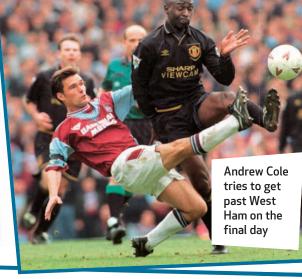
For the first time in 81 years Rovers took the title, with Alan Shearer leading their attack!

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PREMIER LEAGUE 1994-95

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# WHY IT MATTERED

Reigning champions **Manchester United** expected a challenge from **Blackburn**, who were runners-up the previous season.

Blackburn could compete with United thanks to a wealthy local businessman, **Jack Walker**. He became the club's owner in 1991. His money meant they could buy star players like England striker **Alan Shearer**.

Other rich owners would make a big impact in English football in later years, but Walker was the first.



## THE STORY OF THE SEASON

Blackburn took top spot in November but Manchester United were hot on their heels. United had to play half the season without their French star Eric Cantona, who was sent off for fighting with a fan in the crowd at Crystal Palace! United drew that game but they mostly kept winning, including a 9-0 thrashing of Ipswich in March.

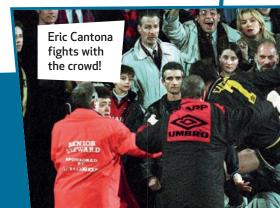
On the final day, Blackburn led United by two points. United had a better goal difference so if they won at **West Ham**, Blackburn had to beat **Liverpool** at Anfield. But if United drew or lost, the title would go to Blackburn. Alan Shearer put Rovers ahead in the first half and then their rivals went 1-0 down at West Ham. United equalised in the second half and Liverpool drew level with Blackburn. United had to win but could not score the vital goal. In the final minute Liverpool scored again. Blackburn lost 2-1 but still won the title by one point!

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A week later, United's season ended in disappointment when they lost the FA Cup final 1-0 to Everton.



Man Utd celebrate scoring nine goals against lpswich

## WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?

**Blackburn**'s success did not last. They were knocked out at the group stage of the Champions League the following season and came seventh in the League. Important players left, including **Alan Shearer** who joined Newcastle in 1996.

In 1998-99, just four seasons after their title win, Blackburn were relegated! They have spent 11 seasons in the Premier League since then but have also had a year in League One, in 2017-18.

Manchester United won the Premier League again in 1995-96 and were champions another ten times while **Alex Ferguson** was manager before he retired in 2013.

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

Blackburn are the only League team that play in blue and white halved shirts. They have worn their famous kit since becoming one of the founder members of the Football League in 1888!

#### **PREMIER LEAGUE 1994-95**

Top scorer Alan Shearer, Blackburn (34) Champions Blackburn Rovers Relegated Crystal Palace, Norwich City, Leicester City, Ipswich Town FA Cup final Everton 1 Manchester United O League Cup final Liverpool 2 Bolton Wanderers 1

GE

Everton win

the FA Cup