

THE setting was perfect at Highbury today for the special testimonial match between Liverpool and Arsenal in aid of a former star for both clubs, Ray Kennedy.

Testimonial games are usually very low key, but there was a lot of pride at stake in this clash between English soccer's Championship rivals.

Liverpool dominated the early stages with Souness and Dalglish very much involved in midfield. The famous duo linked early on and Dalglish delighted the crowd with a cheeky back heel that almost played in Beardsley.

Dalglish, fresh from a State-side holiday, then had a shot charged down, with Rosenthal chipping the rebound over the bar. At the other end Souness showed some of his old tenacity by dispossessing Winterburn on the angle of the Liverpool box.

By Ken Rogers

The home fans jeered light-heartedly when the Anfield manager moved forward soon after, firing a wayward shot wide of the mark. But Souness was soon laughing himself when his side took the lead after 13 minutes.

Fittingly, it was inspired by Dalglish who set off on a 20 yards run before being brought down in the box by 'keeper Leighton. Liverpool emphasised how seriously they were taking it by urging Molby to run the length of the field to take the kick which he duly hammered past Leighton.

Arsenal responded seven minutes later with a fine equaliser scored by their man of the moment, Kevin Campbell.

The striker, who has grabbed some crucial goals on the title front recently, raced onto a tremendous Hillier through ball to clip a shot beyond the advancing Grobbelaar to make it 1-1.

Dalglish's will to win clearly hasn't left him. He was annoyed when he thought he should have had a corner, getting the bird from the Arsenal fans.

Likewise, Souness showed his competitive spirit when he had words with the referee following an unpunished handball. Some things never change!

The Reds' boss showed an eye for a neat pass when he found Rosenthal, who should have done better from a good scoring position in the box.

Dalglish continued to work hard, taking one or two knocks in the process.

He was fouled by Winterburn but picked himself up to play a one-two with his old pal Souness before flashing a shot wide of the post.

The teams turned round level, applauded warmly by the appreciative crowd.

It was now time for Arsenal to introduce some of

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their former greats into the proceedings. George Armstrong, Jon Samuels and Pat Rice replaced Limpar, Campbell and Hillier. Armstrong was a highly skilful winger in his time and while he is grey and balding these days, the old touches were still there.

Liverpool used Speedie in place of the man who signed him, Kenny Dalglish, who will be back in action at Marine on Monday night in Roly Howard's testimonial.

Jamie Redknapp, signed by Dalglish from Bournemouth, came on for Rosenthal and Liverpool moved into the lead when Speedie closed in to head a Harkness cross

Two minutes from time Beardsley made it 3-1 for Liverpool, slotting home from close range after a good through ball from Houghton.

Attendance: 18,225.

ARSENAL: Jim Leighton; Michael Thomas, Nigel Winterburn, David Hillier, Andy Linighan, Tony Adams, David Rocastle, Paul Davis, Kevin Campbell, Perry Groves, Anders Limpar. Subs: Pat Rice, George Armstrong, Jon Samuels, George Graham, Craig McKernon, Justin Lee.

LIVERPOOL: Bruce Grobbelaar; Steve Harkness, Steve Staunton, Steve Nicol, Jan Molby, Jimmy Case, Kenny Dalglish, Ray Houghton, Ronny Rosenthal, Peter Beardsley, Graeme Souness. Subs: Jimmy Carter, Mike Marsh, Glynn Hysen, Jamie Redknapp, David Speedie.

Referee: Mr A Ward (Southgate).

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