

Howe prophecy fulfilled

By Charles Whebell

90/91 QPR 6 Luton 1

DON HOWE tried unsuccessfully to hide a sly grin as he attempted to explain why his Queens Park Rangers team looked so irrepressible against Luton.

He had written in his programme notes that QPR had been playing well without reward and, despite looking good, they lacked the finishing touch. "Having said that, once we start scoring we could get a hatful," he wrote.

His prediction certainly came true on Saturday at Rangers' stadium, though he admitted his forecast had not been aimed at a particular game. "If football was that predictable, we would win the pools every week," he said.

"I suppose it was really thanks to Luton that the game was such a spectacle. They, like us, try to play football and, to be honest, they were unlucky not to score more than one."

Jim Ryan, Luton's manager, agreed, though it must have been galling for him to see his former player, Wegerle, take all the plaudits for his superb performance. The South African-born striker scored two goals, set up two more and could easily have scored three others. "Yes, Wegerle played quite well," was all Mr Ryan would say about the £1 million forward.

Quite naturally, Mr Howe was a little more forthcoming. "He was quite outstanding. This season we have got him playing a bit deeper to make runs into to opposing areas and it seems to be working well.

"Until today Wegerle was the only player to score for us in our four games this season so I'm particularly pleased to see four other names on the scoresheet."

It was Falco, who now begins a three-match suspension, who scored the best goal of the game—but even that was courtesy of a pinpoint Wegerle cross.