

Classic Match

In the spirit of *LLL* magazine, Jon Howe takes a retro look at some of our most memorable moments.

Was this Revie's team at the peak of their powers? Who knows, why stop here? Although I honestly can't see how this can be bettered as an all-round team performance. We thought the 5-1 win over Manchester United two weeks ago was as good as it gets, but this was even better; sheer ruthless dominance and destruction. Revie has let his boys off the leash this season and sent them out to play. No longer can we be described as cold, calculating and cynical; an ugly blight on the game. Today was an exhibition of footballing artistry with awesome prowess. The league and cup double is definitely on, and playing like this there is no end to what this team can achieve.

The Match Of The Day cameras were there, too? Yes, and I thank the lord that there is evidence of this audacious slaughter. Finally the nation will have to admit what we have known for years – this is a great, great side. It would be a crime against football if any person in the country was denied a viewing of what happened here today.

There must have been some classic goals among the seven? To be honest, there weren't. They were all quite ordinary, just well-worked "team" goals. From a side full of internationals we should expect this, but Southampton were no mugs, they beat us at the Dell in November, so it was just the outrageously one-sided nature of the contest that truly staggered. It was the pattern, the cohesion, the competence, the telepathic understanding, the lack of communication required, this was a team performance in the truest sense of the word; every one of them on 100 per cent top form.

So we dominated from the off? Mick Channon actually had the first shot of the game, but once Sprake had comfortably smothered that, Leeds dominated the next 88 minutes – although it took us 37 minutes to break the hard-working Saints down. Allan Clarke buried the first goal with an angled drive and Peter Lorimer made it two just before half-time with a similar effort from the other side of the box. The second half also passed

Leeds United 7 Southampton 0

Football League Division One Saturday March 4, 1972, 3pm Elland Road

Attendance 34,275 Goals Clarke (37), Lorimer (42), Clarke (60), Lorimer (64), Lorimer (68), Charlton (73), Jones (78)

Referee D Corbett (Wolverhampton)



Southampton (4-4-2) Martin, McCarthy, Fry, Stokes, Gabriel, Steele, Paine (Byrne), Channon, Davies, O'Neill, Jenkins



quietly until the hour mark when a flurry of five goals in 18 minutes had the Saints heads spinning amid a brutal assault of unforgiving finishing. Lorimer completed his hat-trick among ragged defending and “Sniffer” and Mick Jones added two more with simple but incisive strikes.

But the biggest cheer came for Big Jack’s goal, the sixth? Exactly, playing his 599th league game for Leeds, Jack notched his 66th goal for the club with a towering back-post header. What added extra sparkle to the goal was the fact that haring down the left wing to supply a perfect cross from the by-line was none other than Jack’s central-defensive partner Norman Hunter! Evidently bored of having nothing to do the pair of them decided to get in on the action and combined to set-up and supply their contribution to events.

We took it easy at 7-0? Yes, under instruction to avoid silly tackles and potential injuries we played keep-ball for the final 12 minutes, and simply toyed with Southampton like they were a rag doll. It may have looked remorseless and arrogant, and it upset some of their players who were clearly vexed, but we were simply playing football; they’d have been more upset if we’d gone for double figures! It was a simple tactic to see out

12 Magic Number

Goals in last two league games.



Facing page: **Jack Charlton**
Above: **Mick Jones**
Above right: **Allan Clarke**
Below: **Peter Lorimer**

the game, and the crowd were purring like kittens at how beautiful it was. With flicks, shimmies, back-heels and accomplished control, Leeds showed – particularly in a passage of play in injury time – how physically superior they are to any other team. In a top-flight game I doubt you will ever see again such an almighty disparity in class.

Best Leeds player? It’s very hard to single someone out from such a collective demonstration in the art of teamwork. Gray was masterful all afternoon, Bremner and Giles were imperious in midfield like twin dictators, but for his hat-trick I’ll give it to Lorimer.

In a nutshell? In all-white Revie wanted us to look like Real Madrid, now we play like them.

Follow Jon on Twitter @jonhowe1971

