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England kicked off before a full house at Ninian Park, where the great crowd were thrilled by a scintillating first-half of Welsh football at its best. <sup>Usual</sup> Their storming centre-forward Trevor Ford was ~~not~~ fit. His place, <sup>in the Welsh side</sup> was taken by John Charles of Leeds United and he gave a display no-one who saw it will ever forget. Wales ~~was~~ bombarded the England goal. Time and again only the brilliance of Merrick prevented a score. If Wales had got four before the interval it wouldn't have been against the run of the play.

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Reward came after 23-minutes. Even then Merrick seemed to get his fingers to the shot Allchurch fired in.

Now

Cruel luck for Wales; Left-Back Sherwood went off after a bang on the head, colliding with Finney. <sup>(</sup>When the half-time whistle was expected any second the referee gave a free kick against Burgess. Quixall placed the ball perfectly for Wilshaw to head the England equaliser.

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Wales came out after the interval without Sherwood and for the first fatal four minutes quite lost their grip. The Wolverhampton outside-left Mullen lobbed the ball to his club partner, Wilshaw. He headed England's second goal.

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Next Wilshaw centred for Lofthouse to head in.

A minute later Mullen again put the ball in the goal mouth Lofthouse dived forward to score England's 4th goal.... Not a satisfactory result. England were awful in the first half. Welshmen wondered what would have happened if Sherwood hadn't been injured.