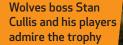
IEIRIE CITA Wolves are on their way back to the top division but they were once the best team in the country - possibly the world!

THE SEASON WHEN



DIVISION ONE 1953-54

'HY IT MATTERED

Wolverhampton Wanderers got lots of new fans around the country this year when they became Football League champions for the first time.

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A look at the rest of the table shows how different football was then. West Bromwich Albion were second, with Huddersfield Town coming third.

Arsenal, Manchester City and **Tottenham** all finished in the bottom half - and Liverpool were relegated!

WHERE ARE **THEY NOW?**

Ten of these clubs are in the Premier League this season. Nine of the others play in the Championship while three – Blackpool, Charlton Athletic and Portsmouth — are in League One

DIVISION 1 1953/54

1 Wolverhampton W.

- 2 West Bromwich Albion Huddersfield Town
- 4 Manchester United
- 5 Bolton Wanderers 6 Blackpool

7 Burnley

- ⁸ Chelsea 9 Charlton Athletic
- 10 Cardiff City
- 11 Preston North End 12 Arsenal
- 13 Aston Villa
- 14 Portsmouth
- ¹⁵ Newcastle United
- Tottenham Hotspur 17 Manchester City
- 18 Sunderland
- 19 Sheffield Wednesday Sheffield United
- 21 Middlesbrough
- 22 Liverpool

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LIVERPOOL WERE

Wolves captain **Billy Wright**

PIT

THE SEASON

Wolves lost their first game 4-1 at Burnley but soon went on a run of 18 games unbeaten. That streak included an 8-1 win over Chelsea.

However, West Brom also had a great start and were top for most of the season. Wolves went level with their rivals after beating them 1-0 in April. It was Wolves' second derby victory of the season and those points - you only got two for a win - made the difference.

On the final day, Wolves led by two points. West Brom needed to win, but they lost at Portsmouth while Wolves beat Spurs 2-0!

A week later, West Brom did at least win a trophy, by beating Preston 3-2 in the FA Cup final.

Elsewhere Liverpool lost 6-0 to Charlton, and 5-1 to each of Manchester United, Portsmouth and Preston as they finished bottom!



WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?

Liverpool spent the next eight years in Division Two, coming close to promotion almost every year before going up in 1962.

Wolves' captain and centre-half, **Billy Wright**, was an England regular for over ten years. In 1959, he became the first English player to win **100 international caps** – he ended up with 105.

Since they last won the League, in 1958-59, Wolves have played in all four divisions of the League – including two years in **Division Four** (now called League Two) from 1986 to 1988. They sealed their return to the Premier League for the first time since 2012 with promotion from the **Championship** this season.



TOP FACT

Although they only finished 12th, Arsenal were the best-supported team. They were watched by an average crowd of 50,278 at their old stadium, Highbury

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FOOTBALL C



THE BIRTH OF THE CHAMPIONS LEAGUE!

Wolves played a famous match against Honved, champions of Hungary, in December 1954. The game was a series of "floodlight friendlies" played at Wolves' ground, Molineux, which was one of the first in England to have floodlights.

Most of the Honved team had played for **Hungary** when they shocked the world by thrashing **England** twice in the previous year: 6-3 at Wembley, then 7-1 in Hungary. Wolves won an exciting game 3-2. Afterwards some English



newspapers said they were "champions of the world". These matches were so popular they helped to create the European Cup (now the Champions League) the following year.

AC #2334228

Liverpool in white shorts, which they wore until 1965



1954 WINNERS

League Wolves FA Cup West Brom Top scorer Jimmy Glazzard, Huddersfield Town (29) Player of the year Tom Finney, Preston North End West Brom keeper Jim Sanders can't bear to watch an FA Cup final penalty

> It worked out OK though! Captain Len Millard lifts the Cup