Date: 7 December 1991
Opposition: Southampton
Competition: League

Times	Guardian	Sunday Times
British Soccer Wk		

7 December 1991

THE TIMES

Redknapp salvages point

Southampton 1 - Liverpool 1

THE purchase of Jamie Redknapp, then aged 17, from Bournemouth last season was one of Kenny Dalglish's last acts for Liverpool, a long-term investment he did not stay to supervise. It paid a small dividend at The Dell on Saturday, when Redknapp scored on his first appearance for Liverpool to give his team an undeserved point.

His arrival was the one bright spot for Liverpool in an otherwise dark week in which they were knocked out of the Rumbelows Cup by Peterborough United, of the third division, and their mid-table position began to look a true reflection of their standing.

Redknapp's father, Harry, was a few miles down the road managing Bournemouth to victory in the FA Cup but his mother and brother were on hand to see him replace Jan Molby, in the 63rd minute, then tap in an equaliser 12 minutes from time.

It was not a memorable goal but, he said, he expected to remember it for the rest of his life and it gave his manager, Graeme Souness, some encouragement. There was little else to cheer Souness. Southampton were better on the day, kept at bay more by their opponents' reputation than by anything they did on the pitch. True, Barnes, Rush, Walters and McMahon, were all missing but then Southampton were without Le Tissier and Hurlock.

Souness thought his players must have been suffering from the hangover of defeat by Peterborough United and there was certainly little enough sparkle in their play. Only Grobbelaar excelled and his excellent saves from Shearer and Dowie kept Liverpool alive. ``I wish I had seven or eight others with his character,'' Souness said.

He could do nothing about the goal which gave Southampton the lead. A Cockerill pass seemed to be covered by Burrows until he collided with Shearer. The ball fell kindly to the Southampton player and poor Grobbelaar, who had advanced expecting a back-pass, could only watch as a perfect lob dropped over him and into the net.

SOUTHAMPTON: T Flowers; J Dodd, M Adams (sub: D Lee), S Gray, J Gittens, N Ruddock, B Horne, G Cockerill, A Shearer, I Dowie (sub: N Banger), S Wood.

LIVERPOOL: B Grobbelaar; S Harkness (sub: G Hysen), D Burrows, S Nicol, M Wright, N Tanner, D Saunders, R Houghton, S McManaman, J Molby (sub: J Redknapp), M Marsh.

Referee: R Lewis.

theguardian

Almighty limp

IF LIVERPOOL's current form is making Bill Shankly spin in his grave, it just goes to prove that soccer really was more important to him than . . .

Not since the great man took over the then Second Division side in 1959 have the mighty Reds been less mighty, other managers' ideal club so unworthy of such adulation.

Anfield's ability to change the manager or team seamlessly has finally been undone by injuries to the high-quality players which Liverpool's much-admired system needs to work successfully.

Graeme Souness has been forced to draft in youngsters who under normal circumstances would still be getting their Liverpool education in the reserves, and to fit around them too many players who under normal circumstances would be on the verge of a move away with grateful thanks for all they have done but cannot quite do any more.

It is with these limited resources that Liverpool are trying to make up for the absence of Rush's goals and tenacity in harrying defenders; for Barnes's unpredictable genius and more goals; and for the nous and work of Whelan and McMahon in midfield. It is proving a tough task.

The midweek defeat by Peterborough showed Souness that spirit was missing too. He refused to speak to them for three days. 'There are times when you can say too much, but last week was a time for the players to reflect where they had gone wrong as individuals,' said Souness. 'They've got to sort themselves out.'

Whether making Southampton look like championship contenders constitutes sorting themselves out is a moot point. It was only the home side's tiredness after a gruelling midweek match at Forest that let Liverpool back into a game they might have been losing 40 but for excellent saves from the maligned Grobbelaar.

Souness's salvation could come in the transfer market and he is understood to have made inquiries about Arsenal's Michael Thomas and Chelsea's Andy Townsend. He also gave Southampton's striker Alan Shearer a friendly pat as they passed in the Dell corridor on Saturday - though using such as proof that he is about to make an offer for the England Under-21 striker would bring a whole new meaning to the term 'tapping a player'.

Otherwise Souness will have to make do and mend until the injured return - Barnes and Walters 'soon', Rush 'two to three weeks', Whelan 'three weeks', McMahon 'soon'. At half-time the all-girl marching band lost a trombonist with a turned ankle but seamlessly adjusted to 1-4-4-4-3-4-4 and played on as if nothing had happened. If Liverpool could reorganise half as well after injury, their season might yet turn too.

SCORERS: Southampton: Shearer (54min). Liverpool: Redknapp (75).

Southampton: Flowers; Dodd, Adams (Lee, 27), Gray, Gittens, Ruddock, Horne, Cockerill, Shearer, Dowie (Banger, 83), Wood.

Liverpool: Grobbelaar; Harkness (Hysen, 70), Burrows, Nicol, Wright, Tanner, Saunders, Houghton, McManaman, Molby (Redknapp, 63), Marsh.

Referee: R Lewis (Great Bookham).

Compiled by Graeme Riley

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THE SUNDAY TIMES

Redknapp keeps Liverpool respectable

SOUTHAMPTON 1 LIVERPOOL 1

SOUTHAMPTON 1 (4-4-2): Flowers; Dodd, Gittens, Wood, Ruddock; Horne, Cockerill, Gray, Adams (sub: Lee 27min); Dowie (sub: Banger 83min), Shearer.
LIVERPOOL 1 (4-4-2): Grobbelaar; Nicol, Wright, Tanner, Burrows; Houghton, Molby (sub: Redknapp 63min), Marsh, Harkness (sub: Hysen 70min); McManaman, Saunders.
Goals: Shearer (56min) 1-0; Redknapp (75min) 1-1.
Weather: sunny. Ground: soft.
Referee: R S Lewis (Great Bookham).

I CAME to this match expecting to see a great club some way below their best. What I was totally unprepared for was the sad travesty of the performances which once made Liverpool the best side in Europe. And there is no consolation for them in that scoreline. It was as much a travesty as their play.

Liverpool were indebted for this draw to their oldest and youngest players. Bruce Grobbelaar has come in for more than his share of criticism this season, but here his calmness, courage and confidence kept Liverpool in the game.

But the largest share of glory will inevitably go to the man who scored the goal. Jamie Redknapp had played 12 minutes of First Division football after coming on as substitute for Molby when he helped over the line an already goal-bound attempt by Burrows. Redknapp, the 18-year-old son of Harry Redknapp, once a player with West Ham and now boss of Bournemouth, had his mother and brother watching the unforgettable moment from the stand.

Liverpool only looked this side of respectable during the last 20-odd minutes after Redknapp and Hysen (for Harkness) had been brought off the bench. By tha time Southampton should have put the game way out of reach. Le Tissier was left out and Dowie brought into the side lying next to hapless Luton at the bottom of the First Division. Dowie has never managed to endear himself to the Southampton crowd and, after another poorly received performance, was substituted near the end.

When taxed afterwards about the simplicity of his goal, Redknapp agreed. ``It was the easiest goal ever. But they're the best ones, aren't they? It felt brilliant.''

This goal was one of only three attempts that Liverpool remotely got on target. Southampton had at least a dozen chances which either went fractionally wide or were claimed by Grobbelaar. Most of the saves came from Shearer but Dowie had a header cleared off the line. It was Shearer, inevitably, who scored Southampton's goal. It came from a beautifully gauged lob after Burrows had made a hash of a clearance and Grobbelaar had been obliged off his line to help out.

For both managers these are very black days indeed. Yet despite Liverpool's defeat at the hands of Peterborough on Tuesday, Graeme Souness's position is as safe as houses. For Ian Branfoot, though, the Southampton hot seat is hotting up faster than can be accounted for by mere global warming.

Branfoot's brief career with Southampton has teetered from disappointment to disappointment with such seeming inevitability that Kenneth Baker's recent misadventures in Parliament look in comparison like the triumphs of Pitt the Younger. Liverpool have almost always had disappointing trips to The Dell. They have won only three in their last 16 meetings.

Something in Southampton's favour was the cleanness of their play. There was only one booking in the match, and that went against Liverpool, for a foul by Marsh on Horne. In last Wednesday's League Cup game against Nottingham Forest, Southampton had six players booked. That, indeed, is not determination, it is desperation.

BRITISH SOCCER WEEK

Jamie's joy

Substitute Jamie Redknapp crowned his League debut with his first goal for Liverpool to rescue them from a second embarrassing defeat in five days.

Liverpool, humiliated at third division Peterborough in the Rumbelows Cup, were trailing to Alan Shearer's 12th goal of the season and being out-played by bottom but one Southampton, when the teenager was sent on in the 63rd minute.

But 19-year-old Redknapp, son of Bournemouth manager Harry, saved the day with a 74th minute strike to earn Graeme Souness' side a point they did not merit.

And he will never score an easier goal than the one that opened his Anfield account.

Ray Houghton whipped over an inviting cross from the right, David Burrows beat Southampton keeper Tim Flowers to it and left Redknapp only needing the gentlest of touches to score.

The goal was a stunning blow to lowly Southampton, who had run the game for long periods and who were confident that they were on course for their third successive league win over the Merseysiders at The Dell.

Shearer's 54th minute goal had been their reward for some impressive play and it would have been more but for the brilliance of Liverpool goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar.

Grobbelaar, harangued after the error which gifted Peterborough their cup success, denied Ian Dowie twice, skipper Glenn Cockerill and Shearer before finally being caught out.

But as so often in the past, Liverpool refused to lie down and snatched an equaliser to sneak away with a point they hardly deserved.

Redknapp was lost for words after the game. He said: "I can't put into words the feeling. It's unbelievable, incredible. I really enjoyed it. It was the easiest goal ever but I think I'll always remember it."

Redknapp was virtually on the goal-line when he added the final touch after David Burrows had beaten home goalkeeper Tim Flowers to Ray Houghton's cross. But Redknapp pointed out: "You have to make sure, you have to put them away."

Redknapp's intervention pleased Anfield manager Graeme Souness, who said: "This young man comes from a footballing background. His father was a very good first division player and he knows what's expected of him. He has a very big future in front of him. You could say it was an inspired substitution because he went on and got us a point."

But Souness was not so happy about Southampton's goal. Souness said: "I don't think it should have been allowed because he pushed David Burrows. It should have been a free-kick to us but the referee is there to make the decisions."

Great Bookham official Ray Lewis countered that, saying: "Mr Souness thinks Liverpool should have won 1-0 but I've seen the incident again on television and it was a great goal."

Shearer also argued there was nothing wrong with his score which ought to have given Southampton their third successive league win over the Merseysiders.

Said Shearer: "You have got to give Liverpool credit. Their heads must have been down after losing at Peterborough on Tuesday night and they came here and got a point, which is more than Peterborough gave them. But we are disappointed not to have claimed the three points."

Compiled by Graeme Riley