

Francis runs off with the show

Q.P.R. 2 Luton 0: by SYDNEY SPICER 72/73

RANGERS' PASSPORT to the First Division only awaits the official stamp. But when they get there a more sustained effort than they gave against Luton will be needed. They showed their real form only in spasms. But what a thrilling incident the 36th minute threw up. That was when Rangers scored a memorable second goal, surely one of the best all season.

Gerry Francis engineered it with a spectacular 80-yard dash.

Deep in his own half, Francis picked up a short ball from Terry Mancini and surged three-quarters of the length of the field before laying on the goal for Don Givens.

Givens said: "As Gerry came through I sensed this could be my chance. I knew that if I could get into the right position at the right time he would give it to me as I wanted it and that's how it happened—just a matter of timing."

For Luton the game has no pleasant memories. Gordon Hindson, who had already been booked for dissent, was ordered off two minutes from time for a blatant foul on Gerry Francis. They also had Peter Anderson booked for dissent.

STANDING

Rangers had taken the lead in the 26th minute when Mancini raced in with the Luton defence standing still to head home a free kick by Dave Thomas.

Early in the second half, Givens cleverly worked a chance for Mick Leach, whose drive was deflected inches wide.

When Givens connected firmly with a cross from Dave Clement, Keith Barber saved Luton by turning the ball over the top.

Then Rangers seemed content to play the ball around and Luton whose sole threat had been a first-half shot by Peter Anderson which Terry Venables kicked off the line, had the ball in the net three times—without scoring!

John Aston's effort was disallowed for pushing which led to Anderson's booking for dissent. Hindson kicked in as the whistle went for off-side and then Anderson volleyed home from Terry Mancini's headed clearance. But offside by someone else cancelled that one.

He can reckon himself unlucky along with Stan Bowles, who hit a fine 20-yard "goal" for Rangers but again referee Iorwerth Jones ruled it "no score. Givens was given offside.

Q.P.R.—Parkes; Clement, Watson, Venables, Mancini, Hazell, Thomas, Francis, Leach, Bowles, Givens. Sub: Delve.

LUTON.—Barber; Shanks, Thomson, Anderson, Faulkner, John Ryan, Jim Ryan, French, Busby, Hindson, Aston. Sub: Slough.