



PATRICK GORDON – DIVIDED LOYALTIES



By Bradley Cates

The largely unheralded Patrick Gordon was one of the first players to cross the great divide and play for both Everton and Liverpool...although he never actually appeared in a Merseyside derby.

Gordon (also known as Peter Gordon) joined Everton from Scottish club Renton in 1890, making his debut against Bolton in October the same year. Appearances in his first two seasons were limited – only seven in total – but he made more of an impact in his third campaign, playing a key role in Everton reaching their first ever FA Cup final in 1893.

In the semi-final against Preston, Gordon scored the opening goal in a 2-2 draw at Bramall Lane and then, following a goalless replay, he scored the winner in the third game at Ewood Park. He played in the Club's first final, at the Fallowfield Stadium in Manchester, five days later.

Everton lost 1-0 to Wolves and it was his last appearance for the Blues.

Gordon joined Liverpool the following summer and played in all but one of their league games in their first season in the Football League, 1893/94. Liverpool finished top of the Second Division, unbeaten and with a 100-per-cent home record and had to play a 'test match' against the First Division's bottom club Newton Heath (now Manchester United).

Gordon scored the opening goal in Liverpool's 2-0 win and assisted in the other scored by Harry Bradshaw. Liverpool were subsequently promoted to the top flight with Newton Heath going in the opposite direction. Gordon then played in each of Liverpool's first five top-flight matches before moving to Blackburn Rovers in October 1894.

He made 15 appearances for Blackburn, three of which were against Everton,

one in the FA Cup when Gordon scored but the Toffees won 3-2.

His spell at Rovers was terminated by the club at the end of the 1894/95 season for 'refractory conduct' during the club's tour of Scotland and for refusing to play in a reserve match. After his football career ended, Gordon stayed in Liverpool, working as a dock labourer.

Following Fred Geary's death in 1955, Gordon became the last surviving player to have featured in Everton's first League title-winning campaign of 1890/91.

He was also the last surviving member of Everton's first ever FA Cup final team and of Liverpool's first Football League and top-flight campaigns. Patrick Gordon died at his eldest daughter's home in Maghull on 20 April 1957, at the age of 87, and is buried at Kirkdale Cemetery alongside his wife Caroline who died 12 years earlier.