

'Too good' Luton lose out

By MAX REESE

Queen's Park Rangers 2, Luton 1

THERE were only seven minutes to go when Rangers scored the winning goal against Luton. Manager Dave Sexton said afterwards that Luton had deserved a point. "Luton are too good to go down if they play like this," he added.

This was a fair comment on a hard, unyielding game, but for all their originality and talent, Rangers too easily lose their edge when goals don't come. For 20 minutes they overran Luton without being able to make the final thrust. Thomas made some inaccurate centres, Givens wrong-footed himself when Clement pulled the ball back from the by-line, and Gillard was unlucky when his header hit a defender and then the crossbar before dropping into the arms of 'keeper Horn.

When after 38 minutes Rangers did get a goal, it was an inelegant, scrambling effort and Luton pulled it back at once. Webb headed downwards from Masson's free-kick and Horn seemed to have grasped the ball, but Givens forced it over the line.

Delicacy

At once Alston, apparently so long-legged and ungainly, moved past three men in a close run of extraordinary delicacy, passed to Aston and clipped the centre into the net.

Rogers had replaced the injured Thomas and it was his coolness that won the day. Taking a centre from Bowles, Rogers realised that Horn had come out of goal and he cleverly chipped the ball just under the crossbar.

Q.P.R.: Parkes; Clement, Gillard; Masson, McLintock, Webb; Thomas, Busby, Beck, Bowles, Givens. Sub.: Rogers.

Luton: Horn; John Ryan, Buckley; Anderson, Faulkner, P. Fitcher; Jim Ryan, Alston, R. Fitcher, West, Aston. Referee: A. Jones (Ormskirk).