

Date: 13 February 1993  
Opposition: Southampton  
Competition: League

British Football Wk

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## BRITISH SOCCER WEEK

### Saints down Liverpool

Southampton substitute Nicky Banger ended hopes of a Liverpool recovery in a pulsating second half at The Dell. Banger, a 68th minute substitute for Jeff Kenna, took just six minutes to swing the game Saints' way.

Liverpool defender Steve Nicol looked favourite to get a long pass, but his back header fell short enough of goalkeeper David James for Banger to race clear. His attempted chip hit the advancing James but he picked up the rebound and kept his cool to slot the ball home.

Southampton took the lead in the 24th minute when a cross from Jason Dodd exposed Liverpool's defensive frailties. Centre-back Mark Wright was at fault for allowing Neil Maddison the chance to beat goalkeeper James.

Don Hutchison was guilty of two glaring misses which would have brought Liverpool back into the game early in the second half when substitute Jamie Redknapp came on to revitalise the visitors.

Hutchison finally found the mark in the 60th minute putting his side back on level terms with a brilliant 25-yard shot to end a fine solo run.

Liverpool manager Graeme Souness was a bitterly disappointed man after this 2-1 defeat at The Dell moved his side into relegation trouble. The Merseysiders are just six points above the danger zone after their 11th League setback this season.

Souness said: "In the first half we never really got started. They deserved to take the lead. We played well in the second-half and scored with our only attack of note although their goalkeeper made two or three very good saves. But after getting back into the match we should have never lost it and I'm very disappointed. Mistakes we have cut out in our last three matches came back again and now we are back to where we were before. I'm not a happy boy."

Meanwhile, Saints' manager Ian Branfoot was understandably jubilant and praised the professional attitude and team spirit of his young side, saying: "I'm delighted with the result and the performance." Branfoot added: "We came under a tremendous amount of pressure after half-time and it says a lot for the attitude of my young players that we were able to hold on."