



**FRANK  
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THE VOICE OF SPORT

at the  
League  
Cup Final

# WEMBLEY FOUND THEM OUT

WEMBLEY, more than any other world stadium, provides a setting which finds out the basic truth about teams or players.

And the harshest truth to emerge from Saturday's League Cup Final is that a very ordinary Aston Villa team never needed to rise above muddling mediocrity to be distinctly superior to Norwich.

They didn't have to play anything more than reasonable Second Division football to take the trophy by one goal to nil.

At times both sides looked as out of place as provincial repertory players on a West End stage—because Wembley, as well as rewarding skills, also magnifies mistakes.

The temptation exists to claim that Norwich's greatest mistake was turning up in the first place.

They never looked like keeping any of the brash, bright pre-match promises of their manager, John Bond.

It is difficult to feel sorry, however, for a man who promoted, for instance, the theory that his winger Johnny Miller could be a potential match-winner. On the day, Miller couldn't even keep his corner kicks in play.

Ted MacDougall, hailed by Bond as one of the surest finishers in football, managed the meagre, miserable total of one accurate shot at goal—and that was one more than his striking partner, Phil Boyer.

Both men are supposed to be international class. So the excuse that nothing came through from the midfield to them loses much of its validity.

Neither did any effective foraging. Neither made any great use of the acres of space.

## 'Villa never needed to rise above muddling mediocrity to be superior to Norwich'

To Villa's great credit they at least improved steadily if with boring slowness, to a second-half situation of complete control.

They at least produced a few players who came close to measuring up to Wembley's demanding standards.

Ian Ross, busy as an ant at the heart of their defence, was always quick to seal any avenues leading to goal.

Frank Carrodus and Chico Hamilton in midfield kept play moving forward with a shuttle service of supply.

Up front the wispy Brian

Little's performance made me wish a man-of-the-match award were a feature of this occasion.

This quick youngster, brave, beautifully balanced, crammed with skill and displaying a refreshing zest for action, would have been the outstanding candidate for the neutrals as well as the committed.

For most neutrals the feeling when Ray Graydon's goal finally won it for Villa ten minutes from the end was, bluntly, one of relief that we wouldn't have to live through another fortnight of promises, and, worse, another replay.



We've done it! Aston Villa manager Ron Saunders shows his delight at victory by embracing match-winner Ray Graydon. Pictures: MONTE FRESCO



JOHN BOND in a grim mood after the game.

## I DID SO WANT SOME STYLE, MOANS BOND

NORWICH were more upset by the way they lost, than the result itself, writes Nigel Clarke.

One player told me: "We were pathetic, it was embarrassing."

Manager John Bond said: "Villa beat us fair and square. We gave a poor performance."

### Risk

"I did so want to put on the style. That's what hurt, more than losing."

"Playing both Mel Machin and Johnny

Miller was a calculated risk — and it didn't come off."

"Machin aggravated his thigh injury with the first kick of the game and I don't know how long he'll be out."

Goalkeeper Kevin Keelan, who turned Ray Graydon's penalty against the post, said: "Just how close I was to saving the shot completely will haunt me for the rest of my life."

"When Graydon got the rebound and scored, it was the worst moment of my football career."

## WILL VIOLENCE KILL SOCCER?

The stands and terraces are emptier. Attendances are dropping. Many clubs are worried by serious financial trouble. The outlook for the future of British soccer is bleak and it's largely the result of sheer hooliganism.

Britain's young football thugs are causing havoc, injury and costly damage wherever they go.

What is the reason for this violence? What is being done about it? What

hope is there for British soccer? Read the facts, and the theories, in the March issue of Reader's Digest. It's packed with exciting, informative reading. And it's on sale at your local newsagent now...



### RUGBY LEAGUE

## WASTEFUL WALES GET A ROASTING

From JOE HUMPHREYS in Toulouse

COACH Les Pearce slammed Wales after a poor start to Rugby League's new five-nations tournament here yesterday. He lashed half-backs Peter Banner and David Watkins for not making more use of the ball and blasted the forwards for not backing each other up.

But he had nothing but praise for Dick Evans, the Swinton hooker. "He was simply marvellous," said Pearce.

"It was a pity we threw away the big advantage he gave us by some stupid mistakes."

"If France had had the same amount of possession, they would have had a handful of points."

Wales led 7-6 at half

France . . . 14 pts  
Wales . . . 7

time thanks to a Kei Coslett penalty and a Frank Wilson try which Coslett converted.

But Coslett missed two kicks in the second half and France recovered to clinch victory, scoring six points in the last three minutes.

### ATHLETICS

## Double triumph as Wilson's boys roar in

By FRANK TAYLOR

HARRY WILSON, one of the country's top coaches, had a winning double at Luton on Saturday, when two of his athletes won English cross-country titles.

Tony Simmons took the nine-mile senior event in 46 minutes 24 seconds from Bernie Ford, who was second in 46 minute 52 seconds.

Then Steve Overt won the junior event over six miles in 32 minutes 6 seconds from Peter Kennedy, who was second in 32 minutes 41 seconds.

### CRICKET

## TON-UP PAKISTANI SPARKS OFF RIOT

From MIRROR CRICKET REPORTER in Karachi

RIOTING fans held up his players from the pitch. The trouble erupted with Pakistan on 394 for eight in their first innings midway through the second session of the day.

Only another half hour's play was possible. Twenty policemen and sixty spectators are understood to have been injured in the riot—but no players.

Wasim's century, which included 10 fours and a six, took him five hours. At the close he was 107 not out.

PAKISTAN — First Innings: 406-8 (Maid Khan 100, Wasim Raja 107 n.o., Wasim Bari 58).