



Luton clock in—Doc runs out of time

THE moment time finally stood still. This is the clock at Luton at "half-time" with those controversial seven minutes there for all to see as the ref finally blew . . .



... but Tony Currie didn't need anyone to beat the clock when Clive Allen equalised. Currie was happy enough as it was

By PETER GORMAN

Luton 1 QPR 1 79/80

THE BIG MATCH

RANGERS couldn't beat the clock at Luton yesterday!

Only referee Brian Martin knew why he let the first-half run for 51 minutes—and in the 47th defender Mike Saxby put Luton ahead.

I "stopped" the clock—and so did photographer Mike McLaren—that's his picture above, taken as the whistle blew for the first half.

But high-riding Rangers boss Tommy Docherty had no complaints. He admitted: "They are the best side we've met this season."

"They moved quickly and positively and don't make many mistakes at the back. They did enough to beat us but we had a chance to wrap it up at the end."

You can judge for yourself in this afternoon's Big Match.

"Luton had so many missed chances it would be

boring to log them all," manager David Pleat said. "I wasn't happy about that aspect of our game."

Rangers, breathing down Luton's neck in the promotion chase, had to soak up enormous pressure in the first-half, in front of Luton's best crowd for three years and they should have cracked.

But they kept the score down to 1-0 and later Rangers' teenage striker Clive Allen became the sweet-and-sour kid—hitting a superb equaliser and then missing an easy chance for the winner three seconds from the end.

DRIVE

The fuzzy-haired Allen, an 18-year-old ex-England Youth international, put Rangers back in the game in the 65th minute with a brilliant angled drive from 15 yards.

Fourteen-goal Allen said: "It was one of the best goals I've scored because the angle was so tight, but when the ball came to me I knew I'd put it away."

In the final seconds Allen had an open target, but he shot over the bar. "I usually put those into the net," he said. "I caught the ball right, but it just sailed over the top. It was a bad miss."

It rounded off a series of near misses including a brilliant shot by full back Kirk Stephens, whose drive struck the base of a post. That was in the 42nd minute. Five minutes later Paul Price floated a free kick and Saxby outjumped Steve Wicks to plant the ball past Chris Woods.

MISSES

Rangers' midfield man Tony Currie went off with a damaged ankle and then young Allen fired over as the crowd were drifting away. The game was fiercely competitive but never nasty, although the referee booked four players for minor offences—Wicks, Bob Hazell and Don Shanks of Rangers and Bob Hatton of Luton.

It was a good point for the Doc's Rangers, but again he must fear the outcome of the nagging injury to Currie which has plagued the England star all season.

LUTON.—Findlay 7, STEPHENS 9, Donaghy 7, Grealish 8, Saxby 8, Price 7, Hill 7, West 7, Stein 7, Hatton 7, Woods 7.

QPR. — Woods 7, Shanks 7, Gillard 7, McCreery 6, Hazell 7, Wicks 7, Bowles 7, Roeder 7, ALLEN 8, Currie 7, Goddard 6, Sub: Burke 7.