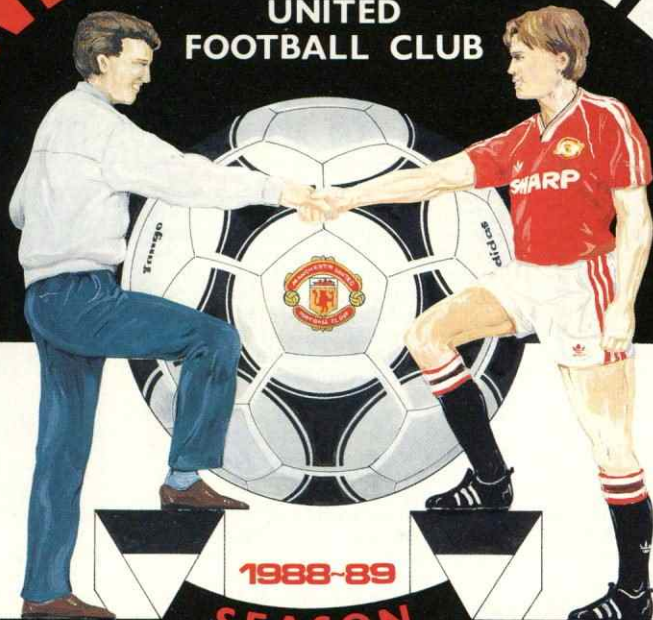


UNITED REVIEW

MANCHESTER
UNITED
FOOTBALL CLUB



BARCLAYS LEAGUE
DIVISION ONE

United
v
Luton Town

Kick-off 3.00 pm

Saturday
25th March 1989

60p

Volume 50, No. 22

OFFICIAL

1988-89
SEASON

PROGRAMME

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 1957 1983
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UNITED REVIEW The official programme of Manchester United Football Club plc.

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OLD TRAFFORD SCENE

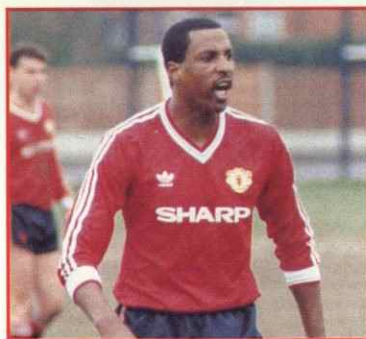
People and events in the news at United

DISAPPOINTMENT

Last Saturday's magnificent attendance of 55,040 was the largest at Old Trafford since the visit of Liverpool in September 1984. In the process we beat the record receipts of £221,399 created by the visit of Juventus in 1984. Against this record-breaking background then, defeat by Nottingham Forest was all the more painful. Certainly the atmosphere both at Old Trafford and at The Cliff last Monday was sombre to say the least - as it was, no doubt, in offices and factories elsewhere. Our argument that the ball was over the line left us doing nothing more than clutching at straws. The goal wasn't given and that was that. Whilst things didn't go our way where it really matters - on the pitch. We were, nevertheless, delighted by the way everyone pulled together to ensure that the match arrangements worked well. Turnstiles began opening as early as 12.40pm and the stewards were all geared up to get everyone on to the terraces smoothly and efficiently. Thanks to the efforts of all concerned, not least the police officers on duty, we were just 500 short of capacity in the United sections at kick-off, and this was only due to late arrivals, there were no queues outside at that time. Some 2,000 visitors arrived after the start but their problems were caused solely by traffic hold-ups. Our thanks then to everyone concerned - especially YOU the supporters. Whilst, naturally, disappointed to progress no further in the F.A. Cup, let us not forget the excitement, and entertainment, that the five home games, plus the match at Bournemouth, (for those few lucky enough to obtain tickets), yielded. It was a smashing run while it lasted.

COMEBACK TRAIL

The unlucky Mike Duxbury is marking his Testimonial Year in the worst possible way - with a never ending run of injuries. Colin Gibson isn't doing much better either although both men will be hoping that the worst is behind them. Doing rather better are two other senior men now well on the road to recovery. Viv Anderson came through an 'A' team game last Saturday without too much difficulty - the team beat Manchester City, (away), by six goals to nil. Someone even nearer first team football - we hope - is Norman



Whiteside. The powerful midfielder made a couple of Central League appearances before being laid flat by chicken pox, now recovered both Norman and Viv were looking for match practice this week with the hope of being in contention for the first team before very long. We've been without them both for so long that when they do get back it will be almost having two new established internationals on the books!



BOOTH HALL BENEFIT

With all the large crowds at Old Trafford lately, we did consider sending our stewards to work on the Tokyo Railways this summer - they certainly know how to pack 'em in over there. Instead we've developed their fitness by encouraging them to form a football team - it's a heck of a lot cheaper. Their most recent outing was against a team called ICA, an advertising and marketing company. Our lads lost 3-4 but inadvertently helped raise £125 for Booth Hall Children's Hospital as their opponents got themselves sponsored. Well done to all concerned.

TICKET NEWS

United supporters travelling to Monday afternoon's match against NOTTINGHAM FOREST are reminded that they should be in possession of a match ticket. These are priced £4.50 and can be obtained from our Ticket Office immediately after today's game. Tomorrow week, Sunday 2nd April, United entertain ARSENAL. All reserved seats were sold long ago, but admission to seats in Stands E and K together with standing accommodation will be by payment at the turnstiles. Before the match the Club will complete a two-year sponsorship deal with Kumar Bros., our Leisurewear suppliers. A substantial sum is involved which will help finance our School of Excellence for the next two years. The cheque will be presented to Brian Kidd, the Director of the School and to mark the occasion, some of his pupils will be displaying their skills out on the pitch before the match. Our match at The Den against MILLWALL on the 8th April is most definitely an All Ticket affair. Standing tickets only are available to either postal or personal applicants and cost £5 each. At the time of writing, reserved seats are still available for our home match versus DERBY COUNTY on the 15th April. Postal applications only are being taken for the next week with seats being offered at the Ticket Office from Monday, 3rd April, (9.30am to 5.00pm).

RE-ARRANGED DATE

Our away match versus QUEENS PARK RANGERS which was postponed to accommodate our F.A. Cup tie with Nottingham Forest, has now been re-arranged for Wednesday, 19th April at Loftus Road. The kick-off will be at 7.45pm and £9 seats will be on general sale from Tuesday onwards. Admission to standing accommodation on the West Stand Terrace will be by payment at the turnstiles. A reminder that our two outstanding home League fixtures have also been re-arranged. Details are as follows: WIMBLEDON are the visitors on Wednesday, 3rd May, with EVERTON providing the opposition just one

week later on the 10th. Both matches starting at 7.45pm.

EVENING KICK-OFFS

As you will see, we have opted for the 'middle ground' with the kick-off times for our two evening matches. Clearly 7.30pm does pose problems for supporters and the experiment with the 8 o'clock start against Bournemouth worked extremely well. Our view at the moment is that when a very large attendance is expected, as in the case of a replay, then 8.00pm is probably the best time. On other occasions then 7.45pm will, we think, be more suitable.

QUIZ CATASTROPHE

The sign 'You don't have to be daft to work here - but it helps' hangs over a number of Old Trafford desks. We're beginning to see that they're not kidding! Our Membership Office ran a quiz night in the Sir Matt Busby Suite recently and, game as ever, no fewer than four staff teams were entered. The kindest thing we can think to say is that they were all of a fairly even standard - they were pathetic. In fact, three teams had points deducted because they couldn't spell their own names. The fourth team fared no better. They lost points because they didn't know what day it was. Full details of the competition, and a photograph of the winners can be found on the Membership pages elsewhere in today's 'Review'. One final point before moving on from the Quiz. I take great exception to the unkind comments made about the ability of our staff - abysmal that they are. If anyone is going to insult the staff it will be me (Ed.)

ANOTHER FULL HOUSE?

Old Trafford may be bulging at the seams on the 19th April when the first team are in action some 200 miles away at Q.P.R. The reason being that we have been asked to stage an F.A. Cup semi final replay between Liverpool and Nottingham Forest should it be necessary. We're sure Forest would see such a match as a lucky omen for it was on this ground that they beat Liverpool, thanks to a controversial penalty, in a League Cup final replay back in 1978. Not quite as well placed,

geographically speaking, as Villa Park or Hillsborough, we are, nevertheless, delighted to have been chosen. A word of warning though to those unable to follow United down to Loftus Road. Under the rules of the Competition all tickets have to be divided equally between the participating clubs, there would be none available from Old Trafford. It would be hypocritical if we were to argue the point. We have appeared in 15 post-war semis and have always argued strongly for a better allocation.

NEXT AWAY GAME

We like to think that our players never need an incentive to do well in any match. They certainly won't need firing up when they visit the City Ground on Monday afternoon! They know better than anyone that they didn't do themselves justice last Saturday, having won one and lost one against Forest this season the Easter Monday fixture gives them an ideal, and early opportunity to show who is best. We'll certainly want to go one better than the corresponding game last season which ended in a goalless draw. That was despite Brian McClair hitting the post, twice, as did Clayton Blackmore and Stuart Pearce for the home side. The point gained that day kept us firmly on target to finish second, our position at the final whistle - six points ahead of Forest.

SERIOUS INCIDENT

During our home fixture against Tottenham Hotspur on the 5th February, one of the linesmen was struck by several coins. The matter was, quite properly, reported to the Football Association who, in turn, brought the matter to our attention. We share their concern and warn those involved about the stupidity and dangers of their actions. Fortunately for us all, the F.A. have decided not to take disciplinary action against Manchester United on this occasion. Be assured however that we couldn't expect leniency should there be any repetition. We believe that the F.A. have taken into account both our arrangements for safety and our record of crowd control and behaviour. Even more attention is going to be paid by our close circuit television cameras and we will not hesitate to prosecute - and ban - anyone found to be throwing at officials, or anyone else.

FRONT COVER

At this moment last Saturday when we thought Brian McClair had put us back on terms.



A glum Norman Davies seen with Alec Wylie surveys the final positions. (see Quiz Catastrophe above)



FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH...

adidas 

PANINI

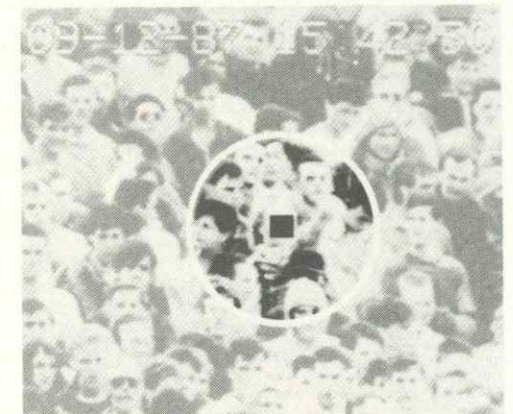
Stickers

Junior fans in the Panini family Enclosure will no doubt be well on their way to filling their FOOTBALL '89 sticker album after getting a head start with a free 'starter pack' in January, and the Swop Shop where doubles can be swapped. In fact judging from the orders received at our London office, some collectors have already finished! And don't forget that by saving the tokens from football sticker packets you can send off for some great gifts! There will be plenty of other collections to come this year though for all Panini fans. The great Who Framed Roger Rabbit film is also a Panini sticker collection, with a full colour album featuring all the crazy antics of Roger and his friends (and enemies). First of the two collections out in March is the fantastic SMASH HITS 1989 collection, with all the top stars on extra large stickers. This year the album is in full colour for the first time, and the stickers are bigger than any other pop stickers around.

Also due out in March is the WWF NATURE IN DANGER collection. Just the thing for all us 'outdoor types' is a collection encouraging everyone to take an interest in the world about them. And this wildlife series is not just about the countryside, but also the animals that live around us in the towns and cities.

So you see although Panini are famous all over the world for their football stickers (you'll remember that even Norwegian fans collect the British football stickers!) Panini's sticker collections are for all the family - just like the Family Enclosure at Old Trafford.

CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION



Photographs courtesy of 'The Times'

Three minutes before the interval, a bottle was thrown towards the opposing side's goalkeeper. The incident was captured by the CCTV system and 57 seconds later police had arrested the offender. By the half-time whistle, he had been led away for questioning, charged and subsequently pleaded guilty at the court hearing.

CCTV is the most effective anti-hooligan measure inside grounds and more than 100 stadia in Britain are equipped with cameras installed by The Football Trust. CCTV forms only part of the Trust's many initiatives. Each year it receives over £9.5 million from the Spotting-the-Ball competition run by Littlewoods. Vernons and Zettlers and spends it on projects that benefit every level of the game throughout the United Kingdom.



BELOW PAR UNITED FAIL

People say that to lose a semi final is a terrible feeling. Losing a quarter final isn't too clever either!

A home draw was all that we could have asked at this stage of the campaign and, whilst we might have preferred Brentford, we were quite happy to take on Nottingham Forest. We had, after all, beaten them quite comprehensively on Boxing Day although in all fairness that was their most recent defeat.

All the pre-match talk counted for nothing once the game got under way with United pushing forward at every opportunity and Forest quite happy to absorb the pressure. Neither side enough to suggest that a goal might be forthcoming - indeed it was the visitors ability to mount quick incisive counter attacks that looked the more dangerous. In the event that was how the goal was scored in the 43rd minute. Tricky wing play by Franz Carr led to a low cross which eluded everyone except, that is, Garry Parker who was left with a simple tap-in.

We were left with nothing except a few 'what-ifs'.

(top left) An overhead volley from Mark Hughes screams over the crossbar.

(bottom left) Russell Beardsmore, one of United's better players on the day, about to shoot past Stuart Pearce.

(main pic) Steve Hodge climbs up, and past, Brian McClair and Bryan Robson



Thick and Thin

by David Rowe

HELLO! AND WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE OFF TO THIS EASTER SATURDAY?

OLD TRAFFORD — YOU DON'T THINK I'D DRESS LIKE THIS FOR A WEDDING, DO YOU?

OH VERY FUNNY AND WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO MAY I ASK?



CERTAINLY YOU MAY ASK — THE LAWN NEEDS CUTTING, MY VEG PATCH TURNING OVER, THE CAR COULD DO WITH A CLEAN AND AFTER THAT ...

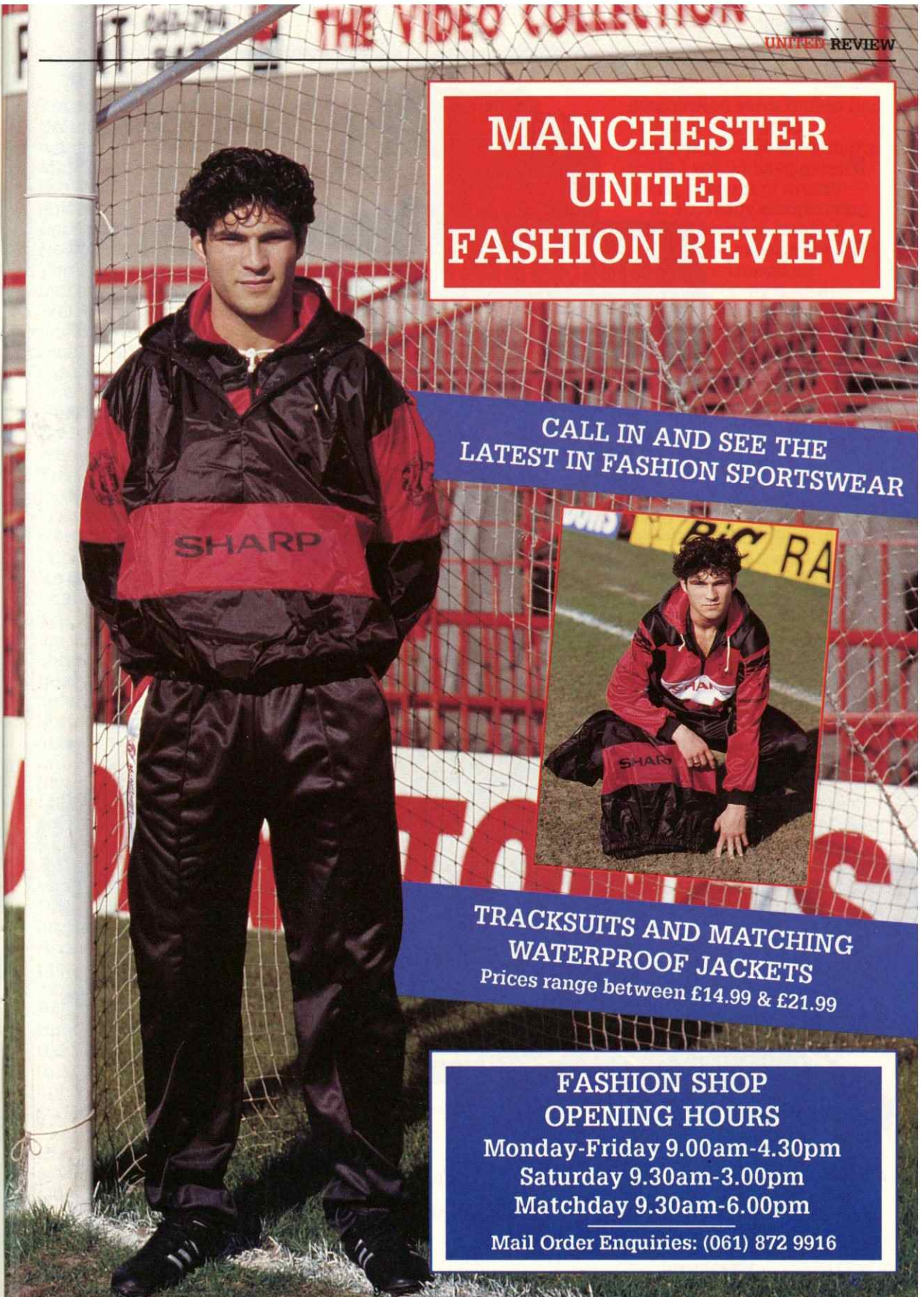
THAT EXPLAINS IT THEN, DOESN'T IT?

... I WONDERED HOW HE GOT THE BLACK EYE!



DAILY Mirror

No.1 in the North for sport!



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MEMBER OF IMRO

We know it's teamwork that counts, so come down to see our squad for the back-up your business needs.

Yet another Manchester United old boy has joined management ranks! Mick Martin who played at Old Trafford in the early Seventies under Tommy Docherty is now in charge of Newcastle United Reserves. The arrival of Jim Smith as manager in succession to Willie McFaul brought a move from the post of chief scout to a more active role coaching the second team. Ironically his successor as chief scout is another former United man, Tony Collins, who was chief scout at Old Trafford until joining Queens Park Rangers. He then followed Jim Smith to Newcastle which led to Mick's switch.

He tells me: "I'm enjoying it. I have always liked training and I'm interested to see if I am capable of making something of it. It's gone quite well so far. The reserves were at the bottom of the Central League when I took over but we have gone up a few places now."

Mick certainly brings a wide experience of the game to his new job. He was one of a string of young players signed by The Doc as he searched the lower leagues and football in the Republic of Ireland, for prospects. He arrived for a modest fee from Dublin club Bohemians and graduated through the reserves to reach the first team and make a total of 39 League appearances, six of them as a substitute, between 1972 and 1975.

His only regret about his days at Old Trafford was that he didn't have more experience

PROFILE MICK MARTIN

By David Meek

before getting his chance in the red shirt.

"I found it difficult as a young fella to play among the kind of



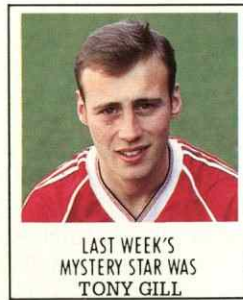
established stars United had. I think if I had gone somewhere else to learn my trade I would have given a better account of myself. "I'm not really complaining though because it was a memorable experience and I have some treasured memories of my time at United. I made a lot of friends there which I am happy to say I still have."

Martin left United to join player-manager Johnny Giles at West Bromwich and spent three and a half seasons at The Hawthorns.

Then came his move to Newcastle where he spent five years and put roots down. For though he went off to link up again with Johnny Giles at Vancouver Whitecaps and subsequently played at Cardiff, Peterborough, Rotherham and Preston for varying lengths of time, he returned to Geordie country. He had to hang up his boots though and for a living he turned to his other love of horse racing and opened two betting shops.

Out of the blue came an invitation from Willie McFaul to go back into football, a gesture for which he will be always grateful. Willie made him his chief scout last year, which this season led to being put in charge of the reserves and a welcome unbeaten run of 10 games. He still has the betting shops as a safety net, but is enjoying his football more! It's perhaps not surprising, for when he goes home to his wife Mary, he is certainly in a female dominated household with four daughters ranging from one to 13 to outvote him five to one!

MYSTERY STARS OF OLD TRAFFORD



LAST WEEK'S MYSTERY STAR WAS TONY GILL

TELL US WHO THIS IS AND WIN A SUPER SHARP QT 250E

The winner will be the first correct entry opened after the next First Team home game.

Make sure your entry is received at least one day before that match, otherwise it won't be considered for the competition.



UNITED v _____ / /89

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NAME: _____

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SHARP



ALEX FERGUSON

A week is a long time in football and as we prepared for our big FA Cup sixth round against Nottingham Forest I said that it was my biggest game as manager of Manchester United. Now the fates decree that this afternoon's match against Luton Town has assumed a similar importance, though sadly for quite different reasons.

We failed to make it through to the Cup semi-finals, which means that every one of us at Old Trafford is under special scrutiny.

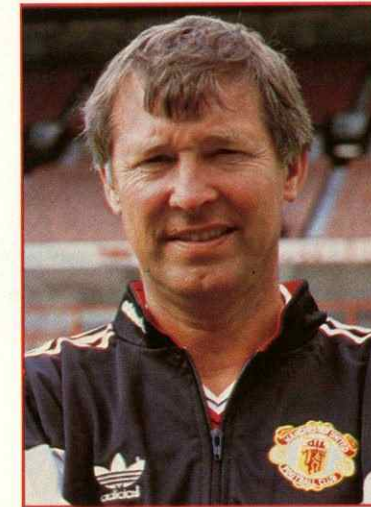
Our fans will be looking to see if this club has the character to recover from the bitter disappointment of Cup defeat and show itself ready for what is expected of Manchester United . . . which of course is to try to win every game.

The test for any footballer, and manager for that matter, is his reaction in adversity.

We have all got to look at ourselves. As manager I must examine whether I ordered the right preparation, picked the right team and organised the right tactics.

The players must question whether they prepared properly, too, whether they gave the game their best shot. I'm not a good loser, and I don't think my players are either. I have never questioned their commitment or spirit because it has always been first class. Nevertheless we must all ask ourselves these questions and answer them honestly.

The senior players will know



what I am talking about because they will have been through this kind of situation before. All the same they must still search out the truth. Our setback will certainly be a big test for the young players because they haven't faced this kind of major Cup defeat, so near to, yet so far from Wembley.

There are lessons for us all. I had all the apprentice trainees at the match, youngsters just starting their careers. Even they can learn by realising what it takes to become a Manchester United player . . . that they need to be special which means practice and more practice.

We will get a glimpse this afternoon as we welcome Luton Town to Old Trafford of how all the lessons are being absorbed. All week the players have had to decide whether they are

going to sulk about our defeat, whether they are going to feel sorry for themselves because a critical piece of refereeing went against us . . . or whether they are going to grit their teeth and determine that between now and the end of the season Manchester United are not going to lose another game. We might not quite achieve a hundred per cent, but it is important that we all accept that this is the target with an attitude and commitment to make it possible.

Who knows what is going to happen in the League? There are another 36 points at stake and we must aim to capture every one. Whether we win the championship or fail this season the standard for this club is nothing less than victory in every match.

I have got to say that I sense an urgency and determination in training this week which doesn't surprise me because I think the character of the players is top class.

Now they have to show our supporters that this is the way they feel, out on the pitch this afternoon. That's why I say that we again have one of our most important games to tackle.

We will be looked at critically and that is only what I would expect. It's essential with our performance today that we show the fans that we can stand up to the examination.

Three Goals Come When Goodwin Takes Control

Manchester United ... 4 Luton Town 1

IT began to look as if Manchester United would never achieve the rhythm of which they are capable against Luton. For 70 minutes they did so much for so little reward, until Goodwin began to distribute the ball as it should be distributed and the sound Luton defence—and it was always good—began to wilt.

To crown a fine display, Goodwin, United's right half, scored the best goal of the match with a hard 25-yard rising drive which left the Luton goalkeeper, Baynham helpless by its power and accuracy.

A 20-minute spell brought United three goals they long had promised.

Luton were completely outplayed in a first half so one-sided that only the indifferent finishing of the United forwards kept the score down to a goal scored by Quixall, who in the 22nd minute flung himself full length to head into the net a centre from Bradley.

This was poor reward for much endeavour, although the football was not precise enough to beat a Luton rearguard that was solid and dominant without being clever.

Lucky Goal

It needed a lucky equaliser—and lucky it was—to make United bestir themselves. Gregg had a shot from Grove well covered as he went low, but when he tried to grasp the ball it hit a bump on the turf and struck him in the face to rebound to the waiting Kilgannon.

This was the incentive that the struggling Luton needed, and for a time they attacked more strongly, but it was only because of the power of their wingers, Bingham and Gregory, for their inside men were never forceful enough.

Luton's chances disappeared as Goodwin took control of the centre of the field, probing first the left and then the right to find the weakness.

He sent Violett away to score United's second goal with a diagonal drive from the right wing, in the 68th minute, scored the third himself in the 74th and was always there in the goalmouth ready to pounce.

While Goodwin had an excellent match, Charlton struggled to find his old touch.

Nothing went right for him. He

missed one glorious chance through hesitancy and when through, with only Baynham to beat, in the closing minutes, shot powerfully and straight at the goalkeeper, who was unable to hold the drive. Violett was on hand to head it into the net from short range.



◀ 21st November 1959 - Old Trafford

OUR HOME FOOTBALL LEAGUE RECORD AGAINST LUTON TOWN

Season	Result	Division	Season	Result	Division
1897-98	1-2	Two	1959-60	4-1	One
1898-99	5-0	Two	1982-83	3-0	One
1899-1900	5-0	Two	1983-84	2-0	One
1937-38	4-2	Two	1984-85	2-0	One
1955-56	3-1	One	1985-86	2-0	One
1957-58	3-0	One	1986-87	1-0	One
1958-59	2-1	One	1987-88	3-0	One



12th April 1988 - Old Trafford

Andy Dibble, Luton Town's keeper (now of Manchester City) is beaten by Brian McClair's 20th goal of 1987-88 League season.

United get a big hand from Paul

Man Utd 2 Luton 0
By STEVE BATES

TWO gifts of amazing charity by 19-year-old Luton defender Paul Elliott presented Manchester United with a victory that was looking in doubt at Old Trafford.

Elliott twice handled needlessly to give United the penalties that provided the opportunity to break down Luton's stubborn resistance.

Said Elliott: 'Both were harsh decisions. The first one bounced off my knee and the ball hit my hand. For the second, I was pushed from behind and my hands went up and hit the ball.'

Proceedings were even until late in the first half when United began to play with the uninhibited freedom that makes them so attractive.

The teasing left foot of Arnold Muhren carved out chances and Arthur

Graham frequently looked a menace. With Ray Wilkins again in commanding form United penetrated Luton's defence almost at will.

United emerged from a tricky opening spell with Gordon McQueen thundering a header against the Luton bar.

After the break, United sizzled and after 49 minutes Elliott produced the first of his crucial mistakes.

With little danger to his goal and only Frank Stapleton in attendance, Elliott mysteriously handled a through-ball from Arthur Albiston.

Muhren only just squeezed the penalty home but from then on United were in full control.

McQueen almost added a second with a powerful header and Norman

Whiteside saw an effort bounce on top of the Luton bar.

In the 63rd minute Muhren had a stinging drive kicked off the line by Wayne Turner before United made the kill.

Elliott handled a Graham cross with Stapleton challenging. From the spot kick Muhren lashed in a low shot which Les Sealey brilliantly beat out — but Albiston roared in to drive the ball home.

10th September 1983 - Old Trafford



25th December 1957 - Old Trafford ▶

Charlton sparkles for champions

By an Old International

Manchester United 3, Luton Town 0

The feature of Manchester United's comfortable 3-0 victory over Luton Town at Old Trafford on Christmas Day was a sparkling display at inside forward by Charlton—the self-appointed and irrepressible leader of the revels.

Though he himself only scored one goal—a rather lucky, though violent, in-off caused by the ball striking a defender—he was the mainpring of most attacks, the victim of the alleged trip which led to the award of Edwards's shattering penalty kick, and the instigator of the furious bombardment which so softened up the Luton defences that Taylor was left eventually with a simple opening for the third goal. Others did their share, of course, in taking advantage of this weakened Luton team from which Owen, Martin, and Turner were all missing, but none could hold a candle to Charlton for fire, enthusiasm, and enterprise.

It should be noted that United's remodelled forward line has so far only encountered weak teams, so that too much need not be read into its performance. It has been able to enjoy the maximum support from its wing half backs and that means a lot: when Colman and Edwards are at the peak of their form. Nevertheless it has given the greatest pleasure if only because of its go-ahead business-like air and its willingness to have a go at every conceivable opportunity.

The men who would testify feebly to the striking power of United's young forwards would be Luton's backs, Dunne and Hawkes, and goalkeeper Baynham—especially Baynham. This most graceful of English goalkeepers had a most thankless task. He was beaten by a blistering penalty kick from Edwards which he never saw; he was beaten by a shot from Charlton which he did see, and actually covered, but which was diverted out of his reach by an accidental collision with someone's ribs; and when finally Taylor beat him he was lying prostrate after being shot down by what must have seemed to him a burst of gun-fire in gangster warfare. Yes, Baynham was the hero of this match from the Luton point of view and he will remember with great respect the strength in the limbs of a boy called Charlton.

Gregg deceived

As for Gregg, he too showed that he can misjudge high centres from the wings with the best of them, though his two most glaring mistakes, committed when he was six or seven yards out of goal, were spared full exposure by the failure of the Luton forwards to profit by them. Gregg is a goalkeeper in the Bartram tradition. He loathes inactivity, craves for bustle and excitement, and is not averse to going to the uttermost limits of the penalty area in search of it. For the time being his roaming adventures are regarded as a novelty, a harmless display of high spirits, and long may they remain so. There will be time enough to stress the foolhardy aspect of them if and when Gregg has the misfortune to give goals away in any number.

Morgans plays the right-wing game as "Jockey" Simpson used to play it, depending on plain commonsense and meticulous accuracy in the use of the ball rather than on showy and intricate footwork. But he has still a long way to go before he can be said to have supplanted Berry. And the same may be said of the competition for places between Scanlon and Pegg.

MANCHESTER UNITED.—Gregg: Foulkes, Byrne, Colman, Jones, Edwards; Morgans, Charlton, Taylor, Violett, Scanlon.
LUTON TOWN.—Baynham; Dunne, Hawkes; Pacey, Kelly, Pearce; Adam, Groves, Gregory, Brown, McLeod.

LUCKY 13

When Luton Town defeated United at Bank Street, Clayton on Saturday 18th September 1897 it didn't qualify as a very noteworthy event. Other than being the first Football League meeting between the clubs and that Luton won, there was very little to shout about.

But now, more than ninety-one years on, that match has taken on a far greater significance. The reason being, that in thirteen subsequent visits to our ground Luton have never avoided defeat. In fact, the vast majority of the players on view today weren't even born when 'The Hatters' last scored a goal against us at Old Trafford.

That was over twenty-nine years ago when their team contained many of the 1959 F.A. Cup final side which had lost to Nottingham Forest the previous May. We include a report from the match in which John Kilgannon scored the goal, together with two other accounts from our thirteen match unbeaten run.

Club Call



KEEPS YOU IN TOUCH WITH YOUR TEAM 24 HOURS A DAY

HALF TIME SCORES

A Aston Villa v West Ham	F Sheffield Wed v QPR
B Charlton v Coventry	G Southampton v Arsenal
C Derby v Nott'm Forest	H Tottenham v Liverpool
D Everton v Millwall	J Wimbledon v Middlesboro'
E Norwich v Newcastle	K Walsall v Manchester City

LOOKING BACK

March 22nd 1980
The 100th Manchester 'Derby' was won by a single goal from United's Welsh international Mike Thomas. Roars of delight came from the majority of the 56,387 crowd as the little midfielder scored the vital goal early in the second half. With third placed Ipswich being held to 1-1 at Aston Villa, United moved three points clear of them in second place though we were still six points behind leaders Liverpool, who won 1-0 over Brighton at Anfield.



MAL DONAGHY
Our Northern Ireland international defender who hasn't missed a League game since his arrival from Luton

Saturday 25th MARCH 1989

TODAY'S TEAMS

UNITED <i>Red Shirts, White Shorts</i>		LUTON <i>Blue Shirts, Blue Shorts</i>
Jim Leighton	1	Les Sealey
Lee Martin	2	Tim Breacker
Mal Donaghy	3	Richard Harvey
Steve Bruce	4	Darren McDonagh
Paul McGrath	5	Steve Foster
Clayton Blackmore	6	David Beaumont
Bryan Robson	7	Danny Wilson
Russell Beardsmore	8	Raphael Meade
Brian McClair	9	Mick Harford
Mark Hughes	10	Ricky Hill
Giuliano Maiorana	11	Kingsley Black
	12	
	14	

TONIGHT'S OFFICIALS *Referee: Mr R. F. Nixon (Wirral)*
Linesmen: Mr. A. C. Adams (Red Trim), Mr G. Cain (Yellow Trim)
Standby: Mr H. Wilson



'David Meek has been acknowledged for many years as the authoritative sports writer with regard to **Manchester United FC.'**

Follow David Meek every night in the Manchester Evening News

MEMBERS TRAVEL NEWS

Coach bookings are now being taken for our next two away games and the details are as follows:
Nottingham Forest - Bank Holiday Monday 27 March - Kick-off 3.00pm
Executive Coach £5.00 Luxury Coach £3.00
Departure Time 11.00am
Estimated Return Time to Old Trafford 8.00pm
Millwall - Saturday 8 April - Kick-off 3.00pm
Executive Coach £11.50 Luxury Coach £8.30
Departure Time 8.30am
Estimated Return Time to Old Trafford 9.30pm



LOOKING BACK

March 22nd 1980
Luton found themselves a goal down after only a minute when Paul Goddard netted for QPR at Loftus Road. When Goddard got another on the half-hour mark, the Hatters looked destined for a heavy defeat. But, with 20 minutes to go, Luton held the 0-2 scoreline. Brian Stein then pulled one goal back and, eight minutes later, Ricky Hill got another to earn them a 2-2 draw and keep their Second Division promotion hopes very much alive.



ASHLEY GRIMES
The popular Eire international will be hoping to make a welcome return to Old Trafford today.

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For team, ticket, travel and ground information tune in every Friday at 2.15pm and Saturday mornings at 9.30am.

PICCADILLY, 1152 AM

TODAY'S VISITORS

LUTON TOWN

by Tony Pullein



LITTLEWOODS CUP WINNERS 1988

While Luton have been busily engaged in trying to hold onto the Littlewoods Cup - which they won in that dramatic victory over Arsenal at Wembley last season - their position in the First Division has become rather precarious. Having disposed of Burnley, Leeds, Manchester City and Southampton, Luton set themselves up for a return to Wembley by running up a 3-0 away win over West Ham in their away leg of their Littlewoods Cup semi-final. By winning the return 2-0, the Hatters coasted back to Wembley where they will meet Nottingham Forest in this year's final. Last season Luton also coasted to the Simod Cup final at Wembley - they were beaten 1-4 by Reading - but they took an early exit for this season's

competition, going down 1-4 at Crystal Palace. The Hatters also disappeared early from the FA Cup, succumbing to Millwall (2-3) at The Den in round three. Luton's two away victories in the League were achieved at Everton (2-0) and Derby (1-0). The Hatters drew at Nottingham Forest (0-0), Norwich (2-2) and Tottenham (0-0) but were then beaten at Sheffield Wednesday (0-1), Southampton (1-2), Middlesbrough (1-2), Millwall (1-3), Coventry (0-1), Wimbledon (0-4), Charlton (0-3) and Arsenal (0-2). Luton were elected to the Second Division of the Football League in 1897 but failed to gain re-election three years later. They returned to the Southern League and became one of the founder members of the League's Third Division

(South) in 1920.

They moved up to Division Two in 1937 and in 1955 tasted First Division football for the first time. But disaster struck following relegation five years later. By 1965 they were in Division Four.

Slowly their recovery began. They rose back to Division Three in 1968 and to the Second Division two years later. In 1974 they were Second Division runners-up and became the first club ever to drop from Division One to Four and then regain its place at the top.

Though they were relegated a year later, the Hatters won promotion as Second Division Champions in 1982.

In the seven years since Luton last returned to the First Division the club has made great progress. After a couple of years of struggle, the Hatters have been establishing themselves among the more successful clubs. In 1984-85 they finished 13th in Division One, the following years achieving ninth and seventh positions. Last season they were ninth.

Over the past five seasons they have achieved that Littlewoods Cup success, they were runners-up in the Simod Cup and they have twice been semi-finalists in the FA Cup. On another occasion they were knocked out in the quarter-finals of that competition.

Luton, clearly, is a club that is going places and they have set new trends in several areas. Their exclusive membership scheme solved their hooligan problem overnight and they have been busy in recent years encouraging local firms to take an interest in the club.

The Hatters are particularly proud of the family atmosphere they have developed at their Kenilworth Road ground. The club has spent over £1 million

on ground improvements in recent years and they can now offer every one of their supporters either a guaranteed seat or a viewing position or a special 20 per cent discount for watching from the family enclosure.

It is not only on the field that Luton have been achieving outstanding success.

LUTON SQUAD

Les Sealey (Goalkeeper). Les, a regular for most of the time since his £120,000 transfer from Coventry in 1983, had the misfortune to miss last season's Littlewoods Cup final because of injury. He entered League soccer with Coventry in 1977.

Tim Breacker (Defender). Tim is a former Luton apprentice. He got his chance in their League eleven in 1984 and was for four years a regular member of the side, winning two England Under-21 caps.

Steve Foster (Defender). Steve, who skippered last season's Wembley winners, began his career as a striker with Portsmouth but switched to defence and moved to Brighton in 1979. He played at Wembley for the Seagulls when they were beaten by United in the 1983 FA Cup final replay and he won three England caps whilst at the Goldstone Ground. Aston Villa signed him in March 1984 but eight months later he was on the move again to Luton.

Dave Beaumont (Defender). Luton signed Dave from Dundee United for £150,000 and he made an impressive debut in their Littlewoods Cup semi-final win over West Ham. Dave joined Dundee United from school, made his League debut in 1983-84 and became a Scotland Under-21 international the following season.

Ashley Grimes (Defender). Ashley is a former United player and it was his cross that created the chance for Luton's last minute winner at Wembley. He is a player of vast experience who has been capped by the Republic of Ireland on 16 occasions. In his United days he played both in midfield and defence. He moved on to Coventry in 1983 and to Luton a year later.

Richard Harvey (Defender). Richard is a former England youth international who made his League debut in 1986. He won a regular place in the Luton line-up in November, holding it until suffering an injury at Charlton in January.

Rob Johnson (Defender). Rob is hoping he can regain the right-back position. He overcame many injury problems before making his mark with Luton. He spent a loan spell with Lincoln before establishing himself in the Hatters' side

John Dreyer (Defender). John developed in the junior teams at Oxford but played League soccer on loan for Torquay and Fulham before gaining a place in the Oxford side in 1986.

Luton signed him for £150,000 last summer.

Danny Wilson (Midfield). A Northern Ireland international, Danny picked up his 12th cap against Spain last month. Once with Bury and Chesterfield, he joined Nottingham Forest for £100,000 in 1983. His stay at the City Ground was not too successful so, after a loan spell at Scunthorpe, he joined Brighton in 1984. Danny was transferred to Luton for £150,000 in 1987.

David Preece (Midfield/Defender). David got his League chance with Walsall in 1981 and Luton paid £150,000 to sign him in 1984. He was a member of their winning side at Wembley last season.

Ricky Hill (Midfield). Ricky is

Luton's longest serving player and he should chalk up his 500th senior game for the club before the end of the season. He has developed an uncanny art of scoring vital goals this season. During more than a decade as a Hatters' first teamer, Ricky won three England caps.

Kingsley Black (Midfield). Kingsley was only introduced to the Luton side a few weeks before the Littlewoods Cup final last season but he was one of the stars of the show. He was quickly recognised by N. Ireland manager Billy Bingham and Kingsley won his sixth full international cap against Spain last month.

Roy Wegerle (Forward). Roy has really struck top form since his £75,000 transfer from Chelsea last summer and he is now their top scorer, with 11 goals. Roy was playing in the USA for Tampa Bay Rowdies when he was recommended by their manager Rodney Marsh to Chelsea. At Stamford Bridge he got only just over 20 outings in their League eleven but he has now come into his own at Luton.

Mick Harford (Forward). Mick, who won his second English cap against Denmark in September, has been more of a provider, than a scorer, this season. He has scored eight times. Last season his tally of 21 included six goals on their run to Wembley in the Littlewoods Cup. Mick first became top scorer with Lincoln and commanded a record fee (£200,000) for a Fourth Division player when he moved on to Newcastle in 1981. But it wasn't long before he was on the move to Bristol City, then Birmingham signed him in 1982. It was after his transfer to Luton, two years later that he hit his best form and in 1985-86 he was top scorer with 25 goals.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS . . MEMBERSHIP NEWS . . MEMBERSHIP

Sports Quiz

The third Members' Quiz took place a week last Wednesday in the Sir Matt Busby Suite, and once again the evening proved to be highly successful with 28 teams pitting their wits with questions being asked on all sports. The young trainees, Darren Ferguson, Kieran Toal, Lee Costa and Sean McAuley entered a team named 'Eric's Barm-Pots', and we are sure Mr Harrison would agree with this name, particularly when the answer they gave to one of the Motor Racing questions 'Who won the 1959 United States Grand Prix at the age of 22?' - Alex Ferguson. The correct answer was Bruce McLaren. The lads, however, did not finish in last position, this time that honour went to the United Groundstaff team, named 'Paddy's Heroes' with Keith Kent, Tony Gough, Alec Wylie and a guest appearance by Kit Manager Norman Davies making up the awesome foursome.

Our Ticket Office were also represented but we

think they found some of the questions a little too hard, giving the answer Arsenal when asked a 'In which position did United finish in the 1961-62 Division One table?

- the correct answer being Chelsea, sorry 15th position.

The lads from Chorlton, aptly named 'Chorlton Athletic' took first place honours, pictured here receiving their trophies from Norman Davies, followed by 'Nobby's Dentist' and 'Mancor Marauders'. The longest team name by far was 'Meaty, Beefy, Big and Bouncy - Jim's only in 'cos Steve can't make it' but the prize for what was considered the most original name went to a team called 'Banana Free Zone' with each team member being presented with a bottle of wine from Alex Ferguson who popped in for a short while.

We would like to thank every team for competing in the Quiz and hope to see you next time, and a special thank you to Quizmaster Tom Tyrrell who, with the help of his trusty tape recorder, provided us with some unusual audio questions.

Branch News

The Scarborough Branch would like to advise all supporters living in the area that their coach to home games will pick up at Station Square, Whitby at 9.15 am on Saturdays. Other pick-up points and times remain unchanged.

The Scarborough Branch are also holding a Testimonial Dance on behalf of Mike Duxbury at 'The Corner' in Scarborough. For further details please contact Branch Secretary Mike Tipple on 0482 48459 or Lynne Connis on 0377 42942.

The German Reds are in Manchester this weekend, taking in today's game and the away match at Nottingham Forest on Monday. Branch

Secretary Christian Machowski would like us to mention his sister Conny's forthcoming marriage to Robert on 13 May. Conny met her future husband at a branch meeting when he was invited along as a guest as he was the Branch Secretary of the Leeds United Supporters Club. Christian is only allowing Conny to marry Robert after his sister assured him that their children will not be Leeds fans! Best wishes to the happy couple from the Branch and everyone at Manchester United.

Happy Birthday

To Mike Farrell who is 28 today. Mike is standing in the Stretford End and best wishes come from wife Susan.

To Christopher Walters from Moston who is 24 today. he would like us to give him a mention in the programme as it is the first time that United have played at home on his birthday.

To Joanne Saxby on 27 March. Best wishes come from Mum and Dad and everybody from the Bridgnorth & District Branch.

Congratulations

To Michael Wooldridge and his wife Julie on the birth of their daughter Jodie on 12 March. Best wishes come from Mum and Dad.

Best wishes also to Colin and Julie Loader from Stevenage, Herts, on the recent birth of their daughter Charlotte Jayne, Colin and Julie are both LMTB holders in H stand and hope to bring Charlotte on the 400 mile round trip to show her off to all their friends.

Fan of the Year

We are now searching for UNITED'S FAN OF THE YEAR. He or she must be a Club member, possibly a supporter who never misses a game, home or away, or someone who travels a long distance in all weathers to watch United play. They may also be a great collector of souvenirs or memorabilia, etc., etc.

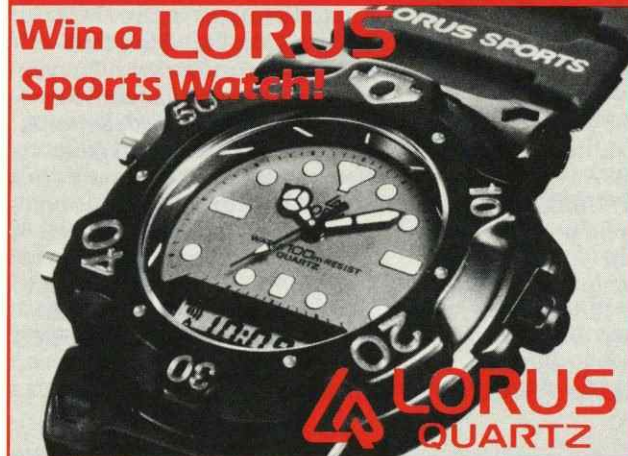
Do you know someone who shows such devotion to United that they deserve to be awarded the coveted title of 'Fan of the Year', If so, why not nominate him or her for this great award. Simply write to 'Fan of the Year', Membership Office, Manchester United FC, Football Ground, Old Trafford, Manchester M16 0RA, giving a full explanation why he or she should win this award. Please advise us of the persons full name, address and telephone number wherever possible and enclose any photographs which may substantiate your nomination. All entries should reach the Membership Office by Friday 21 April. The winner will be chosen by Alex Ferguson and will be a VIP guest of the Club for one of our forthcoming home matches, which includes dining in the Executive Suite, a mini-tour of the ground and the chance of meeting the Manager and players. He or she will also receive a special framed photograph to commemorate the day.

Away Travel

Details of our travel arrangements to Nottingham Forest on Bank Holiday Monday and Millwall on Saturday 8 April can be found in the centre pages of today's programme.



MEMBERS COMPETITION



The only goal of our F.A. Cup 6th Round match with Nottingham Forest last Saturday was scored after 42 mins, 14 secs. S J. Smith of Whitefield, Manchester was closest and takes this weeks Lorus Watch.

To enter, all you have to do is tell us the time the first goal will be scored, by either team, in our next home match. In the event of a goalless draw - perish the thought - the first corner will be timed. The winner will be the member with the time closest to the goal and in the event of more than one correct answer, a draw will be made. The decision of our timekeeper will be published in the 'Review' and shown on our electronic scoreboard.

Entries can be made by post, up to and including first post on the day of the match. Alternatively, members can drop their entry in at the Membership Office AT LEAST 30 MINUTES BEFORE KICK-OFF.

MANCHESTER UNITED MEMBERSHIP SEASON 1989-90

It now seems apparent that even if the Government's misguided national membership scheme becomes law, it will not be implemented next season. It is, therefore, our intention to continue with our current scheme whereby 50% of the ground will be restricted to members. More than 41,000 have become official club members so far this season, enjoying the many benefits offered to them, such as

match ticket priority, reduced prices of admission at First Team home matches to the members sections, discounts on souvenirs and free admission to Central League matches and the museum. A 1989-90 renewal / new application form will appear in our last four remaining match programmes. Existing members will also be sent a form with their late season brochure which will be despatched in May.

CHAMPIONS

It isn't all gloom and doom at the club following last Saturday's exit from the F.A. Cup. The defeat against Forest was a terrible blow to us all, so it's a pleasure to report some happier news from the ranks of the reserves and juniors.

Manager Alex Ferguson announced, in his programme notes last weekend, that the 'B' team had clinched the Lancashire League Division Two title for the first time since 1972.

The youngsters have enjoyed a splendid season, and successive victories against Stockport County Reserves and Chester City 'A', over the past couple of weeks, have confirmed their place as Champions. It was understood that should the lads gather in three points against Stockport at Cheadle, two weeks ago, then the title was in the bag. They duly 'did the business' with goals from Marcus Brameld and Stephen Carter and the celebrations began.

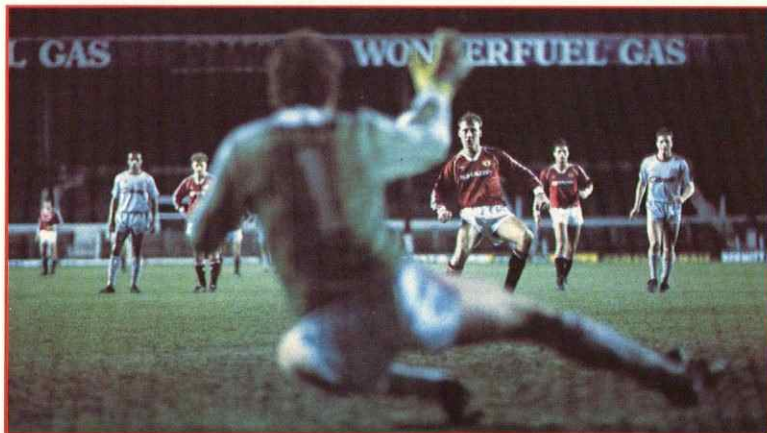
But, a doubt emerged as to whether one of the chasing pack, Liverpool 'A', had won or drawn a fixture earlier that week, thus delaying the 'B' team's accolade.

The situation wasn't completely resolved, but it didn't really matter because a 4-0 win over Chester City 'A', last weekend, put the whole question beyond debate. Stephen Carter, Kieran Toal, John Shotton and Sean McAuley were the scorers in the Chester match. Congratulations then to all the boys who have played in the 'B' this season, and to all the members of the coaching staff.

LANCASHIRE LEAGUE DIVISION TWO

Saturday 18th March
UNITED 'B' 4
CHESTER CITY 'A' 0

Pollitt, Costa, Sixsmith P., Lydiate,



Tuesday 14th March UNITED RES. 2, LIVERPOOL RES. 1
Tony Gill watches as his penalty is saved by Liverpool keeper Mike Hooper. Happily for Tony, he was able to score from the rebound.

CLIFF BUTLER reports on the

RESERVES & JUNIORS



Saturday 18th March MANCHESTER CITY 'A' 0, UNITED 'A' 6
Two-goal, Simon Hutchinson fights for possession of the ball during the Reds impressive victory at Platt Lane.

McCloy, Sharples, Carter, Toal, Brameld, Shotton, McAuley. Substitutes: Shields (for Brameld), Potts (not used). Scorers: Carter, McAuley, Shotton, Toal.

'DOUBLE'

The Reserves also pulled themselves out of the recent trough of mixed results to beat high-flying Liverpool at Old Trafford. The Anfield Reds used the game to give Ian Rush a run-out, but he lasted just eleven minutes before being substituted. A crowd, in excess of 1,000, gave him a good old-fashioned

Old Trafford ovation as he made his way to the bench, and then sat back to continue watching the game with the same 'unbiased' approach. One-time Oldham schoolboy Wayne Harrison gave the visitors the lead on the half-hour with a fine solo effort, but it wasn't long before the status quo was restored, Giuliano Maiorana was up to his usual tricks and it came as no surprise when he was tripped in the area during one of his sorties. Regular spot-kick specialist, Tony Gill stepped up to score, but only from the rebound, after Mike Hooper had saved the original shot. Brian Whitehouse shuffled his pack at half-time, taking off Lee Martin and Simon Hutchinson, and replaced them with Alan Tonge and Darren Ferguson. It proved to be an inspired move for in the 65th minute Tonge instigated the attack which brought the winner. His forward run ended with a pass to Shawn Goater, the Bermudan quickly whipped the ball goalwards and Mark Robins did the rest with a stunning shot past Hooper. The goal gave United three valuable points and completed a Central League 'double' over Liverpool.

CENTRAL LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

Tuesday 14th March
UNITED RESERVES 2
LIVERPOOL RESERVES 1

O'Donnell, Martin, Gill, Brazil, Heseltine, Wilson, Hutchinson, Blackmore, Robins, Goater, Maiorana.

Substitutes: Tonge (for Martin), Ferguson D. (for Hutchinson). Scorers: Gill, Robins.

BLUES HIT FOR SIX

It isn't very often we beat 'arch-rivals' Manchester City by six clear goals, at any level, but it happened last week at Platt Lane. Two from Simon Hutchinson, the same from Giuliano Maiorana and one each by Mark Robins and Simon Andrews gave the Reds a resounding Lancashire League Division One victory over the Blues. To be truthful, we were represented by a much more experienced and stronger side than City, but every game has to be won and the scoreline doesn't flatter United.

We took the lead on twenty-minutes, through Mark Robins, and from then on never looked back. City's young side battled away gamely, but they were no match for a United team containing a fitness-seeking Viv Anderson.

The match was conducted in excellent spirit and watched by a good crowd, including several

Chelsea fans, who had arrived early for their top-of-the-table Second Division clash with City at Maine Road.

LANCASHIRE LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

Saturday 18th March
MANCHESTER CITY 'A' 0
UNITED 'A' 6

Bosnich, Anderson, Heseltine, Brazil, Tonge, Hutchinson, Bullimore, Ferguson D., Robins, Goater, Maiorana. Substitutes: Jackson (not used), Andrews (for Robins). Scorers: Hutchinson 2, Maiorana 2, Robins, Andrews.

WELCOME

A strong United XI leave for the Isle of Man immediately after today's game. Brian Whitehouse has taken his lads to the island several times before and they are always assured of a warm welcome.

Tomorrow they will play against an Isle of Man F.A. XI at The Bowl, Douglas, kick-off 3.00pm.



Saturday 11th March STOCKPORT COUNTY RES 1, UNITED 'B' 2
United's title winning team line-up following their win over Stockport County at Park Road, Cheadle. Back row, left to right: Sean McAuley, John Sharples, Philip Baggaley, Norman McCloy, Chris Taylor, Chris Turner, Brian Kidd (Coach). Front row: Mark Gordon, Stephen Carter, Jason Lydiate, Lee Costa, Lee Potts, Marcus Brameld.

UNFIT

An unfit Ewood Park pitch caused our Central League Division One match with Blackburn Rovers - scheduled for last Wednesday, 22nd March - to be postponed. No new date for this fixture has yet been arranged.

ON LOAN

Our Reserve team goalkeeper has joined Lou Macari's Swindon Town on loan until the end of the season, whilst Paul Dalton, who has been on temporary transfer to Hartlepool should be returning in the near future.

FORTHCOMING RESERVE AND JUNIOR FIXTURES

Wednesday 29th March
CENTRAL LEAGUE DIVISION ONE
HUDDERSFIELD TOWN
RESERVES (A)
Kick-off 7.30pm

Saturday 1st April
LANCASHIRE LEAGUE DIVISION ONE
ROCHDALE RESERVES (H)
Kick-off 11.00am

DEVELOPMENT NEWS



Alan Austin's first job as the new man in the Development was to present one of the many £1,000 prizes to be won every week. In this picture, Alan (second left) presents a jumbo cheque to Mrs. N Tweedale, who won on a Lottery Ticket last month.

Yet another £1,000 was presented to a Mrs Hill of Newton Le Willows just before the Forest game. Mrs. Hill and family come to most games and they often buy a Lottery Ticket. This time it was hers that came out of the drum to win top prize.

The Superpools really were super for Mr E. Redmond of Stockport last Saturday. The Pools have 5 prizes of £1,000 every week. Last week one Pool was void, so the £1,000 was split between the other Pools, making them £1,250 each. Mr Redmond's numbers won outright on two of them, making his wins total £2,500! A fantastic piece of good fortune!

That's not all - Mr P. A. Hughes, the Agent wins a bonus of £250 also. This could have been you! If you can sell just ten turns in the Pool, or as many as a hundred, we want to talk to you. So give Alan a ring at the number below if you want to earn money whilst being an essential part of this great Club. Do it now!

061 872 4676

Finally we wish all of our Agents, Members, and Supporters

A HAPPY EASTER

COLLECTORS CORNER

by Stuart Renshaw

Almost five years ago to the day, the Red Devils celebrated a magnificent 3-0 victory against Barcelona in the European Cup Winners' Cup here at Old Trafford. This gave an aggregate score of 3-2 and a place in the semi-final. Today's covers shows the philatelic frank used on that very day - the 21st March 1986. These covers currently sell at £3 each, from the Museum, but please add 30p towards p&p if ordered by post.



The cover featuring Luton Town was issued for the Littlewoods Cup final last season, in which "The Hatters" beat favourites Arsenal to win the trophy. Ironically, Luton are in a similar position to Arsenal last season, as they themselves (the current holders) are in the Final again, and meet Nottingham Forest on 9th April 1989. The cover featured is available at £3 but orders can be placed for this year's cover, at £2 each. These will be mailed out, approx. 21 days after the final. Enquiries to Dawn Cover Productions, 27 Ashfield Road, Davenport, Stockport SK3 8UD.



IDENTITY CARD SCHEME

WHAT IT WILL MEAN

- It will mean more aggravation for local residents, as getting into the ground will take longer.
- It will mean the smaller clubs will have difficulty making ends meet, as crowds will be smaller. Some may even have to close.
- Trouble is more like to occur outside grounds especially if the systems breaks down.
- It is an infringement of the basic rights of the individual.

The plans from the Government are **hastily prepared, muddled and show no understanding of football or the millions of ordinary men, women and children who follow the game.**

Write now to your M.P. and say **NO**

from
SIMON HUGHES MP Liberal Democrat
TOM PENDRY MP Labour
JIM LESTER MP Conservative

ON BEHALF OF M.P.'s AGAINST THE FOOTBALL I.D. BILL



GOAL-LESS AT VILLA

United went to Villa Park, one of their favourite grounds, a couple of weeks ago but could only manage a goal-less draw in front of the television cameras.

Those fans who braved the wet and dismal conditions, rather than enjoy the comfort of their armchairs, saw an end-to-end game, highlighted by one magnificent save by Jim Leighton and the form of his Scottish teammate, Gordon Strachan. In the end United were unable to get the better of a very determined Villa side. It was suggested later, by one of their officials, that if they played like that every week - they would be nearer the top than the bottom of the League!



LITTLE DEVILS' SPECIAL FOCUS ON MARK ROBINS



If there's a knack to scoring goals then 19-year-old reserve team striker Mark Robins knows the secret. Mark is the most prolific scorer at Old Trafford and with 19 goals in 22 reserve games this season his tally of 47 all told isn't far short of the club record 51 he hit last season. His eye for a chance and deadly finishing have elevated him to the first team squad on a few occasions this season, notably the brilliant 3-1 win over Liverpool on New Year's Day, but he's facing one of the toughest jobs at the club. That high scoring ratio would be good enough to earn Mark a first team run at most clubs - but not at United. Quality strikers like Mark Hughes and Brian McClair are difficult to shift but Mark isn't daunted by the task despite the growing reputation of Alex Ferguson's main strike force. "I'm under no illusions, it's going to be very hard to get either of them out but you have to believe it can be done. I signed a three year contract at the end of last season and I want to stay at the club. I've just got to keep plugging away" says Mark. Only a breathtaking save by Mike Hooper to keep out Mark's fierce volley against Liverpool prevented the youngster opening his senior account - but that just confirmed his views on first team football. "Maybe in the reserves that would have gone in. If it hadn't you'd know another chance would come along but in the First Division that's not the case. You really do have to take a chance when it comes because you might not get another. "As soon as I score in the first team it'll settle me down. I'm very much a goalscorer and it's important to me to get goals. I was fortunate that on my reserve debut against Hull I scored and that helped me settle in." Mark has come a long way in his short spell at the club and United's coaches just couldn't ignore his goals. "In my schooldays I was hitting 70-80 goals a season" he says, "so it's always been an instinctive thing. I don't think about scoring I just concentrate on getting a clean strike of the ball. A lot of my goals are half chances, but I do get ones from longer range as well."

United scout Eric Walker spotted Mark playing for Oldham Boys and they quickly snapped him up with other top clubs literally queuing up for his signature. It was then that Mark's career took a unique turn. Along with 24 other youngsters from around the country he was chosen for the National School of Excellence at Lilleshall. The FA experiment which took the boys away from home for three years to study while learning the football trade was widely criticised for being elitist. It's detractors claimed the 25 boys weren't necessarily the best youngsters and it was an unfair burden to take the boys from familiar surroundings and build them up as the cream of England's youngsters. Mark disagrees strongly with the critics and has only praise for the scheme. He says: "I really enjoyed it and found the whole thing a great experience. Luckily I settled down very quickly and we were made to feel really welcome. We went to a local comprehensive during the day, trained on a Wednesday morning and after school. Then we'd play at weekends. "Fortunately there were two other lads from United, Simon Hutchinson and David Thomas, Jason Beckford from Manchester City who I knew and John Ebbrell from Everton. Before I went I was quite shy but the Centre brought me out of my shell and made me more independent." Lilleshall certainly did no harm to Mark's career even though he found goals harder to come by. "I used to play on my own up front

which made it more difficult to score but it taught me different skills playing that type of a role. I learned so much about the game in my time there and I've nothing but praise for Dave Sexton and Mike Kelly who coached us." Now in his third season at United, Mark has got the break he wanted. "Being in the first team squad this season has come sooner than I expected. If you'd told me I'd have been a reserve team regular this season I'd have been delighted so to have been in the senior squad a few times is a real bonus. "Obviously the youngsters have taken a back seat since coming on the scene and sometimes you get a bit down when you're not included all the time. Once you've had a taste you want more and that's what I'm working towards. "If there's an area I need to improve it's my aggression and that's why I've been doing work in the gym. I've probably been a bit lightweight but I'm hoping to put that right. mind you, when you play next to Mark Hughes you realise how strong he is - most people are lightweights next to him." Although Mark has a girlfriend, Donna, he doesn't have time for much else besides football. An occasional game of golf or snooker can be fitted in but he says: "I'm quite single minded about my career. I just want to play for United and hopefully England one day so I concentrate everything on becoming a better player."

Mark was talking to Steve Bates

STAR IS BORN ★

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PAUL GASCOIGNE WAS BORN IN GATESHEAD. --:RMSN

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BY THE END OF
THE SEASON.**



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