

# Treat Yeovil like United

## RUSH'S CUP WARNING TO KOP



MURPHY'S LAW... Liverpool midfielder Danny Murphy gets stuck into United skipper Roy Keane

**IAN RUSH** last night warned Liverpool's struggling stars: "Under-estimate Yeovil at your peril."

Kop legend Rush won the FA Cup three times during his playing days - but he knows his old club face a potential banana skin in Sunday's third-round clash at Huish Park.

Rush, now a member of the Anfield coaching staff, said: "If Liverpool are not up for this one, we will lose."

"We should go into the match as if we are facing Manchester United at Old Trafford - then we won't have a problem."

"The fact the game is live on TV is proof enough the BBC think there will be a shock and, let's not kid ourselves, they want Liverpool to lose."

"The TV people will be really disappointed if we win comfort-

ably - so I hope we make sure that is what happens. Everyone in the country wants Liverpool to lose, apart from our own fans, and the nation will be cheering on the plucky underdogs. "The fact everyone wants us to slip up should be all the motivation we need to make sure it does not happen. The only way it does not go out is if the attitude is wrong."

### Tradition

"I am making the fourth-round draw so I will not be happy if Liverpool are not in it."

"This competition and the UEFA Cup are our last chance of winning a trophy this season and anything less than 100 per cent on Sunday is unthinkable."

Rush knows Yeovil have a strong giant-killing tradition and will raise their game against the Premiership big-bits.

He added: "They will play at a

level much higher than usual and what they lack in skill they will make up for in effort."

"And sometimes that is what makes the difference in cup ties."

Jan Molby, another former Liverpool hero, is now manager of Yeovil's Division Three rivals Kidderminster.

The Dane said: "They are a strong, physical side and I am sure they will give Liverpool a game."

"If Liverpool don't prepare properly or go into it thinking it is going to be easy they could be in for a shock."

Liverpool will be without skipper Steven Gerrard on Sunday because of a thigh strain while Michael Owen may not be risked, even though he returned to training yesterday.

Kop boss Gerard Houllier said: "We shall see how Michael is before the Yeovil game."

"But I would not totally rule out the possibility of him being involved at some stage."



JOHNSON... "aggressive"

## My boys can be Yeo-vile

By DAVE KIDD

GARY JOHNSON has no qualms about planning a giant-killing that could earn Kop chief Gerard Houllier the sack.

The Yeovil boss insists Liverpool will sorely miss England midfielder Steven Gerrard, sidelined by a thigh strain, when Houllier's struggling squad visit Somerset for an FA Cup third round tie on Sunday.

And Johnson, the former boss of Latvia's national team added: "All managers face pressure, his is just at a different level to mine."

"You can say Liverpool are under pressure - but I am sure Houllier must be gutted when he sits in his big mansion counting his money."

"While Latvia are not going to win the European Championships and Yeovil are not going to win the FA Cup, we are both capable of causing an upset."

### Excuses

"We play the right kind of football but Houllier will not be going home saying, 'That was a pretty game of football, we won 1-0 and they were a nice team who did not hurt us'."

"We will be aggressive on Sunday but not angry."

Johnson insists he wanted Liverpool to be a full strength.

But while Michael Owen hopes to be fit to face the Third Division side, midfielder anchorman Gerrard is definitely out.

And Johnson added: "I wanted those two to play so they could then have no excuses."

"Liverpool are a different team without Gerrard. He is their aggression. He is the pivot of their team."