

Blackburn Rovers | Cinderella Story

Video Transcript

ALAN SHEARER:

I remember one of my first training sessions

I came in after training, back into the dressing room
and sort of chucked my kit into the middle of the floor

Everyone sort of looked at me as if to say 'what are you doing?'

I didn't realise that at Blackburn you had to take your own kit home and
wash it!

COLIN HENDRY:

Where's Blackburn? Where is Blackburn?

GRAEME LE SAUX:

I knew it was North of England. But I didn't know how far north of
Manchester it was

Was it further west than Preston?

ALAN SHEARER:

I knew where it was. I'd never been there

I knew what their ambitions were, I knew that they were thinking big

I knew that they were going to give it a right good go

And they certainly did that

PETER STEVENSON:

Blackburn in the 60s and 70s, very much struggling

No real sense of it being a footballing force

So you can imagine when all of a sudden

Jack Walker suddenly turns up and decides 'I'm going to put some money in'

You can just sense the anticipation, the excitement, the buzz

JULIANA PREUGSCHAT:

Jack was Blackburn born and bred, and you knew that his intentions were genuine

He had no ulterior motive

He wanted Blackburn Rovers to win the Premier League

He wanted promotion and he wanted the Premier League trophy

SIR KENNY DALGLISH:

It just seemed a wee bit Cinderella story, I said I might as well have a go

Meeting Jack for the first time, he wasn't the type of person that would give you the impression that he was that wealthy

And I think that's a great compliment to him

I think what he wanted to do at Blackburn

I don't see that being repeated

PETER STEVENSON:

He was quoted as saying he wanted it to be the best

He'd always believed in Blackburn and he wanted Blackburn to be right up there

as one of the best football teams in the land if not in the world

He was passionate about the club

He was very very much a man of the people

GRAEME LE SAUX:

It was warm, friendly, happy, ambitious

You know from the outside it was a small club

We were training on community pitches, that was bisected by a road that went up to a cemetery

And people would be walking their dogs on the park

It was called Pleasington but it was anything but pleasant in the winter

So it wasn't glamorous

But it was, everything about it was optimistic

Everybody knew each other within the club. We were all on first name terms

There was no hierarchy and I think that was one of the great things about that club

ALAN SHEARER:

Julie was one of a number of people who had been at Blackburn through the difficult times

They were the people of the club, had been there for years

A long time before I got there and Kenny had got there

and Chris Sutton had got there and Tim Sherwood

So these were the guys that made the club tick before we were there

Dir: She said you did a rather good Blackburn accent?

Never. You've got no chance of trying to get that out of me

You can sit here all day you won't!

JULIANA PREUGSCHAT:

'Car park! Are you up car park?'

That's what they'd be saying. But his is worse, Geordie accent

It were all about banter

PETER STEVENSON:

They created a Shearer pie in the bakers across the road

And the queues of people, queues of fans, the queues of reporters, that would all go into that shop, 'can I have a Shearer pie'

Chicken and beans or something like that, but you know it got to that level

JULIANA PREUGSCHAT:

I had a little book and they'd come in and say 'Riverside'

I'd tear a ticket out, give it to them, 'give us your tenner'

But when it got massive, the queues were down the road. They were down Nuttall Street

You'd come in in the morning, you'd think you'd get there early, there were already a queue all the way to Bolton Road

It were unbelievable

PETER STEVENSON:

You sensed that upsurge

And I guess people would be starting to wonder, Jack's put his money in, what can we do?

Can we win it?