

Fan's view – Manchester United

By Brendan Fitzpatrick

Manchester United 2-0 Liverpool (October 22nd 2006)

A good result at the weekend for all Man United fans. In many ways, the rivalry with Liverpool has overtaken the rivalry with near-neighbours, Man. City. Many pundits were saying that if Liverpool failed to get a result at Old Trafford, their title challenge would be effectively over and it seemed that Liverpool manager, Rafa Benitez was suitably worried to pack his midfield with 5 men, keep the game tight and hope for a breakaway goal. The breakaway goal never materialised and once Paul Scholes scored on his 500th appearance for Man United, the final result seemed inevitable. Far from spurring Liverpool into action, the Scholes' goal highlighted the lack of ideas from Benitez' men.

England defender, Rio Ferdinand, who has yet to fully convince all United fans, went some way towards doing so by scoring against their bitter rivals for the second year running. Last year he scored with his head in the dying minutes to snatch a dramatic victory, this year his swivelled shot in the box sealed the result and put United top of the table again. But yet, and despite the return to form of veterans such as Gary Neville, Ryan Giggs and Paul Scholes, many seasoned United fans remain unconvinced about their title challenge. Of all the victories this year most have been against inferior opposition such as Watford, Charlton and Spurs. While United failed their most serious challenge to date against Arsenal. In fact most of the teams that they have beaten have been outside the top half of the table. So no change on Sunday then as Liverpool stay 11th. A very good day at the office.

Read the BBC Sport match report here:

http://news.bbc.co.uk/sport2/hi/football/eng_prem/6050692.stm