

Luton fall to Kiwomya double

00/01 (FAC)

By John Ley

Queens Park Rangers 2
Luton Town..... 1
(aet. 90mins: 1-1)

A GAME which began and ended in explosive fashion saw Queens Park Rangers earn an FA Cup fourth-round home tie against Arsenal after stealing victory in cruel fashion against struggling Second Division Luton Town last night.

They owed their win to substitute Chris Kiwomya, who scored twice to book a tie against his former club.

The game began with a goal inside 59 seconds from Luton debutant Lee Mansell who, two days earlier, did not even have a shirt number.

Luton had done enough to win but, as in the original tie, Rangers snatched a late equaliser with Kiwomya converting Ian Baraclough's cross in added time. After Richard Langley had missed a penalty, Kiwomya then hit the winner in the 112th minute when he beat Mark Ovendale from 10 yards after Baraclough and Peter Crouch had combined to set him up.

Gerry Francis had called this game

Rangers' Cup final in light of the prize on offer and the club's dismal season so far; Rangers are second from bottom in Division One and had drawn eight of their previous 12 games. One of those draws came at Kenilworth Road where only a last-minute penalty, from Gavin Peacock, earned them another crack at Second Division Luton.

Luton, like QPR, were depleted by injuries and suspensions. Missing last night was their entire back five including Matthew Taylor, who was banned. Because of their lack of resources manager Lil Fuccillo was forced to give a debut to Mansell.

The West Country teenager wasted little time in marking his arrival; Gavin McGowan fed Mansell and he exchanged passes with Andrew Fotiadis before the ball fell kindly to his left foot and he beat Ludek Miklosko, the ball finding the net off the foot of the post inside the game's opening minute.

It was a remarkable start, one which was not lost on the Mansell, who celebrated by turning to the travelling Luton fans and pointing to the newly-printed No 32 on his back.

Having previously experienced only youth team football he was clearly determined to milk the moment.

Rangers, without Karl Ready and Danny Maddix, were not stirred by the early setback or by the fact that Arsenal manager Arsène Wenger was watching.

Even when Luton lost defender Stuart Fraser after only nine minutes — the victim of his own reckless challenge on Matthew Rose — they failed to mount a serious challenge until just before the interval when the 6ft 5in Crouch put a shot over his head only for the ball to drop a foot wide.

After Kiwomya's equaliser, extra time opened in dramatic fashion when the same striker was brought down by Ovendale. The goalkeeper should have been sent off but escaped with only as booking and, to add to Rangers' frustration, Langley hit the crossbar with his kick.

QPR: Miklosko; Rose, Baraclough, Plummer (Kiwomya 35), Darlington; Perry, Langley, Carlisle, Connolly (Ngongé 67); Koejoe (Wardley 91), Crouch. **Subs:** Harper (g), Morrow.

Booked: Carlisle, Baraclough.

Luton Town: Ovendale; McGowan, Karlisen, Whitbread, Fraser (Stirling 9); Mansell, Spring, Holmes; Douglas (Stein 66), Nogan; Fotiadis (Scarlett 80). **Subs:** Abbey (g), George.

Booked: Whitbread, Stein, Ovendale.

Referee: R Furnandiz (Doncaster).