

Barker breaks Rangers duck

By Timothy Collings

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QUEEN'S Park Rangers ended Gerry Francis's frustration last night when they delivered his first win since he returned to the club as manager and hauled themselves off the bottom of the First Division with a well-deserved victory at Kenilworth Road.

A well-taken second-half goal by Barker, the QPR captain, settled matters on an evening of scruffy football lit up in patches by the pace and skill of Sinton and McDonald's aerial mastery.

Luton, unchanged from Saturday's victory over Oldham, were always struggling to control the lively Rangers attack in which one former Luton striker, Walsh, on loan from Tottenham, replaced another — the dropped £1 million signing, Wegerle.

How Luton's fans must have wished their club could afford the luxury of leaving a player like Wegerle in the stands. On last night's evidence, they lacked invention,

pace and width in attack and, as a result, Rangers' defence was rarely stretched.

Rangers controlled most of the opening period and were unlucky not to go ahead after only six minutes when it needed a late tackle by Jackson to halt Brevett.

Luton's five-man defence was often left struggling to contain the lively Walsh and both he and Barker were unlucky not to score before the captain hit the winner after 48 minutes.

A poor pass in midfield by Peake was collected by Sinton and, from his quick forward pass, substitute Holloway, who had replaced Brevett, sent Barker clear for a low shot which squeezed through Chamberlain's hands and inside the post.

Luton Town: Chamberlain; Jackson, Dreyer, McDonough, Rodger, Peake, Preece, Stein (sub Logan 75), Harford, Pembroke, S Thompson (sub Telfer 60).

Queen's Park Rangers: Stejskal; Bardsley, Brevett (sub Holloway 10), Tillson, McDonald, Maddix, Wilson, Barker, G Thompson, Walsh (sub Bailey 88), Sinton. Referee: P Durkin (Dorset).