



Paul Smyth sustains collapsed lung but vows he will be back



Health setback: Paul Smyth suffered a collapsed lung in defeat at Mansfield.

Northern Ireland striker Paul Smyth is facing another spell on the sidelines after sustaining a collapsed lung last weekend and spending a night in hospital.

The 24-year-old had been making only his fourth League Two start on the season for Leyton Orient after joining on a free from QPR during the summer but had to be withdrawn at half-time in the 2-0 defeat at Mansfield Town.

Manager Kenny Jackett confirmed the prognosis of Smyth's injury on Tuesday.

"It's not good news," he said. "He has a collapsed lung, which isn't good news. He was in hospital on Saturday night. He is in good spirits and is being looked after well but in terms of his football, he won't be with us for a little while." It's the latest setback in what has been a frustrating season for Smyth, who was out for almost two months with a hamstring injury picked up during the opening day draw at Salford City. Then there was an issue with his other hamstring and a toe injury that also kept him out of action for shorter spells.

But after Tuesday's diagnosis was revealed, the former Linfield attacker took to Twitter to issue a promise: "Life is 10% what happens to you and 90% how you respond to it. I will be back once again!"

Smyth scored 14 Danske Bank Premiership goals in a two-year spell at Linfield, earning a 2017 move to QPR. He even netted the winner over Cardiff City on his Championship debut on New Year's Day 2018 and went on to be named QPR's Young Player of the Season.

However, he has only scored a further nine league goals in England since, having spent time on loan at Accrington Stanley, Wycombe Wanderers and Charlton before arriving at Osborne Road.

The Crumlin man's only goal for Orient so far is the winner against Charlton in an EFL Trophy tie in November.

He has three senior caps for Northern Ireland and scored on his debut against Korea Republic.

Linfield said on their social media: "The best wishes of everyone at [Linfield FC](#) are extended to popular former player Paul Smyth who suffered a collapsed lung in last weekend's League Two defeat for Leyton Orient at Mansfield.

"Everyone at Linfield wishes Paul a full and speedy recovery. Audaces Fortuna Juvat."