

## SATURDAY S PREMIERSHIP HEADLINE MAKERS

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- On a day when five red cards were shown to Premiership players, Liverpool completed home and away wins in the same season against Manchester United for the first time in 22 years yet still saw Leeds United leap-frog them into third place. Arsenal won the big North London derby while at the bottom, Coventry secured their first win since Christmas while Manchester City crashed again at home. Just above them, defeats for Middlesbrough and West Ham saw them slide nearer to the danger zone.
- Liverpool achieved their first double over Manchester United since 1979 when they beat the champions 2-0 at Anfield in a game that kicked-off at noon. Both teams started strongly but Liverpool soon asserted their dominance and might have been 4-0 up by half-time, **Steven Gerrard** driving them forward with an inspired display of midfield power-play.

**Fabien Barthez**, back in goal for United, succeeded in keeping United in the match with some crucial saves, but was powerless to prevent Gerrard putting the Reds ahead with a stunning strike from outside the area. Gerrard then turned provider with chip to **Robbie Fowler**, who coolly beat Barthez to double Liverpool's advantage.

When **Danny Murphy** was sent off for a second yellow card offence, bringing down **Denis Irwin** with a late tackle, Liverpool might have wobbled, but they dug deep to keep United at bay. **Dwight Yorke** had the ball in the net as the champions sought to put Liverpool's 10-men under pressure, only for the linesman to disallow the goal for offside.

Yorke also forced a smart save from **Sander Westerveld** when put through by **Paul Scholes**, although at the other end **Emile Heskey** hit a post with a shot from outside the area after beating **Wes Brown**.

**Gerard Houllier** was delighted with the character shown by his side, while **Sir Alex Ferguson** thought that the turning-point in a game between two good, competitive sides was when Yorke's effort was ruled out.

- Despite having the abrasive **Alan Smith** dismissed, Leeds United made it 21 points from a possible 27 with their first win at the Stadium of Light. The 2-0 defeat of Sunderland took Leeds into the third Champions League slot, and was only the second home defeat of the season for the Black Cats. Smith opened the scoring in the first half, and **Mark Viduka** made it nine games undefeated for Leeds when he got on the end of a **Robbie Keane** cross just before the end.
- Arsenal struck a psychological blow ahead of next Sunday's FA Cup semi-final by inflicting a 2-0 defeat on neighbours Tottenham Hotspur at Highbury. With **Glenn Hoddle** watching from the stands prior to taking over for the Cup clash, caretaker manager **David Pleat** fielded a young, unfamiliar Spurs side and set out to frustrate an Arsenal side unbeaten at home this season.

However, after a goalless first-half, the Gunners gained the ascendancy. A superb strike by **Robert Pires** and a solo effort from **Thierry Henry** in the last twenty minutes ensured that **Arsene Wenger's** 250<sup>th</sup> competitive game in charge of Arsenal ended in victory. Tottenham must therefore wait for their second win at Highbury since 1985 but will hope to welcome **Sol Campbell** and **Sergei Rebrov** back for next week's repeat at Old Trafford.

This encounter was overshadowed by the tragic death earlier in the day from cancer of ex-England international **David Rocastle**, 33, who won two League championship medals with Arsenal before spells with Leeds, Manchester City and Chelsea. A minute's silence before kick-off in tribute to his memory was impeccably observed by both sets of fans.

- Manchester City got off to the ideal start against Aston Villa when **Shaun Goater** put them ahead after ten minutes. But the lead lasted less than two minutes, **Paul Merson** scoring an almost identical goal for Villa at the other end. Things continued to get worse for City when goalkeeper **Nicky Weaver's** blunder let **Dion Dublin** in to score. **Lee Hendrie** added a third in the second-half, when City's Australian midfielder **Danny Tiatto** was sent off for a second bookable offence.
- Coventry City managed their first win in 11 games when they beat Derby County 2-0 at home. Goals from **Mustapha Hadji** who was subsequently sent off for spitting at an opponent and **John Hartson** ensured that **Gordon Strachan's** side moved level on points with Manchester City.

- Bottom club Bradford City raced into a 2-0 lead against Newcastle United with goals from **David Weatherall** and **Robbie Blake** (from the penalty spot). But Newcastle, attempting to avoid a fifth defeat in six games, pulled a goal back through **Carl Cort** just before half-time. **Clarence Acuna** grabbed an equaliser for the Magpies with a late diving header.
- **Dean Windass** also scored with a diving header on his debut for Middlesbrough away to Chelsea. It pulled the score back to 1-1 after **Gianfranco Zola** had given the Blues a half-time lead with a header from a **Celestine Babayaro** cross. Boro's **Noel Whelan** gifted Chelsea all three points when his calamitous back-pass was gratefully collected by **Eidur Gudjohnsen**, who pushed it past **Mark Schwarzer** to score.
- West Ham United's season, which included a memorable FA Cup win at Old Trafford, is in danger of ending in tatters. The Londoners lost their fourth successive Premiership game, during which they have failed to score a goal, when Everton won 2-0 at Upton Park. **David Unsworth** scored from the subsequent penalty when **Stuart Pearce**, West Ham's veteran defender, was sent off for a high tackle on Everton debutant **Tony Hibbert**. **Paolo Di Canio** was fortunate not to join Pearce on a red card for his histrionic protests. Instead he received a yellow. The Hammers threw men forward in an attempt to get back into the game, but were caught on the break towards the end when **Duncan Ferguson** found **Niclas Alexandersson**, who netted his first goal for the Toffees.

*Playing Sunday: Charlton Athletic v Leicester City*

*Playing Monday: Southampton v Ipswich Town*

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