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Manchester City V Sunderland

27th March 1955

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Loyal fans braved a soaking at Villa Park when Manchester City (in white shorts) kicked off against Sunderland - on a rain-drenched pitch that made them feel right at home.

From the start, the City went into attack - keeping the ball close: They had to - it just wouldn't roll in the mud, and goalkeeper Fraser was soon in action for the Wearsiders.

Sunderland now - sweeping upfield, to pen the Lancashire side in their own goal-area. Finally, the relentless Sunderland pressure is relieved, as Trautman darts out and clears upfield.

The second half - still no score - Sunderland mounting almost constant attacks - but Bert Trautman foils all their efforts.

Then, in the 58th minute, the Lancashire side break away. Hayes puts across a fine centre - and Clarke is there to head it home. Manchester one-up - the signal for an all-out Sunderland ~~effort~~ offensive - that's marred by poor finishing.

Minutes to go. A free-kick for the City - and a header that Fraser just tips over - to safety.

Manchester City had won one-nothing. Villa Park belongs to the lads of Lancashire. The City are Wembley-bound - for their fifth Cup Final.

could
without break