

By Rob Sawyer

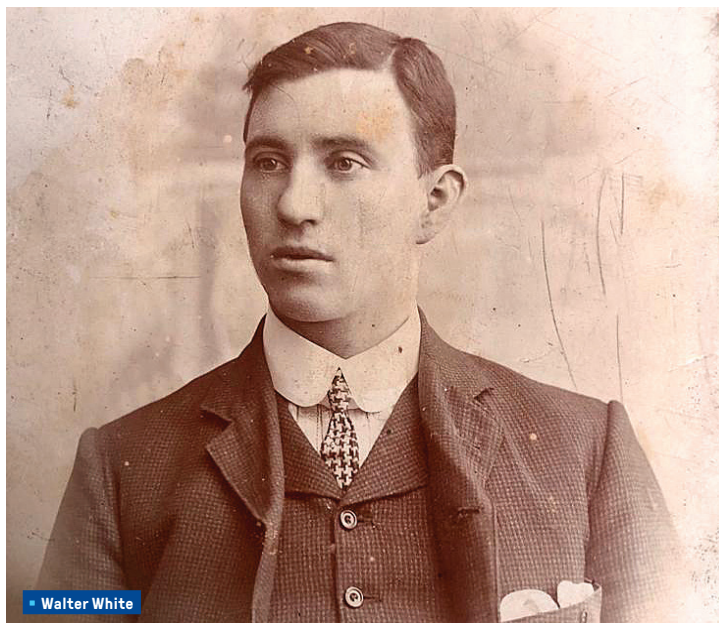
# WALTER WHITE

## A FOOT IN BOTH CAMPS

For many, the name Walter White will forever be associated with the fictional schoolteacher who became embroiled in the New Mexico underworld in the hit series *Breaking Bad*. However, decades before Byran Cranston took on that role, the Toffees had their very own Walter White - whose talents were all above board.

Ayrshire-born Walter - commonly known as Wattie - joined Hurlford Thistle as a wing-half at 15 (also working in a nearby colliery) before moving to Bolton Wanderers in 1901. He developed into a goalscoring inside-forward, making more than 200 appearances for the Trotters. International honours first came his way in April 1907, when selected to represent Scotland against England.

He arrived at Everton in 1908 as part of a £1,200 double deal, which also saw Bob Clifford swap Burnden Park for Goodison Park. Wattie's appearances in royal blue were restricted by the presence of Tim



Walter White

Coleman and Sandy Young, but his play was described in one newspaper, thus: 'His passes are most judiciously given. He combines well with his partner. Near goal he is a deadly shot, and White seems destined to play a prominent part in Everton's progress in the near future.'

Having toured Argentina with the Blues in the summer of 1909, Wattie had a decent run of matches in the following season, helping the Blues to an FA Cup semi-final, which they lost after a replay to Barnsley. Just shy of two years into his Everton tenure, having made 52 appearances, the Scot was informed that his employers had accepted a £500 offer from Fulham for his services. Initially reluctant, he eventually agreed to relocate to London.

Any fears about the move proved misplaced as Wattie quickly settled at Fulham - for whom he played 203

times, scoring 18 goals (it would have been more, but for the First World War - Wattie served as a gunner in the Royal Garrison Artillery). Hanging up his boots in 1923, he spent a considerable period on the Craven Cottage ground staff, as well as working for a firm of builders, prior to passing away in 1950 at the age of 68.

His deep loyalty to the Cottagers was outdone by his daughter, Rachel, born in Liverpool just before his transfer to London. She became a devout follower of the team - bunking off school to see her father play. She would go on to claim the title of being the club's oldest supporter by the time she passed away in 2011, six months after celebrating her 100th birthday at Craven Cottage, where she was treated to a surprise party.



Walter White, Scottish caps and shirt