

# CLASSIC MATCH



JONES CLARKE

GRAY GILES BREMNER LORIMER

COOPER HUNTER CHARLTON MADELEY

SPRAKE

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

## Leeds United 5 Manchester United 1

Football League Division One

Saturday February 19,  
1972, 3pm Elland Road

Attendance 45,399

Goals Jones (47), Clarke (55),  
Burns (57), Jones (58), Jones  
(62), Lorimer (74)

Referee Norman Burtenshaw  
(Great Yarmouth)

**Manchester United** (4-4-2):

Stepney, O'Neil, Dunne,  
Burns, James, Sadler,  
Morgan, Kidd (McIlroy),  
Charlton, Gowling, Best.

**Leeds United or Real Madrid?** N For the first time since Revie's audacious move to change our kit and use the Spanish giants as a benchmark of greatness, Leeds are beginning to make that mimicry an achievable aim. Today, Revie's men were like daring matador's toying with a weary bull, and the crowd chanting "Ole!" as the latter stages of the game were played out with Leeds in impudent possession, were a further signal that a step-change had occurred in Leeds' modern-day existence.

**Not only that, this was Manchester United we beat!** We didn't just beat them, we played with them. For a team that led the First Division for four months but arrived at Elland Road without a win since December, this was their worst fears realised. Losing for a second time to Leeds this season

was one thing, but to do it in such humiliating circumstances was a mortal blow they may never recover from. Best and Charlton have gone dramatically off the boil and never showed up here, their very public undressing by a Leeds team so harmoniously superior is another signal that they are a team on the slide.

**There were no indications of this imminent slaughter in the first half, though?** I would argue there were. It may have been 0-0 at the break but Leeds were ominously cohesive; Giles and Bremner patrolled midfield with a poised authority, Eddie Gray was at his mischievous best and full-backs Cooper and Madeley bombed forward at will, with a brazen lack of concern for what Manchester United may have created in attack. Stepney made great saves from

↑ Three-goal Mick Jones

➤ Allan Clarke

➤ Terry Cooper

# 5.4 MAGIC NUMBER

Minutes per goal in the  
second half of destruction





Jones and Charlton, and Dunne also cleared off the line from Jones, in an early indication that “Jonah” was bang up for it today.

**Ah yes, a red letter day for Mr Jones...**

In a difficult season disrupted by injury, Jones’ hat-trick, his first ever in league football, was particularly well-received. In truth, he should have had four, but Clarke will most likely claim the second goal which, in true “Sniffer” fashion, he flicked past the helpless Stepney when Jones shot was probably goal-bound anyway. Nevertheless, Jones – with only two league goals prior to today and having recovered from a bout of flu to regain his place – was richly rewarded for the thankless groundwork he does that is appreciated within the team but is not outwardly tangible.

**Talk us through the goals, then?** The goalless first half was just a prelude to an onslaught of breathtaking ruthlessness after the break. It took

just two minutes for Jones to start the ball rolling, when he touched in a loose ball after Stepney had tipped Gray’s shot onto the post. Seven minutes later, Jones’ shot from Lorimer’s cross was guided in by the predatory Clarke. Manchester United briefly hit back when Burns found himself unmarked in the Leeds box and prodded an unlikely goal past the under-utilised Sprake, but the “contest” lasted just a single minute before Leeds restored the two-goal advantage. Bremner’s deep cross was headed in from close range by Jones and four minutes later, with the crowd breathless and the Reds reeling, Jones completed his 15-minute hat-trick with another tap-in after good work from Gray and Lorimer.

**Devastating!** Leeds weren’t finished there, either. There was simply no answer to the endless wave of remorseless attacking. Like a flurry of blows at a boxer cowering

apologetically on the ropes, Leeds were intent on finishing off the contest with a conclusive knock-out, and it came when Lorimer met Jones’ powerful cross and followed up to lash the loose ball into the roof of the net, with an emphatic finish that said: “Have that!”

**How were the Leeds fans?** You sensed the “Easy! Easy!” chants were a long-anticipated outpouring of perceived superiority. There was no doubt the unconditional surrender that their red rose rivals had succumbed to would be lavishly celebrated.

**Best Leeds player?** In such a savagely effective team performance it would normally be difficult to pick one player out, but every dog has its day and Mick Jones has to take the award. He had a hand in everything.

**In a nutshell** Enjoy it, because days like this don’t come around too often.

