

FOOTBALL: IRELAND V. SCOTLAND.(Ireland and Scotland only)

A record crowd of 58 and a quarter thousand watches the toss-up when Ireland meet Scotland at Windsor Park in Belfast. All set now, so Scotland kick-off. This is an international plus, for the winners, will be over the first hurdle on the way to the World Cup finals in Switzerland next year. Willie Waddell has it for Scotland.

But goalie Smith takes it and clears out of harm's way. Soon the game begins to take shape as Ireland (with Lockheart prominent among the forwards) make goalie Farn earn his keep. Sammy Cox helps him out of a jam, but back come the Irishmen again.

Farn gets it away at last to Henderson, who leads a raid on the enemy goal. Most of the first half, Ireland seem to be on top, and this is one of their few moments of danger. Waddell neatly beats McCabe, but Irish captain Alf McMichael floors him. All appeals for a penalty are ignored and play goes on. There's still no score by half-time. After a change of ends, things liven up as Scotsman Fleming beats Tully at his own game, and makes for the Irish net. And a left-footed drive beats goalkeeper Smith all the way! Scotland have drawn first blood.

Undaunted by the turn of events, Ireland fight back. Once more Farn makes a dive to stem the rush, but the Scots defence is soon struggling again - Try as they will, the Irishmen can't get it between the posts. Luck isn't on their side today. Centre half Frank Brennan clears from the Scottish end. Charlie Fleming gets it, and there's Scotland's goal number two!

Things look bad for Ireland, but the word "defeat" isn't in their vocabulary, at last Ireland get their chance with a valuable penalty. Norman Lockheart takes it.

Scotland two, Ireland one, and up go the home crowd's hopes. But, in the last minutes of the match, Scotland are still on the offensive and Jackie Henderson bangs one in to make the final score Scotland three, Ireland one. But there's no doubt Scotland will have to improve their play if the World Cup is to be theirs.