



# Classic Match

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

**Where do you start with this?** How about some stats? This was our biggest away win since defeating Blackpool 7-3 in 1930, it was Wednesday's first home defeat in 14 games, Chapman's hat-trick was the first by a Leeds player in an away game since Arthur Graham put three past Valletta in the UEFA Cup in 1980, and, most significantly, this win puts us back on top of the table.

**A good day at the office, then?** Amazing, a rampant performance against a dangerous Wednesday side gunning for a European spot. Given our defeat to Manchester United in the Rumbelows Cup in midweek, and the absence of Batty (suspended) and Strachan (injured) I was not confident beforehand, but Leeds simply tore the hapless Owls apart. It was almost cruel at times and, given it was live on ITV, couldn't have gone any better.

**Any good goals?** Yes, a couple were outstanding, but they were overshadowed by a goal fragrant in comic genius of the highest order. The fact it was Wednesday's sole reply made the win even sweeter.

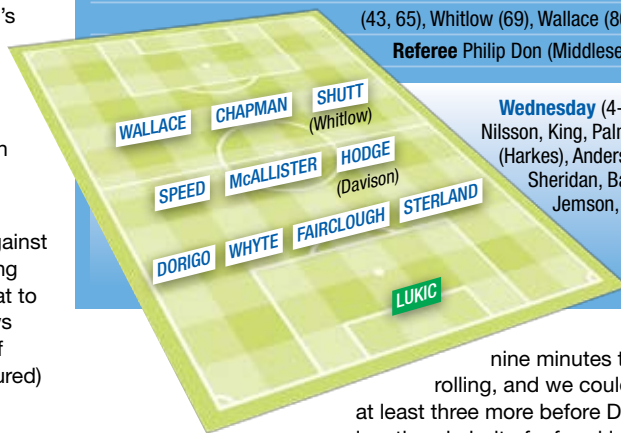
**Start at the beginning...** Chapman tapped in unmarked inside the six-yard box from a Fairclough head-down on

## Sheffield Wednesday 1 Leeds United 6

Barclays League Division One Sunday January 12, 1992, 3pm Hillsborough

**Attendance** 32,228 **Goals** Chapman (9), Dorigo (30), Sheridan (37), Chapman (43, 65), Whitlow (69), Wallace (86)

**Referee** Philip Don (Middlesex)



**Wednesday (4-4-2)** Woods, Nilsson, King, Palmer, Pearson (Harkes), Anderson, Watson, Sheridan, Bart-Williams, Jemson, Worthington (Williams).

nine minutes to set the ball rolling, and we could have had at least three more before Dorigo drove in a thunderbolt of a free-kick on the half-hour.

**Wednesday made a game of it, didn't they?** Hardly, but it seemed so at the time. We should have been out of sight as Wallace and Chapman missed numerous chances, but the ref awarded Wednesday a penalty from a moment of sheer circus artistry. Right-back Roland Nilsson played a grass-cutter into the box and Chris Whyte stuck out one of his telescopic legs to poke the ball away to safety. Wednesday striker Gordon

**1** *Magic Number*

Marks out of 10 for Gordon Watson's dive



Watson had challenged for it, but, untouched by Whyte, he took two clear steps before somehow arching three feet skywards in a pirouette of ornamental flourish. The ref must have become possessed by the same supernatural force as Watson because he pointed to the spot, prompting apoplexy from the Leeds players and jaw-dropping bafflement from the watching nation. That wasn't the end of it, though, because Lukic actually pushed the spot-kick onto the post before Sheridan apologetically tapped the ball in from a yard. If I was a Wednesday fan I would have asked the ref to chalk the goal off; embarrassing.

#### **But we replied straight away?**

Just when we thought the Owls were back in the game, six minutes later we scored possibly the best "team goal" I have ever seen. Including the throw out by Lukic there were five touches of the ball between the keeper, Dorigo, Speed and finally Chapman diving full length, with the grace of a newborn salmon, to head home a cross that just begged to be dispatched. It was simple, swashbuckling, effective and ruthless; the perfect antidote to the am-dram atrocity of Wednesday's goal.

**A stroll in the second half?** Pretty much, yes. Chapman completed his

Above: **Three-goal Lee Chapman.**

Below: **Gary Speed and Tony Dorigo.**



hat-trick when Gary Speed headed a left-wing corner onto the bar and as the Wednesday defenders displayed a criminal lack of interest, Chapman nodded the ball home unchallenged as it returned from orbit. Mike Whitlow, in nose-bleed territory, buried a neat header from a Wallace cross on 69 minutes, and Wallace himself crowned a marauding performance with a chip over the advancing Woods with four minutes left.

#### **How were the Leeds fans?**

Speechless at how good we were, but filled with pride that the watching millions could see us perform like this. What a message to send out to our title rivals? It's no exaggeration to say we could have easily scored double figures here.

**Best Leeds player?** It's hard to see past Chapman for his three goals. He could have had several more, including an unprecedented solo run in the first half, where, finding himself on the touchline, he beat King and Pearson for pace – yes, pace – before clipping the crossbar. But in truth, to a man we were magnificent today.

**In a nutshell?** Are you watching Manchester?!