

THE CUP FINAL.

Wembley in sunshine was the perfect stage for the greatest game of the year. The Duke of Edinburgh, newly home from his world tour, greeted the finalists, Luton Town and Nottingham Forest. There was an atmosphere of excitement such as only the Cup Final produces. 100,000 people saw Captains Sid Owen and Jack Burkitt exchange banners, under the eye of Her Majesty.

Luton kicked off, playing from right to left, wearing light shirts. From the start, Forest seemed much more at home in the great stadium, taking the ball into the Luton goal area. Quigley got in a shot which Ron Baynham was lucky to clear at the second attempt.

At the other end a Luton attack was foiled by left half Jack Burkitt. In goal Chick Thomson showed signs of Wembley nerves but Burkitt cleared. Forest centre-forward Tommy Wilson cleverly put the ball out to the wing. Stewart Inlach passed to Dwight, and it was in the net!

Notts were a goal up in ten minutes. What a wonderful start. An early goal is a great tonic in any match; nowhere more than in the Cup Final. Notts attacked again. Before Baynham knew it Wilson headed the second goal.

No wonder Forest were jubilant. In fourteen minutes they were two goals up. And they didn't intend to rest on their oars. Dwight was tackled by right back McNally. To Nottingham's dismay he was put on a stretcher. So, after little more than half an hour, Forest were reduced to ten men. Wembley Cup Final history was indeed repeating itself. Now, if ever, Luton had a chance to draw level. They put on the pressure and Forest were lucky to escape at the expense of a corner. This was the most anxious moment Billy Walker's men had had so far. They survived till half time.

Forest supporters were in high fettle when play was resumed and Forest kicked off. They led two-nil, but it was noticed that Roy Dwight was still off the field. He was out of the match with a broken shin bone. But Nottingham weren't content with defence. Straight away they attacked and Luton goalkeeper Ron Baynham had to clear. It was only a brief respite. Forest inside left Billy Gray began another attack.

Centre forward Tom Wilson headed to Inlath. It brought no reward, but it did show that the depleted Forest were as full of fight as ever. The question was, could they keep up the strain? Luton outside left Tony Gregory made ground and put the ball dangerously into the middle.

A Luton header was intercepted, fortunately for Forest. Is the leadership O.K. Monty?

Notts goalkeeper Chick Thomson saw danger coming on the Luton left. Centre half McKinlay conceded a corner.

Left back Ken Hawkes put the ball across the goal and left half Dave Pacey beat Thomson with a great shot.

How the Hatters cheered. Only one goal behind now. It put new heart into Luton. Thomson saved. Bingham robbed MacDonald, only for Pacey to shoot wide.

Again Bingham centred. Great chance for Luton here, but again Chick Thomson got the ball away. The whistle went for time. Nottingham forest had won the Cup!

Skipper Jack Burkitt led his team of ten to the Royal Box. It's sixty-one years since Forest won the cup before. What a triumph for him and his brilliant team, but what a tragedy that Roy Dwight wasn't there to receive his medal.

To win the Cup is a great feat at any time. To win with ten men is an epic achievement!

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