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Wednesday tactics anger Dalglish

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Liverpool1 Sheffield Wednesday ..0

If Kenny Dalglish ever does decide to turn his back on football he should carefully consider pursuing a career in politics. The Liverpool manager's ability to skirt around a subject without ever actually touching upon it is quite uncanny. When annoyed or disappointed he rarely says exactly what he means but instead drops clues which are invariably open to diverse interpretation. He would probably argue that he is simply allowing those interested parties to draw their own conclusions.

Dalglish's joy at seeing Liverpool extend their unbeaten League run to 19 games, equal a 37-year-old club record and further widen the gap between themselves and a chasing pack which continues to show signs of premature fatigue was undoubtedly tempered by the performance of Sheffield Wednesday.

As a player, Dalglish believed all footballers had a duty to entertain and his philosophy has changed little since he succeeded Joe Fagan as manager just over two years ago.

His anger at Wednesday's negative tactics was only barely concealed and his typically brief post-match statements amounted to an open invitation for all rivals to come to Anfield and play to win rather than to avoid defeat.

He was even honest enough to admit that the only side which had boldly taken the bull by the horns - neighbours Everton in a Littlewoods Cup tie seven weeks ago - had inflicted Liverpool's solitary defeat this season.

'If teams want to come here and set out their stall in an attempt not to lose they must accept the consequences,' he said. 'I think every team, Everton apart, has come here to defend.'

It was easy to understand Dalglish's frustration. Wednesday, unbeaten on their three previous appearances at Anfield, made little or no attempt to add to the one point they started with.

Wednesday lost because they did not have the confidence to commit themselves to attack when the opportunity presented itself and because, like so many others before them, they foolishly believed that they had succeeded in exhausting their opponent's patience.

They had not and Gillespie was on hand to prove the point when, with a little over 13 minutes remaining, he stole in unattended to sidefoot home from close range after a Barnes corner had been headed on by Houghton.

----- LIVERPOOL: -----

-- B Grobbelaar; G Gillespie, B Venison, S Nicol, R Whelan, A Hansen, P Beardsley (sub: C Johnston), J Aldridge, R Houghton, J Barnes, S McMahon. -----

----- SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY: ----- M

Hodge; M Sterland, N Worthington, L Madden, N Pearson, M Proctor, M Chamberlain (sub: C West), G Owen (sub: L May), L Chapman, G Megson, B Marwood. ----- Referee: J Watson.