

ROGERS AN UNHAPPY SUCCESS 74/75

By DEREK WILD

Q P R ... 2 Luton ... 1

DON ROGERS, the speedy former Swindon and Crystal Palace forwards, admits he is unhappy at not being a regular member of Queen's Park Rangers' first team.

But he accepts the situation philosophically, saying: "How can Rangers change a side who have lost only two of their last 15 matches."

"I know the situation and, though they've got some great players here, it's up to me to play myself into the team. One thing is certain: I'd be worse off somewhere else. Rangers are a terrific club."

Not that Rogers is feeling at all despondent at the moment. He came on as substituet for Dave Thomas, who went off with a pulled groin muscle in the 63rd minute, and thumped home a great winning goal against luckless Luton at Loftus Road on Saturday.

Dipping left-footer

With just seven minutes left, Rogers swept across from the left and, though looking suspiciously offside, he moved on to Stan Bowles' milimetre-perfect through-ball, turned inside Steve Buckley and planted a dipping left-footed shot over the advancing Graham Horn.

The goal not only boosts Rangers' chances of a UEFA Cup spot as London's top club, but kept Luton firmly rooted among the relegation candidates. Harry Haslam, Luton's manager, was his usual cheerful self, however.

"I thought we played well enough to have earned a point," he said. And it is true that his side never stopped going forward. Even when Don Givens bundled Rangers into a 38th-minute lead, Adrian Alston, deputising for the injured Jimmy Husband, struck straight back with an equaliser.

Luton continued to give as good as they received—even after Rogers' body-blow goal.

Q.P.R. — Parkes; Clement, Gillard, Masson, McLintock, Webb, Thomas (Rogers, 63min), Busby, Beck, Bowles, Givens.

Luton.—Horn; Ryan (John), Buckley, Anderson, Faulkner, Futchet (P), Ryan (Jimmy), Alston, Futchet (R), West, Aston.