

TOOTING Vs. NOTTS. FOREST.

John Harlow lost the toss. Jack Burkitt guessed right, so Notts Forest had choice of ends against Tooting & Mitcham on the amateurs' ground. Tooting in striped shirts kicked off. Forest, one of the star clubs of the First Division, faced the gallant amateurs who'd won through to Round Three of the F.A. Cup. Tooting's deputy goal-keeper Ray Secker had an early feel of the ball, and at the other end Hasty hit the cross bar. A narrow escape for Notts. Forest. Tooting were very much on the ball. Hasty came back again and had very bad luck with another shot, just outside. It was evident that on the icy, skating rink pitch, Tooting were more at home than Forest.

Tooting reaped the reward of good play twenty minutes after the kick-off. Notts goal-keeper Thomson's clearance went straight to Grainger. He ran it into the net. Tooting were one up.

Under these conditions, on their own ground and cheered on by their supporters the amateurs played like men inspired. Ted Murphy volleyed a terrific shot, to score from thirty-five yards out. Tooting and Mitcham 2, Notts Forest - Nil.

So Forest kick-off in the second half two goals down. The striped-shirted Tooting were already dreaming of Round Four. It would make modern football history if the amateurs got that far.

After manager Billy Walker's half-time pep talk Forest improved, but centre forward Wilson shot over the bar. The Nottingham men kept up the attack and their hopes were raised when they won a corner. Wilson's header was cleared by Secker.

Tooting kept up the pressure every chance they got. In goal for Forest, Thomson was glad to see another shot go wide.

Things began to look desperate for Forest. But twelve minutes after the interval Tooting's first-half hero Eddie Murphy needlessly passed back to the goalkeeper, who let the ball slip through his hands into the net.

Secker went on playing well in the Tooting goal. But now he fell after a collision. Not badly hurt. But then, for an alleged handling by Murphy, Notts were given a penalty, so Forest saved the game. How lucky they were to be still in the Cup!