

LOCAL

Sunderland V Doncaster

11th Jan. 54

2090

~~Grim cup tie struggles in the North-East. And fifty thousand fans~~

AT Roker Park, Sunderland forgot their lowly League position and kicked off along the ever-hopeful road to Wembley.

Their ~~opponents~~ ^{2nd Division} opponents were ~~were~~ ^{WERE} ~~Doncaster Rovers~~ ^{A FORCE TO BE} (in striped shirts), but still, no mean

~~RESCUE A MITH -~~

~~opponents~~, as a Walker special that skimmed the bar soon proved.

And Doncaster kept on attacking, ~~Walker in possession, Anderson teekles.~~ ^{HERE'S WALKER IN POSSESSION!}

But ~~Walker gets~~ ^{WALKER} ~~pass~~ to Harrison - a fine centre - and Irish International McMorran is there - to head it home.

Doncaster one-up - and now the Yorkshire side is battering the Wearside team of stars. But No. 6 Skipper George Aitken is ever in the thick of the fray - marshalling his defence against eager Doncaster attackers.

~~IN REPLY.~~

~~In reply - Sunderland~~ ^{COUNTER ATTACKS} ~~are confined to long-range efforts.~~

~~LONG RANGE - BUT~~

~~this one goes close...~~

~~Yet another attack goes astray and home fans sigh for some of those past giants who won them the Cup and the League in successive seasons.~~

~~Doncaster~~ ~~come~~ ~~back~~ ~~into~~ the fray. ~~A~~ ~~Walker~~ corner leads to a goalmouth scramble, Anderson heads off the line - but McMorran ^{DEALS} (the one time

Irish blacksmith) provides ~~another~~ ^{ANOTHER} hammer/blow to Wearside hopes..

And with Doncaster leading two-nothing - those Sunderland fans ~~realise~~ only too well the truth of the adage that "money just can't buy soccer success?" ~~FELT THEIR HOPES FADE~~

The second half - and Sunderland (the team that cost a fortune) ~~set~~ ^{STROVE HARD} ~~out~~ in ~~determined~~ ~~xxx~~ style to retrieve their fallen fortunes. But the team that Peter Doherty built (almost on ~~train~~ ^{defended} tickets) ~~defend~~ grimly.

Home hopes rose just after the interval - ~~right~~ ~~to~~ ~~the~~ ~~end~~ when Wright scored - but the point was disallowed.

~~Sunderland~~ ~~went~~ ~~on~~ ~~pressing~~ - ~~right~~ ~~to~~ ~~the~~ ~~end~~ ~~but~~ ~~Doncaster~~ ~~held~~ ~~on~~ ~~for~~ ~~a~~ ~~two-nothing~~ ~~victory~~ - while Sunderland fans hoped that they'd seen the last of second division football for a long, long time... ^{SO IT REMAINED FOR DONCASTER -}