

## REMEMBER THIS NAME ...

It is Everton v Arsenal. It is Goodison Park in Liverpool. It is 19 October 2002. History is about to be made. The score is 1–1. The game is heading for a draw.

Wayne Rooney is waiting for his chance. He will be seventeen in five days. Wayne gets the call to come off the bench with just ten minutes to go.

Everybody expects Arsenal to see the game out. They are the champions, and they haven't been beaten in thirty games. Surely nothing can stop it becoming thirty-one?

In the ninetieth minute, Wayne brings the ball down thirty metres from goal. He turns, glances up and shifts the ball to his right.

Wayne is too quick for the defender. His shot flies over the gloves of England legend, Arsenal keeper David Seaman.

The crowd roars. He is the youngest goal scorer in Premier League history!

The commentator salutes the new star: *"Remember this name – Wayne Rooney."*



## EARLY DAYS

So where did he come from,  
Wayne Rooney, the boy wonder?

He was born on 24 October 1985,  
in north Liverpool. His family were mad Everton  
fans. Football is in his blood. Above is a picture of  
Wayne when he was just six months old, ready for  
his first match.

He wasn't the first sportsman in his family.  
His dad was a boxer. Another relative played  
semi-professional football.



Wayne grew up on a tough estate, but he doesn't  
remember it like that. He had one or two fights  
as he grew up, but most of the time he kept out  
of trouble. His mum let him know if she thought  
he was doing something wrong. He had a happy  
childhood with loving parents.



*"The best thing about  
our house was that at  
the back was a youth  
club with a five-a-side  
football pitch. I loved  
climbing over our back  
fence to play on it."*

*Wayne's  
dad is on  
the left.*

