



Above, left: Everton centre half Brian Labone clears a Chris Crowe centre. Above: Winning goal for Forest as Henry Newton beats Everton goalkeeper Geoff Barnett.

Newcomers steal the show

AND REDEEM WIN STERN

TEST OF BALANCE, SKILL AND COURAGE

By Tony Pritchett

NOTTINGHAM FOREST 1 EVERTON 0
THE City Ground's best crowd of the season went off into the frosty, foggy night in high humour after seeing Nottingham Forest cope firmly and capably with the challenge from Everton in the first of the holiday matches yesterday.

On a pitch that was a test of balance, skill and courage, Forest were not found wanting in any of these requirements. Conditions were reminiscent of the cruel playing surface which afflicted the Christmas games last year, when the Reds went down twice to Spurs, but this time there was to be no disappointment for the supporters.

In fact the first half, although it brought Forest only one goal, was one of the most satisfying the City Ground has staged since those heady early days of the 1950s.

The Reds made enough chances to have built up an impressive lead, but through a combination of ill-luck and the occasional flash of off-colour finishing they could not cash in.

Yet in the beginning it looked as if Everton might give Forest a great deal of trouble. McKinlay, off balance, missed the first ball of the match, and this was an indication of the difficulties that defenders, particularly, had to contend with on the frozen ground.

Imperturbable
Pickernell looked as if he might prove a threat, and Labone, massive and imperturbable, down the middle dealt physically with the challenge presented by Wignall, recalled in place of McArdell. In fact the Reds, for the first time since their trip to Leeds on September 4, had a full-strength attack on view.

This they might well have clicked back into early-season pattern with four or five goals in the first half.

But despite all their fine promise it was left to full-back Henry Newton, the most outstanding player in a very good Forest side, to score the goal. It proved to be a goal worthy of the occasion. Sporting forward to take a throw-in from Barwell, Newton struck to hit a tackle and carried on to hit a low ball past Everton's brave goalkeeper, Barnett.

control returned to the skilled Whitefoot and Hennessey, and the tide began to flow back in Forest's favour. But Hinton, with the two best chances of this half, first blazed wide and then mis-kicked.

The left winger had to contend with most of the demanding part of the pitch—the frozen strip in front of the main stand—but he severely tested the alertness of Barnett with a well-taken low shot.

A fine rewarding match full of excellent, good football and courage, unless they can fly direct over another revival by Everton and another comeback by Forest.

'Modness'
If the game at Goodison Park (from permitting of course) is as good tonight then there will be no complaints.

And if Forest can carry on where they left off in yesterday's match they will come out of the home-and-away pairing with more reward than their opponents.

A touch of seasonal madness affected one or two young Forest supporters. They were taken out by police for going on to the pitch before the start. They were not half as silly however, as Everton right back Tommy Wright, who suddenly defied the referee's instructions to throw in—and had his name taken for his defiance.

Manager Jack Stein of Celtic said yesterday: "You can take it that we will not use service flights and spend days travelling to Tbilisi via the Continent and Moscow."

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Everton goalkeeper Geoff Barnett pushes away a centre from Alan Hinton as Frank Wignall comes in to challenge.

Celtic in clash with Russians

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Midland League round-up

GRANTHAM ALWAYS IN COMMAND

GRANTHAM 3 ILKESTON TOWN 1

ON a bone-hard, frost-covered pitch which made good football well-nigh impossible Grantham never lost command of this table-top clash, even allowing for Ilkeston taking an early lead.

There were near things at both ends in a bright opening spell, but the referee ruled no score, and seconds later Alexander put Grantham ahead from a pass by Harberson.

Other goals came from Malcolm Budge (35th), Medwell (85th), and Ray (89th).

Nine-goal spree in benefit game at Woodborough

WOODBOROUGH UTD. 9 OXTON OLYMPIC 0

Despite a heavy frost the football benefit match for Robert Hallam between Woodborough United and Oxtion Olympic was a great success. Receipts totalled £18.

1972 Olympics

Spain's Olympic Committee have agreed to propose Madrid as the site for the 1972 Olympic Games, with Barcelona as the site for the aquatic events.

STAMFORD TOWN 6 SKEGNESS TOWN 0

Bobby Tebbitt, Stamford's churning inside, planned the downfall of Skegness, as well as doing much of the fetching and carrying to score three of the goals—in the 20th, 52nd and 54th minutes.

HUNTING FIXTURES

SOUTH GLITS
Thurs. Dec. 24, 7.30, Bournemouth v. Mill 11-0
Mon. Jan. 5, 8.00, Bournemouth v. Mill 11-0

BRADFORD SHOW SKILL

Hector, straggling off two challenges, scored a fine first goal in the 55th minute, and Bradford calmly scored a second, leaving goalkeeper Brian Arblaster stranded in the 73rd minute.

COVENTRY PAY £20,000 FOR RAY POINTER

Four months after paying £8,000 to Burnley for former England centre forward Ray Pointer, Burnley have accepted an offer for him of £20,000 from Coventry City, and Pointer has signed.

SCARBOROUGH 2 LINCOLN CITY RES. 1

Lincoln had to play for 25 minutes in the second half with only ten men, after their right half Grummett was sent off following an accident involving Scarborough's Weir.

CHESHIREFIELD 3 BRADFORD 0

THE old soccer adage "There's no substitute for skill" was forcibly underlined by talented Bradford at Salingers yesterday, where Division IV's leading scorers took two points comfortably.

Leeds upset Liverpool's title hopes

LIVERPOOL'S championship hopes suffered a severe setback yesterday. The League leaders were beaten 1-0 by Leeds United at Anfield, their first defeat since October 23, but they still remain at the top of Division 1, two points ahead of Burnley, who went down at Stoke.

The gates at Anfield were closed 20 minutes before the kick-off with 53,430 fans inside, and they watched a thoroughly exciting, if tough, match. The all-important goal came after 14 minutes when Peter Cramer scored after Tom Lawrence had failed to hold a shot from left back Paul Reaney.

Five minutes after half-time Leeds substituted reserve centre half Paul Madeley for John Giles, then inside right, and then applied a purely defensive plan, which proved very successful.

Despite the bitterly cold weather over 60,000 spectators attended the 33rd afternoon game. A crowd of 44,712 watched the only Division 1 game in London—Tottenham v. Sheffield United. Spurs won 1-0. Alan Gilzean scored four minutes in the end.

Handicapped
Stoke were handicapped by an injury to defender Maurice Setters, who moved to centre forward, but they fought with tremendous spirit, and scored three times in the last 19 minutes through Roy Vernon and Harry Burrows (2).

GOOLE TOWN 2 RETFORD 2
Retford surged forward from the kick-off, and before two minutes had passed they had the ball in the net.

HEANOR TOWN 1 SCUNTHORPE UTD. RES. 1
The Town ground pitch at Heanor was more suitable for ice skating than football. There were long periods when Scunthorpe looked quite capable of springing a surprise on a Heanor side who were playing their 23rd game without a change.

STAPLES WINS
Staples won the foraging star of the Sutton attack, Wallberg giving him 100 per cent support in the first half, and while Alfton had more control in the second half, capable of scoring and goalkeeper Turton never had to extend himself.

RADIO CHECK

LEAGUE-DIVISION I
Arsenal v. Sheffield W.....
Burnley v. Stoke City.....
Chelsea v. Northampton.....
Leeds Utd. v. Liverpool.....
Leicester v. Fulham.....
Sheffield U. v. Tottenham.....
W.B.A. v. Manchester U.....
West Ham v. Aston Villa.....
LEAGUE-DIVISION II
Birmingham v. Huddersfield.....
Bristol City v. Wolves.....
Bury v. Carlisle U.....
Coventry v. Norwich.....
Leeds Utd. v. Crystal Palace.....
Man. C. v. Rotherham.....
Poole v. Charlton.....
Southampton v. Cardiff.....
LEAGUE-DIVISION III
Bournemouth v. Bristol R.....
Brentford v. Southend.....
Millwall v. Hull City.....
Oldham Ath. v. QPR.....
Peterborough v. Reading.....
Sheff. Wed. v. Shrewsbury.....
Swansea T. v. Exeter.....
Windsor T. v. Grimsby.....
Walsall v. Oxford U.....
Watford v. Brighton.....
Workington v. York C.....
LEAGUE-DIVISION IV
Aldershot v. Torquay.....
Bradford v. Chesterfield.....
Chesham v. Colchester.....
Darlington v. Harlepool.....
Doncaster v. Barrow.....
Hull City v. Barnsley.....
Luton T. v. Southport.....
Newport C. v. Crewe.....
Notts. Co. v. Tranmere.....
Port Vale v. Bradford.....
Stockport C. v. Lincoln.....
Wrexham v. Rochdale.....

Matt Tees in hospital

Matt Tees, Grimsby Town's inside right and the Football League's top scorer with 24 goals, has been detained in hospital suffering from concussion. He was carried off in the 21st minute in Grimsby's game against Swindon yesterday.

Big crowd, but no hunting

Fine weather yesterday took one of the largest numbers of spectators in recent years to Redford Market Square to see the traditional meet of the Grove and Rufford Hounds, but the hunt had to be called off because the ground was too hard.

Best game

Solely served at wing half where Whitefoot played well and Hennessey had his best game since joining the club, the match was a clearly much better than Everton.