

CUP FAVOURITES NEARLY THEREHull 0 - Manchester Utd. 1

As Wembley nears, class begins to tell. Out go the little 'uns and only the Big 4 remain. Not even the wiles of silver-haired Raich Carter (No. 11) whose craft has made Hull City into this powerful team, can stop streamlined Manchester United at Boothferry Park. Nevertheless, Third Division Hull give the Cup-holders their toughest test yet. A 55,000 record crowd are up on their toes as goalie Billy Bly daringly saves a certain Manchester goal. But Bly is injured! Semi-conscious and with a broken nose, he gallantly carries on - after treatment.

With no score at half time, both sides now pull out something extra. And it's then that the match is won and lost. Buchan heads past goalie Crompton, but Ball coolly clears off the goal-line and sends the Manchester attack away again. The ball goes out to Jimmy Delaney - he chases after it - centres - and Stan Pearson nets the winner.

Portsmouth 2 - Derby County 1

Can the Wolves stop the United? Maybe - but Portsmouth, for one, seem booked for Wembley. They've had the luck of home-draws and their shaky start against white-shirted Derby County isn't the real Pompey. In a typical cup-battle, Derby settle down quicker. A Harrison corner - and a Stamp's header puts them one up.

But Portsmouth aren't the league leaders for nothing. Unbeaten at home, they fight back. Brilliant half-back play gives Jack Freggatt (No. 11) a chance. The little winger beats his man, sends the ball over squarely and Ike Clarke nods in the equaliser.

Pompey now put everything into their second-half attack. And this is it - Ike Clarke scores a sole winner to bring the Cup still nearer to Portsmouth.