

8/1/87

# Madonna reigned supreme in 1986

Without a doubt the most successful artist of last year was Madonna. Since November, 1984, all her singles have hit the top five, with the current "Open Your Heart" becoming her 13th consecutive top five record.

From the date of her first chart hit ("Holiday" in January, 1984) it took Madonna only 33 months to notch up a dozen top five hits which is a record that not even the Beatles or Elvis Presley could achieve!

Diana Ross hit the jackpot for the ladies with the Bee Gees song "Chain Reaction" nearly 15 years after her last number one.

## January tip

George Michael and Andrew Ridgeley finally decided to go their separate ways bringing an end to their four years of hitmaking as Wham!, but a promising solo career awaits George Michael.

On the day of their farewell concert (June 28) the local radio station Victory left the airwaves but it was replaced three months later by Ocean Sound which opened on October 12 and has made a promising start by placing the emphasis on music without too much small talk.

On the local entertainment scene, the Cool Notes and Edwin Starr both made personal appearances at the Chichester club, Thursdays, and they entertained appreciative crowds.

"Snooker Loopy" managed to outsell all the year's soccer-team records while Belgium won the Eurovision Song Contest for the first time. But it was the Norwegian trio A-Ha who really flew the international flag in 1986 with two hit albums, and I am pleased to recall that they were one of my tips for success last January.

Another was Whitney

Houston who did not let me down either; she became the first female singer to have three successive American number ones.

Whitney is also high on my list of predictions for success this year, along with Michael Jackson, Alison Moyet and Go West who will all have new L.P.s in the shops in the next six weeks.

After having a year off we are also likely to hear from Level 42, Tears For Fears and Bruce Springsteen again, as well as Jermaine Stewart, Five Star, Simply Red, the Housemartins and the Smiths who all made a big impression last year. But I am less sure about the other newcomers Cutting Crew and Furniture who have not shown us enough ideas and good songs.

I hope that the Pet Shop Boys will be able to muster up some more of their innovative numbers like "West

End Girls", "Love Comes Quickly" and "Opportunities". The duo were one of our top musical exports last year with "West End Girls" also reaching number one in America.

Once again Queen look to be a certain bet in the success stakes; they have another greatest hits video collection on release soon.

But I end where I began — with Madonna, who is my tip to be artist of the year for the third time running. It seems a safe bet!

## Independent Radio's Network L.P. Chart of 1986

- 1 Brothers In Arms (Dire Straits — for the second year running).
- 2 True Blue (Madonna).
- 3 Whitney Houston (never reached No. 1 spot).
- 4 A Kind Of Magic (Queen).
- 5 Revenge (Eurythmics — only reached No. 3).
- 6 Now 7 (Various).
- 7 Silk And Steel (5 Star).
- 8 Now 8 (Various).

- 9 Hits 5 (Various).
  - 10 Street Life (Bryan Ferry & Roxy Music).
- Network Singles Chart of 1986

- 1 Every Loser Wins (Nick Berry).
- 2 Don't Leave Me This Way (Communards).
- 3 Living Doll (Cliff Richard & Young Ones).
- 4 Chain Reaction (Diana Ross).
- 5 When The Going Gets Tough (Billy Ocean).
- 6 Take My Breath Away (Berlin).
- 7 I Want To Wake Up With You (Boris Gardiner).
- 8 The Lady In Red (Chris De Burgh).
- 9 A Different Corner (George Michael).
- 10 Papa Don't Preach (Madonna).

At No. 11 is "West End Girls" by Pet Shop Boys which would have been higher if its sales had not been divided between 1985 and 1986.



● Madonna: her hits success exceeds even the Beatles and Elvis Presl