

# THE BIG ACTION

# PREMIER

# KOPS AND

**MY SPORTING Life**

The stars reveal their secrets to **MIRROR SPORT**  
This week **ROBBIE FOWLER**

## 'Growler' roars on Everton!

**NAME:** Robbie Bernard Fowler.  
**BIRTH DATE:** April 9 1975.  
**BIRTH PLACE:** Liverpool.  
**PARENTS:** Dad Robbie, mum Marie.  
**BROTHERS AND SISTERS:** I have an elder sister, Lisa, 21, and two younger brothers, Anthony, 14, and Scott who is six.  
**HOME:** I live at home with my family in a three-bedroomed detached house in Toxteth.  
**CAR:** I got rid of my ten-year-old Ford Escort after getting into the first team and now drive a sponsored Volkswagen Passat.  
**NICKNAME:** God or Growler.  
**FAVOURITES:**  
**TV SHOW:** Only Fools and Horses.  
**MUSIC:** Soul, Rap, Garage.  
**SONG:** Take My Breath Away by Berlin.  
**FOOD:** Chinese.  
**FILM:** Cocktail, Demolition Man and Indecent Proposal.  
**FILM ACTOR:** Tom Cruise, Wesley Snipes.  
**FILM ACTRESS:** Demi Moore.  
**HOLIDAY RESORT:** Ayia Napa in Cyprus.  
**SOAP:** Neighbours.  
**BOOK:** Paul McGrath's autobiography.  
**FAVOURITE TEAM AS A BOY:** Everton.  
**EARLY SOCCER HEROES:** Graeme Sharp and Trevor Steven of the great Everton team of the mid 1980s.  
**BEST PLAYER YOU HAVE PLAYED WITH:** It's between team mates John Barnes, Ian Rush and Jamie Redknapp.  
**CAREER HIGHLIGHTS:** Scoring five goals to equal a Liverpool record in the Coca-Cola Cup against Fulham, plus scoring the winner in the last Merseyside derby to be played in front of the Kop last season.  
**BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT:** Breaking my leg last season when things were going really well for me.  
**BIGGEST INFLUENCE:** My dad.  
**TOUGHEST OPPONENT:** Tony Adams.  
**BEST GOAL:** Final day of last season at Aston Villa when I beat a defender, played a one-two with Ian Rush, and dummied another man and shot into the far corner.  
**WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF YOU WERE NOT A FOOTBALLER:** PE teacher.  
**ROOM-MATE ON AWAY TRIPS:** Nigel Clough.  
**MOST TREASURED POSSESSION:** Medals from European Under-18 Championships and Under-21 Toulon Tournament with England and the three match balls I've got for scoring hat-tricks with Liverpool.  
**ODDEST PIECE OF TRAINING:** Liverpool's reserve team coach Sammy Lee once made us play a game without a ball - that was very strange.  
**FAVOURITE AWAY GROUND:** Old Trafford.  
**WORST AWAY GROUND:** Ashton Gate where I broke my leg.  
**IF YOU COULD HAVE A MEAL WITH ANYONE IN THE WORLD WHO WOULD IT BE:** Helena Christensen, the model girlfriend of INXS singer Michael Hutchence.  
**WHAT UPSETS YOU MORE THAN ANYTHING:** Cheats in football. People who dive around and feign injury.  
**WHAT'S YOUR IDEAL WAY TO RELAX:** Golf. I've only been playing three months but I've got the bug.  
**WHAT ARE YOUR AMBITIONS AWAY FROM FOOTBALL:** To be financially secure and be able to look after my family.  
**WHICH TV PROGRAMME MAKES YOU INSTANTLY CHANGE CHANNELS:** Anything with Mr Blobby in it.  
**HAVE YOU ANY ANNOYING HABITS:** Ask Nigel Clough.



## THREE CHEERS



**BRILLIANT** Robbie Fowler (above) latches on to the loose ball to fire home his first goal against Arsenal from 10 yards after 26 minutes. Then just three minutes later the Kop wonder kid was celebrating again (below) after grabbing a coolly-taken second.

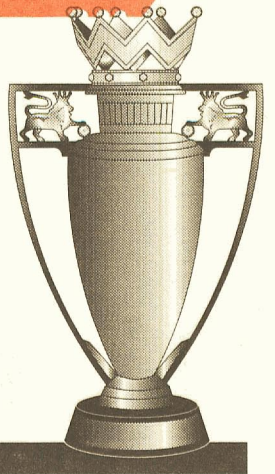
Pictures: ALBERT COOPER





# SPECIAL THE BIG ACTION

# ROB-BERS!



## Fowler's wonder hat-trick

**Liverpool 3, Arsenal 0**

**ROBBIE FOWLER** exploded a 273-second time bomb under Arsenal yesterday to write himself another chapter in the Anfield record books.

That was the time he took to grab the fastest hat-trick in Liverpool's history.

It left George Graham's Gunners with the dazed faces of survivors of an incendiary blast — while rejuvenated Liverpool were left rejoicing in an explosive start to the season.

Two wins and nine goals have made a mockery of the bookies odds of 18-1 against the Merseysiders winning the title.

No-one at Anfield was shouting too loudly after their 6-1 win at newly-promoted Crystal Palace last week. But this emphatic

ROBBIE Fowler's hat-trick against Arsenal, timed at 4 minutes 33 seconds, is not the fastest in top-flight English League football. That honour is shared by John McIntyre, who netted three in three minutes (and four in five minutes) for Blackburn against Everton on September 16, 1922, and Graham Leggat who scored three in three minutes for Fulham against Ipswich on Boxing Day, 1963. The fastest hat-trick in all divisions was by Jimmy Scarth, who hit three in two-and-a-half minutes for Gillingham against Leyton Orient in the Third Division South on November 1, 1952.

victory against one of the fancied teams will make more than a few people sit up and take notice that the Merseysiders appear to be back in the groove.

And with World Cup defender Phil Babb set to complete his £3.5m move from Coventry this week, all of a sudden there's a fresh optimism at Anfield after three years of decline.

Certainly with Fowler in the side anything looks possible.

The 19-year-old's lightning start to the season might tempt Terry Venables to hand him a shock call-up to his first England squad of the season.

His treble continued a remarkable hot-streak which has now yielded 11 goals in his last six appearances — seven of them in Liverpool's final four warm-up games before one at Selhurst Park on the opening day.

Yesterday's treble was the fourth of his first-team career, including one against Hertha Berlin last month, and it went like this:

● 26 minutes: Fowler struck from eight yards after a Jamie Redknapp free-kick had bounced into his path off Ian Rush.

● 29 minutes: the best of the three followed a sweeping



MAKE MINE A TRIPLE! Fowler cracks home his third despite Nigel Winterburn's despairing lunge

**By RICHARD TANNER**

move started by Redknapp and continued by Steve McManaman. He fed Fowler on the left hand side of the penalty area.

Fowler's first touch looked to have ruined the chance but he somehow screwed a shot through Lee Dixon's legs and in off the far post.

● 31 minutes: John Barnes sent Fowler through and after his first shot hit David Seaman, the rebound fell kindly for him to control the ball and tap in to an empty net from the tightest of angles.

They were the only three chances that fell to Fowler — but they were all he needed.

Boss Roy Evans knows he has a real gem in his ranks — that's why he has dangled an improved four-year contract worth £1m in front of him.

But Evans will also be pleased by yesterday's all-round team performance.

### Hungry

He inherited a collection of ageing stars, expensive buys and talented youngsters last February — and has welded them into an effective, fighting unit.

Fowler, Rush and McManaman — handed a free-running role — ran Arsenal ragged at times.

John Barnes, leaner and hun-

grier than last season, showed he can still have a part to play in Liverpool's future with a hard-working midfield performance, illuminated by some killing passes.

Young midfielder Redknapp underlined why he is likely to gain promotion from the Under-21 team to the senior England squad this week.

And at the back, Neil Ruddock and Steve Nicol made people wonder why Liverpool are so keen to smash the British transfer record for a defender to get Babb.

The only blot on Liverpool's day was the knee injury that cut short Jan Molby's comeback.

Arsenal, missing the injured Steve Bould and lacking sharpness, can console themselves that they won't meet Fowler every week.

## Uwe time

**By KEN LAWRENCE**  
Man City 4, Everton 0

**UWE ROSLER** last night paid tribute to the man who took time out from defeat to make sure Manchester City's new cult figure didn't choke to death.

The German striker was stunned to learn that, just three minutes after he had put Manchester City on the road to a stunning win, he was given dramatic first aid by Everton defender David Unsworth.

Rosler, Maine Road's answer to Jurgen Klinsmann, crumpled in a heap after a clash of heads with Dave Watson.

As referee Philip Don first played on, England Youth star Unsworth rushed to Rosler's aid, turning the German star on to his side, before making sure his breathing was normal.

And Rosler, whose glorious double took his tally to eight goals in 15 matches for City, declared: "It was a bit of a shock to be thanked by David from the bottom of my heart."

"I had no idea this happened. I remember going up with the player — and then nothing, not for at least ten seconds. I was unconscious, I think. But what the Everton player did was a true gesture of sportsmanship."

**Signing**  
After a few moments Rosler was back tormenting an Everton side that was later locked into the dressing room and rolled back by boss Mike Walker.

Paul Walsh also contributed two goals for City — all were spectacular.

Walker revealed later he had completed the signing of Nigerian World Cup striker Daniel Amokachi for £3million.

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## Press gang

**KEVIN PRESSMAN** erased the painful memory of letting in seven goals in five days by casting further dark clouds over Wimbledon's future.

The Wednesday goalkeeper's performance surely offered him another invite into the England squad Terry Venables names tomorrow. But he was also helped by atrocious finishing from a Wimbledon forward line missing the transferred John Fashanu and the injured Dean Holdsworth and Robbie Earle. Boss Joe Kinnear has to make-do and mend when injuries

**By TONY STENSON**  
Wim'don 0, Sheff Wed 1

bite but the buzz that's Wimbledon trade-mark is missing at the moment.

"Things will get better. I am sure they will," said Kinnear after learning that £3million-rated defender John Scales has joined his injury list and is doubtful for the clash with Manchester United on Wednesday.

Wednesday won with a 76th minute strike from Gordon Watson, virtually his first touch of the ball since arriving as substitute four minutes earlier.