



Roy Vernon (right in picture with fan) and teammates during the champions' lap of honour in May 1963

VERNON'S CROWNING GLORY

The sunny afternoon of 11 May 1963 saw Everton on the cusp of securing our first post-War league title. Alex Young's headed winner against Spurs a few matches previously had put the Blues in pole position, ahead of the the Lilywhites, as the season's climax approached.

A comfortable midweek victory at West Brom meant that a final fixture win at home to Fulham before 60,578 fans would guarantee Goodison glory and complete a season unbeaten at home.

Fulham would be no pushover, however, boasting the likes of Johnny Haynes, Bobby Robson and George Cohen in their ranks. Any Toffees tremors were quelled after only five minutes when Roy Vernon - 'Taffy' to his teammates - collected a pass from Alex Parker and dribbled past Alan Mullery and goalkeeper Tony Macedo before to slotting home from an acute angle.

Just three minutes had elapsed before the Welshman capitalised on confusion between Mullery and Macedo to double his, and Everton's, tally. In reply, Fulham were denied a stonewall penalty for a foul by Tony Kay - a free-kick award was scant consolation. Then, on 20 minutes, Johnny Key volleyed home beautifully for the Cottagers from a Haynes cross. The two-goal margin was restored when a Vernon free-kick rebounded to Alex Scott, whose low shot eluded a scrambling Macedo.

Everton's stars were in their stride now - peppering the Fulham goal. Vernon

was on fire, being denied a hat-trick when Robson handled his shot and the referee waved play-on. The *Liverpool Echo's* Michael Charters described the club captain's interplay with Alex Young as 'a sweet moving duet.'

The second half was slightly less eventful but, with five minutes left on the clock, Young flicked on Albert Dunlop's clearance for Vernon to race on to and, as with the first goal, he beat Mullery and Macedo to slide the ball home, finally completing his treble.

The match ended 4-1. When the whistle blew, young Blues supporters ignored announcements and joined the triumphant team on a lap of honour. Vernon threw the club mascot into the air before catching him safely! The lack of the league trophy to parade did not detract from one of the great events in a golden decade at Goodison Park and the high point of Roy Vernon's memorable career.

Vernon was announced as the latest Everton Giant during our End of Season Awards in May and his wife, Norma, is at Goodison today to perform the plaque unveiling ceremony before the game.

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[EFC Heritage Society]

