

CUP-CRAZY CROWD YEOVIL'S WIN

Miraculous Goalkeeping Foins Gillingham

By JOHN COE

YEOVIL TOWN, 3; GILLINGHAM, 1

Yeovil Town have never had to fight harder for victory in the F.A. Cup than against Gillingham at Yeovil today. That they survived to appear in the Third Round draw on Monday is due principally to Goalkeeper Dyke, who foiled Gillingham when they had the Yeovil defence reeling under a terrific onslaught.



WRIGHT—Goal No. 1.



FOULDS—Goal No. 2.

ACCLAIMS

THE ground was packed long before the start. A loud-speaker announcement at two o'clock told the queues outside that there was still room for 2,000 in the enclosures, but it was a little difficult to see where they could be squeezed in.

Cup-tie fever was rampant. Those who took up their places shortly after noon were entertained by a Yeovil supporter wearing the club's colours of green and white.

Clutching an arm full of balloons, also in green and white, he performed acrobatics in the middle of the pitch while on-lookers brandished rattles.

YEOVIL TOWN. — Dyke; Hickman, Davis; Keaton, Blizzard, Paterson; Coffey, Mansley, Foulds, Wright, Hamilton.

GILLINGHAM. — Burke; Dorling, Marks; Boswell, Kingsnorth, Collins; Burtenshaw (C.), Burtenshaw (B.), Russell, Briggs, Forrester.

Referee: C. Jarvis (Plymouth).

Yeovil, having won the toss, were nearly through in the first minute. Paterson got the ball in a melee and pushed it through to Foulds. The Yeovil centre-forward took it in his stride, raced between the backs, and was then dispossessed.

Burke Injured

Gillingham replied with a brief down-the-middle thrust, which was intercepted by Blizzard, and once again Foulds found himself in possession with only the goalkeeper to beat.

Burke came out to narrow the shooting angle and succeeded in smothering the shot. In doing so, he hurt his shoulder and the game was held up while he received attention.

As his team mates crowded around him it looked as if he might have to leave the field. Gillingham's trainer tried to persuade him to go to the touch line for repairs and Burke was, in fact, on the point of handing over his jersey to a colleague when he changed his mind.

Raking Passes

Gillingham provided some attractive football during the next few minutes, and used their extreme wing men to advantage with long raking passes.

The small ground's strange con-

tours did not seem to worry them in the least, and when they broke away through Russell—one of the most-sought-after centre-forwards in the country—it looked as if Yeovil's goal must fall. At the last moment Russell parted from the ball to Briggs, whose sharp rising shot was turned over the bar by Dyke for a fruitless corner.

Both sides played typical Cup-tie football. No one held on to the ball a second longer than was necessary, and the swiftness with which both sets of half-backs tackled was characteristic of this fast, fiercely fought game.

Foulds impressed immediately. He was very quick on the turn, and his distribution of the ball was most unselfish. He received good service from Player-Manager Paterson, who, like his predecessor, Alec Stock, was always in the fight where it was thickest.

Strong Attacks

Gillingham had settled down very quickly. Their forwards, led by Russell, maintained a strong offensive, and had not Hickman and Davis been in such good form a goal would most likely have resulted.

In a Yeovil attack, Mansley tried a speculative shot from the edge of the penalty area, forcing Burke to go down on his knees to save. Burke was still rather unhappy about his shoulder, which he must have wrenched. In the circumstances it was plucky of him to continue.

The Briggs-Forrester wing was clearly Gillingham's strong department in attack. These two youngsters interchanged cleverly, and it was from one of their moves that Russell nearly succeeded in opening the visitors' score.

A Briggs pass sent Forrester away, and when the outside-left put the ball in the middle to Russell, Dyke had a thrilling race with Gillingham's leader for possession. Dyke just got to the ball before Russell could deliver his shot.

Fifteen minutes had now elapsed and Yeovil, it must be confessed, were fully extended. They had by this time surrendered their advantage to their opponents, whose five-man attack dealt many severe blows at Yeovil's defence without being able to beat the alert Dyke.

After being on the defensive for some time, Yeovil got away through Hamilton, whose short pass was accepted by Foulds. For once, Gillingham were caught on the wrong foot, and only determined tackling by Kingsnorth, who had fallen back, kept Yeovil out.

Yeovil won a free-kick when one of their forwards was fouled, but Hickman's shot was carried by the wind away from the target area.

One For Wright

After 25 minutes Yeovil scored and the crowd went crazy. The movement which led to the score started with a free kick on the right, taken by Coffey. The winger lobbed the ball into the goalmouth, and, as Burke went to cover the shot, Foulds dashed forward but failed to connect.

The ball then ran loose to WRIGHT, who hooked it into the net, giving Burke no chance to save.

Wright, who was formerly with Exeter City, and who greatly impressed me last year by his determined play, was "mobbed" by his team mates. The goal acted like a tonic on the whole side, who

stormed to the attack and nearly got another. On this occasion Burke's anticipation was too good, and pressure on the Gillingham goal was relieved.

Four minutes later Yeovil became two up!

The scorer on this occasion was FOULDS. Coffey put the ball through to him and he tried a first-time shot. Burke dived full length to touch the ball but could not prevent it rolling slowly into the net by the upright.

Yeovil were now in command and Gillingham wore a ragged look. Their passes went astray, their defenders were brought out of position and they were beaten when the ball was in the air.

Yeovil brought tremendous pressure to bear and Mansley, Foulds and Wright all went close.

Keaton joined the attack and tried a pot shot which was cleared only after great difficulty.

Mansley picked up the ball in the middle of the field, ran 20 yards, beating three opponents, and then delivered a first-time left-foot drive which was blocked. The ball came back to Wright who shot on the rise. Burke had to spring to make a sterling save. I noticed he was continually massaging his shoulder. It was surprising that he was able to keep goal at all.

Dyke Kept Idle

After defending for some time Gillingham threw off the chains that bound them, only to fall into Yeovil's off-side trap. For a time the exchanges were of a negative character, with both teams indulging in some rather colourless mid-field play.

Then Wright broke away and passed to Hamilton, whose accurate centre might have led to a third goal had not Marks and Dorling come to the rescue in the nick of time.

Paterson impressed as a thoughtful, constructive player. His prompting of Wright was at times delightful.

In comparison with Burke, Dyke had had little to do. Gillingham lacked the finish one expected from the club who have recently spent a considerable sum of money in buying a whole right-wing from Luton Town.

The Burtonshaw brothers had given little evidence of the quality we have been told they possess. Towards half-time, Gillingham became rather more dangerous, and Dyke was called upon to reach a high dropping shot from near the half-way line.

Half-time:

YEOVIL TOWN 2
GILLINGHAM 0

Yeovil had to contend with a heavy Gillingham assault after the interval. Beating Blizzard, who had been a tower of strength in the Town's defence, Russell went on to deliver a rasping shot which Dyke punched out in fine style.

Then, Gillingham were awarded a free-kick just outside the penalty area but Yeovil lined up and smothered Collins's drive.

There was a setback for Yeovil seven minutes after the resumption.

Keaton handled the ball—accidentally, I thought—in the penalty area and the referee had no hesitation in awarding a penalty. RUSSELL took the kick and scored with an almost unstoppable shot.

For a time Gillingham held the upper hand, battling with renewed vigour, they kept the Yeovil

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