

THE CUP FINAL

It's an all-northern Cup Final as Blackpool and Newcastle United take the field at Wembley; Newcastle, playing in their famous magpie colours, have twice won the Cup at Wembley; Blackpool have yet to succeed. Now the King takes his place in the royal box with the Queen and Princess Margaret. The preliminaries are over; and with the 100-thousand crowd keyed up to fever pitch, Blackpool kick off and the 1951 Cup Final is in full swing. As the famous forward line gets moving it looks as though they're going to try to overrun the Magpies in the first few minutes for that vital first goal. Alan Brown had to stand down but amateur Slater in his place just misses with a grand shot.

Blackpool's plan is to spearhead through Matthews. And here's Stanley with one more chance to get that medal he wants so badly. He beats Corbett and passes forward. Mortensen runs after the ball but Brennan brings him down just outside the penalty area - a near one for Newcastle.

Matthews takes the free kick but the ball is cleared.

Another free kick for Blackpool. Stanley doesn't waste any time. Perry chases the ball; it's on the line but he flicks it back. Fairbrother dives to intercept. Now what'll he do? He throws a long pass to his captain and Harvery dribbles up-field.

Robledo collects and passes to Walker. This looks dangerous for Blackpool. As the return comes across Farn runs out and collides with Robledo. And that shows the spirit of the game as they shake hands.

Now here's Milburn racing down through the middle; as Farn comes out he shoots into the net but the whistle's gone for offside and it's no goal.

At the other end, Perry sends over a high corner kick; Mortensen jumps up and heads past Fairbrother but Cowell heads off the line and Newcastle breathe again.

Half-time comes and there's still no score. Newcastle kick off to start the second half and it looks as though we're going to see something better, after the scrappy first half. From the clearance Newcastle set up an attack. Blackpool are playing the offside trap but Milburn's through. Shinwell gives chase but he can't catch Milburn and the centre fires in a shot, but Farn saves.

Stanley looks anxious. He's playing a terrific game. Again he beats the defence. Across goes a lovely centre; Slater shoots but the ball whizzes past the post.

Matthews again. He passes to Mortenson and the old firm gets going. Stanley's going through like an oel. He's drawn the defence; passes back to the centre and the whole Blackpool side comes up. But Newcastle clear; the ball goes to Hebledo. There's a gap down the middle. He passes to Milburn. The offside trap's failed. Blackpool appeal but Milburn runs on and shoots - and it's a goal. Newcastle are one up.

Matthews again. He's trying every trick he knows to get Blackpool going. Even the Newcastle side wish he could have a cup-winner's medal - so long as they win!

Now Newcastle are on the go again. Taylor passes back. Milburn is there - and he fires in a terrific shot. Farn's beaten all the way and Newcastle are two up within ten minutes of the resumption.

Blackpool can't get going properly. Must be Wembley nerves. Here, there and everywhere it's Matthews but still no score. And here's the wizard again. He's through. He shoots, but Fairbrother saves.

Newcastle are playing a fine game. No safety first for them. They're still attacking as the whistle goes for full time and the "Geordies" have won the Cup for the third time at Wembley.

It's been a good clean game and there's a hearty round of applause from the losers as Newcastle's captain, Harvey receives the Cup from the King.

Again it's a runners-up medal for Stanley, but it's "Well done, Newcastle" for a brilliant well-earned victory. If Jackie Milburn did the trick with his fine goals, it was a grand all-round performance that sends the Cup to Tyneside.