Words: Ken Rogers

## Programmes point way to golden era

n the second of a series of EFC Heritage Society articles focussing on the world-famous Everton Collection, Ken Rogers takes a look at programmes from encounters with Wolves in May 1982 and April 1984 and of how the team listings on the back pages reflect an accelerated era of change towards the most successful in our history...

It is accepted across the Premier League that our matchday programmes are amongst the best in the country. It's therefore not surprising that thousands of our most evocative publications form a key strand within the football memorabilia treasure that is the Everton Collection These include landmark editions like the one produced for our first ever Football League game on September 8th, 1888 against Accrington. Over 10,000 programmes, at the last count, are held for the Collection by the Liverpool Records Office including many featuring today's visitors Wolves. We focus here on two from the eventful 1980s. The backpage team lists demonstrate how, in two eventful years, we went from a club searching for a way forward to one on the brink of true greatness.

On 8 May 1982, exactly one year to the day after becoming Everton manager, Howard Kendall provided the following players for the last home programme of the 1981/82 season against Wolves:

Neville Southall, Gary Stevens, Mike Walsh, Mark Higgins, Billy Wright, Steve McMahon, Alan Irvine, Adrian Heath Graeme Sharp, Stuart Rimmer, Trevor Ross. On the day Brian Borrows replaced Stevens and

Peter Eastoe replaced R i m m e r in the starting line-up. Eastoe scored in a 1-1 draw and Everton ultimately finished 8th in the table. Wolves, who finished 21st and were relegated, had Andy Gray and Wayne Clarke in the published team list. It was a day, perhaps, when Howard spotted things that would guide future thoughts?

Fast forward 23 months and Wolves were again at Goodison for a late season League game on 23rd April 1984. Although most thoughts were already on the forthcoming FA Cup Final, Howard declared the following expected team.

Neville Southall, Gary Stevens, John Bailey, Kevin Ratcliffe, Derek Mountfield, Peter Reid, Terry Curran, Adrian Heath, Andy Gray, Trevor Steven, Kevin Richardson.

The Blues won at a canter, 2-0 (goals by Gray and Steven). Howard had his new winning formula, progress perfectly captured by comparing those two programmes.

Specific items held by the Collection at the Liverpool Record Office can be viewed by appointment at Central Library. The Museum of Liverpool also has a display and the whole Collection can be seen online at evertoncollection.org.uk.



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Everton FC Official Matchday Programme evertonfc.com