



Classic Match

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

Six goals? Sounds like an entertaining game... To be honest, the afternoon was uneventful for large periods, but it was what occurred during six crazy minutes just before half-time that will be remembered for a long, long time.

It's that man Yeboah again isn't it? Correct. Just when you thought there was nothing he could do to improve on the majesty of what he had previously produced in a Leeds shirt, he goes and scores another superlative strike, the beauty of which, the English language cannot adequately describe.

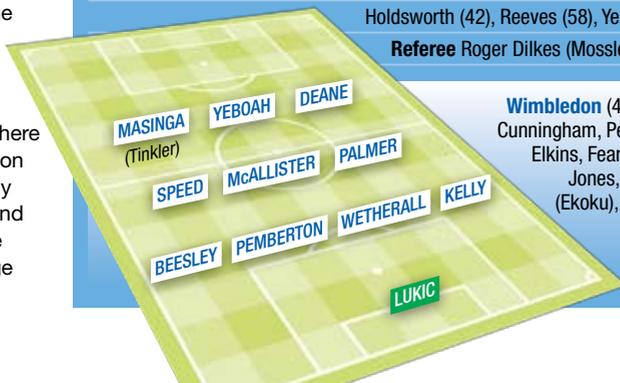
Wimbledon 2 Leeds United 4

FA Carling Premiership Saturday September 23, 1995, 3pm Selhurst Park

Attendance 13,307 **Goals** Palmer (39), Yeboah (41), Yeboah (44),

Holdsworth (42), Reeves (58), Yeboah (74)

Referee Roger Dilkes (Mossley)



Wimbledon (4-3-3) Heald, Cunningham, Perry, Reeves, Elkins, Fear (Goodman), Jones, Earle, Gayle (Ekoku), Holdsworth, Clarke.



And, stone the crows, Carlton Palmer scored, too! Yes, I was just getting to that bit. On a day that left everyone present questioning whether the earth had slipped off its axis, it's fair to say the opening 38 minutes were pretty mundane; a nip and tuck affair in keeping with most, quite frankly, ordinary encounters with Wimbledon. However, on 39 minutes Carlton Palmer, possibly with his body having been possessed by an external being, found himself slaloming around a couple of Wimbledon defenders in the penalty area before curling a right-footed beauty into the top corner. On any other day, simply a shot on target from Palmer would have found reporters reaching for the thesaurus, but sadly today his outrageous exploits were to be overshadowed.

Enter Tony The Tiger? Two minutes after Palmer's opener, Brian Deane slid a ball across the face of goal and Yeboah appeared on the six-yard line to tap it home. A minute later Wimbledon pulled a goal back through a Dean Holdsworth header after Vinnie Jones had flicked on a corner. So with the Leeds fans reeling from three goals in as many minutes, suddenly we needed half-time to take stock. Instead, on 44 minutes we saw a moment of supreme skill and power that

was so devastatingly clinical, life just seemed to stop for a split second while everyone took in the reality of what had just happened.

It can't have been better than the goal against Liverpool, surely?

I know this sounds ridiculous, but it was. A loose ball fell to Yeboah about 40 yards out, he chested it down and from that point he took on the physique and raging might of a wild horse. He was menacing, unstoppable and nobody knew what he was going to do, never mind be able to do anything to prevent it. In a flash he controlled the dropping ball on his left thigh, beat a defender and turned inside with his left foot, the ball bobbed up and with an element of fortune fell neatly into his path off his right thigh. Then, 25 yards from goal, he simply lashed the ball – again with his “wrong” right foot – into the top corner of the net. Home fans behind the goal stood up open-mouthed, the Leeds fans spilled out onto the track next to the pitch and the players piled on Yeboah in a spontaneous act of unbridled joy. Power, skill, pace and composure, four seconds of fearsome artistry, the likes of which I guarantee we will never see again in our lifetime.

And there was the small matter of completing his hat-trick after that?

Just 11 days after his magnificent treble in Monaco Yeboah did it again with his third hat-trick for the club. The 3-1 half-time lead was reduced to 3-2 on as the hour approached when Alan Reeves scored a diving header. But after a nervous interlude, Yeboah produced a neat left-foot finish from the edge of the box on 74 minutes, after good approach play from Phil Masinga. It settled the game and was a bit of an anti-climax after what had gone before.

How were the Leeds fans? At half-time everyone was just laughing; partly at Palmer's strike of unprecedented quality, partly at Yeboah's wonder goal, and partly at the fact that it was 0-0 only six minutes before.

Best Leeds player? Credit to Palmer for his strike, but on this form it's hard to imagine there is a better striker in world football than Tony Yeboah, and I never thought I would say that about a Leeds United player.

In a nutshell Pinch me, was that real?

3 Magic Number

For Yeboah!



Left: Tony Yeboah celebrating his first goal.

Top: Yeboah and Wimbledon's Marcus Gayle.

Above: Carlton Palmer, United's other scorer at Selhurst Park.