Date: 20 January 1990
Opposition: Crystal Palace
Competition: League

Times	Guardian	Sunday Times

20 January 1990

THE TIMES

Coppell left to rue his costly mistake

Crystal Palace 0 Liverpool 2

A naive blunder by the Crystal Palace manager, Steve Coppell, on Saturday ruined whatever chance his team might have had of salvaging something from an entertaining game against the first division leaders.

Coppell sent on Salako and Shaw for Wright and Pardew while McGoldrick, the Palace midfield player, was lying injured near the touchline. McGoldrick was taken off on a stretcher with suspected cartilage trouble and Palace were left to play the last 21 minutes with 10 men.

Wright had to come off as he had sustained a cracked shin bone in trying to score an equalizer for Palace, but Pardew, whose injury was less serious, might have been able to continue.

It was a costly afternoon for Palace. Apart from losing their third consecutive League match and slipping nearer the relegation zone, they are expected to be without Wright and McGoldrick for at least six weeks. To add to Palace's woe, Pardew had a goal disallowed and Salako hit a post.

The 9-0 defeat which Palace suffered at Anfield in September had left its mark. With the notable exception of McGoldrick, their players seemed mesmerized by Liverpool, particularly when Barnes, McMahon and Beardsley had the ball.

Beardsley was the afternoon's star turn, making Liverpool's first goal, scoring their second and doing everything brilliantly.

Palace's failure to challenge McMahon led to Liverpool going in front after nine minutes. Beardsley seized on his incisive pass, went round the goalkeeper, Martyn, and found Rush, who scored his eighteenth goal of the season.

The match was won and lost in the 62nd and 63rd minutes. First, Venison denied Wright after the forward had sidestepped Grobbelaar and was shaping to shoot; then Beardsley increased Liverpool's lead with a drive which went in off Martyn.

CRYSTAL PALACE: N Martyn; J Pemberton, D Burke, P Barber, J Hopkins, A Thorn, E McGoldrick, G Thomas, M Bright, I Wright (sub: J Salako), A Pardew (sub: R Shaw).

LIVERPOOL: B Grobbelaar; G Hysen, B Venison, S Nicol, R Whelan, A Hansen, P Beardsley, S Staunton, I Rush, J Barnes, S McMahon.

Referee: M Bodenham.

theguardian

Coppell pulls wrong switch

ALTHOUGH Salako almost had the last word, hitting a post in a final gesture of defiance, Palace never looked accomplished enough to avenge the nine-goal mauling they received at Anfield in September, even though Liverpool's was another curate's egg performance.

Kenny Dalglish's side, two up and cruising to three points, spurned a fine chance to increase their already impressive goal difference when the Palace manager, Steve Coppell, reduced his side to 10 men with an inexplicable blunder 20 minutes from the end.

Coppell, soccer's managerial academic, admitted he had learned a harsh lesson after acting too quickly in sending on his substitutes to replace the injured Wright and Pardew, only to lose McGoldrick as well.

The winger was lying injured as Salako and Shaw bounded eagerly into the fray, and had to go off. Coppell reflected ruefully: 'Pardew only had a dead leg and could have hobbled around. I'll never do that again.'

Wright has a hairline fracture of the left shin and faces a six-week lay-off. Palace's chairman Ron Noades said yesterday: 'It's a relief to know that it's not a bad break. He will probably go into plaster tomorrow.'

McGoldrick, meanwhile, may need a cartilage operation, so Palace's break in Tenerife before the FA Cup tie against Huddersfield has been dampened even if it does not rain.

But Coppell's 'expensive afternoon all round' could have been worse had Liverpool taken advantage of the numerical superiority gifted to them.

Instead they were content to close the game down, resting on a lead given to them with clinical efficiency by Rush and Beardsley.

Rush's goal came early in a first half in which Palace had more dead legs than the one Pardew was to suffer later. The goal was set up by Beardsley, who, in impish form, frequently took two central defenders out of the game, leaving McMahon to utilise the open spaces and Nicol to exploit room far out on the right.

It was surprising that Liverpool turned round only one up, even though Pardew had a goal disallowed as the ball rocketed into the net off the sole of his boot as Wright strayed offside.

Palace made more of a fight of it in the second half, but after a superb tackle by Venison had denied Wright the equaliser when he eluded Grobbelaar, the home side had the stuffing finally knocked out of them when Beardsley took a pass from Nicol and scored from the edge of the box.

SCORERS: Liverpool: Rush (8min), Beardsley (63).

Crystal Palace: Martyn; Pemberton, Burke, Barber, Hopkins, Thorn, McGoldrick, Thomas, Bright, Wright (Salako, 70), Pardew (Shaw, 70).

Liverpool: Grobbelaar; Hysen, Venison, Nicol, Whelan, Hansen, Beardsley, Staunton, Rush, Barnes, McMahon.

Referee: M Bodenham (Looe).

Compiled by Graeme Riley

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THE SUNDAY TIMES

Liverpool in overdrive

CRYSTAL PALACE 0(4-4-2): Martyn; Pemberton, Hopkins, Thorn, Burke; McGoldrick, Thomas, Pardew (sub: Shaw 69min), Barber; Bright, Wright (sub: Salako 69min). LIVERPOOL 2(4-4-2): Grobbelaar; Venison, Hysen, Hansen, Staunton; Nicol, McMahon, Whelan, Barnes; Rush, Beardsley.
Goals: Rush (9min) 0-1; Beardsley (63 min) 0-2.
Weather: fine. Ground: firm.
Referee: M J Bodenham (Cornwall)

SEQUELS are seldom as good as the original. When these two teams met at Anfield in September, Liverpool won 9-0, with eight of their men scoring.

Yesterday, in a more down-market affair, they settled for 2-0, while clearly having something in reserve.

True, Palace did not enjoy much luck. They thought they had equalised, but Wright strayed offside as Pardew's shot flew in.

Thanks to a piece of black comedy, they played the last quarter with only 10 men. And their substitute, Salako, hit the post in the last minute.

After 9-0, a 1-2 scoreline would have looked almost like a victory. But, in truth, Liverpool were different class. They led after nine minutes when Rush scored his 11th goal in as many matches, then sat back and played a typical passing and counter attacking game.

It was Peter Beardsley, the day's top performer, who scored the second, killer goal, in 63 minutes. Since the first league encounter, Palace have sent Suckling, their goalkeeper, on loan to West Ham. They have spent Pounds 1 million on Martyn from Bristol Rovers, and another Pounds 650,000 on Thorn, a centre-back from Newcastle.

Eight of those who started at Anfield, began yesterday. Thorn, like most of his colleagues, had a busy afternoon. Martyn had one he will want to forget. He was badly at fault for the first goal, and although he got a hand to the second, he could not stop it.

The first goal came from Liverpool's first meaningful attack and was built on close passes between Hansen and McMahon.

They sent Beardsley into the penalty area, and when Martyn rashly committed himself, Beardsley centred and Rush had the easy task of netting.

Pardew's disallowed goal soon followed. The rest of the first-half was notable for Hysen's shrewd defending; for Wright finding much better space than his striking twin, Bright, and for Barnes promising so much, but achieving little.

Barnes may be the league's most exciting player when in full flow, but when he hoisted a very scoreable chance over the bar before half-time an opening again created by Beardsley we guessed it was not going to be his day.

Liverpool's second came from a breakaway. Nicol fed Beardsley, who shot from 20 yards. The day was already lost when Palace were reduced to 10 men.

Steve Coppell, the Crystal Palace manager, pulled off Wright, who had a cracked fibula, and Pardew, who had a dead leg, while McGoldrick lay on the ground nursing a leg knock. It transpired that the last named could have cartilage trouble.

In the event that they might be at the end of another humiliating scoreline, Palace had ensured against any such embarrassment by arranging to fly to Teneriffe for a four-day break immediately after the final whistle.

Therefore further questions could be shelved. Kenny Dalglish, the Liverpool manager, remained anxious to play down that 9-0 result.

``That wasn't a true reflection and today Palace competed very well,'' he said. ``If you get carried away by your own publicity, that is a cause for concern.''

Compiled by Graeme Riley