

# PLAY IT AGAIN!

By Paul McParlan

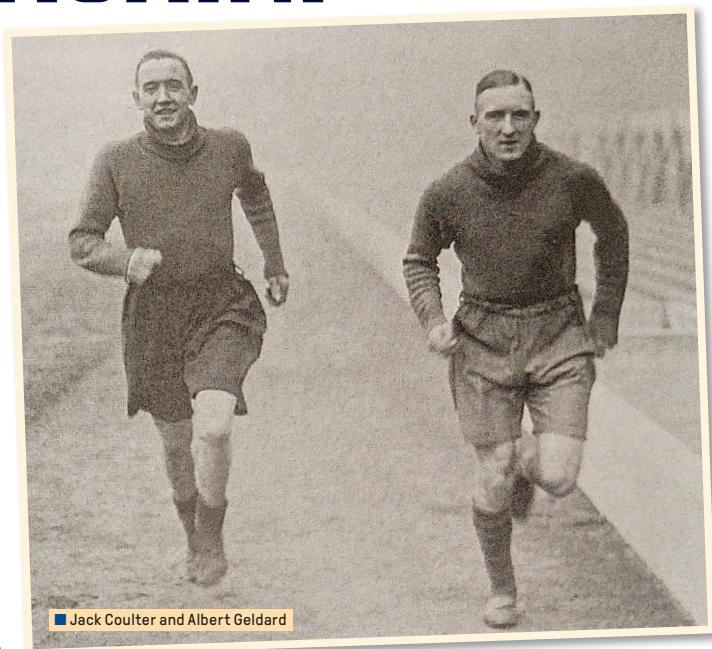
FA Cup replays have created so many memories at Goodison Park.

The first one held here was against Stoke City on 17 February 1898, which Everton won 5-1 with goals from Laurie Bell (2), John Cameron, Edgar Chadwick and Jack Taylor, and since then there have been many epic encounters.

One of the most memorable here was against Sunderland on 30 January 1935. Four days earlier, Everton earned a 1-1 draw in a hard-fought encounter at Roker Park. A crowd of 59,213 crammed into Goodison, to witness a breathtaking replay. Jack Coulter gave Everton a 2-0 lead, but Sunderland pulled one back before the interval. On 75 minutes Alex Stevenson put Everton 3-1 ahead, but the visitors replied to make it 3-2 and then equalised with the last kick of the match.

Extra-time ensued. Coulter completed his hat-trick to make it 4-3 but Sunderland fought back to make it 4-4. A second replay seemed inevitable but then Albert Geldard scored with nine minutes left and, with Sunderland pushing for a leveller, he struck again in the final minute to win the game 6-4. Dixie Dean described it thus, 'It was the greatest game I ever played in'.

An equally dramatic replay was against Liverpool on 20 February 1991. Everton held the Reds to a 0-0 draw at Anfield three days earlier and Goodison was alight with anticipation.



■ Jack Coulter and Albert Geldard

Liverpool led 1-0 at the interval but Graeme Sharp headed the Blues level at the start of the second half. Everton fell behind again but Sharp bagged his second, his last-ever for Everton, to make it 2-2. Liverpool then grabbed a third, but substitute Tony Cottee, with 40 seconds left, scored to take the game into extra-time.

A fourth goal for the visitors seemed to put the game beyond Everton, but, inspired by the vociferous support, they kept going and another Cottee goal meant the game ended 4-4. It was an incredible match with Everton coming back from behind on four occasions.

Sharp said: 'I don't think you will ever see a game like that again!' Everton won the second replay 1-0 at Goodison, with a goal from Dave Watson.

When Andre Gomes curled home that fabulous free-kick against Crystal Palace on 17 January 2024, he became the last Everton player to score in an FA Cup replay at Goodison Park. And it meant that we had won our first and final replays at the Old Lady!

These magical games will be forever enshrined in the footballing history of Goodison Park. They produced drama and excitement, especially under the lights, and each fan will have their own personal favourite. Time may pass but those memories will never fade.

