

LIVERPOOL 2

Angry Souness

SORRY, DUCHESS

By RICHARD TANNER

● WE'VE won the Cup! Ian Rush and Michael Thomas celebrate after the red-hot pair had grabbed the goals to sink Sunderland.

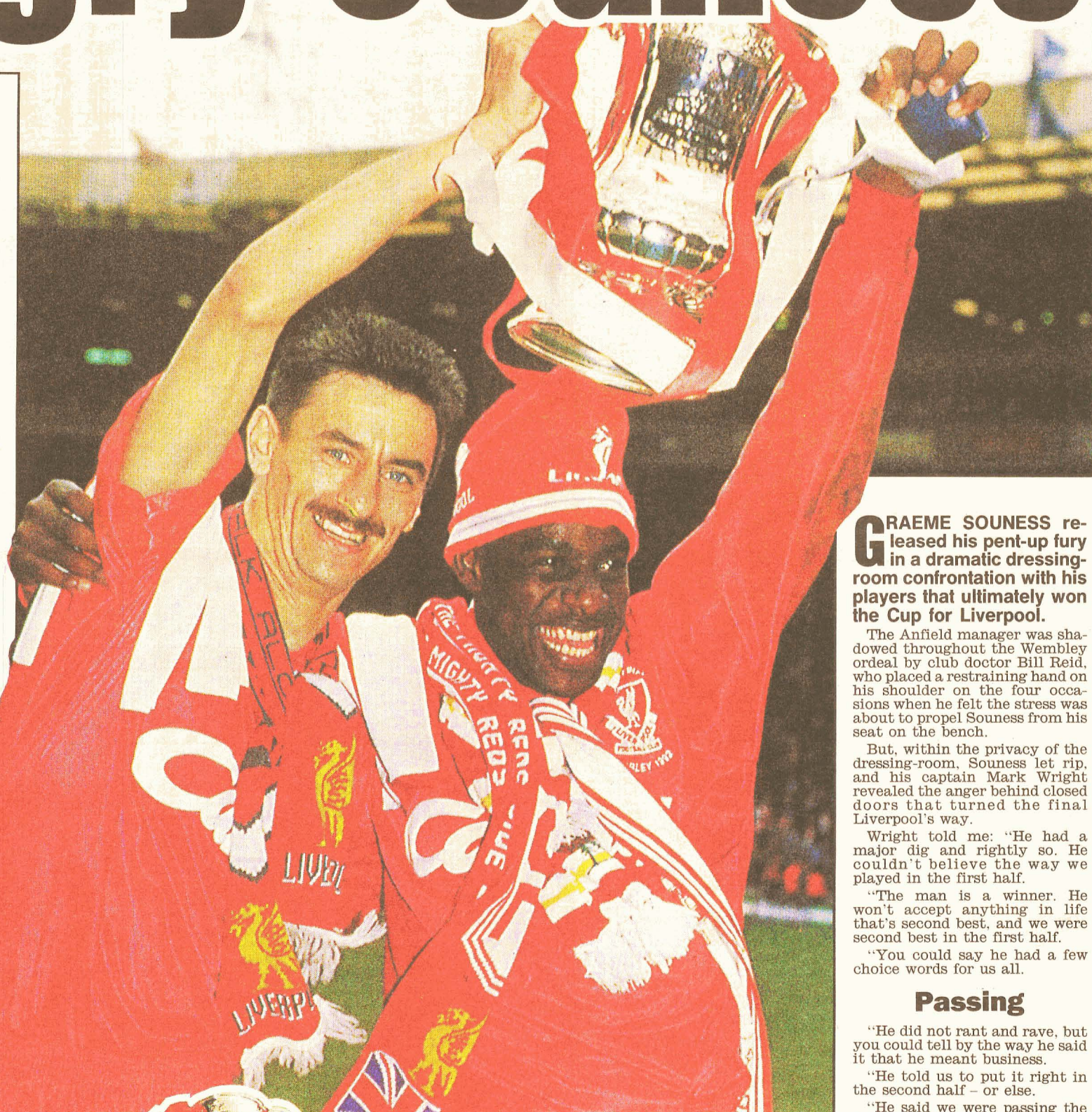
● But below, it was red-faced Liverpool skipper Mark Wright who had to say sorry to the Duchess of Kent at Wembley on Saturday - after swearing loudly in front of her!

● As Wright collected the FA Cup from the Duchess in the Royal Box he turned to show the trophy to the fans and shouted: "You f*****g beauty."

● Embarrassed Wright said last night: "I did swear and I apologised to the Royalty behind me. I just got carried away because it was the best moment in my career. Absolutely brilliant."

● It was the first time that England international Wright, 28, had won a winners' medal in any competition.

● And he also broke with tradition to pass the trophy down the line so that his pal and former Derby teammate Dean Saunders could hold the Cup aloft.



GRAEME SOUNESS released his pent-up fury in a dramatic dressing-room confrontation with his players that ultimately won the Cup for Liverpool.

The Anfield manager was shadowed throughout the Wembley ordeal by club doctor Bill Reid, who placed a restraining hand on his shoulder on the four occasions when he felt the stress was about to propel Souness from his seat on the bench.

But, within the privacy of the dressing-room, Souness let rip, and his captain Mark Wright revealed the anger behind closed doors that turned the final Liverpool's way.

Wright told me: "He had a major dig and rightly so. He couldn't believe the way we played in the first half."

"The man is a winner. He won't accept anything in life that's second best, and we were second best in the first half."

"You could say he had a few choice words for us all."

Passing

"He did not rant and rave, but you could tell by the way he said it that he meant business."

"He told us to put it right in the second half - or else."

"He said we were passing the ball too slowly, and we were not closing down the opposition. We had come here to win the Cup but Sunderland had edged the first half."

"Graeme Souness is a hard man, and his dressing-room lecture was hard. But the talk by both Graeme and Ronnie Moran did us the world of good."

"After the game, the boss said that was the way he wanted us to play all the time."

Wright also disclosed how the mere presence of Souness gave him an extra incentive to deliver the FA Cup to Anfield.

Wright explained: "He showed tremendous character and strength to even turn up."

"He has been with us all the way through the final build-up, although he felt it was too much for him to lead us out."

"But the mere fact he turned up lifted me, and I am sure it did



SUNDERLAND



Won us the Cup!



BASIC INSTINCT: Ian Rush demonstrates his goalscorer's art to perfection once again with the killer second to see off Sunderland

Picture: ALBERT COOPER

Says MARK WRIGHT

By HARRY HARRIS

the same for the rest of the team.

Souness, a mere 32 days after undergoing a triple heart bypass operation followed by complications that needed more surgery, emerged at the tail-end of his team, flanked by the club doctor and physio Paul Chadwick.

Souness stopped by the touchline and sang the national anthem, then took his place on the bench, turning for a brief wave.

Club doctor Reid sat directly behind him.

When the Duchess of Kent had performed the preliminaries, she spotted Souness, walked off and shook his hand and sat down for a brief chat. Ronnie Moran, who led out the team in his Cup final suit, dashed off to change to baseball cap and tracksuit, then sat beside Souness.

Headlock

Souness could resist for no more than 24 minutes, at which point he leapt to his feet to yell advice and also to feel the tap on the shoulder from Doc Reid.

Dr Reid told me: "You saw the man - he was as cool as a cucumber."

But the Liverpool doctor also put Souness in what was described as a "gentle headlock" to keep the Anfield boss from leaping to his feet after the magnificent opening goal by Michael Thomas.

Souness later rose from the bench during the second half to shout to his skipper Wright, and this time the doctor, with his arm on Souness' shoulder, persuaded him to sit down. Souness

waved to the fans who chanted his name when they spotted him on his feet.

At the final whistle, Souness finally shook off the doctor, and strode proudly on to the pitch to exchange kisses and hugs with all his players, and to embrace Moran.

Jan Molby came down the Wembley stairs with the FA Cup and handed it to Souness, who planted a kiss. Clough-style, on the trophy.

Young Steve McManaman's dribble and flick to Thomas produced the strike in the 46th minute when the ex-Arsenal star turned a scorching volley into the top corner.

John Barnes stood up and applauded McManaman, the player who took his place in the team.

Meanwhile, Souness was trying desperately to sit still, the doctor whispering in his ear.

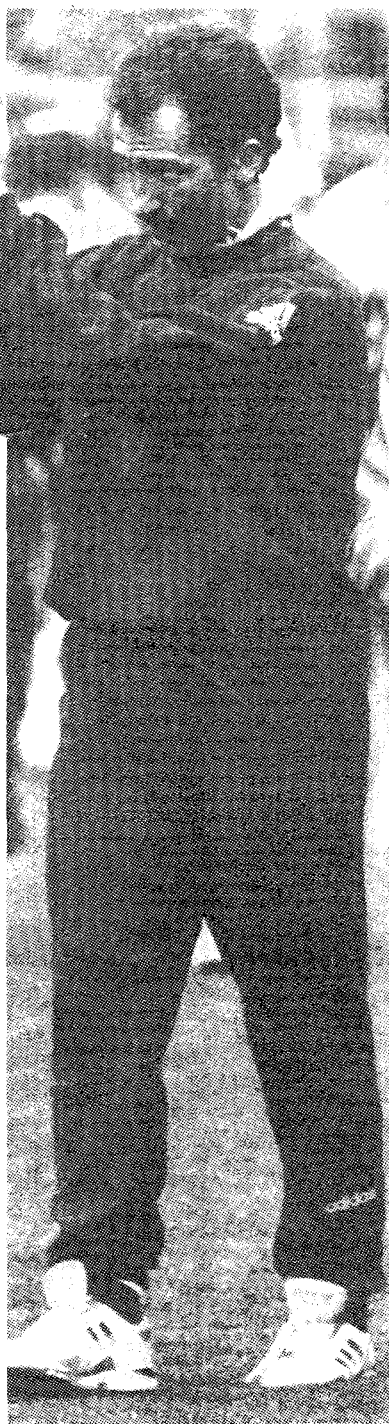
Finally, Ian Rush claimed his first FA Cup goal this season, but it was his fifth in an FA Cup final and the 38th Cup goal of his career, leaving him just three short of Denis Law's all-time record.

It was a sleek 67th minute move involving Ray Houghton, Dean Saunders and Thomas, culminating in a Rush slide-rule shot into the corner.

But yesterday Rush cast doubts on whether he would still be with Liverpool next season.

He said: "I know my contract finishes on June 30 and anything could happen. I'm still in negotiations and nothing has been sorted out."

"The club has got to be the love of my life, but love affairs do come to an end sometimes."



Taylor's warning

From back page

make a great thing about it."

I understand Wright wanted a full discussion with Souness on Saturday night to push his request to join up with England.

Even though Wright would seem a certain starter after his World Cup heroics, he does not take anything for granted and wanted to be in Hungary.

Wright has missed a number of England games through injury, while Jones made an impressive debut against France.

Gary Stevens abandoned Glasgow Rangers Scottish Cup celebrations to make yesterday's 2pm deadline at Luton airport.

Stevens re-emerged in Moscow last month as a valid rival to Jones for the right-back spot.

Jones is nursing a shin injury and Taylor, who has been anxious to play him a second time, said: "I am more concerned

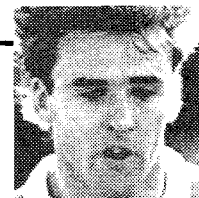
about his shin problem." Trevor Steven and David Platt will join up with the England party when they return from Budapest, along with Wright and Jones, for the final build-up match against Brazil at Wembley on Sunday before Taylor names his party of 20 for Sweden.

Tony Dorigo, David Batty and John Lukic opted to celebrate Leeds championship triumph, missing the match in Moscow against the CIS, but Batty and Dorigo get another chance against Hungary.

"The Leeds players won the championship and I understood the emotion of it," explained Taylor. "They wanted to be part of that, and it did not prevent me bringing Batty and Dorigo into this trip."

Meanwhile, Taylor is concerned about Barnes' general fitness.

"I want to have a good, long talk with John about his whole general condition," said Taylor.



BYRNE: Missed

Byrne's blunder

By NIGEL CLARKE

JOHN Byrne's Wembley memory is of the chance that got away - the chance that could have changed the face of the Cup final.

He had a clear chance but mis-kicked with the goal yawning before him and admitted: "I should have scored but it won't prey on my mind and I don't blame myself. But it was a vital chance."

"When the ball came, I was in two minds. I didn't know whether to head it or volley it."

But the striker who had scored in every round up to the final added: "Liverpool were great. They are one of the best sides in Europe."

"But we are a side not far short of being a good one."

Board backs Graeme

From Back Page

selling the story of his heart by-pass story to The Sun.

And they will want assurances that he is not planning to continue his association with a news-

paper reviled throughout Merseyside for its coverage of the Hillsborough disaster.

Souness admitted at the weekend: "I have always owned up if I felt I made a mistake, and

this time I made a mistake."

Liverpool will also insist chief coach Ronnie Moran, who led the team out at Wembley, continues his 43-year connection with the club.