



By Richie Gillham

# The two sides of the 'Glass House' team

EVERTON did not meet this evening's visitors in the Football League until a 0-0 draw at Selhurst Park in the Toffees' 1969/70 championship-winning season.

The four previous meetings had come in the FA Cup. A 1-1 draw in the quarter-final in 1907 was followed by a 4-0 replay victory for the Blues, a scoreline that was repeated in the First Round four years later.

The next two ties were nine years apart and produced 12 goals – unbelievably all scored by the away side!

In January 1922, a crowd of 41,161 at Goodison Park was stunned by a totally inept display against the visiting Palace team.

The visit of the so-called Glass House Side was naively looked upon by Everton as a stepping-stone into the Second Round and the hosts were reported to have adopted 'suicidal tactics'.

One report stated they 'failed to take a leaf out of the Palace book when it was seen that their style was bringing results'. Such was the visitors' dominance in their 6-0 victory that the Palace goalkeeper kept himself occupied in the second half by eating oranges passed to him by a lady in the crowd!

However, a possible factor in the crushing defeat was goalkeeper Tom Ferns' fitness. He had reported for duty with his wrist in a splint. Ted Pope - an amateur keeper and the grandfather of the current BBC Leeds football reporter Adam Pope - was on standby to play, but Fern was declared 'fit'.

Revenge was sweet at Selhurst Park in January 1931.

Dixie Dean headed the Toffees into a first-half lead from a Joe McClure cross, but it was in the second period that the visitors ran riot. Dean added three more,

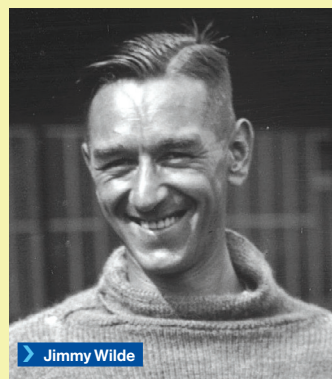


Jimmy Wilde netted an own goal and Tommy Johnson added a sixth. Wilde's 293 appearances for Palace have him in the club's all-time top 20, joint with Vince Hilaire.

Vagrant of *Athletic News* commented on the Blues' 'precise football' and heaped praise on the four-goal centre-forward: 'Dean scarcely had a shot which did not count, and that is another way of showing how completely each effort had the opposing goalkeeper beaten.'

It's not reported if the Everton keeper, Billy Coggins, was fed oranges but he did have company when a spectator leapt over the rails. The man then took off his coat and hat and stayed sentry by Coggins for fully two minutes before the referee intervened. He was removed from the field of play by police officers, pictured above.

➤ With thanks to Billy Smith for his [bluecorrespondent.co.uk](http://bluecorrespondent.co.uk) website which provided source material.



Jimmy Wilde