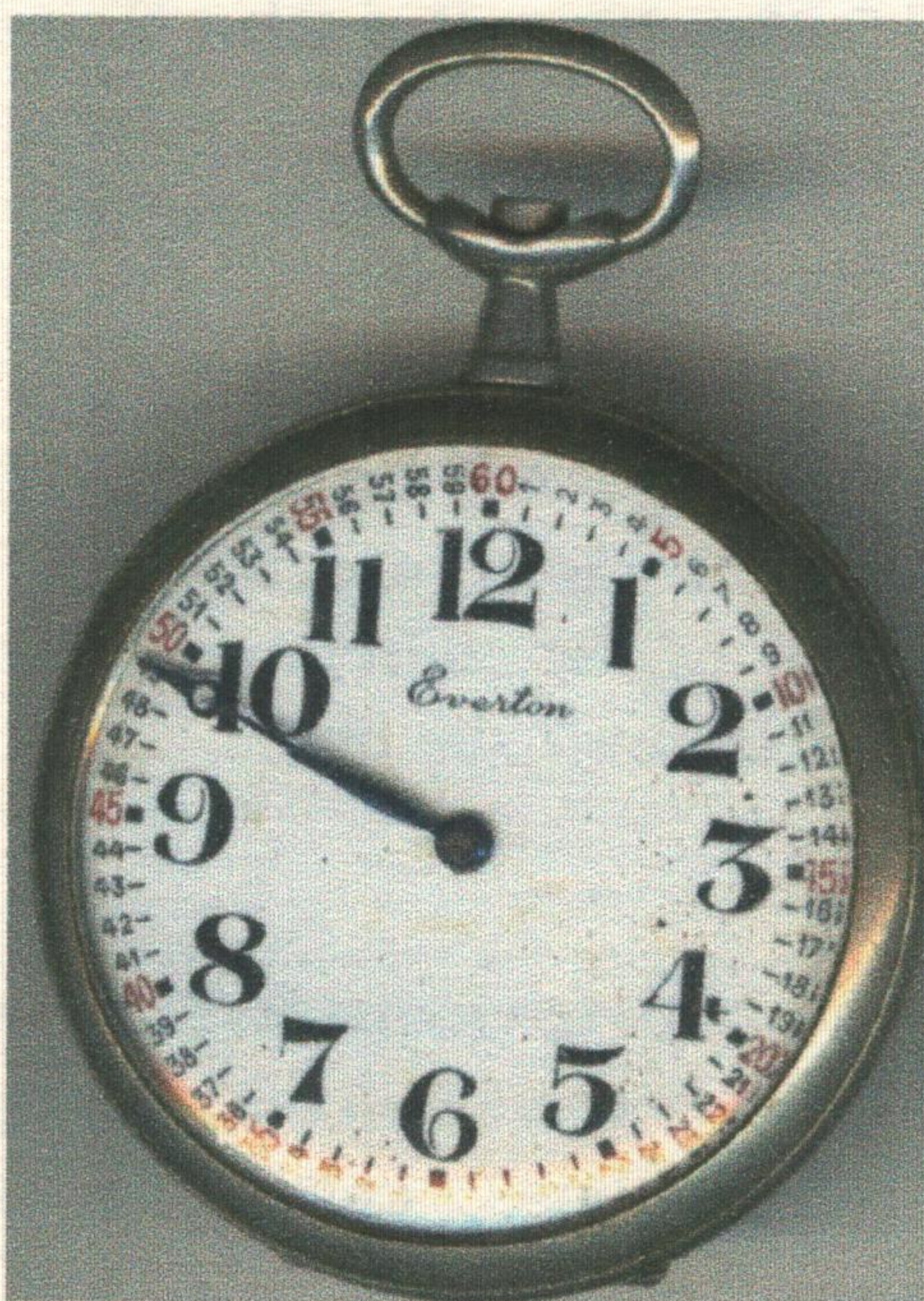


Blue Blood

A Historical Everton Fanzine

Volume 5 issue 30



**Is Time Running Out
For David Moyes?**

Page 23

Price £1.50

On sale outside the Winslow before home games

Editorial Blue Blood

Editor George Orr email george@blueblood.fsnet.co.uk
Or write to Blue Blood 7, Beechwood, Forest Hill Skelmersdale, Lanc's WN8 6UT

Radio Merseyside can be heard on www.bbc.co.uk/liverpool



Thank you for all the articles and emails, keep up the good work. For those of you who are interested, on Friday nights between 8 & 8.30pm I do a small spot on Radio Merseyside 95.8fm, it's called Blue Watch and is all about E.F.C.



No Obstructed Views

As long as your item is not racist, violent or offensive it will be considered for publication. All the views expressed in this fanzine are those of the contributor and not the editor so please don't sue me.



Billy Bingham
A great Evertonian he went on to become the manager,
Played 98 Goals 26
Manager May 1973
Until January 1977

Subscriptions & Single Issue Prices

A Single Issue will cost £1.50p (UK only)

Subscriptions : For Six Issues

U.K.	£9.00
Europe	£16.00
USA / Africa	£18.00
Rest of the World	£20.00

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Back Issues available from me outside the Winslow (not many left)

Editors Page "Orrsome View"

First of all an apology about the quality of the print in this issue, once again a printer went 'Kaput' on me, I have as much luck with printers as Moyes has with left backs, hopefully this problem will be resolved by the next issue.

Sunderland away, one up front, WHAT!!!!!! They are rubbish yet they had us under the cosh for most of the game, Thank God for Tim Cahill, in the dying seconds he at least had the bottle to have a go.

This game and the three points gained might just have saved us from relegation, it certainly looks as if it has doomed the Mackems.

It isn't the performance that matters at this moment in time, that's because Moyes has us as nervous as himself, but we need as many points as possible.

Rumours of Chris Sutton, Jimmy Floyd Haislebank, plus others do not make me feel confident, the supply of quality passes from midfield is more worrying than buying another failed forward. A hard tackling, goal scoring midfielder should be the priority.

I never thought I would witness a Derby Game where Everton were so scared of Liverpool that they would play only one forward up front at home but Moyes has dragged us down to that level. His after match explanations defy belief, like, Bolton were never four goals better than us, Villa were no better than Everton, we played well and I think the lads had a go (Moyes after the Derby).

I had an argument during the Derby about Moyes, the person I was arguing with said that Moyes can't be blamed for the performances, I said that he picked the team, he chose the tactics and he could at any time alter them if they go wrong, we were 2-0 down at the time.

We are a very poor team but as strange as this may sound, the players themselves are not that bad, it's the stupid tactics and constantly playing players out of position that is the problem.

Moyes has now lost more games than Walter Smith, he has also tried to talk Duncan out of retirement, I am sorry but if a man came into my office and said he was knackered and couldn't get himself match fit any more and that he felt he was letting the team and fans down and was thinking about retiring, I wouldn't want to play him again, I would want to find a replacement as soon as possible. Not Moyes he asks Duncan to try and see if he can play.

Moyes has bought or re-signed Naysmith, Pistone, Van Der Meyde, Ferguson, Carsley and others who are all out injured, they were injured when he bought / signed them.

Beattie has been here a year now, do you think he looks match fit? Why do Everton players not take shots from outside the area? Why do we defend in depth at home against Bolton, West Ham, Portsmouth and Wigan? The answer is that David Moyes is manager and that is what he wants to do. Let's try and find some positives at the club, my mate Wyness has once again cocked up the Derby Tickets, (see letters page) but to be fair to him he has done extremely well in giving season ticket holders a few concessions i.e. a child gets a free Stadium Tour 10% off Football In The Community Soccer Camp, £5 off if you spend over £50 in any Everton store, he has also, at last, treated the shareholder with some respect, they received a nice card with a gold card inside, it allows them a 5% discount on next seasons season ticket, a two week priority on all home premier ship games a 10% discount on everything bought in any Everton store. These and other concessions are to be welcomed, the shareholder and the season ticket holder are the backbone of the club, they should not have been treated like they were by Everton Football Club, Wyness has redressed the balance and I thank him for that.

On another subject entirely, I would like to point out to any Evertonian who used to buy their Footy Books or magazines from Sportspages In London or Manchester, that they have apparently gone into liquidation. I for one am not sorry to hear about that, they took over a year to pay me £60 that they owed me, phone calls and letters didn't seem to have an effect, it was only when they had the cheek to ask for more of my books that I said that unless you pay me there would be no more, they sent a cheque but I told them that I was not going to be treated like that again and that they should have more respect for their suppliers and customers. I never dealt with them again and apparently those that did are still owed a considerable amount of money, which it is unlikely that they will ever see again.

Back to the Everton situation, do you want Moyes to have what little money that is left in January or do you want to see a new man in and a new direction?

I have said before and will go on record again saying that Moyes should go, he has got most of Everton's all time worst records and he has failed to produce any kind of shape or style to the team, he and Irvine should leave immediately.

This interview was undertaken by the Excellent Everton website

www.nsno.co.uk

Simon Paul the site manager has kindly allowed Blue Blood to reproduce it, I would like to thank him for his kindness.

Neville Southall Interview – 18th October 2005-10-19

You're going out to Borneo next March to take part in the FA Borneo Cup in aid of Children Today, what was it that made you get involved in that?

It was something that, once I was offered the chance to do, I just couldn't say "No." It's a once in a lifetime opportunity to go out there and do all the activities, and it's all in the name of raising money for North-West kids.

Everyone who's there has raised £3,500 to be there, and we're working with some really good football lads, who were all great in the game, and it just looked like something really exciting to be a part of.

Are you doing any special preparations for the event, or are you just focusing on your usual training routines?

At the moment, no, as I've just got so much on. But I'm hoping to start after Christmas with training, but in all fairness, I don't know how I'll train for the events during the Cup unless I was to go rock climbing or canoeing on my own. But I think the aim is to just keep reasonably fit, have a lot of fun, and try and raise as much as you can for the kids.

As a goalkeeper for most of your career, do you think any of the out-field players will have any advantage over you from a fitness point of view?

I don't think so, no. Most of the stuff's with your hands out there isn't it, so I might have an advantage over them! It'll be mostly hand-eye co-ordination, which I've been doing for my whole career, so after 30 years of it I don't think I'll be far short on that one!

It's up to the captains really, as to how much we actually do. We can either stand back as managers and make the teams do it all, or we can have a laugh and join in, and I think most of the lads will be joining in, so if we can make fools of ourselves then our teams won't feel that bad. I think there'll be a competition between us as well, the ex-players, we'll all want to win it.

Have you developed any rivalries yet with the other captains?

Well, one of the other captains is a Liverpool lad isn't he, so that'll be straight off that one!

Was there anything in particular about the charity which made you want to participate?

Yeah, the fact that it's for local kids, they're all disabled kids in the North West, and obviously the North West is a very dear place to me having been an Everton footballer for 16 years. And personally I think the North West is the best place you could ever play football in.

Neville Southall Interview

You spent 16 years at Goodison as you said, and you played consecutive games for 6 years of those, are there any games that stand out as the best that you played in?

I thought my best game was probably Coventry away when Tony Cottee scored, but I suppose you remember the games like Bayern Munich, and the Milk Cup, the first time we got to Wembley together as a team, then getting beat in the replay. I was talking to Reidy the other day, and that was really when we grew up together as a team, and we realised that we were capable of taking anybody on, and when you think, from that Final replay, even though we got beat, we thought that we were a team, and that we could achieve something.

But the team definitely grew up that day, and luckily we did go on and do well.

After that though, Bayern Munich, which was the best game I've ever been involved in, with any club, anywhere in the world. I think it was more the people that wanted that game than the players.

I've never taken half an hour to get round the ground in the bus before, it was just one of those atmosphere's where you had to be there. A lot of people say on the TV, "Oh, you have to be here" and I used to think it was a load of rubbish, but when you're actually there, and experiencing it, I don't think you'll ever experience anything like that again.

Wembley was great, but not a patch on Goodison Park in a semi-final like that, it was just phenomenal.

I think the people made, as I don't think the game was the best game in the world, although I think the way we won it was good, because it was "up and at em" British style. But I think it was the whole thing, it was as if Merseyside wanted us to win, and I think that, if we'd played that game anywhere else, that we might have got beat.

However, I think that night showed what Merseyside people are all about, full of passion, very loyal people, and I think they got their reward that night. It wasn't so much for the players, because to be fair, once we'd won that, we knew we'd win the final anyway.

I don't think any other game could have been a better game than that, or that there could have been a better atmosphere anywhere, so once you've been through that, the final was a bit of an anti-climax – and there's not many times you can say that is there, it was a bit like beating Man United in the FA Cup Semi-Final only to play Ipswich in the final!

I think the people won us the competition against Bayern, because, well, at the final we knew we were going to win, they had no hope because we were miles better than them, and it was a nice reward for the people for us to have won the Cup Winners Cup.

In the Semi Final, Howard Kendall told the team to just play it towards the Gwladys Street and we'd suck one in for you, did the team have the same attitude at the time?

Yeah, because people think he only said that the once, but he said that on a regular basis, and because he'd played at Goodison, he knew it was true. But we always loved kicking towards the Gwladys Street end in the days before the away supporters were moved round, because any time we were down that end, we'd have a good chance of getting back into a game.

Neville Southall Interview

It was nice then, when the Park End came to the fore when the club moved the away supporters round there, and we got the effect from both ends then, and one end was blowing while the other end was sucking, so we always had a chance at each end from then on.

But I honestly thought that Howard got it spot on, on the night, that we had the sort of players that could do what we needed to do. Andy frightened them to death, but there's nothing wrong with that, you use what you've got. They didn't like it, but at the end of the day, history says that we won the Cup Winners Cup, and that's enough for us!

Absolutely! Now, as well as playing in so many matches for the club, you made a huge amount of World Class saves, are there any that you remember and think back as your best?

I don't know really, sometimes saves are better due to the timing of the game and how important the game was. I like to think that I was pretty consistent at making good saves when I had to. To be fair to them in front of me though, I didn't have a lot to do, so when I actually did do something, it probably appeared better than what it was.

Mind you, I made saves that I thought were excellent in training, but no-one gives a monkey about what you do in training do they! It's transferring it onto the pitch, and if you make one or two good saves during the match then it's good.

Take the Tottenham game, we were going for the league, you make a decent save, and it becomes an even better save. Then the one from Imre Viradi I thought was a decent save to be fair, although I thought I made better, but maybe they were in games that didn't really matter.

I tend to remember most of the mistakes and think "Shit, that was embarrassing," but I don't sit down and think of a particular game and think "Yeah, I made a great save there"

As you said, the defenders in front of you were fantastic in the 80's, for you, who was the best back four to play in front of you?

Without any hesitation}

Gary Stevens was the best right-back I've played with.

I think John Bailey was the best left-back I played with, I think he had everything, he could tackle, he weren't bad in the air, and I think his use of the ball was better than Pat Van den Hauwe's. Plus, in the dressing room he was just absolutely crackers, which is probably as good as anything else, and to be honest, I'm surprised he didn't get the Coach of the England squad. He was a joy to play with, he was really honest, you knew what you were getting, and he was always willing to play football.

And I think, and this is quite harsh on Derek [Mountfield], but I think that Kevin Ratcliffe and Dave Watson were the best centre backs because they had everything.

Dave wasn't blessed with the best pace, but he was magnificent in the air. He was brave as a lion, tackled everything that moved, while Rats was quick as anything, and nasty as anything!

I think people don't give him credit for that, he's always got away with it, because he used to do it quite slyly. He'd give an awful lot of stick out, and he was quick as lightning, as well as being really good upstairs. He could think his way through a football game, and if you're going to have a captain, you've got to have a captain who can think on his feet.

I also think that one of the most under-rated defenders we ever had was Alan Harper, him and Gary Ablett did magnificent for us. Alan played in a lot of positions, and got on with what had to be done, but I think I was spoilt because, well look at the tradition we have of defenders, the likes of Labone, Wilson, Ratcliffe, Derek [Mountfield], Dave

Neville Southall Interview

Watson, so obviously the next one's have to be pretty special. I suppose the next one's after that were Richard Gough and that, but he didn't stay around long enough for me to call him an "Everton" Everton player. He wasn't quite there long enough.

Joey Yobo might have a chance, he's taken to Everton, and Everton seems to have taken to him.

You've never properly been replaced since you left Everton, although Nigel Martyn is probably the closest we've come to a keeper with your ability. Why do you think you have been so hard to replace?

Nigel Martyn is one of the best keepers in the league because he makes the least mistakes, and for me, that's because he's played through a time when there was a variation in teams, and a variation of tactics.

We had Wimbledon and Watford in our league, and we had other teams who just smashed it, we had Nottingham Forest who just played on the counter attack, as well as the likes of Liverpool and Man Utd who could play a bit.

So, in a week, if you played three different matches, you could have three different sorts of challenges to face, and I don't think they get that now, I think everybody plays the same way. You don't get the type of physical contact that you used to, and don't forget Nigel's used to all that, he must think it's his birthday! He could probably play on another five years.

It's very rare he gets hit on a cross now, very rare. Whereas I played against the likes of John Fashanu, Mick Harford, they just wouldn't make a living now, they'd get booted out of the game. Personally I think people miss that.

When you go to watch Everton, the biggest clap is when you see someone go in for some ridiculous tackle, and come out with the ball, because people still want to see physical contact, they want to see people giving absolutely everything.

The crowd get fed up with referees, and I have to say, I was at the Dinamo Bucharest game at Goodison, and I thought that Everton were brilliant. I thought "If they can transfer this into the league, they'll have no problem." The effort and commitment was fantastic, the amount of balls they got into the box was brilliant, give them their due, they were magnificent.

If they could do that every week, you wouldn't be worried about them like you are now would you?

You have to say though, that it's only a matter of time, there are some poor teams out in that league at the moment, and when I look at the start Everton have had, some of these teams that are having so-called good runs, they're only eight points above us! That's only 3 wins, and you've got to play those teams twice. I think we'll catch a lot of teams up and probably finish mid-table.

You mentioned that Nigel Martyn might fancy playing on for a few more years, you didn't look so past-it yourself on Sky One's "The Match" last week, do you have any plans of coming out of retirement?

No, I don't really think I've got anything left to prove have I?

I think a lot of the lads were the same for that, they didn't want to go and make a fool of themselves. We wanted to go and do the best we could and leave our reputation intact.

That's the pressure with things like that, because people expect you to be like you were 20 years ago, but you're not going to be. For me it was a joy to play with those players, and to work with Bobby Robson as coach.

Bobby's the most enthusiastic man I've ever met, he could play tiddly-winks and make it

into the World Cup Final, he's just so enthusiastic. And you could see that the England lads who played for him just absolutely adored him, and you've got to have something to have that.

By the end of the week you just end up loving him to bits, alright he might forget your name from time to time, but his enthusiasm is fantastic.

I think that's something needed at Everton. They don't look as though they're enjoying it so much, and it probably needs a spark from somewhere. It could be something that David Moyes does, it could be something that somebody else does, they're just looking for a spark.

It could be absolutely anything, you just hope that someone can go out there and score a couple of fluke goals, win a game, and then build from there, but they just don't seem to be enjoying it at the moment.

You said the other week that Everton needed a spark in the dressing room to cheer things up, and you mentioned earlier that John Bailey was a great character. Were there any other big characters that were in the dressing room during your time?

When you've got people like Andy Gray and Sharpy, Peter Reid and all, taking the piss out of everybody, you've got a squad of people there who know what they're doing.

We would have worked as hard as any team in the world, but within that, the biggest thing you need to do is enjoy it, otherwise it's just going to be a grind. And it looks to me as if it's a grind for the current squad at the moment.

They remind me of Man City a lot, where they just don't seem to enjoy it, and I think a lot of how you are as a team reflects the manager. David Moyes has never struck me as a laugh a minute sort of fella, so your number two has got to do that, and Alan Irvine isn't that. He's a lovely fella, but he's not the "big character." I think him and Moyes are both quite similar people. I remember John Bailey going to Sheffield United with Howard [Kendall], and Bail's hardly ever played, he just used to be in the dressing room, and they hardly ever lost. Bail's just used to cheer everything up, but don't get me wrong, it's all serious, but the pressure should only come when you step over the white line. Not before. You never lose any points before three o'clock do you?

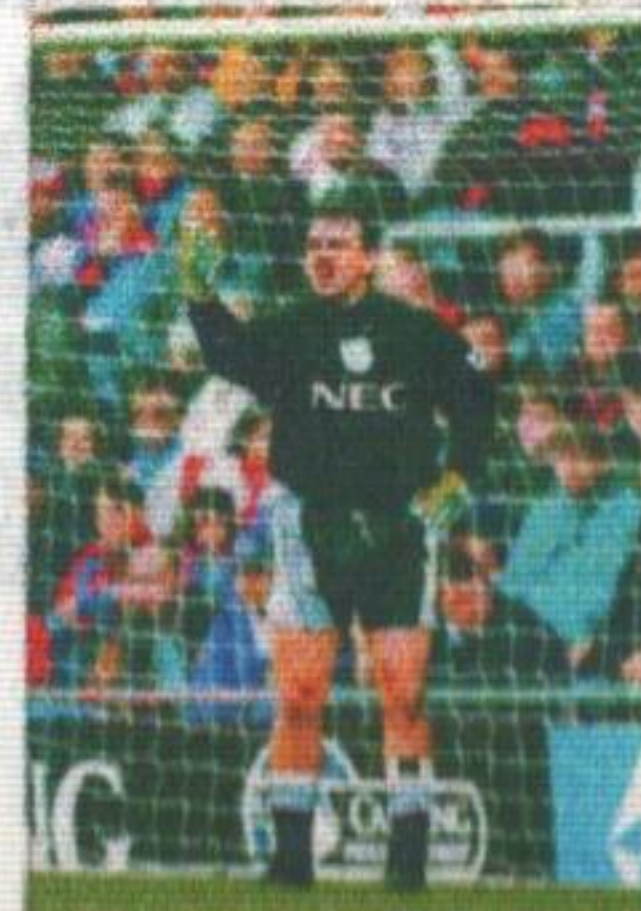
It is a pressure situation, but you've got to have a laugh, because at the end of the day, you know the opposition are going through the same thing. Howard Kendall was fantastic at taking the pressure off, he'd take it all off your shoulders, he'd make sure the place was bouncing and everyone would be bouncing round.

Whenever you see Howard, in whatever he does, there's always a twinkle in his eye.

Would you say that Howard was the best manager you played under?

Oh yeah, by miles. I don't think there's ever been anyone come anywhere close. I liked Joe Royle, I know people might have thought I didn't get on with Joe, but in all honesty I thought he was a decent bloke. He was a good manager, but I just think there are some managers who can spend money, and there's some managers who can't.

I don't think Joe was the kind of manager who could go out and spend 5,6 or 7 million, and I think that sometimes, managers are better off with less money to spend. I think Alex Ferguson can spend money, Mourinho can spend money, Wenger can. But I think sometimes, the likes of Harry Redknapp, Harry Bassett, do better with less money, because that's what they like doing, they work under pressure, and the get the best out of people because they're good coaches.



Continued on page 9

Howard wasn't a big spender, but he got people as bargains, but he could also splash out like when he bought Gary Lineker. He wasn't afraid to take a gamble, and no this isn't a slight on Joe Royle, but I think he was better with less money, and I think David Moyes is better with less money.

Once you start giving managers money then they're looking at a different market, and it's maybe not the market they're used to looking at. It's OK looking at big players if you know them and know you can work with them, but sometimes it's better with lesser players, and making them look like the big players.

If you look back when we won the FA Cup in 1995, we went from being "Dogs of War" to trying to play, and to be fair, we just couldn't. We weren't capable of playing the ball around. Joe bought players like Vinny Samways, who was a great Spurs player, because that's what they did, but not us. Not because he was a bad player individually, but just because that wasn't what we did.

I think there's a certain type of player that's an Everton player, and I don't think that Vinny Samways or Anders Limpar were Everton players. I think if you do well one year, the pressure's on to do better the next year, and you do try to buy better players, but if it's not the market you're used to looking at, you sometimes struggle a little bit. Not because they're bad players, but perhaps they just don't fit in with what you've already got.

I think Everton last year, ground out results, and I can see what Davey's tried to do, he's tried to improve his squad with better players so they don't have to grind out results, but that was what made them successful last year.

This year, we're a little bit more open, trying to be a little bit more creative, and you're going to get beat occasionally. And if it doesn't quite click to start with, you're going to get beat a lot.

Under Mike Walker, we made forty or fifty passes in our half, and then the opposition pinch it and score, and we lose 4-0 at home. Sometimes it just doesn't work for you, and when Joe Royle came, we got it and smashed it and chased it, and we got through it and did really well, but then we tried to change it. But sometimes it's very difficult to stick to what you know because you always want better as manager.

You've had a little adventure in management and coaching yourself, have Everton ever approached you to work for us?

No. Never.

Would you come if you were asked?

Course I would. It's my club isn't it. Sometimes you just have one club in your life and that's it. I don't bother with anyone else, I mean, I'll look at Torquay's results and I'll look at Dagenham because my mate's there, but Everton's always gonna be the first club I look for.

I'll look at Bury's as well as I started off there, but there's only ever gonna be one club for me isn't there, it's never ever gonna change, and at this time now, everyone's just gotta stick together.

We were a good side last year, and we'll be a good side again, we just need to have a little bit of patience and let's make as much noise as we can every game, because the only thing you can do, is believe you're going to win the next game.

If you keep believing then eventually you'll win one, and you can build on that. If you lose that one, just believe you'll win the next one, and the one after that, and just keep going.

We've all just got to keep the same idea in our heads. It's no good sniping at David Moyes, because he's the best we've got, and I think the only people that could ever replace him would be a combination of Reidy and Rats because they know what the club's about.

But I think David Moyes has done alright, I think he's doing alright, it just really needs a win. And then by Christmas I think we'll see a different Everton, because you look at the players, and their all good players, they just need a little bit of confidence and that comes with winning.

But that also comes if people believe in them off the pitch, but there's going to be a lot of negative stuff written about David Moyes and his players, and you don't need to read that, because they're good players.

I just think it's a time for everyone to pull together, and we've all got something in common, we're all Evertonians, and Evertonians always stick together, no matter where you are, and I think that's what the club's all about, about people sticking together and being positive.

Besides, none of the sides I was in ever started well. We were always better after Christmas, and we could grind sides down with our consistency then. But if you've played at Everton, no matter who you are, if you know what the club's like, and what the fans are like, you know it's only a matter of time before things click.

Thanks to www.nsno.co.uk An independent Everton website

Letters



E-Mails

Dear George,

I am writing this to expose 'Another Fine Mess' by Mr Wyness, his harebrained idea to give Half Price Season Ticket buyers a FREE "Derby" Ticket might on the face of it seem logical but reality says it is not and here is why.

I am a fully paid up season ticket holder, I bought mine in June, for the full amount, my reward has been to be abused for the Villarreal game and other snubs but when I went to buy another ticket for the "Derby" for my son who is home this Christmas the true stupidity of Wyness hit home.

Because I am a season ticket holder I had the right to purchase a Derby Ticket at FULL PRICE with voucher 59.

I duly arrived at the box office on the first day of sale, only to be told that there was only OBSTRUCTED VIEW seats left, at full price!!

I said to the girl, "don't tell me you have given free unobstructed view tickets away to half price season tickets holders and then you want me to pay FULL PRICE for an obstructed view?"

Her reply was, "do you want it or not" customer service at it's highest level.

I will not be a season ticket holder next season I will wait until Christmas and see what freebies I will be given, sod spending a full £500 plus in June when I can pick and chose my matches, I will watch on SKY or go to Goodison if there is no TV coverage. I think I will save a fortune, but then again SKY don't show the Coca Cola Championship games as much as the Premiership and Mr Moyes is taking us down unless things alter drastically.

Another fed up ex season ticket holder Jimmy The Blue. (By e-mail)

Blue Blood,

Where are all the I love Moyes Boys now, we are watching crap football by a crap team that couldn't tackle a breakfast never mind a football. I was so annoyed by the West Ham, Bolton and Villa games that I swore not to go again until Moyes and Irvine leave our once great club, I know some will say I am a deserter but paying good money to watch this rubbish is not a sensible thing to do.

My wife and kids can use the money better than Everton Football Club.

I am sorry to have to be so negative but in over thirty years of watching Everton I have never seen such a gutless bunch of tossers as those who turned out for the West Ham and Bolton and Villa games.

David Elliot.

Book Review



Der Ball ist Rund Everton in Europe 1962—2005 By Mike Owen

A few months ago Mike Owen asked me if it would make sense to write a book about Everton In Europe? I have to be honest and say that I thought it would be difficult if not impossible to write anything of note about our beloved Blues in Europe (apart from the Cup Winners Cup).

Mike asked me for a couple of my own personal memories and I told him a few things. That was the last I thought about it until just before the Newcastle game at home in November Mike came up to me outside the Winslow and said "Done It" he then handed me a 264 page paperback book titled as above.

I thought it's so thick it must be packed with photo's to fill it out, because Everton haven't done that much.

However I was shocked to find there are no photo's just 264 pages of text and what elegant and informative text it is.

This book is a gem, something that you must have if you are remotely interested in Everton's European campaigns.

Mike has gone to great lengths not only to get the fans viewpoint but the players opinions as well. On top of that, he has researched the history of every clubs we have met and it is unbelievably interesting.

He has sprinkled a fair amount of humour throughout the book and it had me laughing out aloud at certain points, I won't spoil it for you by saying which parts but take my word for it, this book will make you laugh as well as inform you.

I predict that this book will be on the bookshelf of every Evertonian that needs to know who played who, where and when and what the fans thought of it all.

The title Der Ball ist Rund comes from a German saying, that it will roll either for or against you but I think in Everton's case it will always roll against you.

On a personal level the book took me back to the nights at Goodison Park when teams like Dunfermline & Nuremberg tested shin pads to their limit and tried to change the game to Australian Rules Football.

The night we played Inter Milan in late 1963 at Goodison is fully recalled as is the Colin Harvey debut in the second leg in the San Siro.

The book costs only £7.99 and hopefully will be available at most good bookstores. However if you are at the match, check out the triangle outside the Church by Gwladys Street before home games as Mike will be selling it there.

Mike has done a tremendous job getting this book into print, he is a fan, the same as you or me, it's quite common to see books by Royle, Harvey, Kendall and other ex players / mangers but to get a book written and researched by a fan that is above and beyond what you expected is not very common. Everton are lucky that they have the likes of Mike Owen and others that can, not only support their team passionately but also write with the same amount of passion.

We are the Peoples Club and this is a "Peoples" book if you have any money left after Christmas then buy this book and mention Blue Blood when you do because Blue Blood is proud to promote this brilliant book. It will be on sale outside the Church before home games

View From The Grassy Knoll



Merseyside's
Most
Expensive Hos-
pital

"Goodison Park"

Not Fit To Wear The Shirt

The fact that we signed Lee Carsley on for another season when he was on crutches is becoming the norm at Goodison.

Kroldrup, Van Der Meyde, Pistone, Ferguson, Naysmith are all signed by Moyes, most if not all are regularly injured but what the hell it's only money and Everton have bundles of that!!!!

This policy of buying crocks is not the worst thing that Everton do, no we manage to have Duncan Ferguson missing vital games because he had the FLU, not bird Flu from his pigeons but ordinary common - a - garden FLU. Wouldn't you think that an organisation as big as Everton Football Club would have their employees immunised by giving them the FLU jab?

But then again Big Dunc would probably have an allergic reaction to the injection. Joking apart, why isn't it done? These guys are worth millions of pounds, they get paid millions of pounds and we need them fit and available to play when required.

The whole set up at Everton is suspect. Kroldrup (at the time of writing just after the Bolton fiasco), we still haven't seen this guy. During the Bolton game we, as everyone knows got thrashed, Yobo was going to the Nations Cup in January, so at 4-0 down and with ten minutes to go, what an ideal time to bring on the invisible man, Kroldrup. Moyes in his wisdom (assuming that he has wisdom) didn't do that. This leaves me and many other Evertonians to ask WHY? He cost £5 million quid and has only appeared in a handful of reserve games.

Gravesen and Stubbs have been linked with us for a return, another two ex Blues who found out that when you leave Everton you go downhill, ok I know Thomas went to real Madrid but did he command a place there? Did he star for them in Midfield? And last but not least did he suddenly become a goal scoring machine? The answer is no to all of those questions as for Stubbs Sunderland, relegation battle, say no more.

We need to look forward not backwards, we need young, fit, exciting players, not the Ferguson's, Carsleys, Pistone's of this World.

Evertonians have been lulled into accepting second rate players and second rate football by David Moyes and his coaching pal Alan Irvine.

We have suffered enough, injured players are part of the game, I accept that but buying them when they are injured is not the way forward, only the best is good enough, remember that Mr Moyes..



Lee



Harvey



Oswald

EVERTON STICKERS 2001-05

The new Millennium saw Merlin^{UK} maintain their dominance of the sticker scene. However to their credit they continued to provide ^{can}innovative, attractive product. The albums became bigger⁺ glossier, full of facts + figures of both featured clubs + players. Apart from sets featuring teams + players featuring in the International Tournaments however, Merlin^{UK} by now were entirely focused on the F.A. Premier League. 2001 saw 16 smiling Everton players feature, including new signings ^{and Xavi} Steve Watson, Alessandro ^{Costa} Pistone, Niclas Alexandersson + a certain Paul Gascoigne. ^{reality} Although his star was on the wane Merlin decided he merited two different larger stickers proclaiming him "Superstar". Rarely did Evertonians witness anything to justify that tag, but I do remember a game at Leicester when Gazza turned back the clock with a spectacular performance. Old favourites such as Duncan Ferguson, Kevin Campbell + Dave Dawson also featured. Alex Niyerho made his only appearance before his infamous bust up at Highbury saw him loaned out for 2 seasons before making a brief return, ended when his work permit expired with one year left on his expensive contract. It could only happen at Everton. 2002 thankfully saw the end of the Walter Smith era but the sticker set for this season saw the stickers featuring autographed stickers for the first time as 18 featured players were now stylishly signed in silver pen. With ~~Gazza~~ now departed Kevin Campbell took on the role of star player. New faces included Gary Naysmith, Alan Stubbs + Tomasz Radzinski + the enigmatic Idan Tal. 2003 saw the Everton team group sitting behind a board showing new ^{main} sponsors Keizan who had taken over from One-2-One. A certain Wayne Rooney was featured for the first time, alongside foreign imports Rodrigo (Brazil) + Li Tie (China) + Linderoth (Sweden) David Moyes first full season saw an upturn in fortunes + European qualification only shipped away with 2 defeats in the last 2 games. Wayne Rooney emulated Gazza and appeared on 2 larger stickers reflecting his newfound "Superstar" status. 2004's selection reflected David Moyes signings featuring Richard Wright, Nigel Martyn, Kevin Kilbane, Joseph Yobo ~~Jun M'Fadda~~ + Tom Catbitt plus youngsters Leon Osman + Nick Chadwick. 2005 saw the sponsor change again as Chay Beer took on the role. Tom Catbitt + Marcus Beik featured + for the first time in several years the manager David Moyes merited a sticker.

Everton Stickers continued

Apart from the main Premier League set, Mark issued small stamp size stickers called 'FA Premier League Football Collection' in both 2002 & 2004 featuring the Everton squad going away with bubble gum. Very few stickers are issued elsewhere, apart from those issued occasionally with weekly football magazines.

Stickers represent a relatively cheap form of collecting & most of the stickers are easy to find. Over the period 1967-2005 most players who have appeared for the club have been represented in one or another of the sticker sets mentioned in this previous article, the good the bad & yes in some cases the ugly.

Barry Hewitt.

Barry will be producing a book about Everton Stickers with David France later this year, I will keep you all informed of it's progress

Book Review

The Road To Rotterdam by Mark O'Brien

Was it really 21 years ago this May? It feels like yesterday but now you can relive it over and over again thanks to Mark O'Brien and his excellent book *The Road To Rotterdam*.

That night is to many Evertonians the greatest night of their sporting lives but it was more than just one game and Mark has dug out many Evertonians to recall their exploits in travelling to all the games involved in the Cup run.

Funny and expertly compiled it is a must for any Blue Boy who longs for those long lost days to return.

Mark has been involved with Everton's number one fanzine *When Skies Are Grey* for a few years and it has been a good apprenticeship because he has compiled a truly professional book.

It can be bought from the club Megastore or upstairs in St Lukes Church on match days price is £8.95

This is another example of the talent that Evertonians have, they can put the passion and feelings they have for their club into words and not only that they lose nothing in translation to paper.

The Gordon West Story Continued

Referees and . . . Referees

IN SPITE OF what I have told you about the nervous temperament which, at times, has affected me on the field of play, I do not consider myself a coward. Physically, I am probably a match for any forward in the game. But I do consider myself to be entitled to protection, by referees, within the laws of the game. This is not a case of being soft, or a cissy; it simply makes sense to me, that I should be entitled to and make full use of the safeguards which a referee can afford me.

Better to play it safe, than to be sorry, on occasion. That's my motto. It is all right being foolhardy, and looking a hero ... but if your demonstration of so called courage means letting in a goal which might have been avoided, you'll get no thanks from your manager or your team-mates. So I'm ready to ask for the referee's protection, when I think the situation warrants it.

There are referees and referees. We all know that. The first time a referee came across the park and gave me a wiggling, I was so nervous and so upset that I almost ran off the field. But it didn't make me hate referees; when I stopped to consider, afterwards, I knew that I had deserved those cautionary words, and I resolved that I would try to keep out of trouble, in the future. I still had to learn the lesson the hard way, even so, after having been sent off in a game against Newcastle.

Apart from having learned that the referee is the ultimate boss, I have come to appreciate two other things about referees. In the first place, regardless of what criticisms are levelled at the referees in this country, they are still the best in the world, taken by and large. The second point is that Continental referees can take many a lesson in the finer points of controlling a game, from our fellows.

No names, no pack drill: but one Continental referee I know is just about the most arrogant I have met. He doesn't want to control a game he wants to dictate it. And don't just take my word for this. I have heard at least one of the game's most distinguished officials level exactly the same criticism at this same referee.

I can recall an occasion in which two of my team-mates were concerned in the taking of a free-kick. It was a set piece: and it had been planned during our tactical sessions. The first player shaped as if to take the free-kick, and ran over the ball; whereupon player No. 2 followed up, to hit the ball. There was only one snag—before player No. 2 had actually put his foot to the ball, player No. 1 had been penalised ... for ungentlemanly conduct. And the referee would brook no arguments that this was a legitimate tactic.

There is a referee in British football, too, who thinks that people have come to see him in action, and not the 22 players. He works overtime, with that whistle of his. It seems almost that every time we play in a game which he is handling, he awards a goal against us. And not a good one, either.

When it comes to corners, and I'm the goalkeeper who has to try to prevent a goal, I know where I like to see the referee standing. Either just behind the goal, or on the spot.

I don't fancy my chances, when I observe the referee standing yards away, where his vision can so easily be obstructed by the mass of bodies accumulated in the goalmouth. It happened to me, once, that I was the sufferer on such an occasion. We were playing at White Hart-lane, and we were leading Tottenham by the only goal of the game. Doing nicely, thank you. Then we had a corner awarded against us. The winger took the kick, and the ball sailed into the goalmouth. Naturally, I started to go up, to cut out the danger and collect the ball, if things became really desperate, to punch it clear. I reckon that a high ball should always belong to the goalkeeper, because he can use his hands, and that gives him a few inches' advantage over even the tallest forward, or a

defender trying his luck as a forward. Provided, of course, that the game is played according to the rule book.

On this occasion, as I took off from the ground, I felt a heavy blow in the back. The incident may well have been an accident; but the net result was that I didn't collect that ball, or even punch it away. I never even managed to connect, because I was right off balance. So the ball sailed across ... and straight into the net. The referee signalled that it was a goal. So it was clear to me that he hadn't seen what had happened. In vain did I protest that I had been fouled. The goal was allowed to stand.

On another occasion, the situation was almost exactly the same. The ball came across the face of the goal, and I got a knock in the back. This time, the ball didn't go into the net—and, even if it had, it would not have counted as a goal. Because the referee was right on the spot, and he blew for a foul without the slightest hesitation, I turned to him and said: 'I'm frightened to death that you'll miss one of these things' meaning, of course, that I was worried in case he didn't spot every similar infringement, and that a goal might ensue.

The referee took a long, hard look at me, then grinned. 'You know what?' he said. 'I'm frightened to death of missing one, too.' Needless to say, this was not the same referee who allowed the goal to stand against us at Tottenham. But even though I knew he was human, and might miss a similar incident, I was satisfied—because I also knew that he was as concerned as I was to ensure that no funny business led to a goal. At least, he was trying to keep his eyes on everything.

Some referees are unwilling to show that they are human. They come on the field and act as if they are toffee nosed lords, too high and mighty to be spoken to, or have a decision questioned; too good to condescend to speak to the likes of professional footballers and explain now and again, why they have given a certain decision. But other referees are human—and not afraid to show it.

Maidstone referee Keith Walker was involved in a couple of controversial games last season. First of all, when Liverpool played at West Brom, our great Merseyside rivals equalised and made the score 2-2, in what the West Brom people felt was not extra time for injuries, but overtime. The second occasion was when we played the Wolves at Molineux, and their centre-forward, Derek Dougan, got his marching orders. He was subsequently suspended for eight weeks, after having been found guilty of swearing at a linesman.

That was the game in which, happily, I was able to avert more trouble when a team-mate of Dougan's looked as if he were about to throw caution to the winds, and take physical action. He was incensed about the sending-off of his team-mate, and I could see that things were likely to happen. So I raced out of my goal and gripped him in a sort of bear hug, talking all the time to calm him down and pointing out that any action on his part would lead to the Wolves being two men short. He got the message, in the end.

Mr. Walker finished both those matches by having a police escort off the field, and the controversy raged for days. You were either for him or against him.

But, irrespective of the happenings in those two matches, my only dealings with Mr. Walker showed me that he was human. I knew him slightly, because he hailed from Blackpool, where my wife, Ann, was born, and he knew her. Everton were playing in a derby game at Liverpool, and I injured a foot. Referee Walker came over to inspect the damage, and casually said: 'By the way, how's Ann?' He may make mistakes, like every other referee; but at least he isn't toffee-nosed.

Another referee I place in the 'human' category is Leo Callaghan, of Merthyr Tydfil. He refereed our F.A. Cup final against West Brom, and—rather cheekily, perhaps—I claimed that the winning goal, scored by Jeff Astle, West Brom's hero of the hour, was not valid. I said to Mr. Callaghan: 'He was miles offside, ref!' I suppose I realised I was talking with tongue in cheek, even as I said it; but Mr. Callaghan knew that my protest wasn't from the heart. At the same time, no doubt, he could understand my disappointment and my feelings.

instead of laying down the law and playing the strict disciplinarian, he merely looked straight at me, smiled ... and signalled a goal.

A season or two ago, there was quite a furore when I started to complain about the way that Leeds United centre-half Jack Chariton was almost standing on my toes, whenever he came up for a corner. I reckon that big Jack thinks I'm a bit soft, and I know that Billy Bremner moans, when he hears me ask the referee: 'Will you watch me, ref?' What I mean, of course, is that I want the referee to keep a close eye on things, so that he will spot if there is any infringement. As soon as I trot out the phrase, 'Will you watch me, ref?' Billy Bremner pulls a face, as I said, and repeats what I have said.

It doesn't worry me that Billy thinks I'm being small minded about things. Or that big Jack might think I'm being too fussy about my health. There have been occasions when big Jack has caught me off balance, as we have both gone up for the ball together, almost glued together like sticky paper.

But there have been occasions, too, when Leeds have altered their tactics. The first time, it took me by surprise, because big Jack had come up, as usual, for the corner, and I expected the usual breathing-down my neck business. Instead, Jack stood away. I felt confused, unsure of what to do. For a moment, I almost followed him.

But I had to keep one eye open for the ball coming across, and then I realised the new ploy. Big Jack wasn't going to go up with me; he was going to go up before me, and try to un-sight me. Or he was going to sidestep away from me, and thus distract me.

Leeds had got this corner-kick business off to a fine art, and I believe big Jack and his club when they say that it takes courage to do what he did, and come right up there into the goalmouth because, they said, and again I would agree, that he took as much stick as anyone, when he was trying to nod that ball home with his napper.

Everton, of course, reacted by practising tactics designed to outwit and negative the Leeds corner procedure. I started to leave the far post, and follow Jack Chariton, while big Joe Royle would post himself right in front of the Leeds centre-half. Once, as it happened, the tactic came unstuck—and after we had been practising it for days, too. The ball came over, beat Joe, big Jack and myself ... and went straight to wee Billy Bremner, who stuck the ball in the net with his chest.

When it comes to awarding top marks to a referee, the one who wins hands down, in my book, is a fellow called Hill, from Leicester. He's the best in the Football League, bar none, in my opinion. And I have to admit that I am influenced for one thing, because when we have a corner given against us, he's right up there, just behind my goal, making sure that there's no funny business going on. Although he doesn't stand for any pussyfooting, either. Once, when I complained, after Jack Chariton had backed into me—obviously, referee Hill interpreted it as an accident I soon had my complaint silenced with a firm: 'This is a man's game, lads ... now let's get on with it.' And we did.

One day, Alan Ball found that the lace of his boot had come undone. Alan isn't daft, and he hates to be out of the game for even a moment—so he calmly placed his foot on the ball, and started to tie the lace of his boot. That way, he figured, no one could take advantage of him or of Everton, because play would be held up. But referee Hill soon came over, and issued a warning shot. 'Do that again, son,' he said to Alan, 'and I'll have your autograph!' Then he grinned, and got play going again.

Another time, he showed that he could appreciate a good bit of play, every bit as much as the fans who had paid their entrance money to get in. We had been playing some tremendous football—one pass by Alan Ball was a peach, it was so accurate—and when the end of the game came, and the final whistle had been blown, we walked off to an ovation from the crowd. Not only from the crowd ... for referee Hill himself was applauding us too.

Now what about all this talk that there should be fulltime referees? Would it really be the answer to all our problems, or would we soon find that we had created new posers for the Soccer authorities to solve?

In my opinion and I don't claim that I am always right full-time referees are NOT the answer. My reasoning is this: for a start, so many of the referees already have well paid jobs. There are some who earn practically a cabinet minister's salary, even if there are others who earn an ordinary wage, like every other working chap.

What incentive does a fellow have to give up a tanner a week, in favour of even £40 or £50 a week, when he may be making that from his present trade already? And supposing he's making twice as much ... what then? He's certainly not going to throw up a safe and lucrative career outside the game, simply for the satisfaction of being a full timer inside the game. Because, in any case, that would be only for a very limited number of years.

Referees are compulsorily retired from the League list, when they reach the age of 47. And what would happen, under the present marking system, if a referee consistently got poor marks and found he was off the list and jobless even earlier? True, he might sell his story to a Sunday paper; but that money wouldn't last him a lifetime. And even if he stayed on the list until he was 47, what then? You can't just walk back into your former job, after years away from it; and 47 is no age to start learning a completely new career.

There is another aspect to the situation, as well. Referees don't START on the League list ... promotion to it is the ultimate goal. And for years, maybe, a man may have run the line or graduated to refereeing comparatively minor matches, before he is considered good enough to take charge of full Football League games. So what wage would be paid to a full-timer, while he was learning his trade, so to speak. And how old must he be, before he starts? These are pertinent points to weigh up, in my view.

If full-time referees are not the answer, what about the cry for referees who have themselves been professional footballers? They need not necessarily be full-timers, but their knowledge of the game must surely make them good candidates for such a job. Or so it would seem, at first glance.

However, I must confess that I don't go for this business of turning professional footballers into League referees, when their playing careers have ended. Not all the way, at any rate. And there is one basic factor to be taken into account.

The switch from being a player to a referee is just like the transition from being a player to a manager especially at the club where you have been a player. Don Revie, of Leeds, will know what I mean, for he switched from being a player at Leeds United to becoming the club's manager, and he faced all the problems of suddenly finding himself 'on the other side of the fence'.

Don, being the type of man he is, surmounted those problems with complete success. But he had to work out for himself exactly how to exert the authority and command respect, while at the same time not seeming to have enclosed himself aloofly in some sort of ivory tower. This sort of situation calls for tremendous tact, and yet firmness. You have to show that you're the boss, but you have also to ensure that your players realise they can still approach you, even if you are no longer 'one of the lads'.

The same situation would exist for any professional footballer stepping out on to the field of play as a referee. Immediately, he would be coming into contact with professionals who have been on Christian-name terms with him maybe even been team-mates in the same dressing room.

Not every ex-professional footballer makes a good manager, as directors of clubs have sometimes discovered, from bitter experience. And not every ex-professional footballer would automatically become a good referee, even if he did know pretty well all the rules of the game.

Further than that, I would say that the footballer taking up refereeing would find the transition to that side of the game even tougher than becoming a manager. He would be among players he knew, he would certainly know the ones to watch—the ones who go in over the top, or are ready to start 'digging' immediately the whistle is blown for the kick-off. And, no doubt, he would be laid open to accusations of favouritism ... or unfairness ... depending upon the way he handled certain teams, certain players.

Is there a remedy, then? Not a completely satisfactory one, in my view. We shall always have fans and players—clubs, too, for that matter talking about 'homers' and criticising the man with the whistle. Let's face it; he has the least enviable job in the game—his role is even worse than that of the manager.

I won't say that 22 people are against him, every Saturday; the players start off in a neutral frame of mind, just like the referee. But the crowds are always ready to get on the referee's back, at the first decision with which they disagree. Referees are human, like us all, and they make mistakes. I know that and so do they, if they're honest. And most of them are.

But I would advocate better pay for referees, and a great effort to ensure that they and the people they control on a Saturday come closer together, in understanding.

As most referees have decent jobs outside the game, it is reasonable to assume that the vast majority of them go in for refereeing because of their love for football. The cynics may laugh at this one, but I am sure it is true, nevertheless.

How else can you explain the willingness of a man to turn out in all sorts of weather, to travel at awkward hours, to give up his social and family life every Saturday? And some of those Saturdays in winter can be pretty rough, when it comes to travelling. Not to mention the rain, hail or snow which can sweep across a pitch. It puts a damper on the referee, as well as the players and the fans.

Perhaps if there were a pay scale say, £25 a week for all League referees, we might take a first step to ironing out some of the growing problems of the game. For that £25, a referee must not only signify his willingness to handle a game on a Saturday or in mid-week; he must also be prepared to meet players (and fans, too, for that matter) at least twice a month, at an evening forum.

There he could answer questions, explain the problems of the game as they affect him—and, if he's a decent type, this will show through. So the next time he's handling a game in that area, he will have the crowd giving him a friendly welcome, and tempers will be much less likely to flare.

Referees cannot be too friendly with players or fans; that would lay them open to accusations of all kinds; but get-togethers such as I have suggested couldn't do any harm. And they should do some good. For the referee would then have his chance to make the players and fans understand that split-second decisions are not easy to make; and that handling a game is not an easy proposition.

I don't pretend that I have just come up with an idea which will erase every snag. But at least I think I have put forward something constructive. And that is something. It's better than talking about putting the boot in, or inviting folk to have a punch-up, just because you have different points of view.

I have said, candidly, that there are good referees and bad ones. There always were, and there always will be. You'll always get the chap who wants to dictate, and not control, a game; the man who thinks his whistle is there for everyone to hear every few seconds. But I don't condemn referees, because of the odd poor one, here and there. They

The Gordon West Story

are mostly decent family men, like myself, and they do their job to the best of their ability. You cannot ask more of anyone, than that they should do their best.

The great thing is for everyone fans, players and referees to TRY to understand that things can go wrong, and to try to make allowances for things going wrong, without getting het-up about it all. Perhaps, as a professional footballer who depends upon the game for a living, I shouldn't say this, but it happens to be true ... that in spite of the big-business angle of it all, football is still just a game. It really is. Although points are precious, and the loss of them can cost a manager his job, or cause players to lose their heads.

Having said all this, let me finish with one admission: which is that I wouldn't like to be a referee! Because, whatever he may or may not do, whether he's right or wrong, he is ALWAYS the man in the middle ... the man who stands to be shot at. And, as a goalkeeper, I should know what I'm talking about, when I say that.:

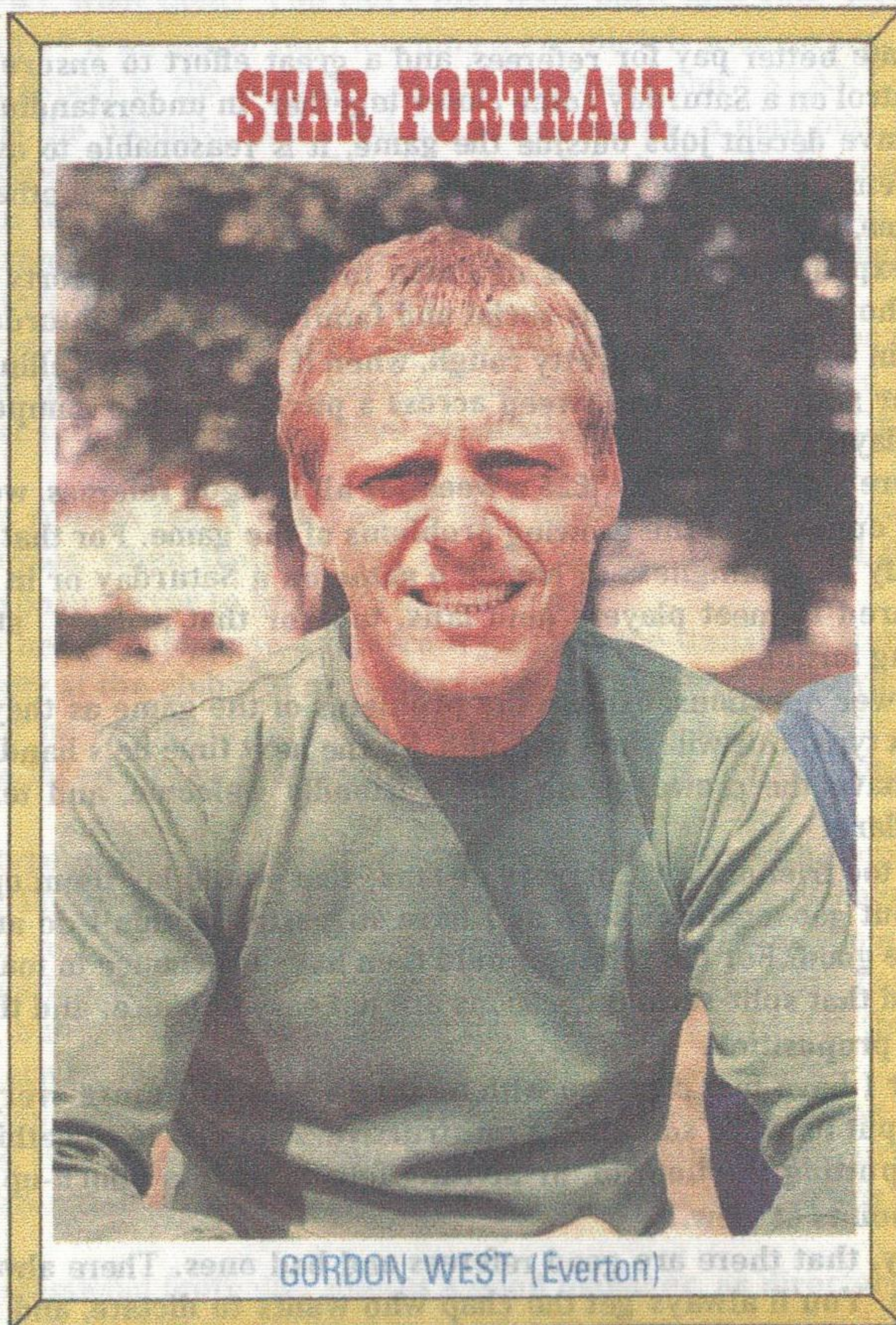


Photo courtesy of Barry Spencer (ESCLA)

LATCHFORD

30

Coming Soon

"Sometimes the thought of reaching the target was a burden. At other times it was an inspiration, but I always thought I would do it, even on the final day..." **Bob Latchford**

30 is the story of Bob Latchford's 1977/78 season, a pictorial journey detailing each and every goal that the Goodison legend scored on the road to a £10,000 prize from the Daily Express.

With extracts of match reports from the time, plus a unique insight on the strikes from the man who Evertonians thought could walk on water, **30** is an ideal gift for any Blues fan, particularly those who remember him in action.

All proceeds of the book will be going towards the Everton Former Players' Foundation, Registered Charity Number 1080101.

For just £30 you can become part of the 30-goal legend by having your name in the hardback edition of the book, which will be personally signed by Big Bob himself.

30 will be released in April 2006. Subscribers can either have the book delivered to their home address (please add £3 for P&P) or can be personally presented with a copy from the man himself on a choice of four different dates.

Anyone who orders before 1 March, 2006 will be entered into a draw to have lunch with the Latch on the weekend of the launch. Plus, ten more lucky subscribers will receive a signed, framed photo of one of his goals of that memorable season.

To place your order: Send a cheque payable for £30 (please add £3 if you require P&P) to: The Everton Former Players' Foundation, P.O. Box 354, Liverpool, L69 4QS. Alternatively, you can call the Foundation's Credit Card Hotline on 0151 520 2362 or email: subscribe@boblatchford.com.

When you order, please include the subscriber's name (the name that you want to appear in the book), as well as the buyer's name, address and contact number.

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See your memories in print!

Every Evertonian who remembers the Latch in action has their own special memories and they could be included in the book! Simply send in your memories of Bob from the 1977/78 season to:

memories@boblatchford.com
not forgetting your name and where you are from and we will do our best to include them.

The book costs £30 plus £3 P&P cheque payable The Everton Former Players Foundation P.O. Box 354, Liverpool, L69 4QS or call 0151 520 2362 with credit card or email. subscribe@boblatchford.com please mention Blue Blood Fanzine when you order

STORY OF A STAR

JOE ROYLE

EVERTON



IN 1966 JOE ROYLE, A 16 YEAR OLD APPRENTICE, WENT TO WARRINGTON AS A STRIKER AND GAVE EVERTON WITH THE CUP TWO YEARS LATER HE RETURNED TO WARRINGTON - THIS TIME AS A MEMBER OF THE CUP FINAL TEAM. EVERTON LOSE, BUT ROYLE IS LEFT WITH A REPUTATION FOR HIS NON-STOP PLAYING.

JOE ROYLE BECAME ONE OF THE LEADING SCORERS PLAYING IN THE FIRST DIVISION, BUT HE PLAYED HIS HOME COUNTRY FOOTBALL AS A HALF-BACK. BORN IN LIVERPOOL, HE HAS A BROTHER HALF BORN IN DENMARK. BUT AT EVERTON HE SPENTED HIS FIRST YEAR AND GAINED OVER 100 GOALS AND LANDMARKS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY CUP.

IN ONE COUNTY CUP, HOWEVER, THE TEAM WERE IN A STRIKE, SO BECAUSE JOE WAS A SUB, STRIKE LINE HE WAS ASKED TO PLAY CENTER FORWARD AND HARRY DITCHEK, EVERTON'S MANAGER, WAS WATCHING THAT GAME AND WAS SO IMPRESSED BY JOE'S PLAY THAT HE OFFERED HIM THE CHANCE TO JOIN THE ROSENTHAL PARK CLUB AS AN APPRENTICE.



JOE'S FAVORITE CLUB AS A BOY WAS MANCHESTER UNITED, BUT HE ACCEPTED EVERTON'S OFFER. IN 1966, THREE MONTHS BEFORE HIS 17TH BIRTHDAY, THE BEST YOUNG APPRENTICE WAS GIVEN HIS FIRST CUP OF LEAGUE FOOTBALL AGAINST BURNLEY, BLACKBURN & HULL INTERNATIONAL CENTER JULY.



HE MAY BE ONLY 16, BUT HE KNOWS HOW TO SCORE GOALS!



HE WON THE ENGLAND YOUTH CUP IN 1967. THE FOLLOWING SEASON HE GAINED A REGULAR PLACE IN THE EVERTON SIDE, SCORING 20 GOALS IN LEAGUE AND CUP GAMES AND PLAYED A BIG PART IN THE TRIUMPHANT MARCH TO IRELAND. HIS RECORD WAS 100 GOALS FOR EVERTON'S YOUTH CUP - 23 END OF SEASON TOUR OF EUROPE.



YAMMY LAWTON

WILLIAM "DIXIE" DEAN

JOE ROYLE, STILL ONLY 20, IS FAST AND FEARLESS, GOOD IN THE AIR AND ALWAYS READY TO SNAP UP THE HALF CHANCES IN FRONT OF GOAL. HE WAS EVERTON'S TOP SCORER LAST SEASON WITH 29 GOALS AND COULD YET BECOME AS FAMOUS AS THESE FORMER EVERTON SHOOTING STARS, DEAN AND LAWTON.

This cutting was sent in by Barry Spencer
from ESCLA
It was taken from the Tiger Comic 1969

The book costs £30 plus £3 P&P charge payable The Everton Former Players Foundation
P.O. Box 384, Liverpool, L69 4QS or call 0151 850 2362 with credit card
or email: subscribe@boltonfc.com please mention blue blood fanzine when you order

An Open Letter To 'YOU' David Moyes

This letter will be one that **YOU** will not want to read but for your sake and the sake of all Evertonians I hope that you do.

Your whole persona is one of self doubt and lack of confidence, **YOU** constantly 'Talk Up' the opposition.

YOU impose a certain discipline on your team but if they break your rules there is conflict. **YOU** have gone toe to toe with Duncan, he walked out and sat at home, **YOU** allowed it, **YOU** brought him back, **YOU** made him Captain, **YOU** signed him for another season, **YOU** fell over backwards to apologise, instead of just getting rid of him as an example.

YOU try to cover up your mistakes by bluff, **YOU** tell us Kroldrup is nearly ready for a first team game but he has hardly played any reserve team matches. **YOU** spent £5 million on him and he has not played, not even when Weir and Yobo have been poor. **YOU** tell the AGM that he has had trouble settling in but **YOU** tell the media that he has not got any problems. Yobo is going to the African nations Cup and **YOU** have not allowed Kroldrup the chance to play and get used to the Premiership. Is it because he is another of your bad buys? **YOU** signed Pistone an injury riddled Italian, where is he now Mr. Moyes? **YOU** signed Naysmith and Carsley to new contracts, where are they now Mr. Moyes? Your substitutions are awful, they are either too late or the wrong player is taken off, wingers are removed and forwards brought on, who is going to cross the ball Mr. Moyes?

YOU are blind to the fact that Nigel Martyn is nearly forty and keep faith in Richard Wright, whilst other quality goalkeepers are available.

YOU say that Hibbert and Beattie can make the England team, well if they take up hockey you might be right. **YOU** tell me that Simon Davies is a quality player, I see someone who is scared to tackle, and can't defend when needed.

YOU have assembled an assortment of mild mannered players who get brushed off the ball far too easily, they might be ok for **YOU** to bully but to fight for the shirt, look elsewhere.

YOU talk about lowering the age of the team but **YOU** ignore the young players in the reserves, where is Vaughn? He was injured and we were told that he would return in a reserve game on a Tuesday night, that was over a month ago and there has been no word since.

YOU watch Bolton and West Ham destroy us and say that we were unlucky, that we didn't deserve to lose by that amount of goals in the Bolton game, if we were unlucky Mr. Moyes why did the ground empty as if a fire alarm had gone off?

Have **YOU** noticed the amount of times the word **YOU** is used in this letter, it is because it is **YOU** Mr. Moyes who is to blame for all our problems, players like Hibbert and Davies can not pass a ball, players do not take shots at goal, players do not tackle.

Please Mr. Moyes takes your nervous, self doubting ideas back to Preston where they belong, you are killing Everton Football Club.

When Brian Labone walked around Goodison Park parading the League championship trophy, he felt like a spare part. He was in his overcoat while his Everton teammates were caked in sweat and mud. Labone was injured and missed the last eight games as the Blues strolled to the title, finishing nine points ahead of Leeds United. But there was no denying the part the England defender had played in the campaign. Many of the plaudits were reserved for their midfield trio of Alan Ball, Colin Harvey and Howard Kendall, known as the "Holy Trinity".

Labone says: "I often joke with Howard that they were the only three-man team to win the championship. We had good defenders, although I am bound to say that a fantastic midfield and Joe Royle up front banging in the goals."

Goodison Park was known as the school of science. "Nowadays when I jump into a taxi and ask to be taken to the school of science the driver goes right past Goodison Park," he says. What still baffles him is why the team of the Seventies failed to dominate English football. "I could not tell you why that team didn't go on to achieve more."



This article was printed in the Sunday Times on December 4th 2004 in their 'Caught In Time' series

Number 1 Geoff Barnett
England schoolboy & youth international goalkeeper, joined club in 1962. made 10 appearances joined Arsenal for £35,000. Oct 1969. is a publican in Cheshire.

Number 2 Gordon West
From Blackpool for £27,000 a British Record fee for a goalkeeper. Won three caps for England, retired after working in security at RAF Woodvale Formby.

Number 3 Andy Rankin
Understudy to West made 106 appearances played for Watford & Huddersfield. Where he is a warehouseman.

Number 4 Wilf Dixon, A Crucial member of the backroom staff. He was the team coach, he also had coaching spells at Arsenal, Hull & Tottenham he has retired an is aged 86

Number 5, John Hurst
Ever present in the title winning side Played 402 games in 14 years at Goodison, Everton's first ever League substitute. Coached the Youth team and scouts for Blackburn

Number 6 Joe Royle
Strong in the air with the ability to shrug off tackles. Ideal centre forward who became the first 16 year old to play for Everton in the League. Top scorer in Championship Season 23 goals in 42 games.

Number 7 Brian Labone,
Joined from school in 1957 after 47 years is still at the club Catterick called him The Last Of The Corinthians booked only twice in 534 games Dominant defender, won 23 caps for England. Won Championship medals in 1963 & 1970 and Cup Winners medal in 1966.

Number 8 Roger Kenyon,
Strong defender, played in the last eight games of the Championship season, spent 15 years at Everton. Now organises events for former players.

Number 9 Sandy Brown
Signed from Partick Thistle In 1963, useful utility player. 253 games

Number 10 Howard Kendall.
Joined from Preston for £80,000 in 1967. played an integral part in Everton's success. Had three spells as manager, his first the most successful, he won two League Titles the FA Cup & Cup Winners Cup

Number 11 Harry Catterick
Manager, his own career cut short by the War scored 24 goals in 71 games for Everton, became manager in 1961 won two titles and the Cup died in 1985.

Number 12 Alan Whittle,
Scored six goals in six games in the charge for the championship. A local lad played 15 games in the championship season had spells at Crystal Palace FC Persepolis in Iran and in Australia.

Number 13 Johnny Morrissey
Left winger earned the wrath of Bill Shankly by joining Everton and helped the Blues to win the League in 1963 with 7 goals in 28 games. Scored 50 goals in 314 matches for the Toffees is now a property developer on the Wirral.

Number 14 Gerry Humphreys
Welsh born striker played 12 games in nine years also played for Crystal Palace & Crewe, is a taxi driver in North Wales.

Number 15 Jimmy Husband
A Geordie scored important goal against Newcastle in chase for title, scored 6 in 30 games in Championship season lives in Luton works as a delivery driver.

Number 16 Tommy Jackson
Won 35 caps for Northern Ireland. 38 games in two years at Goodison Lives in Glengormley N I.

Number 17 Tommy Wright
Attacking right back solid in defence, one club player won 11 caps for England played 374 games for EFC retired at 29 due to injury works on Garston Docks

Number 18 Alan Ball
Powerhouse in midfield, joined from Blackpool in August 966. played 251 games for EFC sold to Arsenal in 1971, won 72 Caps

Number 19 Colin Harvey
Nicknamed the White Pele creative talent in midfield played 387 games scored a sensational goal against West Brom to clinch the title, only got one England cap, retired after 40 years at the club

Newcastle at home again only 10,000 watch but this time Everton play better or maybe Newcastle who had made it to the Cup Final had other things on their mind. Either way Everton needed the two points and Coleman and Young got them with a goal apiece in a 2-0 win. The third home game in seven days and Manchester United are the visitors. 17,000 make the effort and watch in disbelief as Everton lose 3-1, Young scores.

Three days later and at last an away game, up to Sunderland where Donald Sloan is in goal, it is to be the last time he plays for Everton, six appearances in all but it was a hard task to try and replace Billy Scott, 8,000 watch this game and it ends in an easy win for Sunderland 3-0 A poor result as Sunderland are below Everton in the League and Everton need all the points they can gather. This game at Sunderland saw Harold Hardman play for Everton for the last time, he was a true giant of Everton Football Club. Harold left a legacy at Everton that to this day has repercussions, a gifted amateur and professional lawyer, when Everton needed to play him and that was nearly every week, they had to send him a letter asking for his services, Harold kept all of those letters, in fact he kept everything about his career, from programmes to newspaper cuttings, club tour schedules, simply everything and when they came up for auction nearly ninety years later David France the Everton Historian and avid collector bought all Harold's Everton related items and put them in the David France collection which has now been purchased by the Club.

The importance of Hardman not only as a player but also as a club Chairman, he went to Manchester United and was still a director there when the Munich Air Disaster happened, is given total respect by the Collection.

Hardman was a gentleman, a professional man, who treated football as a pastime, this however didn't mean he had no skill, far from it, he was an excellent player. He also won an Olympic Gold Medal in 1908 as part of the Great Britain Football Team, he also won full International Honours playing for England.

Hardman joined Everton from Blackpool in the 1903/04 season and made 130 appearances in the League and 26 in the F.A. Cup scoring 29 goals in all before leaving for Manchester United.

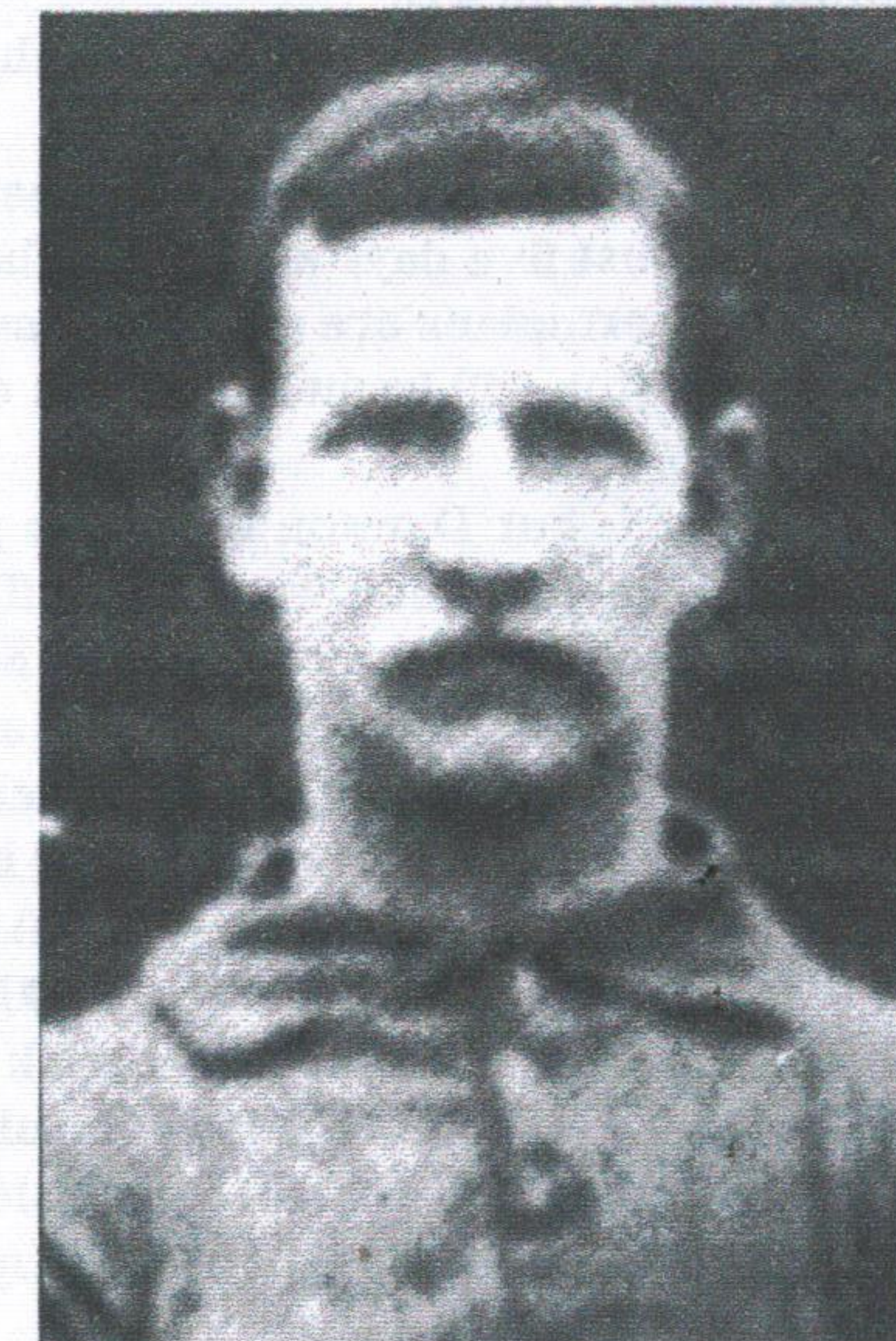
Six days later and the short trip to Anfield for the Derby, not a good time to be going there. they had beaten Everton at Goodison and were confident of doing the 'Double'. Billy Scott is back in goal, a confidence booster for all Blues, Everton also gave a Debut to Bertie Freeman or to give him his full title Bertram Clewley Freeman, a Birmingham lad signed from Arsenal, a delicate skilful player who would go on to great things with Everton, George Couper also played a rare game and it was to be his last for Everton he had played four games and scored one goal, Everton played well and the game ended 0-0, 35,000 fans thought that honour had been done and they were happy, Woolwich Arsenal away and another debut this time Valentine Harris better known as Val, an Irish lad, a great right half he was to serve Everton well. 15,000 watch an entertaining game, Coleman scores for Everton but Arsenal get two.

Two days later at Goodison Park Everton played Notts County 10,000 stay loyal and see Everton win 1-0 thanks to a goal from Bertie Freeman his first for the club but there were many more to come from this talented centre forward.

25th April 1908 and the last game of the season and it's at Goodison, a new look Everton line up, Scott, William Balmer, Maconnachie, Harris, John Borthwick, Makepeace, Donnachie, Coleman, Freeman, Bolton, Mountford, John Borthwick made his debut at centre half. 10,000 are inside Goodison Park for the visit of Sheffield Wednesday it ended 0-0 but the sad thing about this game is that it was



Joe Donnachie



Tom Booth



Jack Crelly

the last game for William Balmer, Sadly misnamed in most Everton books as 'Walter' William had played 331 games for Everton scoring only one goal, he was now 31 years old and past his prime but what a servant to the club, making his debut on 6th November 1897, he was sold to Croydon but was forever a Blue.

The season did end on a high for Everton as they beat the Red ones in the final of the Liverpool Cup 2-0. Major development had taken place at Goodison Park over the last year or so, a Double Decker Stand had been built at the Park End and work was under way for the Main Stand to be built on Goodison Road which would cost £28,000, Everton had actually made a loss on the 1907/08 Season, they were £1,013 down on the previous season but wages were also £1,170 less.

The 1908-09 season saw Everton start without some great loyalists Jimmy Settle had left the club, William Balmer, Walter Abbott, Thomas Chadwick, Couper, Crelley, Robert Graham, Hardman, Fred Rouse, Sloan, Winterhalder, Woods had all departed.

Everton had replaced them with C.H. Berry an Amateur goalkeeper, Henry Stanley Buck from Tranmere an outside Right, Robert Clifford a right back from Bolton, Harold Dawson an outside left from Rossendale Untd, William Lacey an Irish half back from Shelbourne he was to play most games as a forward, Robert Frewn Turner an outside left signed from Leicester Fosse, nicknamed 'Leggy' Walter White a Scottish lad who was signed from Bolton was a useful inside forward, nicknamed 'Wattie.'

It was therefore a new look Everton that took to the field for the first game of the season away to Woolwich Arsenal, in Goal Billy Scott, Robert Balmer, Maconnachie, Val Harris, Jack Taylor, Harry Makepeace, Jack Sharp, Coleman, Bertie Freeman, Hugh Bolton, Donnachie, none of the new signings had made it into the team and a crowd of 10,000 had gathered to watch, it looked a difficult match on paper but Everton tore the Londoners apart, Coleman got two goals as did Freeman and Everton won 4-0.

Three days later the same Everton team travelled to Bristol City, 15,000 watched as Everton remained on form, Freeman gets another two goals and Everton win 2-0

Two days later and Goodison Park awaits to greet its heroes, 16,000 turn up to see them play Woolwich Arsenal, the team destroyed by Everton just five days ago, Jack Sharp is replaced by Harold Dawson who makes his debut, the Evertonians are expecting another easy win but as anyone who is remotely connected to Everton will know, the Blues do not do 'The Expected' no, they do the Unexpected and lose 3-0!!!

Preston North End at home five days later, Sharp is back but Dawson keeps his place, Donnachie drops out. 24,000 Blues roll up thinking the Arsenal result was a one off, they are wrong Everton lose 1-0, 19th September 1908 Middlesboro away, Alex 'Sandy' Young returns to the team at inside left. George Barlow makes his Everton debut at outside left, a signing from Preston North End he was a lively winger, 18,000 watched a great game, goals galore five in total and Everton got three of them, Barlow scored in a 3-2 victory on his debut, Coleman and Freeman got the others, it was a fine win. An unchanged Everton team turn out at Goodison for the visit of Manchester City, 20,000 pay to see another goal feast, nine in all, Everton play well again and win 6-3, a hat trick from 'Sandy' Young, Freeman 1, Sharp 1 and Taylor 1, add to the total, Everton remain unchanged for the short trip across the Park to Anfield, yes the Derby, 40,000 are inside the ground, the atmosphere is excellent and the game is hard fought George Barlow makes himself an Everton hero by scoring the only goal of the game.

One week later Everton play Bury at home, 18,000 watch as Makepeace makes way for Hugh Adamson, that is the only change, Everton are in a fine vein of form and they are playing excellent football Freeman gets two, Coleman and Young one each as Everton win 4-0.

Makepeace replaces Adamson for the next game at Sheffield United 16,000

Yorkshire men stand open mouthed as the Lancastrian Everton trip United apart, another thrilling display, with Freeman bagging a hat-trick, Coleman and Sharp get one each in a sensational 5-1 away victory. One week later and news of this exciting goal scoring Everton is all over the City, Goodison Park has 36,000 inside for the visit of Aston Villa. U Everton are going to prove themselves in front of the faithful then Villa is the team to do it against.

they always give Everton a hard time. George Barlow misses the game at outside left and Harold Dawson steps in. Coleman, Freeman and Sharp make it 2-1 to Everton. Their sixth consecutive win, next up is... watch on with... Freeman and Young get the goals. It is Bertie Freeman's 13th goal in 11 games. November 7th 1908 Sunderland at home. 30,000 turn out to watch an... Bertie Freeman scores a hat-trick. Coleman... to Chelsea for a very hard... end, they are right it does... Freeman gets two. Coleman... an eight goal spectacle... Coleman 2, Freeman 1 and... unchanged Bradford City... money to that it was a hard... December 5th and Manchester... this incredible eleven game... again the game was a third... Freeman had now scored... Wednesday at Goodison was his next challenge. Two changes to the Everton team Robert Clifford made his debut at centre half. Walter White also made his debut at inside right. 22,000 watch as Bertie Freeman sets... an important goal as well because it was the only goal of the game and it sealed another win for Everton. It is now fourteen games without defeat for Everton, they are on top of the table and looking good. Leicester away 10,000 watch. Everton win 2-0. Sharp & Young.



Val Harris

home to little North County. 35,000 are watching. Freeman fails to score, worse than that, so Boxing Day a chance for... performance since January, no... opportunity to replace the... result willed their team on... next match was to be on... another home game, Bristol... Dawson plays at outside left... Samuel Settle plays his last... left for Chesterfield, so it... 18,000 Blue Boys.



Bertie Freeman
(seen here in Burnley Kit)

It didn't worry Everton though, the... Bertie Freeman two, Alex... This was an exciting time... with his goal exploits and... It looked very likely that Everton would be Champions but there was still a few games to play and the F. A. Cup would also be on the horizon. Good football, plenty of goals and the best thing, what more could a Blue Boy want? (to be continued in issue...)

Yorkshire men stand, open mouthed as the Lancastrian Everton rip United apart, another thrilling display, with Freeman bagging a hat-trick, Coleman and Sharp get one each in a sensational 5-1 away victory, One week later and news of this exciting, goal scoring Everton is all over the City, Goodison Park has 36,000 inside for the visit of Aston Villa. If Everton are going to prove themselves in front of the faithful then Villa is the team to do it against, they always give Everton a hard time. George Barlow misses the game at outside left and Harold Dawson steps in. Coleman, Freeman and Share make it 2-1 to Everton. Their sixth consecutive win, next up is Nottingham Forest away 14,000 watch in the hope of ending Everton's fine run but the Blues move on with a 2-1 victory Freeman and Young get the goals, It is Bertie Freeman's 13th goal in 11 games. November 7th 1908 Sunderland at home, 20,000 turn out to watch an unchanged Everton team destroy the Mackems, Bertie Freeman scores a hat-trick, Coleman gets one and the Blues win 4-0, eight wins on the trot and down to Chelsea for a very hard match, 40,000 Cockneys are sure that Everton's winning run will end, they are right it does but Everton manage to avoid defeat in a thrilling 3-3 draw, Freeman gets two, Coleman one. Home to Blackburn Rovers 20,000 are inside Goodison to witness an eight goal spectacle. Everton are again unchanged, get four as the game ends 4-4. Coleman 2, Freeman 1 and an own goal. Everton travel to newly promoted Bradford again unchanged Bradford City had done well to get into Division One, 30,000 fans were a testimony to that, it was a hard fought game which ended 1-1, Freeman getting Everton's goal. December 5th and Manchester United at home, 35,000 Evertonians wanted a victory to keep this incredible eleven game unbeaten run going. No changes in the Everton line up and once again the game was a thriller, Everton come out on top 3-2, Freeman 2, Barlow 1. Bertie Freeman had now scored in the last nine games, that was an incredible feat. Sheffield Wednesday at Goodison was his next challenge. Two changes to the Everton team Robert Clifford made his debut at centre half, Walter White also made his debut at inside right 22,000 watch as Bert Freeman sets a new record of scoring in ten consecutive games it was an important goal as well because it was the only goal of the game and it sealed another win for Everton. It is now fourteen games without defeat, for Everton, they are on top of the table and looking good, Leicester away 10,000 watch Everton win 2-0, Sharp & Young.

It's Christmas Day, you know what's going to happen next, don't you? Yes Everton are at home to little Notts County 35,000 are watching, Freeman fails to score, worse than that, so do Everton, Notts County get one goal and Everton's run ends.

Boxing Day a chance for revenge, Notts County away, William Stevenson makes his first appearance since January, nearly a year out of the team, he was a good right back but had little opportunity to displace the great Robert Balmer. 25,000 Notts fans, excited by yesterdays result willed their team on but the game ended 0-0 it was Everton's last game in 1908 the next match was to be on New Years Day at home to Newcastle. A bad start to the New Year, 40,000 Evertonians watch Everton lose 1-0, the very next day another home game, Bristol City at home, Thomas Jones gets a rare game at outside right, Dawson plays at outside left Samuel Strettle plays his last game for Everton at right back, he only played four games and left for Chesterfield, so it was a somewhat strange Everton that took to the field in front of 18,000 Blue Boys.

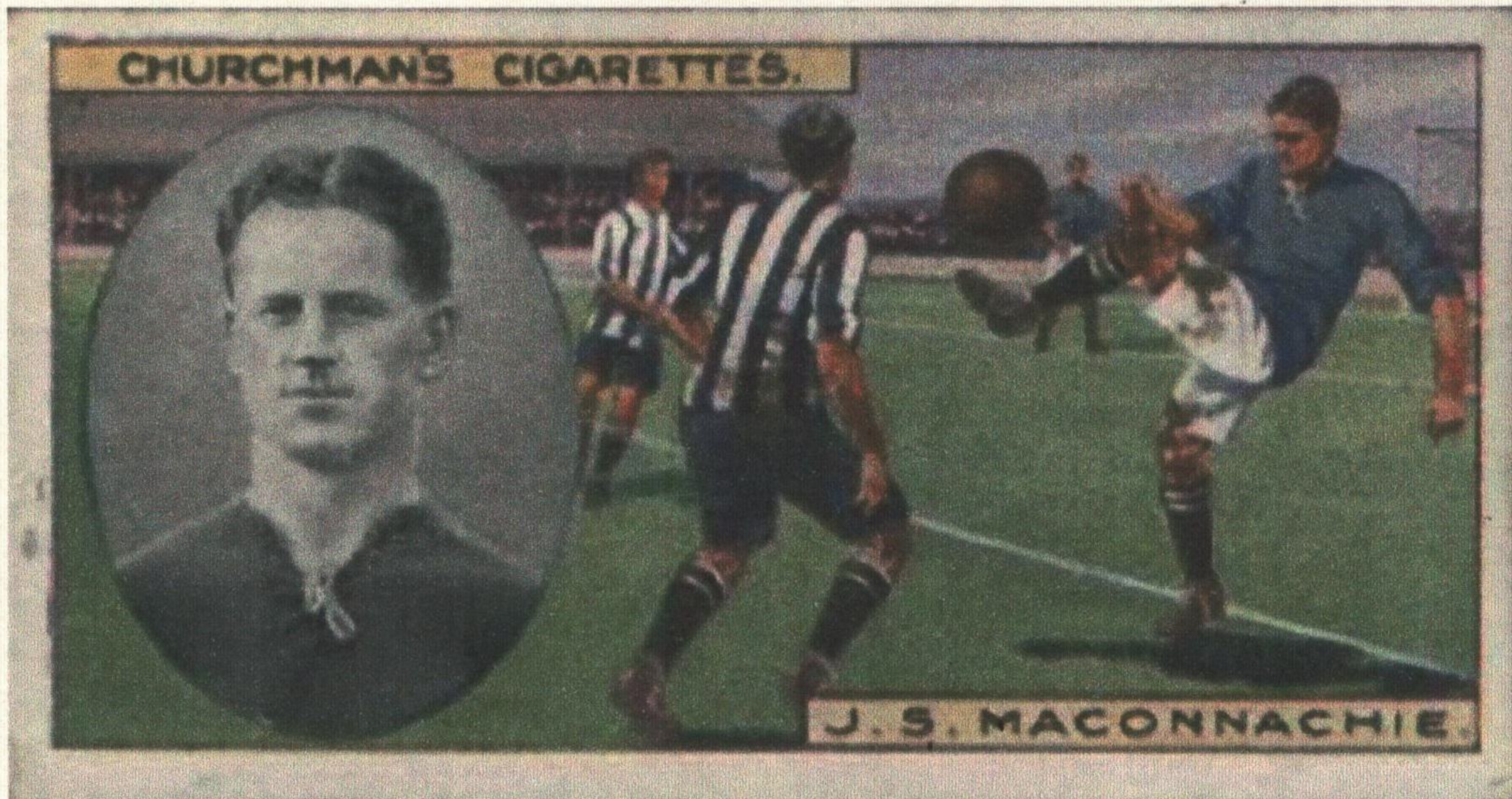
It didn't worry Everton though, they found their shooting boots and won 5-2, goals from Bertie Freeman two, Alex 'Sandy' Young two and White one.

This was an exciting time at Everton, Freeman had lit up the whole of the Football League with his goal exploits and Everton had gone on a great unbeaten run.

It looked very likely that Everton would be Champions but there was still a few games to play and the F. A. Cup would also be on the horizon.

Good football, plenty of goals and fine attacking play, what more could a blue Boy want?

(to be continued in issue 31)



John Smith Maconnachie a signing from Hibernian made his debut in September 1907 and went on to play a major role in Everton's fortunes over the next thirteen years. A class defender who made the left back position his own. An ever present in the 1908 / 09 season . He played his way out of trouble instead of just hoofing the ball up field.



**I Can still make the World Cup
But only if I take up cricket**