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English Premiership Football 2006–07 - Blackburn 0:2 Chelsea

By Steven Cronin

Champions Chelsea bounced back to winning ways but it was a hard fought victory against a plucky Blackburn side that mirror the fighting spirit of their manager Mark Hughes.

A second half Didier Drogba goal confirmed the win and helped to steady the ship after a less than convincing start to Chelsea's season.

Two defeats from their first three matches, including a last minute reverse against a Middlesbrough side struggling to find their feet under the inexperienced leadership of Gareth Southgate had threatened to raise the alarm bells of the millionaires from Kings Road.

Indeed it was Blackburn who looked the likelier to score during the early exchanges, Robbie Savage relishing the opportunity to mix it with the talented Michael Ballack.

But Chelsea's grip on the game tightened as the half wore on and they were rewarded with a penalty on the half hour as John Terry was unceremoniously hauled to the ground in the area.

Frank Lampard, released from the shackles that plague England's penalty takers, strode forward and confidently struck the ball into the net, though fortunate that a stronger hand from Brad Friedel in the Blackburn goal would have kept the ball out.

Blackburn huffed and puffed in the second half but the wind was taken from their sails by the strength of Didier Drogba.

The Chelsea striker powered his way into the box and unleashed a ferocious shot that left the helpless Friedel clutching thin air.

The defeat leaves Blackburn rooted to the foot of the Premiership as the pressure begins to mount on boss Mark Hughes.

A disappointed Hughes said "I felt John Terry went down very easily. The penalty completely changed the game.

"If we go down that road we're going to have three penalties in every match. There was no chance it was a penalty.

"We had a real claim when Jason Roberts had his shirt pulled. Overall we were much the better side."

Steven Cronin writes the hottest English Premiership Football news, results and opinion at

http://www.sargas.co.uk/english_premiership_football

Premiership Highs and Lows – Manchester United Football Club

By Chris Towland

Premiership Highs and Lows – Manchester United Football Club by Chris Towland

Most fans of English football and the Premiership in particular would agree that Manchester United have certainly had their share of 'Highs' in the twelve seasons since the Premiership began and what would be considered a 'Low' by Utd fans (such as finishing third behind Arsenal and Chelsea) would in fact be considered a significant 'High' by most other clubs!

Here are what I consider to be some of Manchester United's major highs and lows since the inaugural Premiership season kicked off in 1992:

***** Highs *****

Out of a total of just twelve seasons, Man. United have lifted the Premiership trophy no less than eight times and a particular high was taking the title in the very first Premiership season.

United have achieved the Premiership and F.A. Cup 'double' three times in 1994, 1996 and in 1999.

They have won more Premiership games, won more points and suffered less defeats than any other team in the league.

Manchester United have scored the greatest number of goals overall since the Premiership began and in fact also hold the record for the most goals scored in a single season: 97 scored in 1999–2000.

United also hold the record for the highest number of goals in a Premiership game which they achieved in March 1995 with a 9–0 victory against Ipswich a game where Andy Cole scored five of the goals.

***** Lows *****

One recent major low for Manchester United came at the end of the 2003–2004 season when they not only finished outside of the top two (a full fifteen points behind the winners Arsenal) but also equaled their lowest ever points total for a season.

How many can forget Frenchman Eric Cantona's infamous flying kung fu attack on a fan at Crystal palace in 1995? His kick may have looked at home in a Bruce Lee film but it earned him an eight month suspension which many consider was a major factor in United losing the title that season to Blackburn Rovers.

In 2003 there were two major lows for Manchester United:

The first was David Beckham leaving to join Real Madrid. His £25 million transfer fee was good for the United coffers but not so good for the team as there was no suitable replacement waiting to step into

his shoes.

The second was defender Rio Ferdinand, the record £30 million signing from Leeds United, being banned for eight months for missing a routine drugs test.

For anyone interested in a very detailed, month by month view of Manchester United's twelve years in the Premiership, I fully recommend 'The Breedon Book of Premiership Records' by Breedon Books which is available from their website at:

<http://www.breedonbooks.co.uk/publications/1859834191.html>

Chris Towland

Chris is the webmaster of www.football-nut.co.uk where he challenges you to prove your football knowledge and win prizes in the free monthly football quiz and prize draw. The Football–Nut website also contains up–to–the–minute news for all of the major UK football clubs.



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