

CLASSIC MATCH



Newcastle United 5 Leeds United 2

Barclays League Division Two
Saturday August 19, 1989,
3pm St James' Park
Attendance 24,482

Goals Quinn pen (18), Davison (20), Baird (29), Quinn (47), Quinn (67), Gallacher (86), Quinn (87)

Referee Neil Midgley (Salford)

Newcastle (4-4-2): Wright, Ranson, Scott, Thorn, Sweeney (Brazil), Dillon, Brock, Quinn, McGhee, Fereday, Gallacher.

I've been here before and I didn't like it!

If you're talking about Swansea away at the beginning of the last relegation season, you are way off the mark there. Granted, this was as far away from the script as it was possible to get, and could only have been more of a wake-up call had Mickey Quinn slapped every Leeds player around the chops with a wet fish as he waltzed around them in the second half, but Leeds United in 1981 and 1989 are very different beasts.

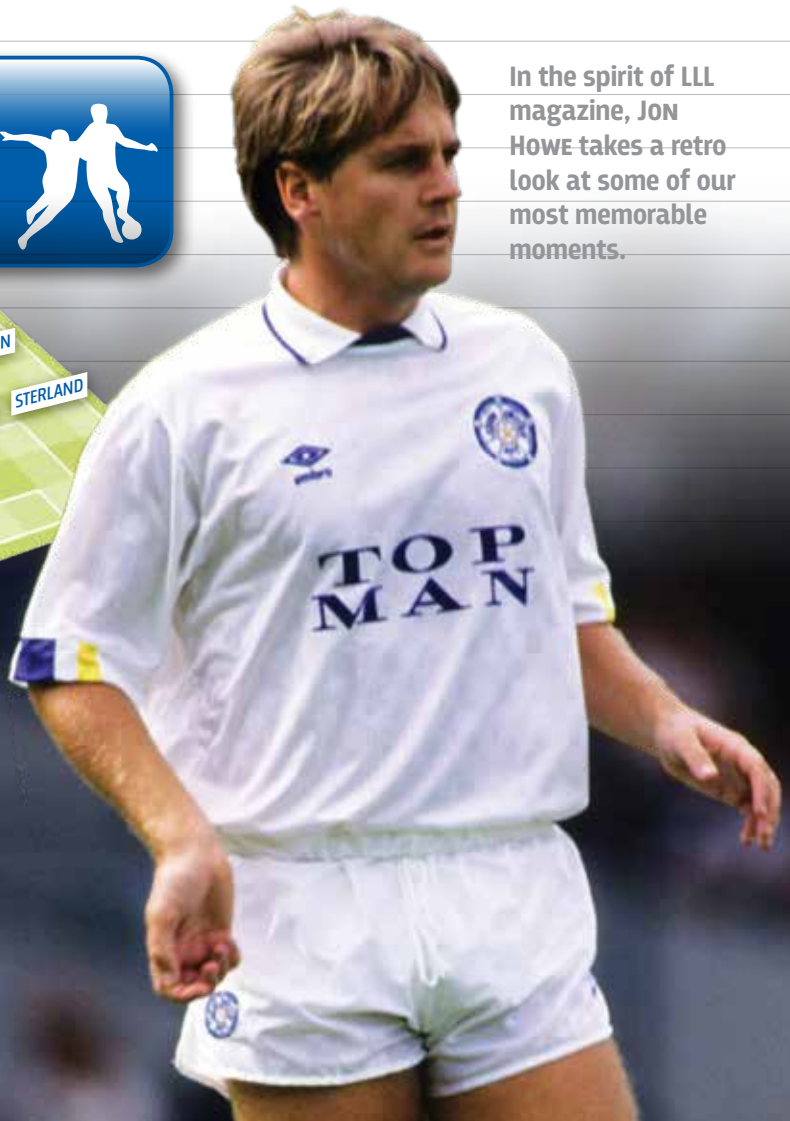
Why so optimistic? This was diabolical!

Ultimately, although we may feel we want to lock ourselves in a darkened room for a few days, I doubt one result will sway Wilkinson from his masterplan for the season. Furthermore, I saw enough here today to suggest we will be okay this

season – after all, we were still chasing an equaliser up to the 86th minute, and while the second half was a lesson in self-destruction, there were mitigating circumstances. Chris Fairclough has already proved to be a quality signing but he was injured today and we missed him. Also, Vinnie Jones was unable to make his long-anticipated debut and somehow I think his spirit wouldn't have allowed the second half capitulation to take place.

What about the rest of "The Magnificent Seven"? Okay, that is a slightly grandiose name for our raft of new signings by the press, because in truth they had a mixed experience. In hindsight, three players in the back four making their debuts was maybe a big ask by Sgt Wilko, but his hand was forced by injuries to others. Sterland

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



↑ John Hendrie

↓ Mel Sterland





had a decent game at right-back, but John McClelland was hopelessly exposed at times. Jim Beglin showed his experience, but picked up an injury. In midfield, Mickey Thomas was over-run and if it wasn't for the tireless David Batty alongside him, things could have been much worse, so the last of five debutants – John Hendrie – did okay in the circumstances. Apart from Vinnie, the only other signing not on show was Chris O'Donnell, but we're looking forward to seeing much more of him as the season progresses.

So, the first half was an even contest?

More than that, Leeds played some great football. We fell behind to an 18th-minute penalty when Beglin made a clumsy challenge on John Gallacher, but we equalised within two minutes through Bobby Davison, and Bairdy put us 2-1 up nine minutes later, amid delirious scenes. It could have been more, and all the pre-season talk of "big-spending Leeds" steamrolling through the division seemed spot on. Finally, an end to our second tier torment appeared to be in sight.

What happened at half-time then?

Something in the oranges perhaps? I don't know, after the restart we just suffered a series of defensive lapses. We competed well elsewhere on the park and still caused Newcastle keeper Tommy Wright some problems, but somehow we just couldn't keep the back door shut. Time and again Newcastle carved us open and from the 47th minute onwards, when Newcastle debutant Micky Quinn equalised, it was a fairly chastening experience. Quinn added another and Gallacher scored the fourth, but it was the final goal that summed



everything up; an aimless punt forward just dissected our defence and Quinn was through on goal again. The rotund Scouser, showing pace only previously seen when the pie shop is about to close, drew Mervyn Day from his goal and casually rolled the ball passed him into the net. Goodnight.

How were the Leeds fans? There were 5,000 packed into the Leazes End terrace. Bare-chested in the sunshine, they spent half-time mocking the newly-relegated Newcastle fans with "Sack the board!" chants. An hour later the egg was well and truly on face – though in fairness, nobody saw this coming at the break.

Best Leeds player? Strachan prompted and cajoled, Hendrie buzzed about and looked dangerous, but Batty was by far the most competent performer on the day. His work-rate at least made it difficult for Newcastle, though he could do nothing about the slack defending.

In a nutshell? Don't panic!

5 TRAGIC NUMBER

Leeds debutants, goals conceded

↑ John McClelland

↖ Mickey Thomas

↓ David Batty



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