



HAT-TRICK KINGS

By David Prentice

Eighty-five players have scored 202 hat-tricks in competitive matches for Everton Football Club. Or 203, if you count Jack Southworth's unique six-goal haul in 1893 as two-hat-tricks! But only 22 players have scored four goals in a match. And when it comes to a five-goal haul, only three Evertonians have gone nap. No prizes for guessing the player achieving that feat more than once.

Ninety years ago today, the incomparable Dixie Dean scored five goals in a game for the second time in his career – in a remarkable 9-3 rout of Sheffield Wednesday here at Goodison Park. Then in an astonishing spell of goalscoring form, he repeated it a month later against Chelsea. Even at the time it was regarded as a remarkable feat. But it had been coming.

The previous week Dixie had celebrated a hat-trick at Wednesday's Sheffield neighbours in a 5-1 win.

On October 17, 1931 it was Wednesday's turn – although not all of the 38,136 who were inside Goodison Park witnessed it! "It was a thousand pities that fog should come along to make the attractive match between Everton and Sheffield Wednesday doubtful," reported the *Echo*. "There were many people outside the ground fifteen minutes before the time to start who would not venture to go through the gates, believing that play could not possibly take place. It was not quite so bad as all that, but there was certainly enough fog about to make things awkward from an onlooker's point of view." Not for Dean though.



■ Dixie Dean

Everton led 2-1 at half-time, Ellis Rimmer reducing the arrears just before half-time after Dean had made it 2-0 in the 42nd minute. Rimmer's goal proved significant as, in the 1930s, a hat-trick was only reported if all three goals had been scored consecutively.

"Today, in the fog, the Wednesday, were murdered," reported the *Football Echo*. "Dean, naturally, comes in for most of the thunder on account of his amazing goal-scoring. Dean found his way through to two further goals, which brought his total up to five, yet

he was still without his hat-trick." A five-goal haul, but no hat-trick!

Today's visitors have a special place in Everton's Premier League hat-trick hall of fame. We've scored more hat-tricks against The Hammers than any other club with Wayne Rooney, Kevin Campbell and Nick Barmby all celebrating trebles in this era. The first West Ham player to score a hat-trick in the Premier League was a certain Tony Cottee, against Manchester City on December 17, 1994. Cottee had already scored five for the Toffees – including one on his debut.