

Date: 18 March 1987 Opposition: Queens Park Rangers Competition: League	Times			18 March 1987
<div><div>THETIMES</div><p>Rush passes 200 mark to put Liverpool nine points clear Liverpool 2 QPR 1</p><p>The issue raised again at Anfield last night was not so much what will Liverpool achieve this season as what they will achieve next season without Ian Rush. If ever a player won a game on his own then Rush did with two goals that took him past the 200-goal landmark and dragged Liverpool by their collars into a seemingly unassailable ninepoint lead at the head of the championship.</p><p>Any encouragement that their chief rivals, Everton, Arsenal and Tottenham Hotspur, might have got from this uninspiring performance by the champions was offset by the frightening form of Rush who struck with unfaltering accuracy. If his colleagues had settled for the draw which Queen's Park Rangers thoroughly deserved Rush clearly had not when Grobbelaar booted the ball upfield in the 72nd minute. It was helped on by Aldridge, the second half substitute, who could only stand and ogle at the goal-scoring machine he is expected to replace next season when Rush takes his extraordinary talent to Italy.</p><p>Minutes earlier McDonald had dragged Rush to the floor with some ugly professionalism which rightly earned the Irish international a booking. This time, however, he could not even get within cursing distance as Rush burst away to score with an angled drive.</p><p>Now it is up to the likes of Gough and Mabbutt, the Tottenham Hotspur centre backs, to stop or slow down the goal rush. The Welshman's ratio of 201 goals in 321 games for the club says it all. It would be wrong, though, to suggest that he has done it all on his own. His 200th goal was a perfect example of Liverpool knowing their man intimately. Venison knew exactly what was expected of him in the 19th minute when Rush veered away from a centrally positioned Rangers defender leaving him to mark nothing more relevant than blades of grass. When the cross came over to the far post there was Rush waiting for his connection which he mistimed but still beat Seaman.</p><p>Rangers jolted the champions with some adventurous football while still holding firm at the back. Even before they went ahead in the seventeenth minute they might have scored twice through the efforts of the slender Fereday. His cross in the first minute almost produced an own-goal off the startled Whelan and then later tested the remarkable agility of Grobbelaar with a wicked swerving drive from 25 yards which the Liverpool goalkeeper plucked from the air and pinned to earth like a world class slip fielder. Grobbelaar, however, would have needed a springboard to reach Fillery's header from Neill's long searching cross in the nineteenth minute.</p><p>Now 12 games without defeat Liverpool are moving as surely towards the championship, if not another double, as Rush is, sadly, to Juventus.</p><p>LIVERPOOL: B Grobbelaar; N Spackman, B Venison, M Lawrenson, R Whelan, A Hansen, P Walsh, C Johnston, I Rush, J Molby, J Wark (sub: J Aldridge).</p><p>QUEEN'S PARK RANGERS: D Seaman; W Neill, R James, S Lee, A McDonald, T Fenwick, M Allen, M Fillery, G Bannister, J Byrne (sub: C Walker), W Fereday.</p><p>Referee: K Baker.</p></div>				