



# The GARY JOHNSON Column

VIEW FROM DIVISION THREE



**YEovil TRUE:** Players Steve Collis, Adam Stansfield, Paul Terry and Terry Skiverton record their new song ahead of the Liverpool tie **PICTURE:** Adrian Hopper

**N**OTHING would give me greater pleasure than to see Yeovil Town knock Liverpool out of the FA Cup this afternoon.

This club still proudly carries Non-League's mantle of being the greatest giantkillers of them all and I want my team to enhance that reputation.

We may no longer be a Non-League team but fans in general across the country still talk affectionately about the club's Cup exploits.

And I know that most supporters will be rooting for Yeovil today because everyone loves to see an upset which is why the BBC cameras are here.

This is just about my biggest game as a manager and the biggest match this club has had since they lost to Arsenal here ten years ago.

But I want to show the nation that my Yeovil team can play football as well and I can promise you we will be going for Liverpool's jugular.

I am not going to give any of my team tactics away just in case Gerard Houllier picks up *The Non-League Paper* on the way to the ground but I want to see if our strengths can cause Liverpool problems.

I want my players to have the confidence to drive forward and not be scared of taking the game to Liverpool.

I want to see get on the ball, pass it and run at people as well as the Liverpool players will do on the day.

I want my lads to win their headers and tackles in the penalty area and show me just how much

## today's preview

### Yeovil Town v Liverpool

they can affect the way Liverpool play.

It's my intention to make sure my players give it everything and not to have any regrets at the end of the match.

We are not a bunch of country bumpkins down here in Somerset – although you might think we are when you hear our new club record.

The lads had a bit of fun going into the recording studio to sing the chorus to *Yeovil True* which will be released at the end of the month.

Our main job is not to sing songs but to record footballing records and a victory over Liverpool would be some feat – and not an impossible one.

Gerard has had a few poor results in the Premiership and many are saying that he might be sacked if they fail to beat us.

My players are up for it and are confident even though we suffered a couple of set-backs against Kidderminster Harriers and Swansea over Christmas.

You won't see my side going 11 men behind the ball because that would play into Liverpool's hands – we like to attack every team we play.

Liverpool will certainly miss the injured Steven Gerrard which must be good news for us because he makes the team tick and Michael Owen may not make it

either. Personally I would rather see both Gerard and Owen in their line-up because I want my team to play the best so that we can see just how well we have progressed.

Two seasons ago the club was celebrating its first major honour when we won the FA Trophy before we claimed promotion to the Football League after 108 years by winning the Conference in record-breaking fashion.

Now we are establishing ourselves in the Third Division and at the halfway mark I may have to make one or two changes to my squad to see if we can make the play-offs at our first attempt.

Now I have the opportunity to pit my wits against a Premiership manager, Gerard may have had a couple of mediocre seasons but he has enjoyed some great success at Liverpool which should not be forgotten and I have the greatest respect for him.

People here still talk with great affection about the late Alec Stock and that historic FA Cup victory over Sunderland – and that was over half-a-century ago.

I would love our fans to be able to say in 50 years' time that they were there at Huish Park on the day Gary Johnson's Yeovil beat Liverpool.

*Gary Johnson was talking to Graham Nickless*