

New deal for Fraser

LUTON manager Lil Fuccillo has promised Stuart Fraser, who suffered a badly broken leg at Queens Park Rangers on Wednesday, a new contract

Fraser has a fractured shin bone, but happily the fibula remains intact.

Fraser had the break set in plaster on Friday at Paddington Hospital after the extent of the damage had been fully assessed.

Fuccillo said: "We do not expect him to play again this season but he will be given a new contract when his current one runs out at the end of the season. That should give him some peace of mind."

The Scotland under-21 international had struck a rich vein of form in recent games and will be missed.

"He is the one player on the books who can play across the back line and at either wing back position and I was using him to slot in during Matthew Taylor's suspension," said Fuccillo.

The Luton manager has another nine first team men on the injury list.

Julian Watts (hamstring) and Adam Locke (groin) will not be fit for two weeks, Paul McLaren for three weeks, Petri Helin for four and Emmerson Boyce for up to six weeks with a nose bleed problem that cannot be treated until a virus has cleared up.

Peter Thomson has a foot problem and three more were added to the list on Wednesday evening.

Mark Stein ended extra time limping and Kent Karlsen had his nose broken by a stray Rangers elbow.

To complete a bad night, Liam George suffered a whiplash injury when his car was written off after he was smacked from behind while driving home.

The hunt for newcomers goes on. Fuccillo said: "I have tried for about 30 players and I hope I am at last on the verge of getting a couple on permanent transfer, or on loan for the Oldham game."

"One is a left sided midfielder and if I can bring in a target man, we can go to the system with four at the back that worked at QPR, although I also need a centre half and one has just turned us down."



■ Stuart Fraser is carried off after suffering a broken shin in Wednesday's FA Cup replay

Luton still fuming at Cup injustice

00/01 (FAC)

FROM board room to boot room, Kenilworth Road is still seething over an extraordinary series of refereeing decisions that cost Luton a lucrative home FA Cup tie against Arsenal.

Just 20 seconds of stoppage time were left when young debutant Lee Mansell was laid out by Richard Langley right in front of Doncaster referee Roger Furnandiz.

The official pointed at the Rangers man in recognition of a bad foul that should have brought a second booking for the home midfielder, but amazingly, play was allowed to continue resulting in a last gasp equaliser for Rangers through Chris Kiwomya.

To rub salt into the wound, television replays showed Kiwomya to have been offside, but nevertheless the goal stood despite long and understandable protest from the Hatters camp.

The story from the posh seats is that even Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger was on his feet in protest.

Fuccillo said: "Langley smashed the lad on the back of his head with his knee. When the referee sees that challenge on his own television he will see that it was a blatant foul. I am disgusted by the decision."

Having reaped the reward of one ridiculous refereeing decision, the first division side failed to capitalise on another - the reprieved Langley contriving to miss an extra time penalty, before Kiwomya finally finished off brave Luton with a second goal in the 111th minute.

The outcome ruined a dream start to his first team career by 18-year-old apprentice Lee Mansell. He was only given a squad number on Tuesday when the Town's injury crisis reached epidemic proportions, but he helped set up

the opening goal with his first touch in senior football and buried the ball in the net with his second.

A neat one-two with Andrew Fotiadis reduced the Rangers defence to spectators and the YTS lad showed great aplomb to score via Miklosko's right hand post with less than a minute gone.

Fuccillo said: "He could be one of those infectious players who make things happen. He took his goal excellently."

"I told him on Tuesday that he was going to play, expecting him to go weak at the knees, but he just said 'thank you' and took it in his stride."

For a team with Luton's recent defensive record to last 90 minutes without conceding an equaliser was remarkable, but they survived comfortably enough with Adrian Whitbread, Kent Karlsen, substitute Jude Stirling and the transfer listed Gavin McGowan putting in heroic performances at the back.

In extra time with Luton visibly tiring, Rangers had most of the play without really threatening and a penalty shoot-out looked inevitable.

But nine minutes from the end, Kiwomya swooped to give his side the lead for the first time in the tie and the Town had no answer. So a game that the Hatters seemed to have won twice over was eventually lost amid some gutsy performances on a night when several of Luton's youngsters came of age.

"The passion and the pride the players showed in the orange shirt was fantastic," said Fuccillo.

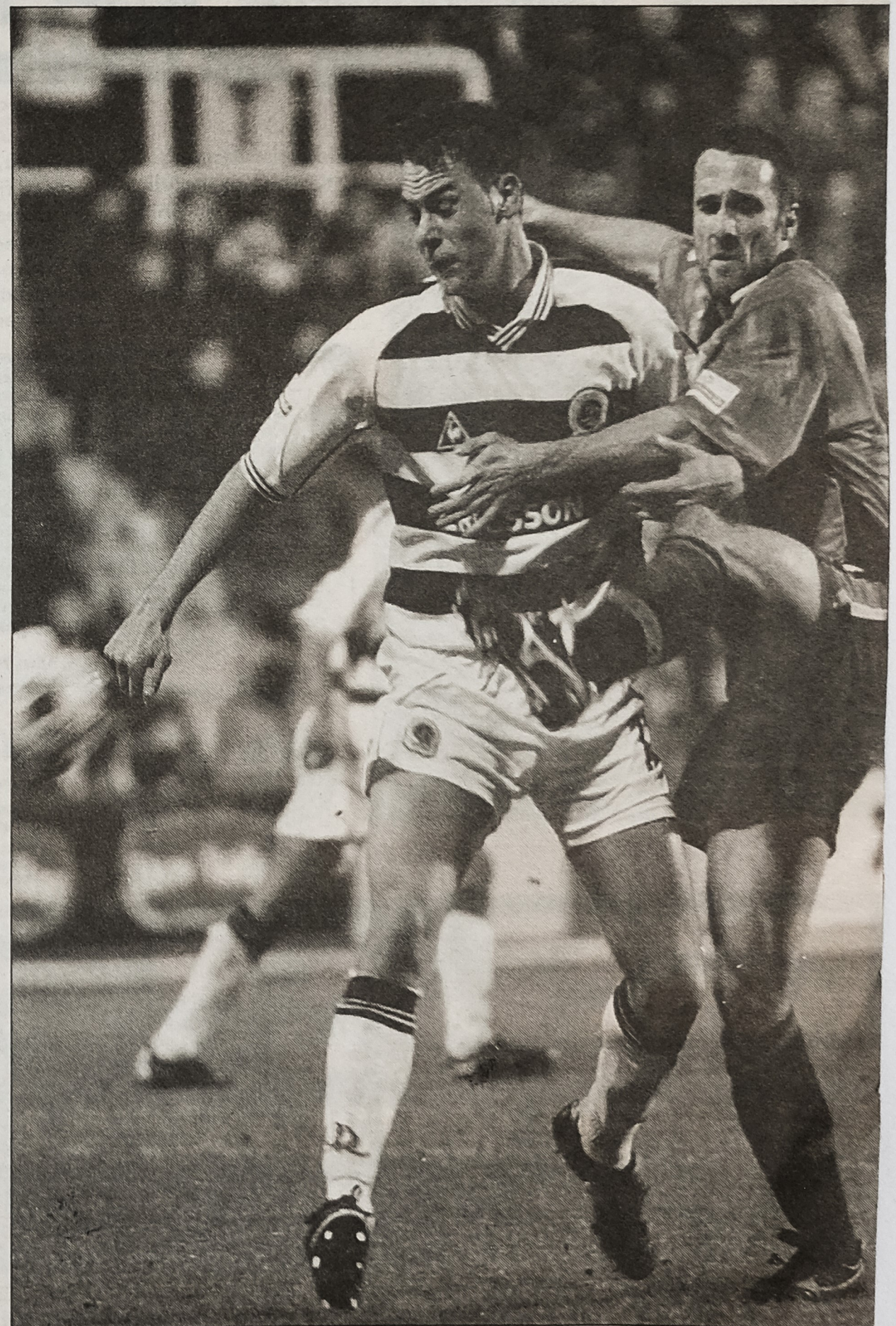
"Jude Stirling is still learning the game, but I have looked in detail at his performance on video and he did fine."

"Gavin McGowan, over the 120 minutes, took care of that side of the field very well. He is on the transfer list, but is still being paid by the club and I didn't hesitate to call on him in the circumstances."

"I would also like to thank those supporters behind the goal who stayed behind to give us a standing ovation. They shouted us on brilliantly right through the match."



■ Lee Mansell (left) celebrates after scoring in the first minute



■ Andrew Fotiadis battles for possession at Loftus Road on Wednesday