

MICHAEL THOMAS CLUB LEGEND



Michael Thomas was an outstanding midfielder for both Arsenal and Liverpool. He is best remembered by Gunners fans for scoring arguably the most famous goal in the club's long history.

In the last game of the 1988/89 season, Arsenal went to Liverpool needing to win by two goals to snatch the title. No one gave them a chance. But with Arsenal leading one-nil and time nearly up, Michael broke clear. "Thomas, charging through the midfield... it's up for grabs now... Thomas, right at the end!" Brian Moore's famous commentary still brings back magical memories for Arsenal fans. Michael had scored in the final minute of the season; Arsenal won two-nil and the title was theirs. Football just does not get more dramatic than that Anfield night.

The Lambeth-born midfielder had broken into the first team under the manager George Graham. Thomas signed for Arsenal as a schoolboy in 1982, turning professional in 1984. He had to wait until 1987 to make his debut in a League Cup semi-final against north London rivals Tottenham. Arsenal managed to get through the tie and make it to the final. Thomas was a substitute in the final as Arsenal beat Liverpool thanks to two Charlie Nicholas goals.

Thomas started the 1987/88 season at right back but his athleticism and passing ability soon brought a move to central midfield. Thomas shone in the middle of the park and his well-timed forward runs made him a goal threat. It was one of those forward runs which gave him that magical moment at Anfield.

Thomas matured and his consistency helped Graham's side win another championship in 1991. No need for a fairy-tale ending this time; Arsenal were comfortably the best team in the country.

In December 1991 Michael left the club to join Liverpool, the team whose hearts he broke on that famous night on Merseyside. He played at Anfield until 1998, winning the FA Cup in 1992. He then had short spells with Benfica and Wimbledon before retiring in 2001. A legend at two huge clubs, Gunners will always remember him for that dramatic title-winning goal.



