Here we will look back at amazing seasons from the past. First up, the last one before the Premier League

DIVISION ONE 1991-92

## WHY IT MATTERED

This was the final season of the old Football League, before the Premier League took over England's top level.

There were still four divisions, with promotion and relegation. However, from 1992-93 the top division had a new name, a **new trophy** and a big change in how clubs split their money.

Before 1992 clubs across all four divisions shared money from TV companies. However, the top clubs wanted more for themselves. So they broke away from the Football League, and **kept most of the cash**! That's how the Premier League was born.

> Great times at Elland Road

## THE STORY OF THE SEASON

N WHEN...

**Arsenal** and **Liverpool** had won the last four League titles between them, but neither had a good start to the 1991-92 season.

Alex Ferguson's **Manchester United** were unbeatable early on but **Leeds United**, managed by Howard Wilkinson, were never far behind.

As winter turned to spring the two clubs kept swapping between first and second position. However, with four games to go it looked like Ferguson's team were going to do it. They were two points ahead of Leeds, who had three fixtures left.

Then everything changed. While Leeds grabbed six points from two games, Manchester United lost to **Nottingham Forest** and rock-bottom **West Ham**. They had to win their next match, but it was at Anfield. Liverpool were sixth but knew that

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DIVISION 1 1991/92

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- 3 Sheffield Wednesday
- 4 Arsenal
  5 Manchester City
- 6 Liverpool
- 7 Aston Villa
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- 11 Queens Park Rangers
- 12 Everton
- 13 Wimbledon
- 14 Chelsea 15 Tottenham Hotspur
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- 17 Oldham Athletic
- 18 Norwich City
- 19 Coventry City
- 20 Luton Town 21 Notts County
- 21 Notts County 22 West Ham United

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they could deny their rivals the title – and they loved their 2-0 win.

\_eeds players

celebrate during

the title-clinching

win at Sheff Utd

The famous trophy was heading to Elland Road! Leeds United were champions of England for the third time in their history, becoming the last club to do so before the beginning of the Premier League.

## WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?

Leeds fell from being champions to playing at the third level in the space of just 15 years. However they've bounced part of the way back. If they ever return to the Premier League by winning the Championship, the trophy they receive will be the same one that Gordon Strachan lifted in May 1992! In 1992-93 Alex Ferguson got his prize, as Manchester United won the title. Having been relegated at just the wrong time, neither Luton Town or Notts County have ever had the chance to play in the Premier League. They're together in League Two this season – but with high hopes of promotion.

Not Fergie's

time

#### **1992 WINNERS**

League Leeds Utd FA Cup Liverpool League Cup Man Utd Top scorer Ian Wright (29) Players' player of the year Gary Pallister (Man Utd) Young player of the year Ryan Giggs (Man Utd)

Leeds captain Gordon Strachan looks quite happy!

Gatorade

# WHERE ARE THEY NOW

**Ian Wright** just beat **Gary Lineker** to the Golden Boot. The pair now spend Saturday nights together in the *Match of the Day* TV studio.

Alan Pardew started the 1991-92 Division One season with Crystal Palace, and in November signed for Charlton. Since hanging up his boots he's managed both of those clubs – and plenty of others.

### TOP FACT

Leeds manager Howard Wilkinson's success is still the last time any English manager won the country's top division!