

ENGLAND Vs IRELAND INTERNATIONAL.

England, in white shirts, face Ireland at Goodison Park, Liverpool. The clock says kick-off time, so away go England on the attack. If they win they're assured of a place in the World Cup Finals next June, but they'll have to fight tooth and nail for they're far from the top of their form.

70,000 fans closely watch Hassall move towards Ireland's goal. Blancheflower keeps close guard, but Hassall shoots and Smyth dives too late. England are one up in the first forty seconds.

Ireland come storming back. Lockhart sends it through to Simpson whose first-time pass gives McMorran a clear run. As Ekersley tackles him, McMorran shoots, straight at Merrick. Could have been the equaliser that time. But at half time England are still one up. Here go the Irishmen on the assault.

Good team-work from Ireland gives McMorran a change of a header. Merrick fumbles and its a goal! One all now.

Irish eyes aren't smiling for long. Hassall soon puts England on top with a second. Now Nat Lofthouse tries for a third, and it's in the net! - but no goal - he was way offside.

A few minutes later, Lofthouse gets another chance, and he heads it in! But Lofthouse is hurt. He collided with Bill Dickson and has cut his right eye badly. That's the end of the match for him.

No sooner has Lofthouse left the field to have a couple of stitches inserted than Ireland's goalie Smyth is carried off with a broken nose. With ten men apiece, the struggle goes on. Ireland give it everything they've got in the last few minutes. With the score still three-one the home team manage to keep their goal intact right up to the whistle, and on they go to the World Cup Finals.