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TEN-GOAL 'CUP TIE OF CENTURY'

Words // Joe Brennan

The visit of Sunderland for our first-ever FA Cup tie at Hill Dickinson Stadium is rather fitting, given the fact they were the opponents for one of Goodison Park's greatest-ever matches in this competition, 90 years ago this month.

On 30 January 1935 the two teams met for an FA Cup replay, having drawn 1-1 at Roker Park four days earlier, with Jimmy Coulter equalising an opener from the legendary Raich Carter. They had already traded blows in the league over the festive period – a 6-2 Christmas Day home win for the Blues followed the very next day by a 7-0 win for the Mackems at Roker Park. Quite a turnaround in fortunes, and so expectations were high.

Everton remained unchanged from the initial Cup tie, with Sunderland making just the one, Alex Hall replacing Harry Shaw at left-back, as 59,213 eager spectators packed into Goodison with gate receipts providing an income of £4,382.

The supporters were treated to a spectacular affair.

Everton led 2-1 at half-time with two goals from Jack Coulter, but the Blues were grateful to Ted Sagar for his performance in goal, as a threatening mist descended on Goodison Park.

In the second half, Alex Stevenson made it 3-1, but Sunderland never lost heart and fought back, reducing the deficit in the 76th minute and then equalising on 90 through Bobby Gurney, who to this day is still the club's all-time record goalscorer with 228 in all competitions.



Jack Coulter:
Hat-trick hero



Everton's Dixie Dean in the thick of the action during a dramatic FA Cup fourth-round replay against Sunderland in January 1935

Extra-time was equally entertaining, with Irish winger Coulter completing his hat-trick before Sunderland levelled once again. Everton finally took the decisive upper hand, though, with two Albert Geldard goals, in the 111th and 119th minutes, making it 6-4. When the game came to an end, the crowd swarmed onto the pitch and mobbed the Everton players.

The Sunderland Cup match certainly left its mark on all in attendance, with local newspapers describing it as 'the match of a lifetime' and 'the cup tie of the century'. And one reporter declared that, 'It was a shame either side had to lose'.

As equally miraculous as the final score and drama was the fact Dixie Dean played 120 minutes of football and didn't find the back of the net! What a season it had been for clashes between Everton and Sunderland scoring 27 goals between them in four matches.

Everton defeated Derby County in the fifth round of the FA Cup but then lost at home to Bolton Wanderers in the quarter-final.

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