Liverpool's pop chart success

Record Review

The most successful football club in the history of English league soccer has now become the most successful in the pop charts.

At the time of writing this column "Anfield Rap" by Liverpool F.C. has reached No.3 in the charts, meaning that the record has performed better than any previous songs by football teams, apart from the England international line-ups.

The reason for the strong chart placing must surely be its stunning originality, contemporary style, humour and slick productions.

"Anfield Rap" was composed by striker Craig Johnston who is likely to be retiring early from professional football to return to his roots in Australia.

So often, football songs are dull singsongs and chants that are sung painfully out of tune by teams in a choir formation, but the Liverpool disc features players, managers and commentators rapping in the New York "Hip Hop" and Chicago "House" style.

They are even dressed appropriately for the occasion! Despite going unbeaten in 38 out of their 40 League matches the team's amazing failure to conquer Wimbledon in the Cup Final has probably robbed them of a deserved Number One record.

At the risk of turning this week's column into a Sports Review I should also mention that England football team's catchy new song called "All The Way" which is another better than average effort. In this case the tune was written by the formidable Stock-Aitken-Waterman team, so with that pedigree it can hardly fail to reach the Top Ten!

This trio of writers/producers has hardly spent a week away from the Top Ten in the last 12 months. Currently they are responsible for the fabulous "Got To Be Certain" by Kylie Minogue, which is her follow-up to the best-selling single in 1988 so far, "I Should Be So Lucky."

May has been one of the rare months when the singles charts have been overflowing with good records covering every sphere of the musical rainbow from Belinda Carlisle's delightfully, summery "Circle In The Sand" to Will Downing's silky, smooth vocals on "A Love Supreme." Admittedly these tunes, like many of the others, are derived from strong albums.

Varied

Belinda's "Heaven On Earth" features all her three hits to date – the others being "I Get Weak" and "Heaven Is A Place On Earth" which were a shade too similar to Alison Moyet and Bon Jovi hits for comfort! Will Downing's self-titled LP has a noticeably varied collection of styles, very much in the Luther Vandross vein. The track that stands out above the rest is his intepretation of Maurice White's "Free" which was a No. 1 song for Deniece Williams in 1977.

Fleetwood Mac are releasing their sixth 45 from their 12-track "Tango In The Night" album, which is so strong that every cut is a potential hit single.

The choice this time is "Isn't It Midnight" which is a terrific rock number with an awesome guitar solo by Lindsey Buckingham, reminiscent of some of the great guitar-heroes of years gone by.

The other new 45 to watch out for is Jonathan Butler's polished performance on "Overflowing."

LP chart

1. Lovesexy (Prince).
2. Tango In The Night (Fleetwood Mac).
3. Stronger Than Pride (Sade).
4. Christians.
5. Dirty Dancing – Soundtrack.
6. Popped In, Souled Out (Wet Wet Wet).
7. More Dirty Dancing – Soundtrack.
8. Now That's What I Call Quite Good (Housemartins).
9. Whitney (Whitney Houston).
10. Stay On These Roads (A-Ha).