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Liverpool sound a familiar warning

Coventry 1 Liverpool 4

Every season, Liverpool test our power of faith, and every season, many of us are found wanting. We search them for an imaginary flaw that will make this season different. But, of course, it seldom ever is.

Over the years, the loss of Keegan, Souness, and, in effect, Dalglish, have each supplied excuses for backing someone else. But, somehow, they have nearly always plugged the gap. Such facts were overlooked at the start of this season and Rush's departure to Juventus. I have news for the non-believers: Liverpool are dead, long live Liverpool.

The new Liverpool laid claim to the throne at Coventry on Saturday with an awe-inspiring performance. Heaven help the rest when they start playing at home after September 12.

The arrival of Barnes has brought a new width to Liverpool's game that is reminiscent of the days of Callaghan, Thompson and Heighway. More than once we saw Hansen striding majestically through.

Downs cleared a Johnston header off his own goal-line before Nicol toe-poked Liverpool ahead after some neat invention by McMahon. Then, early in the second half, Beardsley set up Nicol's second, with help from Barnes.

Two minutes later, Borrows tripped Barnes and Aldridge scored from the penalty spot. By the time Beardsley wriggled through for his first goal for the club, the applause for Liverpool was echoing from all corners of the auditorium.

The name of Regis, the scorer of an inconsequential Coventry goal two minutes from time, was a fitting one to end on.

----- COVENTRY CITY: -----

S Ogrizovic; B Borrows, G Downs (sub: D Phillips), L McGrath, B Kilcline, T Peake, D Bennett, M Gynn (sub: K Houchen), C Regis, D Speedie, N Pickering. -----

LIVERPOOL: ----- B Grobbelaar: S Nicol, B Venison, G Gillespie, R Whelan, A Hansen, P Beardsley, C Johnston, J Aldridge (sub: P Walsh), S McMahon, J Barnes. ----- Referee: K. Cooper. -----