

Date: 26 November 1988 Opposition: Wimbledon Competition: League	Times			26 November 1988

# THE TIMES

## Wimbledon show their better side

Liverpool 1 Wimbledon 1

Wimbledon, who are the enfants terribles of English football, took another determined stride towards respectability at Anfield on Saturday.

No doubt mindful that their defeat of their opponents in the FA Cup final ensured a welcome bereft of any warmth, Wimbledon were, for the most part, on their best behaviour.

The sight of Fashanu constantly retrieving the ball after misdemeanours and Jones smiling engagingly at his accusers was hardly in keeping with the club's philistine image and it was possibly this display of over-politeness which so infuriated sections of the crowd, for many were clearly disappointed that the shedding of blood was kept to a bare minimum.

The fear that the referee, John Key, who was particularly unsympathetic to the Wimbledon cause, would transform a sparring match into a bare knuckle fight by awarding an unjust penalty was always there but barring his intervention a goalless draw seemed assured.

It was fitting that the game's one moment of genuine class should result in the opening goal.

Whelan, faced by an unyielding wall of human flesh, laced a superb pass between a scrum of defenders straight into the path of Houghton, who drove in a shot of such uncanny accuracy that it grazed both post and crossbar en route to its destination.

The pedestrian football which followed that sublime moment suggested that Liverpool would be happy with a narrow win and Wimbledon with a narrow defeat.

It was only as the game neared its climax that the visitors began to stir.

A remarkable save by Hooper denied Sanchez in the 87th minute but a matter of a few seconds later Wimbledon drew level.

Jones's long throw was headed up into the air by McMahon and as the Wimbledon forwards advanced, Nicol, the game's outstanding individual, inexplicably hooked the ball into his own net.

LIVERPOOL: M Hooper; G Ablett, B Venison, S Nicol, R Whelan, N Spackman, P Beardsley, S Staunton, I Rush (sub: J Aldridge), R Houghton, S McMahon.

WIMBLEDON: H Segers; R Joseph, J Scales, V Jones, E Young, K Curle, C Fairweather (sub: A Clement), T Gibson (sub: A Cork), J Fashanu, L Sanchez, D Wise.

Referee: J Key.