

CLASSIC MATCH



Leeds United 4 Southampton 0

Football League Division One

Saturday November 25,

1978, 3pm Elland Road

Attendance 23,592

Goals Graham (14), Madeley (22), Currie (56), Golac og (65)

Referee PG Reeves (Leicester)

Southampton (4-4-2):

Gennoe, Golac, Peach, Williams, Nicholl, Waldron, Ball, Boyer, Hebbard, Holmes, Baker.



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

Two words: "Tony Currie"! Let's be honest, we've been spoilt rotten over the last 10 years or so watching a team so wonderful we may never see their like again. Things might be on the slide a bit at the moment, and it's going to take some time to re-build, but players like TC give you hope. This game was heading towards a regulation victory over an improving Southampton side, but Currie, never one to accept a mundane back-seat role in proceedings, took the game by the scruff of the neck and illuminated Elland Road with a sublime goal.

It's impossible not to love him, isn't it? Elland Road is going weak at the knees at the moment. At a time when we are desperate for a new hero, it is not difficult to see the qualities Currie possesses. He is cool, stupidly talented and, erm, undeniably

handsome with it. I'm told the ladies love him, but personally he could look like Attila The Hun as long as he continues to bang them in like he did today.

Looks like Jimmy Adamson has sorted this mess out? Yes, this "transitional period" evolving from Revie's departure is taking a bit longer to negotiate than we expected, but we hit a rock bottom when Jock Stein resigned in September. Adamson appears to have steadied the ship and has presided over an upturn in home form and progress into the Fifth Round of the League Cup. Then today, we strolled to an emphatic win and showed signs of eyeing loftier ambitions again.

The goals? Arthur Graham started things off in the 14th minute, finding

the net from just inside the box after a decent move involving Cherry, Hankin and Flynn. The second goal came from an unlikely source when Paul Madeley's deflected shot beat the disconsolate Gennoe eight minutes later.

These were just a tantalising hors d'oeuvres, though? Correct, the first half was a case of teasing the taste buds, and the disappointing 23,000 crowd had just cleansed their palate at half-time when Tony Currie took a hold of the game and left us fully nourished and contentedly satisfied. In truth, ignoring his goal for a moment, Currie did look a class apart in the second half, and patrolled midfield with his normal imperious and elegant authority, as the busy Flynn did the leg-work around him.



MAGIC
NUMBER
180

Degrees on TC's convex
curve-shot!

But it's That Goal we want to talk, about...

Okay! On 56 minutes Currie dispossessed Southampton's winger Graham Baker just inside the Southampton half. He ran forward with the ball and, faced with few options, found himself just outside the box with two defenders in front of him. Rather than wasting needless energy trying to beat them, Currie promptly sized up the situation and in mid-flow simply curled the ball around them, and the goalkeeper Gennoe. With a freakish amount of bend, the ball arced into the far corner of the net. The fans in the Kop adjusted themselves from a cowering position as the ball sped towards them, to a transfixed state of awestruck wonder as the ball defied the laws of science and landed in the onion bag.

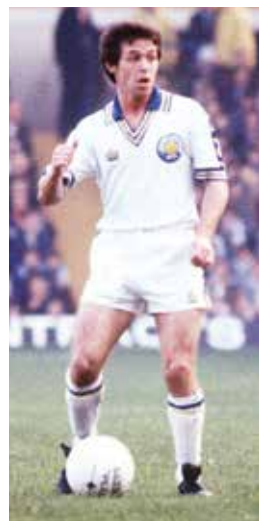
Presumably TC was ecstatic? Not really, no. As the ground exploded and toilet rolls rained onto the pitch, in trademark fashion, Currie just blew kisses to the Kop and clapped them. He clapped them. Talk about under-playing it!

After that? The ground was buzzing for the rest of the game, and when Southampton's Yugoslavian right-back Ivan Golac comically over-hit his back-pass and notched Leeds' fourth with an own goal, it barely registered with the Elland Road crowd. All the talk was of Tony Currie.

How were the Leeds fans? A month ago we also beat Derby 4-0 and while the crowds are still sparse there are signs of encouragement. We've seen plenty of false dawns over the last four years, so you can understand the fans' reticence, but slowly, things might be turning around.

Best Leeds player? Flynn's endeavour was there for all to see, and Arthur Graham was a live wire also, but Tony Currie stood head and shoulders above everyone else.

In a nutshell? May I introduce; the banana shot.



↑ Tony Currie (top) and
Brian Flynn

↙ Paul Madeley

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