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SPECIAL

CARLISLE V. ARSENAL

As the Carlisle mascot paraded the Stadium, the Highbury crowd cheered the spirit of the Northern supporters. Before the final whistle blew it was the Carlisle team they were cheering, for their brilliant play. With every man playing like a giant, the 57-thousand crowd, expecting smash-and-grab tactics, saw some first-class football. Little Billy Hogan at outside right, playing a blinder, had them standing up as he sent over dangerous centres that tested goalie Platt playing instead of Swindin.

At the other end McLaren held the citadel against all the Arsenal could do.

A Carlisle attack down the left wing looked dangerous when McGue centred. Platt was there but failed to clear. Inside left Jackson fell as he went after the ball. Veteran Joe Mercer of the Arsenal got the ball, but a poor clearance went to an attacker's head and Arsenal were still in trouble. Again the ball worked through to McGue. At the second attempt the Carlisle winger sent it over, but Lionel Smith was there to clear.

All square at half-time, Arsenal fans expected something better as wee Jimmie Logie worked his way through and centred. It was touch and go but Carlisle cleared the lines and breathed again.

Then McLaren had a shock. Twentyman pushed the ball back to him but a nervous defender kicked the ball out of his hands.

From the corner kick McIntosh cleared and waved Carlisle to the attack. Though with Paddy Waters injured they weren't playing safe. Hogan slipped a pass to Billington, and Daniles could only clear at the expense of a corner. All square and no goals at half-time was enough to shake any coupon.

Now the Highbury crowd expected Arsenal to show up. Cup hero Reg Lewis came storming through but with a beautiful slide tackle the injured Waters robbed him and saved a dangerous situation.

Then right-winger Cox sent over a beauty but MacLaren saved and cleared up field. Real out and thrust first-class football it was. At the other end right-back Barnes robbed McGue to smash a Carlisle attack.

Then a perfect Cox centre forced McIntosh to kick over his own goal to clear. This was cup football with a vengeance. If there were no goals there was no lack of excitement, and in the closing stages it was a real cracker. Could Carlisle hold out? That was the question in everybody's mind.

Well, they did hold out and well they deserved to ... and now Carlisle extends a hearty welcome to Arsenal for the re-play.