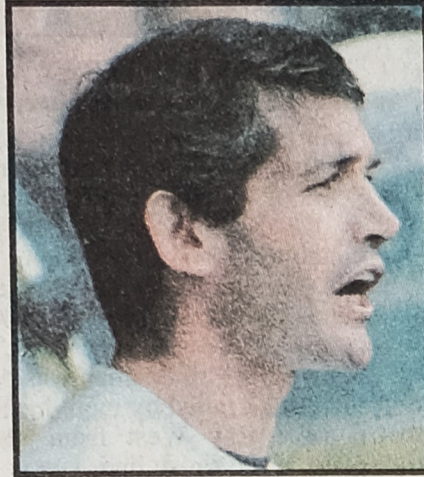
"Result-wise this was a disaster for us", he said. "A win would have put us back in contention but now we must battle to get back up the table. We were looking for the points — but it did not happen.

"Luton got men behind the ball and made life difficult for us once they went ahead.

"I was disappointed with the way we gave the goal away. It was a bit soft. We have given some good performances, especially away from home, but teams make it difficult for us at Portman Road.

"We got a wee bit edgy at times but the spirit and commitment is still good. We must keep believing and keep playing. When opportunities arrive we have got to take them.

"We didn't pass the ball about in the way we hoped. We gave the ball away with bread and butter



Town boss George Burley (left) was left to reflect on a 'disastrous' defeat after a slip by keeper Craig Forrest (right).

passes and some of the defending was sloppy as well."

Burley withdrew top marksman Alex Mathie nine minutes from the end and explained; "Alex is a good player, but Neil Gregory can also score goals. Alex is playing well but his chances are not quite going in. I have no fear that they will do so in the future."

Of the goal conceded by Craig



Forrest, the Ipswich manager said: "Craig will be a wee bit disappointed not to have saved it but of course the ball should never have been there in the first place."

There were boos at the end from the stands and, even allowing for the fact that the match was screened live on Anglia Television, the attendance of only 9123 must be cause for grave concern for the

Ipswich directors.

Ipswich need far better support to cover their frightening (by Endsleigh League standards) wage bill.

A depressing 90 minutes for neutral viewers on Anglia Television was settled by a goal from David Oldfield after 24 minutes.

The striker, who returned to Luton from Leicester in August for £150,000, gave David Linighan the slip and fired a right foot shot that beat Forrest at his near post.

Forrest would probably have saved but for the fact he looked a shade rusty after missing five matches with a neck injury.

Once they had taken the lead Luton battened down the hatches. When Ipswich had possession, which was most of the time, they were confronted by a line of seven defenders behind which Feuer looked impressive.

Ipswich created chances but never had the composure to accept them. Ian Marshall won his share of high balls but it was not Mathie's day in front of goal while

Uhlenbeek's speed posed a threat but was wasted by inaccurate crosses.

It would have been a different story if Marshall's header from Uhlenbeek's cross after eight minutes had not sailed past the far post.

Feuer made useful saves from Uhlenbeek, Tanner and Marshall before the interval and there was virtually non-stop Ipswich pressure throughout the second-half, broken only by the occasional Luton raid.

In the 68th minute Mathie put Uhlenbeek through but Feuer left his line to block the shot. The ball spun into the air off the keeper's body but Feuer kept his balance and was able to collect it.

In the last minute Alexander fouled Gregory just outside the penalty area. Marshall took the responsibility but fired well wide.

Ipswich: Forrest, Stockwell, Taricco, Linighan, Mowbray, Williams, Uhlenbeek, Sedgley (Tanner 27), Mathie (Gregory 81), Marshall, Slater. Subs Not Used: Petterson.

Luton: Feuer, Peake, M. Johnson, Davis, Hughes, Vilstrup (Waddock 51), Alexander, Oakes, Oldfield, Marshall (Guentchev 87), Harvey (G. Johnson 77). Booked: Hughes. Goals: Oldfield 24. Att: 9,123 Ref: T E West (Hull).