



By Steve Johnson

# PLAYERS' CHRONOLOGICAL NUMBERS! . .

Test cricketers have, for many years now, had a small number on their shirts or caps to show where - in terms of the historical chronology of players - they fit in. So, for example, the current England captain Ben Stokes has the number 658 on his clothing when playing a test match, meaning that he was the 658th player to represent his country at this level.

So, if Everton adopted this idea, who would be wearing what numbers? And what about our legends from the past?

Our most recent debutant was young striker Tom Cannon and he would be number 952 in all competitions. And how about club captain, Seamus Coleman? The full-back made his debut more than 13 years ago in 2009 and his shirt would bear the number 828. Incredible to think that Seamus has seen 124 players make their debut for Everton since he first broke into the starting 11!

But who was our number 1? Well, our first-ever 'proper' competitive match was in the FA Cup at Bolton in October 1887. In cricket, players who made their debut in the same game are numbered in alphabetical order (unless one was a substitute, in which case the starter gets the earlier number) and so the honour of being our number 1 fell to Scottish forward, James Cassidy, who only ever played twice for Everton!

Looking at some of our legendary players, record goalscorer Dixie Dean was number 322 and our appearance record holder, Neville Southall was 621.



• Jimmy Gabriel (500th Everton player)



• Tom Cannon

As for milestone figures, 1890s Scottish forward, John Cameron was our 100th player in all competitions while legendary 1960s midfielder Jimmy Gabriel was our number 500. The irrepressible John Bailey had the honour of being the 600th and Joe Parkinson was the 700th.

The next two are interesting. The first of Sander Westerveld's two appearances for the club made him our 800th player and Harry Charsley's only game against Apollon Limassol in the Europa League in 2017 gave him the distinction of being player number 900 - but only on alphabetical order because Fraser Hornby also started that match.

I wonder how long it will be before we welcome our number 1,000? It could even be a young boy reading this article in today's programme!

And by the way, James Tarkowski became the 543rd goalscorer in Everton's history when he headed the winning goal against Arsenal a couple of weeks ago. The very first was Robert Watson in an FA Cup replay in the previously mentioned FA Cup tie against Bolton Wanderers in 1887.