

Gateshead lost— but how Bolton had to fight

GATESHEAD 0, BOLTON 1

PROUDLY doff your hats to the gallant Gateshead fighters who failed to reach the semi-final, but went down with great honour to a Bolton outfit which never looked a First Division side.

Make no mistake about it, Bill Tulip's boys were never outclassed. They more than held their own and were almost worth a second chance. Smith missed an empty goal from a Winter pass after 12 minutes. That might have changed it all.

But Bolton won because Langton, unaffected by barracking, calmly put over a centre in the 54th minute which March should have cleared but didn't, and Lofthouse headed it past Gray for what proved to be the winner.

How far Gateshead were affected by the absence of centre-forward Wilbert will never be known. Winters, his deputy, missed the chance of the game just before the end by trying a spectacular bash after beating Barrass when Hampton had left his goal. A gentle lob would have produced a goal.

Against this Bolton defence, shaky though it was at the start, Third Division tactics just did not pay, and towards the finish the home attack had almost faded out.

Bolton swanked a bit after scoring, but it was never justified. Whoever tried it usually paid by losing the ball and, in the end, they were probably glad when it was all over.

BILL STEPHENS.

People

1/3/53.

Everton Rewarded Spurs Force Replay

By Our Special Correspondents

Aston Villa.....0 Everton.....1

A TENACIOUS display by Everton gained them a well-deserved win at Villa Park where they beat Aston Villa by one goal to none. The reward for their endeavours came 15 minutes from the end when Hickson burst through a disorganised defence to beat Parsons with a powerful shot.

The Second Division side's superiority had been evident on three earlier occasions. Aldis, the Villa right-back, was just in time to kick off the line after Parsons had misjudged a centre from Cummins, and twice within five minutes of the opening of the second half the Villa crossbar was hit.

Faster on the Ball

It seemed that the Everton players, conscious of their responsibilities at the scene of many famous cup-tie encounters, attuned their minds to the task better than their First Division hosts. Certainly they were faster to the ball, and their tackling was more purposeful.

In their frequent attacks the Everton forwards looked more dangerous than Villa's front line. Much of the home side's mid-field work was good, but their attacks frequently broke down through over-elaboration.

Birmingham C.1 Tottenham H. ...1

THE tie between Birmingham City and Tottenham Hotspur, played at St. Andrews, was drawn, each side scoring once.

Tottenham took a long time to settle down to anything approaching their normal game, but, in the end, were well on top and had the match lasted a little longer no doubt they would have won. As it was, Birmingham fought so hard and tackled with such speed and determination in the first half that the Hotspur machine was put out of joint.

A splendid goal by the Birmingham left-winger, Wardle, put Hotspur behind in the twenty-fourth minute. He shot through a crowd of defenders from the edge of the penalty area after receiving a swift short pass from Purdon, easily Birmingham's best forward.

Tottenham came more into the game after the interval and the equalising goal, scored by Bennett 12 minutes from the end, came soon after Purdon had been injured. Without the necessity for staying back to watch this dangerous forward, Tottenham's captain, Burgess, pressed forward into the attack and Medley, on the left-wing, began to receive some splendid passes. Medley swung them into the middle as soon as he received them, and after several near misses Bennett beat Merrick with a perfectly timed header.

Observer

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Blackpool better all round

From ROLAND ALLEN—Highbury, Saturday

Arsenal 1 Blackpool 2

PERHAPS it had come to be accepted as too much of a foregone conclusion that Arsenal would win the F.A. Cup in May. It is not suggested that the players themselves took that point of view, either in this Sixth Round match against Blackpool, or in any of their previous Cup games.

As we saw it they were beaten by a better all-round team. Indeed, Blackpool won with some of the confidence and assurance Arsenal have been in the habit of showing. It looked a neat, nicely organised and planned job of work.

It could be suggested that Blackpool had taken the measure of Arsenal when they won a League match a week ago, and had applied and used the lesson it taught them.

Versatile Matthews

Blackpool had the better wing forwards, and two very unusual people they were. On the right was Stanley Matthews, whose infinite variety just goes on and on.

It looked as if he was not having a particularly good match until he suddenly went racing across the pitch from right to left, beating man after man, then neatly hooking the ball to Brown. The Scottish international sent in a rising shot which Kelsey tipped over for a corner.

The goalkeeper looked very relieved. He did so again when Perry, the Blackpool outside-left, gave him a sudden shot, off the wrong foot as it were, to which Kelsey just got his finger tips. It must have hurt.

Perry, a South African, dark, lean and the fastest of the 10 too eager forwards, just after half-time made a fantastic shot which Kelsey grappled away from the bottom of the near post.

Erratic shooting

Most of the aiming was, nevertheless, either high or wide. If it had not been, Arsenal surely would have had a goal midway through the second half. Lishman gave Holton the ball in front of goal. Somehow the Arsenal centre-forward got his shot too high, and going away towards the corner flag.

Meanwhile, Blackpool, with two progressive inside forwards, neither afraid to hold the ball, scored a goal they deserved 10 minutes from the end. Brown, the inside-left, pushed the ball through to Taylor and the little inside-right finished off a swift and neat movement.

In four minutes Farm caught a high and speculative punt towards the Blackpool goal. Holton charged the goalkeeper over. Logie raced in and kicked the loose and bobbing ball into an empty net. That was high drama.

Within two minutes it became sensational. Brown scored a second for Blackpool, was hurt in doing so and was carried away on a stretcher. He did not come back.

Thanks to one fine diving save by Farm, some gallant work by the Blackpool defence, and some excitement among the Arsenal forwards, Blackpool held out. Indeed, they made one quick raid which might have given them a third goal. Perhaps that would have flattered them just a little.

Brown fractured a tibia in getting the winning goal. He is one of the unlucky footballers. Two years ago he missed a Cup Final and a cap against England because of injuries. It seems he will do so again.

S. Times

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