



It's Arsenal's crown as king Thomas

THE GREATEST



SKIP TO IT!

ARSENAL skipper Tony Adams keeps out Liverpool's ace striker Ian Rush in the championship thriller at Anfield last night

Graham night of triumph

Liverpool 0, Arsenal 2

ARSENAL last night pulled off a soccer miracle to deny Kenny Dalglish a place in history.

Dalglish was bidding to become the first manager to win the double twice, following his triumph three years ago.

Instead, in one of the most dramatic climaxes to any championship season, the Gunners proved they are worthy champions.

The North London glory boys stole the title from the clutches of the FA Cup winners with almost the last kick of this sensational and traumatic season.

Michael Thomas, who had earlier missed a golden chance, made no mistake with an injury-time goal that put the two giants level on points and goal difference, with the Gunners taking the title by scoring more goals.

Thrown

George Graham's team seemed to have thrown the championship away at least twice in recent months, but their 73 goals outstripped Liverpool's 65.

It is 90 years since two teams last went into the final match each with a realistic chance of taking the title. And this time the exhilarating climax was shared by millions of TV viewers.

ITV are paying £50 million for an exclusive contract and they got their money's worth as Arsenal clinched their first title for 18 years — the last time their current manager Graham was in their line-up.

At 10.19 last night, Graham walked off the Anfield pitch with the championship trophy firmly in his grasp, writing his name in the Highbury Hall of Fame just as he always wanted to do.

Graham had joined in Arsenal's lap of honour as some of the Arsenal players broke down with tears of joy, while some Liverpool players wept in despair.

Many Liverpool supporters stayed on the Kop to sportingly applaud the new champions as the Arsenal fans sang "You'll Never Walk Alone" and triumphantly chanted "Champions".

They also mockingly bellowed "Boring, boring, Arsenal", sarcastically.

SPORTS SUMMARY

BARCLAYS LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION

Liverpool..... (0) 0 Arsenal..... (0) 2
41,718 Smith, Thomas

INTERNATIONAL

N Ireland..... (0) 0 Chile..... (1) 1
2,500 Astengo

GREYHOUNDS

ROMFORD.— 7.30 Lesley Honey 3-1ff (2-1, £23.07), 7.45 Triumph 11-4f (3-6, £11.85), 8.00 Monroe Sailor 2-1f (4-5, £14.96), 8.16 Edwards Surprise 3-1 (2-3, £18.67), 8.32 Barrowboys Town 4-1 (3-6, £20.44), 8.48 Precious Chimes 100-30 (6-2, £20.56), 9.04 Silks Parade 4-1 (6-4, £35.31), 9.21 Peer Farm 4-1 (2-5, £28.03), 9.39 Boris Nap 5-2f (1-3, £14.53), 9.56 Ballymogh Lad 10-11f (1-3, £8.44), 10.13 River Loch 5-4 (1-2, £6.25), Nrs: King Paddy (3), Orlas Wish (6), 10.30 Wellview Wendy 12-1 (5-1, £54.60).

WEMBLEY.— 7.30 Quality Prince 4-1 (1-5, £20.44), 7.45 Florin Bob 6-1 (6-1, £32.32), 8.01 Fargo 5-4f (6-4, £8.72), 8.17 Moon Sapphire 11-4 (6-2, £8.22), Nr: My Tex (1), 8.33 Peaceful Hero 4-1 (1-5, £49.01), 8.49 Premier Prince 9-2 (1-2, £22.78), 9.05 Daleys Sail 10-11f (2-4, £5.83), 9.22 Quainton Lane 9-2 (3-2, £22.78), 9.39 Botany Girl 8-1 (1-6, £17.01), 9.56 Kingswell Rover 2-1f (4-5, £22.01), 10.13 Lucky Reflection 8-1 (3-1, £25.91), 10.30 Parks Pleasure 6-1 (3-5, £26.88).

WIMBLEDON.— 7.30 Mick And Dick

7-2 (3-2, £9.25), 7.45 Halfway Gate 2-1ff (5-1, £3.27), 5-3, £7.48), 8.00 Personal Views 9-2 (5-1, £9.45), 8.15 Lulus Zola evensf (2-5, £12.54), 8.30 Fancy Note 9-4f (2-1, £25.60), 8.45 Cloverhill June 5-1 (6-4, £58.01), 9.00 Rathbeg Sue 10-1 (1-2, £29.59), Nrs: Sunny Outlook (3), 9.15 Chicita Banana 1-2f (6-4, £8.30), 9.30 Sign On Fisher 4-1 (3-1, £11.01), 9.45 Cygnet Man 5-2 (3-1, £14.53), 10.00 Domalle 2-1f (6-2, £17.01), 10.15 Diamond Lady 3-1 (3-4, £11.10).

PONTEFRAC T: Good to firm

6.45: CHAMPAGNE GOLD (T Ives, 5-2f) 1; Croft Imperial (4-1) 2; Tadeus (9-2) 3, 5 ran, 2/2, 2 (Dennis Smith) Tote: £3.10; £1.50, £1.90; Df: £3.50; Csf: £11.25.

7.10: MY DIAMOND RING (R Fox, 6-10) 1; Chic-Anita (20-1) 2; My Concorde (20-1) 3; Welfie (9-1) 4, 21 ran, 1/2, 1/2 (M Usher) Tote: £5.30; £1.90, £2.90, £3.30, £2.30; Df: £49.60; Csf: £112.93; Tricast: £2,057.06. Nr: Cre-tan Boy.

7.35: ROSEATE LODGE (W Carson, 11-100) 1; Mystery Band (10-1) 2; Choral Sundown (9-2) 3; Bachelor's Pet (50-1) 4, 16 ran, 4, sh hd (J Watts) Tote: £2.40; £1.10, £1.90, £1.60, £10.50; Df: £11.60; Csf: £15.64; Tricast: £45.60.

8.05: REGAL REFORM (Dean McKeown, 9-1) 1; Austhorpe Sunset (4-1) 2; Sunset Reins Free (11-1) 3; Quip (33-1) 4, Amazing Silks 4ff 17 ran, 6, 1/2 (G Moore) Tote: £11.10; £1.80, £1.60, £3.60, £4.70; Df: £28.20; Csf: £45.08; Tricast: £376.68. Nr: Dual Capacity.

8.35: DOWLEY (Paul Eddery, 11-2) 1; Polar Boy (8-150) 2; Petavious (33-1) 3, 9 ran, 1/2, 10 (G Wragg) Tote: £5.80; £1.50, £1.10, £3.20; Df: £2.70; Csf: £8.28. Nr: Bluebird Lady.

9.05: PRINGIPOULA (W Swinburn, 4-1) 1; Green's Seascope (6-4) 2; Aquatic (13-2) 3, 9 ran, 6, sh hd (C Brittain) Tote: £5.10; £1.90, £1.20, £2.20; Df: £4.00; Csf: £9.89.

Placepot: £21.50

GOLF

VOLVO PGA CH'SHIP.— (Wentworth) 1st rnd leaders (GB & Ire unless stated): 67— N Faldo, 1 Woodsman; 68— P Curry, B Ogle (Aus), C Parry (Aus); 69— M Roe, B Longmuir, N Hansen, C Mason; 70— J Anglada (Spn), J Morgan, S Lyle, M McNulty (Zim), B Lane, A Murray, A Saavedra (Arg), R McFarlane, J Bland (SA).

Ace Pat sacked

By IAN GIBB

● PAT VAN DEN HAUWE was sacked by Wales last night — and manager Terry Yorath stormed: "He'll never play for me again."

● Van Den Hauwe, one of Everton's best players in last Saturday's FA Cup final defeat by Liverpool, is struggling with a hamstring injury.

● But Wales boss Yorath is fuming that he wasn't told early enough before Wednesday's World Cup qualifying game against West Germany at Cardiff.

● Yorath raged: "He has let down his country. This is not something a player can do and expect to get picked again."

● Wales will be left disastrously short of a top class player against West Germany in a game they must win.

CHELSEA PENSION

By IAN GIBB

STAMFORD BRIDGE boss Bobby Campbell can stay at Chelsea until he draws his pension, says chairman Ken Bates.

Following the club's glorious return to the First Division Bates has told Campbell: "You've got a job for life — if you want."

Campbell has been awarded a new improved deal from July 1 — on top of his two-year contract agreed before Chelsea's relegation last season.

His record reads 30 wins and 17 draws in 54



CAMPBELL: Offer

games, with 104 goals scored.

Campbell's No.2 Ian Porterfield is also rewarded with a new three-year deal.

Chairman Bates said: "What Bobby has done so far speaks for itself."

Palace storm

● CRYSTAL Palace have upset Blackburn by switching the home leg of their Second Division play-off final for a second time.

● Originally set for Saturday June 3, it was put back 24 hours because it clashed with England's World Cup tie against Poland at Wembley.

● But it has now reverted to the Saturday on police advice.

● Rovers boss Don Mackay said: "I don't know what Palace are playing at. We could well do without this hassle."

● Yesterday Mackay complained to the Football League and was astonished to find that they were unaware of the latest move.

TODAY'S SOCCER
ROUS CUP
Scotland v England.....
(Hampden Park, 3.00)

'The

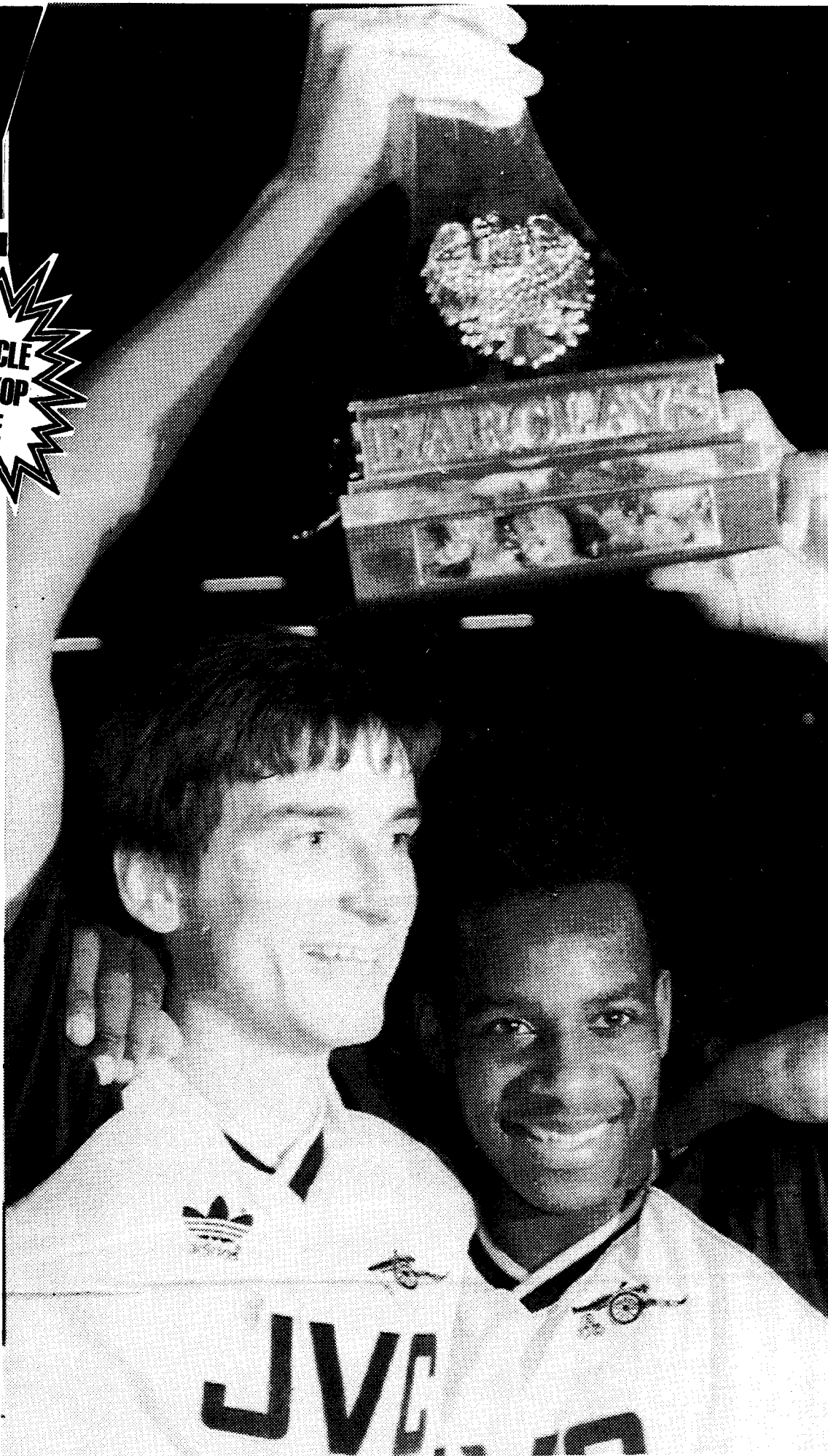
flattens sad Liverpool in injury time



STORY

EVER

TOLD!



CHAMPION! Alan Smith (left) and Michael Thomas get their reward.

By **HARRY HARRIS**

cally turning on everyone who has accused them of negative tactics.

The Gunners have won the championship by scoring eight more goals than Liverpool, with Graham putting the emphasis on entertaining football.

Arsenal dropped home points against Sheffield Wednesday, Millwall, Nottingham Forest and Charlton, but really looked to have thrown away the title with self-inflicted wounds — squandering five points in their last two Highbury games, losing to Derby and drawing with Wimbledon.

Spirit

When Liverpool thumped West Ham 5-1 to send the East Enders down, no-one gave the Gunners a prayer of winning by two.

They had not scored two goals at Anfield since 1974, when Alan Ball scored twice and Liam Brady once. They had lost their last seven First Division games here.

There were more omens in Liverpool's favour. John Aldridge and Ian Rush had never been on a losing side in partnership, while goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar had not been on a losing

side in 28 games this season, keeping 13 clean sheets.

It was stacked against Arsenal, but there was an amazing spirit within the camp. They actually believed they could pull it off.

Graham said before the game he was very optimistic. David Rocastle revealed that none of the players was frightened by the daunting task ahead of them.

Even without two of their best players, Brian Marwood and Paul Davis, Arsenal clinched their ninth championship with a remarkable performance.

They strode out with each player holding a bouquet which they presented to the fans.

The Gunners were determined not to leave Anfield empty-handed, while Liverpool were favourites to add the title to the FA Cup they had won at Wembley by overwhelming Everton in another exciting match.

Graham began the game sitting in the directors' box alongside his chairman Peter Hill-Wood and vice-chairman David Dein.

By the start of the second half he was down on the bench.

The Gunners might have taken an early goal

when a cross from Thomas was misjudged by Grobbelaar and Steve Bould's header was goal-bound until Steve Nicol headed it over his own bar.

Although Bould was recalled as Graham gambled by reinstating his sweeper system, Arsenal were always ready to attack.

A breakthrough goal after 52 minutes, 13 seconds put the championship on a knife-edge.

Liverpool skipper Ronnie Whelan fouled Rocastle and Nigel Winterburn's free-kick was headed into the corner by Alan Smith.

Booked

Liverpool fervently protested that Smith's 25th goal of the season — his 23rd in the League — should not have counted because referee David Hutchinson had raised his arm for an indirect free kick and the Liverpool camp were insistent that Smith had not got a touch.

Dalglish was on the touchline as both sets of players surrounded the referee in his consultations with the linesman. But the goal was given and suddenly Arsenal took total command.

Thomas stabbed a 74th minute chance created by Kevin Richardson straight at Grobbelaar from close range, and Arsenal's hopes seemed to falter.

Graham pulled off Paul Merson, bringing on Martin Hayes. A few minutes later he brought off Bould, substituting him with Perry Groves.

Richardson was booked for a foul on

Ray Houghton and Rocastle was shown the yellow card for dissent.

Houghton was put in the clear by Aldridge with just seven minutes to go, but blasted his shot over when he could have picked his spot.

As the minutes ticked away, Arsenal were so much on the offensive that John Barnes was forced to play centre-half, heading out a Groves cross as Liverpool were pinned back in their own half.

Liverpool broke and Beardsley and Aldridge faced just one defender. But Aldridge, with 29 goals this season, lacked the technique to control the ball as it bounced away from him.

As the game spilled into injury time Barnes robbed Arsenal skipper Tony Adams, setting off on a dribble which never came off. Lukic threw the ball out to Lee Dixon, his long ball was knocked on by Smith and there was Thomas in the clear.

Thomas had so much

space and time it seemed to take an eternity before he struck the championship-deciding shot past a helpless Grobbelaar.

Aldridge dropped to his knees, Barnes lay on his back and David O'Leary was in tears. The Gunners' longest-serving player had finally tasted championship success.

The Barclays title comes to London and no one in the 41,718 crowd or the millions watching at home can begrudge the Gunners their greatest triumph.

MIRACLE

● From Back Page

match because although it was hard it was never a dirty game.

"Thomas got our vital goal and he deserves an awful lot of credit. He has grown up in the latter part of the season not only as a player but also as a man."

Thomas said: "I can't put it into words exactly how I feel. It is just so wonderful for everybody that we did it in style."

"It is tremendous to score a goal like that, but most of all it was a team performance tonight and to think that no-one gave us a chance makes it even sweeter."

players were weeping tears of joy'