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Local.

Newcastle V Sunderland

5th March 1956

Sixty-one thousand fans at St. James's Park - and when Skipper Aitken won the toss for the visitors, all was set for the cup battle. ~~the~~ North-East had waited over forty years to see: Newcastle V Sunderland... Looking unfamiliar in ~~pink shirts~~ white shirts - Newcastle kicked off - the proud Cup-holders whose famed exploits have made post-war soccer history. And soon that talented forward line was testing their Wearside rivals. But just before half-time - a Shackleton lob put Holden back among the goal-scorers.

In the second half, Newcastle fans expected to see their boys stage one of those devastating goal-bursts: but it was Sunderland who dictated the play - with Len Shackleton always a menace to his former club-mates. Then it came - that long-awaited Newcastle rally: but this time, the wheel of fortune had stopped spinning for the Magpies - Sunderland kept them out.

Then, five minutes from time, Holden showed that he'd been saving up the goals for Newcastle.

Beaten by two clear goals, Newcastle's proud cup-run had ended: but North-East cup hopes are still very much alive.