

YEOVIL IN - AND POMPEY!

Gas fever grips Britain, and Somerset finds itself centre of the footballing world. Giant-killing Yeovil, a team of part-timers who became heroes overnight, make soccer history before an 18,000 record crowd. Having buried a second division team, Yeovil now tackle first division Sunderland, former cup winners and team of proud records. Knowing how the land lies, Yeovil are neither overawed by the occasion, nor by Len Shackleton, No. 10, (football's most expensive player) and not even by the eight-foot slope. The Southerners play fast, open football and, encouraged by a jubilant crowd, go all out to take the sun out of Sunderland.

And in the 28th minute, the unbelievable comes true. A well-judged free-kick by Stan Hickman sends the ball into the Sunderland goalmouth. It bobs around dangerously, comes loose, and with a quick turn, skipper Alex Stock slams it in!

With Yeovil one up, tragedy looms near. As fog sweeps the ground Sunderland equalize, and it takes extra time to put Yeovil into the fifth round. Portsmouth, too, are a step nearer to Wembley, after a dour cup battle with whiteshirted Sheffield Wednesday. A near-record Fratton Park crowd is silenced as a tough Sheffield defence (and brilliant goalkeeping by Dave McIntosh) bottle up Pompey's free-scoring forwards. But the Portsmouth attack is persistent. Here, Jack Froggatt sends Iles Clarke, No. 9, away and only smart interception by the Sheffield defence holds off a dangerous move.

Sheffield's first-time methods pay their reward and skipper Eddie Quigley puts them one up.

Thoroughly re-used, Pompey hit back and Sheffield have to go all out to keep them at bay. Ex-marine Len Phillips, No. 10, is the hero of the home team's attack. His clever move brings about a corner, and with the crowd ready to cheer, young Peter Harris heads in the equaliser.

With the scores level, the second half finds Sheffield trying hard for the winning goal. But a defence as resolute as Portsmouth's is not easily beaten twice in one match. With Goalie Butler, on top of his form, backing up a brilliant team, Pompey hopes of winning the cup, or the league, or even both, may well come true. But even their most ardent fans will admit that a lot of luck helped Len Phillips slam in the winner, and send Portsmouth into the next round.