

THE HOWARD WILKINSON LEGACY

LEAGUE CHAMPIONS 1991/92



WILKO92

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Foreword by Gordon Strachan

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As part of the fundraising plans for the Howard Wilkinson Legacy we will be publishing a book that pays homage to the manager and players that helped Leeds United become the last ever champions of the First Division in 1992 before it became known as the Premier League.

There will be a profile of each Leeds United player in the 1991/92 championship squad plus a large selection of rare memorabilia and a wide range of previously unseen photographs.

This full colour A4 size book will also include a match report and a copy of the programme cover from every one of the 42 First Division games played by Leeds United during the Championship winning season in 1991/92.

This brochure provides details of how the supporters of Leeds United can become actively involved in this Book by sponsoring a match, having their name included on the Subscribers' Tribute page or by pre-ordering a Hard Cover 'Collector's Edition' that will be personally signed inside by Howard Wilkinson plus 10 players from the 1991/92 squad.

Further details can be found at
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MATCH DAY SPONSORSHIP PACKAGE

Each game in this book is available in a 'Match Day Sponsorship Package' that will include the following

- Advertising and branding in a section on the match report page
- A copy of the original match programme signed by Howard Wilkinson
- A signed limited edition print of the Leeds United 1992 Championship team
- One copy of the 'Collector's Edition' book signed by the LUFC 1991/92 squad
- An invitation to the official book launch

The allocation of games will be in the order of confirmation received

A MANAGER LIKE NO OTHER

When I was asked to write a foreword for this book, my first thought was, 'Well, it's about time someone recognised what I went through carrying this lot over the line!' But in all seriousness, the 1991/92 season wasn't about me — it was about a group of players, a brilliant manager, and an army of fans who believed we could achieve something special — if there's ever been a season worth reflecting on, it's 1991/92. That was the season when Leeds United, under the watchful (and occasionally terrifying) eye of Howard Wilkinson, climbed back to the top of English football.

Howard was a manager like no other. He wasn't just about picking a team on Saturday; he was about building a vision, creating a culture, shaping a club. He had an eye for detail and a mind for structure that some of us — especially those of us with short attention spans — didn't always appreciate at the time. But looking back, every drill, every tactical talk, every telling-off (and trust me, there were a few) added up to something extraordinary.

“We knew our jobs, we trusted the plan, and we trusted each other.”

What made that team special wasn't just the individual talent — though we had plenty of that, from the solid backline to the creative sparks in midfield and the finishers up front. What made us champions was the spirit, the togetherness, the belief that no matter what, we fought for each other. We weren't the flashiest side, but we were the most determined. We knew our jobs, we trusted the plan, and we trusted each other.

Howard deserves enormous credit for that. He instilled discipline without killing personality, demanded high standards without draining the joy. He wasn't there to be our mate — though we had many laughs along the way — he was there to make us winners. And he did.

This book isn't just about stats, goals, and match reports; it's about the journey of a club, the leadership of a manager, and the heart of a team that refused to back down. I'm proud to have captained that side, proud of what we achieved, and proud to share these memories with you.

So, enjoy it — and remember, football isn't just about silverware. It's about the people you share the fight with.

Cheers,
Gordon Strachan



MATCH
01

Tuesday 20 August 1991

Leeds United 1 Nottingham Forest 0

Scorer(s)	McAllister 13'
Attendance	29,457
Leeds United	1 Lukic, 2 McClelland, 3 Dorigo, 4 Batty, 5 Fairclough, 6 Whyte, 7 Strachan (c), 8 Rod Wallace, 9 Chapman, 10 McAllister, 11 Speed. Unused subs: 12 Sterland, 14 Hodge
Nottingham Forest	Crossley, Chettle, Charles, Keane, Tiler, Pearce, Crosby, Gemmill, Jemson, Clough, Sheringham. Unused subs: Parker, Laws.
Referee	Neil Midgley



Leeds United's first match brought debuts for signings Rod Wallace and Tony Dorigo. Our planned opener had been postponed due to development work on Crystal Palace's Selhurst Park stadium being behind schedule. Thus, the Whites, AND the fans, were champing at the bit even more than normal! This would be tough, Forest were customarily strong and had beaten Everton on the opening day.

Leeds declared their intentions early, attacking from the start and probing Forest's defences from all angles. David Batty began particularly well, battling for every ball. Gary Speed produced a fine effort early on, flicking the ball up with his left foot and volleying just wide with his right. Choosing to play from the Kop end, Forest were not here to make up the numbers - they were quick to counter-attack with Teddy Sheringham and Nigel Clough notable threats. The decisive goal, however, was ours, coming in the 13th minute, via a long throw-in from Batty, flicked on by the head of Chapman, the ball brushing Speed's thigh and then dropping conveniently for McAllister to strike. His shot wasn't the sweetest, but it was tasty enough to slip through Mark Crossley in goal.

Forest had their moments of pressure but there was no harder-working team around than Leeds United, and John Lukic had a relatively calm afternoon. A fine start for Sergeant Wilko's side, against a team expected to have a say in the title race.



Howard's Way

As the new season dawns here at Elland Road, there's a real sense of excitement — not just in the stands, but among the players, staff, and directors. We've worked hard over the summer to strengthen the squad, and I'm pleased to welcome Rod and Ray Wallace, Tony Dorigo, Steve Hodge, Jon Newsome, and David Wetherall. Each brings quality, hunger, and the right attitude to push this club forward.

Off the pitch, I've also been honoured to take on the role of chairman of the newly formed League Managers' Association. Alongside respected colleagues like Alex Ferguson, George Graham, and tonight's opposing manager Brian Clough, we're determined to raise standards of professionalism and conduct in English football — because the game deserves better.

Tonight's match against Nottingham Forest promises to be a stern early test. Clough's teams always aim to entertain, but we're focused, prepared, and determined to make a strong start. With your backing, we aim to deliver a performance worthy of Elland Road and begin this campaign on the right foot.

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Player Profile

GARY McALLISTER

Graceful, intelligent, and composed, Gary McAllister was the heartbeat of one of English football's finest midfields. Central to Leeds United's 1991/92 First Division title triumph, McAllister cemented his status as one of the most gifted British midfielders of his generation.

His journey began in Scotland with Motherwell, after a fleeting early link with Manchester United — the charisma of family friend Sir Matt Busby drew him in before the trail went cold. A move to Leicester City in 1985 under Gordon Milne saw McAllister flourish despite the club's struggles, earning a Scotland call-up in 1989. That same year, he nearly derailed Leeds' promotion push with a wonder goal at Elland Road — a glimpse of what was to come.

Leeds, needing a final piece for their midfield, swooped in 1990 after McAllister's proposed move to Nottingham Forest collapsed following a bizarre meeting with Brian Clough. Signed for £1 million, he became an instant fit.

McAllister slotted seamlessly alongside David Batty, Gary Speed, and Gordon Strachan, forming a midfield quartet that powered Leeds through the 1991/92 season. His touch, vision, and precise passing gave United a creative edge, balancing Strachan's leadership and Batty's bite with measured elegance. McAllister played every league game that season, orchestrating from deep or ghosting into the box when needed. His precision, poise, and creativity gave Leeds balance and bite, driving them to a historic title.

He later succeeded Strachan as Leeds and Scotland captain, then enjoyed a renaissance at Liverpool, helping them win a treble in 2000/01 at age 35, scoring crucial goals and mentoring young stars.

McAllister's later career took him into management — including a brief spell back at Leeds United — and coaching roles alongside Gérard Houllier and Steven Gerrard, continuing to share the footballing wisdom that defined his own playing days.

WILKO92 STATS 1991/92

Position	Midfield
Appearances	41
Substitutions	1
Unused game on bench	•
Goals	5



MATCH
02

Saturday 24 August 1991

Leeds United 1 Sheffield Wednesday 1

Scorer(s)

LUFC - Hodge 87' SWFC - Hirst 45'

Attendance

30,260

Leeds United

1 Lukic, 2 McClelland (14 Sterland 68'), 3 Dorigo, 4 Batty, 5 Fairclough, 6 Whyte, 7 Strachan (c), 8 Rod Wallace, 9 Chapman, 10 McAllister, 11 Speed (12 Hodge 68')

Sheffield Wednesday

Woods, Nilsson, King, Palmer, Pearson, Warhurst, Wilson, Sheridan, Hirst (Francis 89'), Williams (Anderson 88'), Worthington.

Referee

Colin Trussell



Howard Wilkinson faced his former club for the first time since leaving Hillsborough in October 1988. Player-manager Trevor Francis had taken charge of promoted Wednesday, but his team were tipped for a difficult season after losing their opening match. Those predictions were wide of the mark and Wednesday deserved victory. Had striker David Hirst’s finishing been deadlier, they certainly would have won.



Attacking the Kop end, Lee Chapman netted with a perfect left-foot volley, but the referee had already signalled an infringement. It was a typical derby, the teams evenly balanced and disputing possession, though Leeds lacked penetration and were short of fluidity in midfield. The visitors broke the deadlock, Hirst capitalising on brilliant work from Paul Warhurst, who intercepted a Wallace cross and surged forward forty yards. Good close control enabled Hirst to deceive Chris Fairclough and make space to unleash a sharp shot,

beating Lukic low to his left, 0-1. This was neither expected nor acceptable, but Leeds had to show patience. Wednesday coped well in defence while Hirst was always a danger. Indeed, he missed a great chance minutes later, somehow shooting wide when it looked easier to score.

Chances were limited for both sides, though Gary McAllister saw a long-range effort tipped over the bar by goalkeeper Chris Woods. Late in the second half, another effort from Hirst struck the post. Ten minutes from time, Elland Road witnessed the rare occurrence of Gordon Strachan winning a header. Not only that, it brought the equaliser. Steve Hodge latched onto a partial clearance and his powerful volley took a slight deflection out of Woods’ reach. Final score 1-1, and whilst the result could be regarded as disappointing, it could easily have been much worse.

Howard’s Way

This is a fixture I've long wanted to see: Leeds United against Sheffield Wednesday in the First Division. Back in 1983, when I became Wednesday manager, I hoped we'd one day face Leeds at this level – but with Leeds stuck in the Second Division, it never happened. Now, years later, I find myself leading Leeds into this long-awaited clash, and I couldn't be more ready for it.

My ties to Wednesday run deep – I grew up a Wednesdayite, joined as an apprentice, and eventually returned as manager. I look back on those years with pride and gratitude; they shaped me. But today, my focus is firmly on Leeds United, the players, the staff, the supporters.

We approach this match with full respect for Wednesday's qualities. They earned their way back to the First Division and fully deserve to be here. Trevor Francis has stepped into a tough role with intelligence and promise.

There's been plenty of outside noise about spending and expectations, but none of that matters now. It's about us, on the pitch, doing our jobs together.

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The Howard Wilkinson Legacy - League Champions 1991/92

Player Profile

WILKO92

MEL STERLAND

Few full-backs in Leeds United’s history have been as dynamic, wholehearted, and entertaining as Mel Sterland. Sterland brought not only energy and attacking thrust to the right flank, but also a larger-than-life personality that made him a fan favourite.

Sterland began his career with Sheffield Wednesday, making his debut at the tail end of the 1978/79 season. Known for his fearless style, he quickly became a Hillsborough cult hero, playing a key role in the club’s rise to the First Division and scoring regularly. His standout 1985/86 season saw him notch eight goals as Wednesday finished fifth.

Following a brief and turbulent spell at Rangers under Graeme Souness, Sterland was reunited with Howard Wilkinson at Leeds in 1989. It proved a match made in Elland Road heaven. Sterland was instrumental in helping Leeds win the Second Division title and then played a central role in the side’s remarkable title win in 1991/92.

That season, despite ongoing injury issues, Sterland made 31 league appearances and contributed his usual handful of goals, including a trademark thunderbolt at Elland Road against Sheffield United. His marauding runs, pinpoint deliveries, and tough tackling were a vital component of Leeds’ approach.

Sterland’s playing days came to a premature end not long after the title triumph, with a serious ankle injury forcing him into early retirement. But his influence endured – in the dressing room, among the supporters, and in the team’s DNA.

Mel Sterland wasn't just a right-back – he was a force of nature, who helped shape one of the proudest eras in Leeds United’s history.

WILKO92 STATS 1991/92

Position	Right-back
Appearances	29
Substitutions	2
Unused game on bench	1
Goals	6

The Howard Wilkinson Legacy - League Champions 1991/92

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Player Profile | Mel Sterland

MATCH
03

Wednesday 28 August 1991
Southampton 0 Leeds United 4

Scorer(s)	Speed 24', 88', Strachan penalty 55', penalty 69'
Attendance	15,847
Southampton	Flowers, Dodd, Osman, Horne, Hall, Ruddock, Le Tissier (Lee 77'), Cockerill, Shearer, Rideout (Moody 57'), Adams
Leeds United	1 Lukic, 2 McClelland, 3 Dorigo, 4 Batty, 5 Fairclough (12 Sterland 17'), 6 Whyte, 7 Strachan (c), 8 Rod Wallace, 9 Chapman, 10 McAllister (14 Hodge 86'), 11 Speed
Referee	Gerald Ashby



Rodney Wallace, newly signed from Southampton, warned United of the challenge ahead at The Dell. The Saints, led by young sensation Alan Shearer and the mercurial Matt Le Tissier, were always a tough proposition at their compact home ground. However, Howard Wilkinson's side arrived full of confidence – and left with a dominant victory.

Leeds suffered an early setback when Chris Fairclough limped off after some brutal Southampton treatment, but his replacement, Mel Sterland, made an instant impact. On 24 minutes, he surged down the right and delivered a dangerous cross that Neil Ruddock failed to clear, allowing Gary Speed to hammer home.

Gary McAllister, Gordon Strachan and David Batty had already given Leeds control of midfield and now took a vice-like grip on affairs, exploiting gaps in the Southampton defence.

After the break, Leeds turned their dominance into a rout. In the 56th minute, Ruddock was shown a red card for chopping down Wallace. Strachan squeezed his penalty under Tim Flowers to double the lead. Thirteen minutes later, Lee Chapman won another penalty, and Strachan converted again – this time more emphatically.

Leeds were in complete control, and the final flourish came when Speed unleashed a stunning 35-yard strike. A disallowed Richard Hall goal for Saints did little to change the narrative.

This emphatic win took Leeds fourth with a game in hand, sending a clear message that they were serious contenders. The Dell's reputation was no match for Wilkinson's rampant side, who had truly hit their stride.

Captain's Log

Off to the south coast – and no, not for the beach. Southampton have had a mixed start: one win, two defeats, and they'll be desperate to steady the ship. And let's not kid ourselves – they've got young Alan Shearer up front, and he's already showing signs he's going to be a nightmare for defenders. We'll need to keep him quiet, or it could be a long evening.

Training's been sharp all week. Howard's been drilling us on shape, pressing, all the little details. That's his strength – he never lets us coast, never lets us think we've arrived. And that's why we've got a real shot here.

Away games are always tricky, but there's a great spirit in this side. We believe we can pull off a result, no matter where we go. Hopefully, we'll be heading back up the motorway with three points, a few bruises, and plenty to laugh about.

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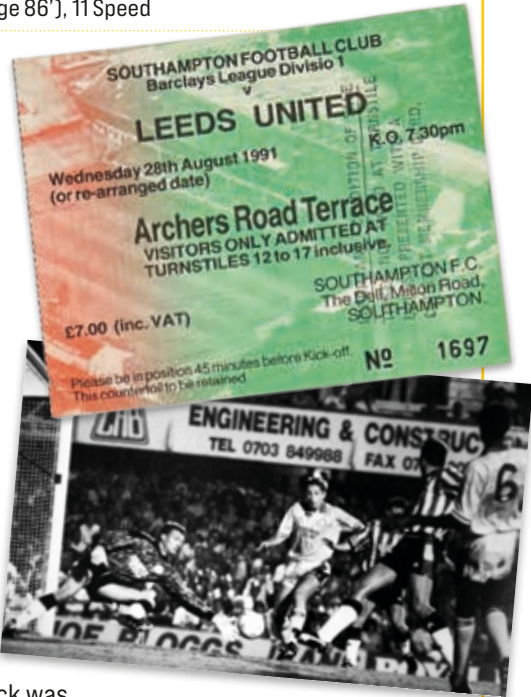
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TONY DORIGO

Some cite Tony Dorigo as Leeds United's greatest ever left-back. His £1.3m signing from Chelsea in June 1991 put an end to the club's long-standing left-back curse. Fast, defensively solid, and a free-kick specialist, Dorigo was a perfect fit for Howard Wilkinson's side.

A key figure in Leeds' 1991/92 title-winning team, one of Dorigo's standout moments came in a 6-1 demolition of Sheffield Wednesday, where he smashed home a stunning 30-yard free kick past Chris Woods.

Born in Melbourne on 31 December 1965 to an Italian father and Australian mother, Dorigo's path to English football was unconventional. At 15, he wrote to 14 First Division clubs seeking a trial, eventually earning a chance with Aston Villa in 1981. He impressed at Villa Park, making 111 appearances before a £475,000 move to Chelsea in 1987. He excelled at Stamford Bridge, winning the club's Player of the Year award in his first season as Chelsea secured promotion. However, he struggled under the tight-fisted rule of Ken Bates.

Eligible for England through British citizenship, Dorigo won his first senior cap in 1989, coming on for Stuart Pearce in a friendly against Yugoslavia. Though often behind Pearce in the pecking order, he earned 15 caps under Bobby Robson and Graham Taylor.

Dorigo spent six successful years at Elland Road before departing for Torino after Wilkinson's exit. He later played for Derby County and Stoke City before retiring in 2001. Post-football, he built a successful media career, including commentary work for LUTV.

WILKO92 STATS 1991/92

Position	Left-back
Appearances	38
Substitutions	•
Unused game on bench	•
Goals	3

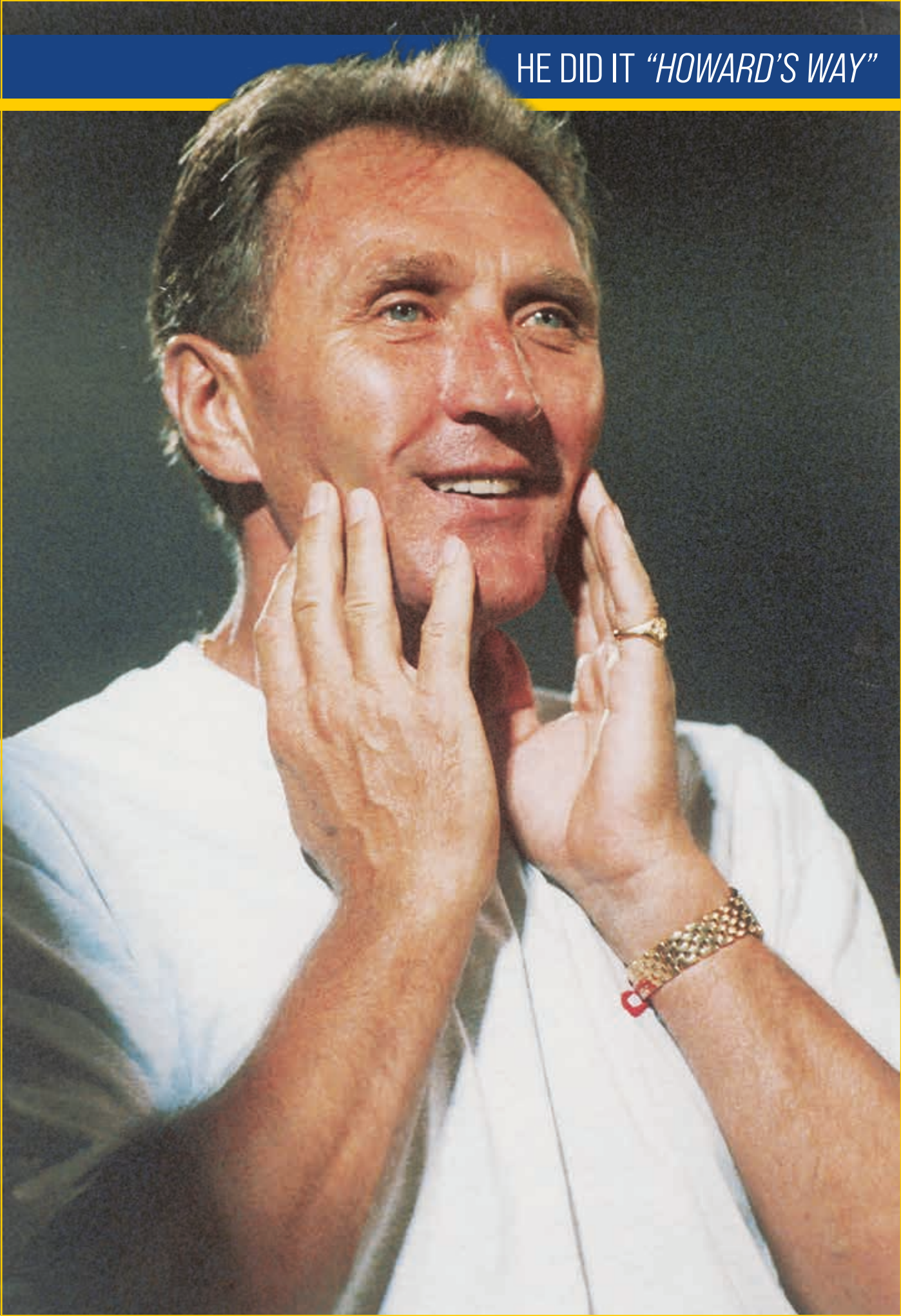


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HE DID IT “HOWARD’S WAY”



"Without any shadow of a doubt Howard Wilkinson was the most exciting and successful signing that I made during my time at Leeds United."

Leslie Silver OBE - Chairman of Leeds United 1981 to 1996

"Howard Wilkinson was a professional in every sense of the word and what he achieved at Leeds United was nothing short of a miracle."

Bill Fotherby - Director of Leeds United 1981 to 1996

"Howard Wilkinson is a scholar of the game and knows as much about football as anyone I know. Howard may come across on the telly as a dour man but, when you get to know him, he's a great guy and funny with it."

Gary Speed - Leeds United 1988 to 1996

"Howard Wilkinson was a great motivator for me during my time at Leeds United – he was absolutely awesome."

Vinnie Jones - Leeds United 1989 to 1990

"I met Howard Wilkinson and his chief scout, Ian MacFarlane in July 1989. They sold Leeds United as a club to me and I had no hesitation in signing on the dotted line.

Howard simply said, *We're going to win the league. And we did.*"

Mel Sterland: Leeds United 1989 to 1994

