



By Rob Sawyer

Six-Shooter Southworth

GRAEME Sharp once scored four goals against Southampton, Tommy Eglington put five past Doncaster Rovers and the incomparable Dixie Dean netted five on no less than three separate occasions. But no player has equalled Jack Southworth's feat of a double hat-trick in Everton colours.

Southworth played for hometown club Blackburn Olympic as both a striker and goalkeeper (!) before throwing in his lot, along with his brother, with local rivals Blackburn Rovers in 1888. At Rovers' Leamington Road ground, Jack cemented a reputation as a prolific centre-forward, hitting two hat-tricks in his debut Football League season on the way to a 21-goal haul. In the following season he twice hit four goals in a match and was rewarded with an international call-up – predictably scoring in a 4-1 defeat of Wales. He was on target in his subsequent two England appearances, but no further caps followed, due in part to being withdrawn from several squads by his club.

Described as the 'Prince of Dribblers' for his ability to carry the ball forward, Jack was the pre-eminent striker of his era and twice helped Blackburn to lift the FA Cup, in 1890 and 1891.

Everton managed to prize him from Rovers in the summer of 1893 for a hefty £300 fee. It was money well spent. The newcomer replaced Fred Geary and dovetailed with fellow ex-Rover Edgar Chadwick and John Bell in attack. On 30 December 1893, West Bromwich Albion came to Goodison Park and the 14,000 spectators on that dull mid-winter afternoon saw history made when Jack put six past the Throstles' goalkeeper in a 7-1 victory. Over the festive period Jack had netted 15 of the club's 22 goals over four matches and he would continue to score regularly until a collision with the Preston goalkeeper in November 1894 resulted in a career-ending knee injury.

Fortunately for Jack, he had a second string to his bow...as a professional musician. He hailed from a musical family. His great-grandfather had



been a bandsman and his father, Robert, had combined his day job as a joiner with being a cornet player and conductor with the Blackburn Borough Band. Jack, himself, preferred the violin and several brass instruments. He performed with the Hallé Orchestra and the Liverpool Philharmonic. For many years, he was a resident musician in the orchestra on Llandudno pier during the summer season. He also found time to squeeze in regular games of golf on the Orme between performances. This multi-talented maestro lived just off Queens Drive in Liverpool until his death in 1956, at the grand age of 89.

▶ Jack with the Football League XI in 1893 (fourth from the left, back row)

