

Harold Uren - crossing the park



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Harold Uren holds the distinction of being the first footballer to transfer directly from Liverpool to Everton.

He was born on 23 August 1885 near Bristol but moved to Liscard during his childhood. Harold's father, John, founded the eponymous food provision business, which, in time, Harold would oversee (the family maintains an interest in it to this day).

An outside-left, in 1906 he signed for Liverpool on amateur forms from West Kirby Wesleyans. His football education continued with a spell at Wrexham before a return to Anfield and a first-team debut in November 1907, against Manchester City. Hopes of representing his country at football in the 1908 Olympics ended when Harold was persuaded to sign professional forms.

The joint Everton & Liverpool programme of the day tipped Harold down for future stardom: "Standing 5'10" and weighing 12 stone, he is a promising specimen of a well-built athlete and, in his recent trials, he has shown that his football abilities are of no mean order. He can centre the ball splendidly, especially when playing on the left wing, and is in command of a few tricks that enable him to baffle the attentions of the opposing defence. To reach the highest flights, however, it will be necessary for him to increase his speed..."

His most consistent campaign for Liverpool came in 1911-12 when he



● Uren, circled, next to Will Cuff. This was the first ever Everton kit to feature the letters EFC (courtesy of Brendan Connolly).

appeared 24 times but he would cross Stanley Park before the season's end. In February 1912, a deal was brokered with Billy Lacey and Tom Gracie moving to Liverpool in exchange for Harold and £300.

Of his debut, against Bolton Wanderers, when he replaced Lacey in the starting XI, the Daily Post and Mercury wrote: "To say the least, he

gave a distinctly creditable display at times – dovetailing beautifully with Bradshaw".

Having made 24 Blues appearances, scoring three times, Harold rounded off his playing days at Wrexham before focussing on business. Living at Seacrest, overlooking West Kirby marine lake, many Uren family members became adroit sailors – excelling in competitions. Two of Harold's children, Dick and Harold Jr. (known as Boy), went on to represent England at Rugby Union. Harold supported the Royal School for the Blind, on Hope Street, attending committee meetings until shortly before his death on 7th April 1955.

● Uren is still one of only two players to have appeared for Everton whose surname begins with the letter 'U'.



● Uren, circled, at Anfield