

THE CUP FINAL.

54/33

The calendar says its Cup Final day, so once more Wembley Stadium opens its gates to a hundred thousands fans for the highlight of the year's soccer season. Its a clash between two giants of the North - West Bromwich Albion, (in the striped shirts) and Preston North End.

Before things get going, West Brom's captain, Len Millard meets Arthur Luty, the ref, and Tom Finney, his rival captain. From the royal box, the Queen Mother and Princess Margaret watch West Brom kick off into the sun. Despite the lack of rain, the legendary Wembley turf is almost perfect.

Ronnie Allen heads for the Preston goal, but George Thompson easily keeps the net clear.

Now West Brom's forwards get moving. Good, down-to-earth stuff this.

Nicholls receives. Then out to the wing for Lee to take over.

Preston's right back, Cunningham can't stop the attack, and Thompson has to take over again. West Brom, who suffered five defeats in their last seven games, seem to have turned over a new leaf. Certainly they seem to be showing slightly better form than their rivals. During the first half, all-out efforts by both team's backs blunt many forcing moves. Tom Finney, number seven, lends a hand.

Away go West Brom. Their fans are on tip toe as Lee forces it past Cunningham to Allen. A quick side-foot shot, and Allen puts it in the net. West Brom one up!

Quickly Preston kick off. One down after only twenty minutes, they're after the equaliser at once.

Preston's Willie Forbes centres. Angus Morrison is there - and he's scored. One-all now. Both goals within a minute.

Back come West Brom to hammer away at Preston's goal. Lee tries a shot, but the defence baulk him. The ball goes to Tommy Docherty.

Up to Finney. So far the West Brom boys haven't let the Preston plumber show what he can do. But now, in a dazzling display that recalls Stanley Matthews last year, he's away up the wing.

There's no more scoring up to half-time, so play resumes with the scales still evenly balanced. West Brom are soon in their stride again.

Kennedy stops Wayman and, with centre-half Dugdale to help him, fights to clear the West Brom goal area.

A quick through-pass sends Preston away again. Wayman has the ball. West Brom appeal for offside, but he goes on to score. Preston's second goal. As Wayman's team-mates congratulate him, their opponents protest to the ref, but there's nothing doing - Preston are one goal ahead.

A free-kick gives Preston fans further hope. As the ball is headed to him, Bob Foster shoots, but Sanders leaps to save.

West Brom are on the move again. Preston's left back Walton nearly puts it into his own net, but Thompson stops it! A narrow squeak that.

Griffin takes a corner for West Brom, and up goes Thompson again. He's earning his keep in this match. But he can't relax yet. Here comes West Brom again. Barlow has the ball, but Tommy Docherty brings him down in the penalty area. The ref doesn't hesitate.

Ronnie Allen takes it, and in it goes! Two-all!

West Brom keep up the pressure rightaway with nice, easy-on-the-eye football.

Ronnie Allen, up to his roaming tactics, takes over on the wing.

About twenty minutes to go, and West Brom's John Nicholls clashes with Thompson. Nicholls took quite a knock and he'll have to go off for a minute or two As he waits for his trainer, up comes Ronnie Allen to help - and he's limping from an earlier clash.

West Brom are still fighting hard and giving Thompson plenty to worry about. Maybe they'd have topped the League if they'd played like this in the last few weeks. Thompson goes back to his goal as Griffin comes racing in - And it's a goal! Not just any goal, but the one that wins West Brom the match with only two minutes of play left. In the centre of the field the two teams meet - Victorious West Bromwich Albion, and gallant Preston North End. One last formality remains - for captain Len Millard to receive the cup from the Queen Mother.

West Bromwich Albion, the team that just failed to bring off the double take home the coveted football trophy. For the fourth time in their history.