

A photograph of a man, likely a coach or player, sitting on a bench. He is wearing a red tracksuit with white stripes on the sleeves and legs. He has a serious expression and is looking towards the right. The background is blurred, showing other people and what appears to be a stadium setting.

Shareef Abdallah

The King Takes Over

**Liverpool and
the Dalglish Years
1985-1991**

The King Takes Over

**Liverpool and
the Dalglish Years
1985-1991**

Shareef Abdallah



Contents

Introduction	8
1. The King of the Kop	21
2. Liverpool FC: Treble 1983/84	40
3. Fagan's Farewell	52
4. King Kenny Takes Over	62
5. The Double.	69
6. A Tale of Two Strikers	78
7. Not Good Enough	84
8. Brilliant Barnes.	89
9. 5-0	97
10. The Double Denied	102
11. Rush Returns.	109
12. Nightmare New Year's Day	114
13. Hillsborough	118
14. Wembley Wonders	143
15. Gunned Down	151
16. 9-0	158
17. Rocket Ronny	165
18. Last Champions	170
19. The Record.	175
20. Kenny Quits	183
Postscript	197
Bibliography	216

Chapter One

The King of the Kop

KENNY DALGLISH made his debut at Wembley on 13 August 1977 in the Charity Shield, where Liverpool faced their FA Cup conquerors Manchester United in front of 82,000 fans. Dalglish linked up well with his new team-mates in a goalless draw. The Liverpool fans chanted his name from the terraces for the first time and not the last.

His league debut came at Middlesbrough the following week, where Kenny scored his first goal in a Liverpool shirt in a 1-1 draw. At a packed Anfield a few days later, he announced himself to the Kop, with his pace allowing him to burst through and score on 46 minutes. Terry McDermott added a second in a comfortable 2-0 victory over Newcastle. It was the start of a very special bond between Dalglish and his adoring Liverpool fans.

As the season went on, Kenny became used to the dressing room banter. The team spirit was strong and there was no player who felt that they were bigger than the football club. He was surrounded by some of the finest players in Europe: Emlyn Hughes the England captain, Ray Clemence, Terry McDermott, Phil Neal, Ray Kennedy, Phil Thompson, John Toshack, his fellow Scot Alan Hansen and the 'Anfield Iron' Tommy Smith. While it may have been difficult for Kenny

not to be intimidated in those early days, he did his talking on the pitch and the goals started to flow regularly. He also quickly developed a lifelong friendship with Hansen, then in January 1978 a third 'Jock', Graeme Souness, signed from Middlesbrough for £352,000. They would go on to be three of the greatest players in Liverpool history.

Souness soon formed a superb partnership in the middle with Terry McDermott, whose energy, running power and ability to score vital goals made him the perfect foil for the aggressive Scotsman. Jimmy Case, a hardman in every sense of the word, and Ray Kennedy made up the rest of the midfield. Kennedy was Bill Shankly's last signing in 1974. A striker with Arsenal, Bob Paisley switched him to the left of midfield, where he would go on to have a long and successful career in a red shirt. He was good in the air, had a silky left foot and would go on to score many important goals for Liverpool at home and abroad.

Under Bill Shankly the Reds had played with a target man. The tall and powerful Wales striker John Toshack had formed a prolific partnership with Kevin Keegan, with the big forward holding the ball up and providing flick-ons for the busy Keegan to run on to. They had led Liverpool to the league championship in 1972/73, 1975/76 and 1976/77, plus the UEFA Cup in 1975/76. However, with Dalglish replacing Keegan, the style of play changed. They became more of a passing team, with a pass-and-move style. In a time of fewer tactics than nowadays, they typically overcame their opponents as they had better players and would fight until the last kick of the match.

Local lad David Fairclough, later dubbed as 'super sub' for his habit of scoring late goals from the bench, most famously in a 3-1 win over Saint-Étienne in the 1977 European Cup quarter-final at Anfield, formed a promising partnership with Dalglish in 1977/78 as they hit 46 goals between them, with

Kenny netting 31 in his debut season. Kenny also won his first trophy, the European Super Cup after Liverpool beat Hamburg 6-0 at Anfield on a miserable return to Merseyside for Kevin Keegan, with Dalglish netting the sixth goal.

Off the pitch, Kenny, Marina and Kelly had been staying at the Holiday Inn in the city centre but they would move to a house in Southport within a year. On the pitch, it was Nottingham Forest, newly promoted under Brian Clough and his assistant Peter Taylor, who would become Liverpool's greatest rivals. The Reds reached the League Cup Final for the first time, where they faced Clough's men on Saturday, 18 March 1978. It was an opportunity for Kenny to pick up his first piece of domestic silverware.

Liverpool: Clemence, Neal, Hughes (c), Thompson, Smith, Case, McDermott, Callaghan, Dalglish, Heighway (Fairclough), Kennedy

Forest: Woods, Anderson, Clark, McGovern (c) (O'Hare), Lloyd, Burns, O'Neill, Bowyer, Withe, Woodcock, Robertson

With Souness cup-tied, along with Peter Shilton for Forest, it was 18-year-old Chris Woods in the Forest goal who constantly denied Liverpool, as he made a series of fine saves to deny Dalglish and his team-mates. In their change strip of white shirts and black shorts, Liverpool attacked from the start. Kenny missed a good chance after a long ball by Emlyn Hughes put him through but he could only fire wide when well placed. Woods then began his one-man show of defiance, firstly pushing away a powerful shot by Emlyn Hughes, then doing well to parry a powerful shot by Ray Kennedy and pouncing at Dalglish's feet to save the rebound at the end of the first half. Meanwhile, John Robertson, the skilful Scotland winger, was being well marshalled by Phil

Thompson, alongside Tommy Smith at the heart of the Liverpool defence, with Hughes at left-back.

In the second half, despite Liverpool's best efforts, Kenny Burns and former Reds defender Larry Lloyd kept them at bay. Terry McDermott thought he had fired Liverpool in front but referee Pat Partridge chalked the goal off after Dalglish had strayed offside. Then Tony Woodcock almost snatched a winner against the run of play, but Ray Clemence was alert enough to deny him just before full time. Extra time brought no further incident as both teams shut up shop, afraid of making a mistake. So the final ended in a 0-0 draw and a replay to be held on Wednesday, 22 March, when 54,375 fans turned up at Old Trafford.

Liverpool: Clemence, Neal, Hughes (c), Thompson, Smith, Case (Fairclough), McDermott, Callaghan, Dalglish, Kennedy, Heighway

Forest: Woods, Anderson, Clark, O'Hare, Lloyd, Burns (c), O'Neill, Bowyer, Withe, Woodcock, Robertson

On a controversial night, nothing went right for the Reds. Despite constant pressure, again they couldn't find a breakthrough. In fact, they became so frustrated that Ian Callaghan picked up a booking, his first in 849 matches. This time, though, Chris Woods didn't have as much to do as at Wembley, but he handled anything that came his way confidently. Then on 52 minutes John O'Hare ran through and was tripped by Phil Thompson. He claimed that the foul was just outside the box, a view supported by television replays, but referee Partridge pointed to the spot. John Robertson scored, despite Clemence diving the right way.

Liverpool's sense of injustice became even stronger when Terry McDermott had a goal ruled out late in the second

half. It was given for handball as both referee and linesman believed he had controlled the ball with his arm before he fired a volley past Chris Woods. After the match McDermott bitterly denied that he had handled, saying that he had chested the ball before scoring, but it wasn't to be Liverpool's night, with Nottingham Forest claiming the League Cup after this hard-fought 1-0 victory.

It was a tough defeat to take and an early example for Kenny of how difficult it would be to win trophies in England. That victory would inspire Forest, who also became league champions, gaining 64 points, seven clear of Liverpool. However, the Reds still had the opportunity to end the season with silverware.

In the European Cup they had fought their way to the semi-finals with victories over the East German champions Dynamo Dresden, 6-3 on aggregate, and Portuguese giants Benfica, 6-2 on aggregate. They would face their old West German foes Borussia Mönchengladbach once again for a place in the final. A narrow 2-1 defeat in Germany was followed by a rousing 3-0 victory at Anfield, on a glory night in front of the Kop, where Dalglish scored the second goal.

1978 European Cup Final

On Wednesday, 10 May 1978 at a packed Wembley Stadium, 92,500 fans and a live audience on ITV turned up and tuned in to see whether Liverpool could become the first British club to retain the European Cup. Kenny was no stranger to Wembley, of course, having played there for Scotland in 1973, 1975 and 1977, as well as in the Charity Shield at the start of the season. Liverpool's opponents, Belgian champions Club Brugge, were known for their defensive approach but had recorded a shock victory over Italian giants Juventus in the semi-finals.

THE KING TAKES OVER

Liverpool: Clemence, Neal, Hughes (c), Thompson, Hansen, Case (Heighway), Souness, McDermott, Dalglish, Fairclough, Kennedy

Club Brugge: Jensen, Bastijns (c), Krieger, Leekens, Maes (Volders), Cools, De Cubber, Kü (Sanders), Vandereycken, Sørensen, Simoen

In front of packed stands full of supporters in red, there must have been some Brugge fans at Wembley but it was hard to hear them. The Reds attacked from the start and it soon became a case of the irresistible force against the immovable object. It was only Denmark goalkeeper Birger Jensen who kept Liverpool at bay in the first half. He denied Terry McDermott, who was the pick of the midfield players, although Graeme Souness and Ray Kennedy both had their moments. Jimmy Case had a free kick punched away by Jensen, and Kennedy fired across the box but there was no one at the far post to apply the finish. Alan Hansen saw his header tipped over, but the final was scoreless at the break.

In the second half McDermott ran through but Jensen again denied him, this time with his legs. However, when the breakthrough finally came on 65 minutes it was a thing of beauty. McDermott crossed the ball, Souness controlled it and slipped a pass to Dalglish, on the edge of the six-yard box. He waited for the goalkeeper to go down before dinking the ball over him into the corner of the net. Kenny then jumped the advertising hoardings to celebrate with the Liverpool fans behind the goal. In many ways it was a dream goal for Kenny; here he was scoring in a European Cup Final, and at Wembley too, the Mecca for all Scottish footballers.

Now Brugge had to open up and try to get back into the match but they were too dour and negative to change their style of play. They almost forced a late equaliser after a short back-pass from Alan Hansen, but Phil Thompson spared his

blushes by clearing off the line. It was to be the last real chance of the match. Liverpool won 1-0 and Emlyn Hughes climbed the famous 39 steps to lift the European Cup for the second time. Dalglish had fulfilled his dream of winning in Europe and had paid back his transfer fee in the process.

The triumphant team returned to the city by train after celebrating long into the night. The open-top bus parade with the trophy through Liverpool was an amazing sight, with even some Everton fans turning up to wave at the victorious players. It had been a wonderful season for Kenny, who was soon to leave these shores for Argentina and the 1978 World Cup.

1978 World Cup

In qualifying, Scotland had beaten the European champions Czechoslovakia 3-1 at Hampden Park in September 1977, Kenny heading one of the goals. The following month against Wales at Anfield he scored another brilliant late header to give the Scots a 2-0 victory and a place at the World Cup finals. However, to this day Wales fans point to the dubious penalty given after it appeared that Joe Jordan handled the ball rather than Welsh defender David Jones.

The 1978 World Cup would be a total disaster for Scotland. The omens looked bad even before they flew to Argentina. Ebullient manager Ally MacLeod had whipped up 'Ally's Army' of fans into a frenzy. After a 2-1 win against England at Wembley in only his third match in charge in June 1977, he told the Tartan Army that they would return to Scotland 'with a medal' after the World Cup. In the Home International Championship of 1978 they had drawn 1-1 at home to Wales after surviving a missed penalty, Willie Donachie scoring a comical own goal in the last minute. A 1-1 draw against Northern Ireland followed before the big one: England at Hampden for the traditional Auld Enemy clash.

With 85,000 fans roaring them on and hardly an England fan to be seen, Scotland tore into their opponents. However, despite hitting the post and forcing Clemence into some fine saves, they couldn't break down a stubborn England defence led by Emlyn Hughes. Then on 82 minutes Alan Rough, who would concede 63 goals in 53 appearances for his country, dropped a cross under a challenge from Trevor Francis, and Manchester United winger Steve Coppell silenced Hampden by firing home the only goal. However, the 1-0 defeat did little to dampen the Scots' enthusiasm as they would be the only British team to appear in the World Cup, with England finishing behind Italy and failing to qualify for Argentina.

Scotland were drawn in a group with the Netherlands, minus Johan Cruyff, who had decided not to take part after a kidnapping threat to his family, South American champions Peru and outsiders Iran. MacLeod had chosen not to watch any of his opponents play, relying on match reports and videos. Then, bizarrely, Scotland had a 'victory send-off' in front of 30,000 fans as they paraded around Hampden Park on an open-top bus before they flew to Argentina.

Now an experienced member of the team, the tournament would be a real eye-opener for Kenny. In their opening match against Peru, after Joe Jordan had given them an early lead, Don Masson had a penalty saved and Peru came back to win 3-1. Rough was at fault for two of the goals, not moving to try to save a long-range shot by Cubillas, then letting a free kick by the same player beat him at his near post. Things went from bad to worse when winger Willie Johnston failed a random drug test after taking hay fever medication. He was sent home.

In their next match against Iran in a half-empty stadium, an own goal gave Scotland the lead, but after Rough was beaten at his near post again, the Scots could only draw 1-1. Ally MacLeod looked like a haunted man as all his pre-

tournament boasts had come home to roost. They now had to beat the Netherlands by three clear goals to qualify for the second group phase.

However, with the pressure off, Scotland put on an outstanding display. After Bruce Rioch hit the bar and Kenny had a goal harshly ruled out for a foul, they at last found their feet. Having gone a goal down to a Dutch penalty on 34 minutes, just before half-time Joe Jordan headed the ball back and Kenny lashed it home. At the start of the second half Graeme Souness was fouled and Nottingham Forest's Archie Gemmill gave the Scots the lead from the penalty spot. Then he produced the most famous goal in his country's history, when he jinked past player after player and curled home a brilliant solo effort. Scotland were now 3-1 up and just needed one more goal to get through. But their joy lasted only three minutes before Johnny Rep fired a superb shot past Rough from 30 yards. Although they had regained their pride, Kenny and his team-mates flew home, despite recording a famous 3-2 victory.

More domestic and European glory

There was no time for Kenny to dwell on his disappointment. In 1978/79 Liverpool would take their game to another level. They would go on to break a host of records, with many older supporters, including me, thinking that this was the greatest-ever team in the club's history. This regular XI would go down in Anfield folklore:

Clemence, Neal, Alan Kennedy, Thompson, Hansen,
Case, Souness, McDermott, Dalglish, Johnson, Ray
Kennedy

They would take the First Division by storm, scoring a record number of goals and claiming an English record points tally under the old system of two points for a win:

P42 W30 D8 L4 F85 A16 Pts68

Kenny helped himself to 21 league goals and was named the Football Writers' Player of the Year, receiving the trophy from Pelé himself. He had formed a lethal partnership with the late David 'Doc' Johnson, who earned his nickname as he always carried a bag full of first aid items. Between them they hit 43 goals as the England striker was the perfect foil for Kenny's skilful through balls and intelligent running. It was a dream season, the only blot a defeat by Nottingham Forest in the first round of the European Cup when, after a 2-0 away defeat, Liverpool couldn't find a way past Peter Shilton in a goalless second leg at Anfield. Forest would go on to lift the trophy.

In 1979/80 Liverpool became league champions again, Dalglish starting the season in sparkling form, scoring a memorable goal as the Reds beat FA Cup holders Arsenal 3-1 in the Charity Shield in August 1979. Kenny was still among the goals, once again finishing as the team's top scorer with 23 in 61 matches. Manchester United pushed them all the way, with Liverpool clinching the title on 60 points, two clear of the Red Devils.

In 1980/81 Liverpool fell away badly after a good start. For them it was a disastrous league season, finishing in a lowly fifth place, nine points behind champions Aston Villa. Kenny had an injury-hit campaign, in and out of the team, hence his total of just eight league goals in 34 appearances. There was, though, consolation for the Reds in cup competitions. On Saturday, 14 March, they faced Second Division West Ham at Wembley in the League Cup Final. It was an opportunity for them to lift the trophy for the first time.

Liverpool: Clemence, Neal, A. Kennedy, Irwin,
Hansen, Souness, Lee, McDermott, Dalglish, R.
Kennedy (c), Heighway (Case)

West Ham: Parkes, Stewart, Lampard, Bonds (c),
Martin, Devonshire, Neighbour, Goddard (Pearson),
Cross, Brooking, Pike

It would prove to be another controversial final, and not for the first time Welsh referee Clive Thomas was in the thick of the action. He's still not forgiven by some Everton fans for mysteriously disallowing a late Bryan Hamilton goal that denied them a place in the 1977 FA Cup Final at the Reds' expense. Here he allowed Liverpool's opening goal deep into extra time to stand, after Alan Kennedy volleyed home with Sammy Lee lying in an offside position in front of goalkeeper Phil Parkes. The goal would never have stood today with VAR. However, the Hammers fought back and were awarded a last-gasp penalty when Terry McDermott handled on the line from a corner, although Thomas decided against sending him off. It was Scotland right-back Stewart who sent Clemence the wrong way to equalise and send the final to a replay.

The replay took place on Wednesday, 1 April at Villa Park. The match was live on ITV and was the first Liverpool match I ever saw on TV, aged seven. From then on I would be a passionate Liverpool supporter. Living in Glasgow and supporting Scotland, Kenny was always who I pretended to be in the playground, and then when I got my first full Scotland strip that Christmas. The match would prove to be a special night for a skinny young Welsh striker who joined Dalglish up front. Ian Rush was outstanding, as his pace, movement and eye for goal tormented the West Ham defence.

Liverpool: Clemence, Neal, A. Kennedy, Hansen,
Thompson (c), Lee, Case, McDermott, Dalglish,
Rush, R. Kennedy

West Ham: Parkes, Stewart, Lampard, Bonds (c),
Martin, Devonshire, Neighbour, Goddard, Cross,
Brooking, Pike (Pearson)

After a bright start West Ham took the lead against the run of play on ten minutes when Paul Goddard headed past Clemence. Liverpool pressed forward and on 25 minutes Dalglish drew them level with a brilliant volley from Terry McDermott's through ball. Alan Hansen headed the Reds in front from a corner on 28 minutes. Rush then hit the bar, and in the second half the Hammers began to leave more space at the back as they desperately searched for an equaliser that would force extra time or even penalties. However, there was no way past Phil Thompson or Hansen as the Reds defended resolutely. In the dying seconds Billy Bonds headed over Trevor Brooking's free kick but this was their last chance, and Liverpool had won the cup for the first time. In their change strip of white shirts and black shorts, captain Phil Thompson paraded the cup on a lap of honour in front of the jubilant fans. It was the two Scots, Hansen and Dalglish, who shared the glory, and their photographs holding the cup would appear in the sports pages the next day.

However, there was still more glory to come. After seeing off Alex Ferguson's Aberdeen 4-0 at Anfield and 5-0 on aggregate, the Reds also got past talented Bulgarians CSKA Sofia to reach the European Cup semi-finals against the three-time winners Bayern Munich. The Germans put on a defensive masterclass at Anfield in the first leg, defending doggedly to earn a 0-0 draw. So confident were they of reaching the final that they distributed leaflets with directions to Paris before the kick-off of the second leg.

Bob Paisley, who rarely used special tactics in European matches, told Sammy Lee to man-mark the Munich playmaker Paul Breitner. But it was Howard Gayle who ran the Germans ragged. The Toxteth-born winger replaced Dalglish after a serious injury on nine minutes. Gayle, the first black player to appear for Liverpool, was sensational. He was an unknown

quantity who had rarely played before so was a mystery for the Bayern defence. It was stand-in skipper Ray Kennedy who volleyed Liverpool ahead on 83 minutes, the vital away goal meaning that the Germans had to score twice to reach the final. They pulled one back through Karl-Heinz Rummenigge but the Reds held on for a 1-1 draw and a place in the final against Real Madrid on the away goals rule.

With the final in May it was a race against time for Kenny to get fit for the big occasion. He just made it but was below par as he lacked match sharpness. As Liverpool travelled to Paris to face the five-time winners Real Madrid, their fans turned the French capital red.

Liverpool: Clemence, Neal, A. Kennedy, Hansen, Thompson (c), Souness, Lee, McDermott, Dalglish (Case), Johnson, R. Kennedy

Real Madrid: Agustin, Cortes (Pineda), Camacho, Stielike, Sabido, Del Bosque, Ángel, Santillana (c), Navajas, Juanito, Cunningham

The final would be a tense and cagey affair. The Spaniards in all white failed to live up to their great team of the 1960s and played very aggressively. Constant fouls broke up the flow of play, with few scoring chances in the first half. Dalglish had a weak shot comfortably saved and McDermott fired over. Scoreless at the interval, the match fell into the same pattern in the second half. Only England winger Laurie Cunningham troubled the Liverpool defence but Clemence had little to do.

Just when it seemed the match was drifting towards extra time, an unlikely hero stepped forward. On 81 minutes from a throw-in, Ray Kennedy found Alan Kennedy, who burst into the box and from a narrow angle fired high past Agustin at his near post. 'Barney', as he was nicknamed, ran to celebrate with jubilant supporters behind the goal. Kenny

managed to last 86 minutes before being replaced by Jimmy Case, having run himself into the ground. Despite a few late corners from Madrid, Liverpool held on comfortably for a famous 1-0 win.

Bob Paisley thus became the first manager to win the European Cup three times, a remarkable record, as was Liverpool winning their third European Cup in three finals. Only Carlo Ancelotti would equal and then surpass Paisley's record of three victories, ironically in charge of Real Madrid after a 1-0 win against the run of play against Liverpool in Paris in May 2022.

The following season of 1981/82 saw the Reds reclaim the league championship as they finished on 87 points, four clear of future England manager Bobby Robson's Ipswich Town. Kenny managed 18 goals in 42 league appearances, the most vital one coming in the last home match of the season. Trailing to a brilliant long-range strike from Spurs' Glenn Hoddle, Dalglish scored past former team-mate Ray Clemence at the Kop end, before a header by Mark Lawrenson and a late Ronnie Whelan goal gave Liverpool a 3-1 victory. It was Kenny's second league championship medal and Bob Paisley's fifth success since 1976. They had been in 12th place after a 3-1 defeat by Manchester City at Anfield on Boxing Day but put together an incredible run to become champions once more.

It was Tottenham again who stood in Liverpool's way in the League Cup Final. On Saturday, 13 March 1982 Liverpool faced Spurs with a new trophy at stake, the Milk Cup, which would be presented along with the traditional three-handled trophy.

Liverpool: Grobbelaar, Neal, A. Kennedy, Lawrenson,
Thompson, Souness (c), Lee, McDermott (Johnson),
Rush, Dalglish, Whelan

Tottenham: Clemence, Hughton, Miller, Roberts, Hazard (Villa), Perryman (c), Ardiles, Archibald, Galvin, Hoddle, Crooks

It would be a classic final. Tottenham, incredibly, had never lost at Wembley and began the brighter. In the 11th minute Scotland striker Steve Archibald gave them the lead as he got in behind the Liverpool defence. Graeme Souness, who had taken over the captaincy from local lad Phil Thompson in early 1982, drove his men on. They peppered the Spurs goal but the North Londoners led 1-0 at the interval.

In the second half, Argentina's 1978 World Cup winner Ossie Ardiles's superb passing caused the Reds problems, and with Hoddle supplying the lively Garth Crooks and Archibald, the match started to drift away from Liverpool. Then on 87 minutes Ronnie Whelan, a 20-year-old Irish midfielder, rescued the match when he fired past Ray Clemence to take the final into extra time. As the Tottenham players lay on the turf to receive refreshments and instructions from their manager, Bob Paisley, sporting a flat cap, told his players to stand up to show that they weren't tired before the extra half-hour.

It was Whelan again who found the net on 111 minutes after he was picked out by Dalglish. Then in the 119th minute Ian Rush sealed the victory when he beat Clemence after a flowing move. Liverpool had retained the cup with a 3-1 win.

More World Cup woes

In the summer of 1982 Kenny was in Spain as Scotland faced New Zealand, Brazil and the Soviet Union in the World Cup group stage. This time a good start against the part-time Kiwis showed promise, Kenny opening the scoring, before a brace by John Wark gave the Scots a 3-0 half-time lead. However, at the start of the second half they pressed the self-destruct button.

After a mix-up between Danny McGrain and Alan Rough, then a mistake by Alan Hansen, suddenly the score was 3-2. But a superb free kick by John Robertson and a late Archibald header sealed a 5-2 victory, although those two cheap goals would prove very costly at the end of the first round.

Jock Stein dropped Kenny for the next match against Brazil, who many people believe were the best team never to win the World Cup. Right-back David Narey gave Scotland a shock lead with a brilliant volley but Zico equalised with a free kick after a needless foul by Alan Hansen. Alan Rough just stood and watched the ball sail in, then he was caught off his line as Éder chipped a brilliant third goal, Oscar having already given Brazil the lead. It turned into a rout as Brazil ran out 4-1 winners.

Kenny had come on in the second half against Brazil but, needing to win their last match against the Soviet Union, Jock Stein inexplicably didn't even include Kenny as a substitute. A horrendous collision between Alan Hansen and Willie Miller meant the game finished in a 2-2 draw. A late Graeme Souness goal had given the Scots hope but once again they went out on goal difference, those two goals by New Zealand making all the difference. Sadly, Scotland had failed to get past the first round once again. They had scored an impressive eight goals in three matches but Rough had conceded eight too.

It was to be Kenny's last World Cup, as he missed Mexico 1986 through injury, when Alex Ferguson led the team after the tragic death of Jock Stein following a 1-1 draw with Wales at Cardiff.

More League Cup success

In the summer of 1982 Bob Paisley announced that the 1982/83 season would be his last. Liverpool hadn't won the FA Cup under him and, despite his players' best efforts, the

trophy would continue to elude him. They suffered a shock 2-1 defeat to Brighton at Anfield when the normally reliable Phil Neal missed a penalty, and Jimmy Case, who felt that he had been sold too early, returned to haunt his former club with a brilliant long-range free kick for the winner.

Liverpool ran away with the league championship, despite not winning any of their final seven matches. They finished on 82 points, 11 clear of newly promoted Watford under Graham Taylor and including in their ranks John Barnes.

In the League Cup the Reds reached their third final in a row, this time to face Manchester United. On 26 March 1983 Bob Paisley led Liverpool out for the last time at Wembley. Could they win their third League/Milk Cup in a row or would Manchester United win their first trophy since 1977?

Liverpool: Grobbelaar, Neal, Kennedy, Lawrenson, Whelan, Hansen, Dalglish, Lee, Rush, Johnston (Fairclough), Souness (c)

Manchester United: Bailey, Duxbury, Albiston, Moses, Moran (Macari), McQueen, Wilkins (c), Muhren, Stapleton, Whiteside, Coppell

The match began slowly with both teams trying to get on the ball. Remi Moses and Graeme Souness clashed in midfield but then in the 12th minute United took the lead after their first serious attack. A long ball by Gordon McQueen was controlled by Norman Whiteside, who turned Alan Hansen and fired past Grobbelaar. At 17 he became the youngest-ever scorer in a final at Wembley.

Liverpool almost hit back straight away when Whelan fired wide after Rush challenged United goalkeeper Gary Bailey. Following a free kick, Graeme Souness drove wide as Liverpool pushed forward, then Bailey saved well from Ian

Rush. At the other end Frank Stapleton headed a free kick over the bar and Steve Coppell fired straight at Grobbelaar. Manchester United led 1-0 at half-time.

At the start of the second half Ronnie Whelan went close with a header, Alan Kennedy fired a long-range shot over the bar and Ian Rush fired across the face of the goal. Then with 15 minutes left Liverpool drew level when Kennedy's 25-yard shot bounced past Gary Bailey.

David Fairclough replaced Craig Johnston in the 83rd minute as both teams tried to find a winner before the final went into extra time. Whiteside headed into the side-netting after Grobbelaar came for a cross and missed the ball. Then in injury time came a moment of controversy, when the Liverpool goalkeeper was lucky not to receive a red card after he fouled McQueen as he ran in on goal. Referee George Courtney booked Grobbelaar as the incident took place nearly 30 yards from goal. It was the last major incident of the 90 minutes and the match ended 1-1.

At the start of extra time Kenny Dalglish ran through after a fine run but shot straight at Bailey. Then in the 99th minute Liverpool took the lead, Whelan curling home a fine shot. He had scored two goals in the 1982 Milk Cup Final against Tottenham and now his goal had put Liverpool in the driving seat.

As Manchester United surged forward in a desperate search for an equaliser, David Fairclough missed two gilt-edged chances after being put clean through on Bailey, firing high and wide both times. But Liverpool held on for a 2-1 victory. It had been a gripping final and United had pushed them all the way to the end. Captain Graeme Souness sent Bob Paisley up to the Royal Box to receive the Milk Cup in what was a fitting end to his Liverpool career at Wembley.

THE KING OF THE KOP

Kenny had won his third League Cup medal, this time against Liverpool's bitterest rivals, and 1982/83 would be a special year for him. He was back to his brilliant best as he was named the player of the year by his fellow players and went on to receive the same accolade from the football writers. He scored 18 goals in 42 league matches and had formed a deadly partnership with the prolific Ian Rush.