



Final

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VERSUS
GLENNAVON

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- Stephen Young
- Paul Gaston
- Stuart Clanachan
- Sammy Shields
- Greg O'Dowd
- Johnny McIvor
- Pat McAllister
- Tommy McCallion
- Danny Shipp
- David McCallan

Glenavon

- Dermot O'Neill
- Colin Russell
- Jonny Wright
- Mark Glendinning
- Gary Smyth
- Nigel Quigley
- Paul Byrne
- Stephen Caffrey
- Darren Murphy
- Lee Doherty
- John Gregg
- Barry Tumilty
- Paul Byrne
- Glenn Ferguson
- Tony Grant

Referee: J. Ferry

Assistant Referees: R. Penney and D. Redfern

Fourth Official: D. Malcolm



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Vice-President: JIM SEMPLE

Secretary: HARRY WALLACE

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Gold Cup Final Foreword

After playing their way through a mini-league series of games, quarter-finals and semi-finals, our deserving finalists in tonight's inaugural Nationwide Gold Cup Final are Coleraine and Glenavon. Congratulations to both sides on reaching this stage and I'm sure they will provide an exciting night's entertainment. May the better team on the night prove successful, but above all I hope Irish League football is the winner. I hope for a large turn-out of supporters, both from the competing sides and many neutrals to make it a special evening of football.

Nationwide Building Society are no strangers to football sponsorship and their expertise has been evident in the running of this competition in co-operation with the Irish Football League. We at the league would wish to thank them for their interest both apparent and of the tangible kind.

Finally, thanks also to Linfield Football Club for putting their facilities at Windsor Park at the disposal of the Irish League and our sponsors Nationwide Building Society.

I hope all who are present enjoy the game.



Gifford McConkey,
President, Irish Football League.

GOLD CUP WINNERS TO DATE

This evening sees the playing of the eighty-third Gold Cup Final and the previous winners are listed below. Thirteen clubs have won the trophy which was introduced into Irish football as the new Irish Cup when there was a dispute regarding the existing Irish Cup. Three of the past winners no longer play in the Irish League i.e. Belfast Celtic, Derry City and Shelbourne.

LINFIELD:- 1920-21, 1921-2, 1923-24, 1926-27, 1927-28, 1928-29 1930-31, 1935-36, 1936-37, 1942-43, 1948-49, 1949-50, 1950-51, 1955-56, 1957-58, 1959-60, 1961-62, 1963-64, 1965-66, 1967-68, 1968-69, 1970-71, 1971-72, 1973-74 1979-80, 1981-82, 1983-84, 1984-85, 1987-88, 1988-89, 1989-90, 1996-97. (32); **BELFAST CELTIC:-** 1911-12, 1925-26, 1934-35, 1938-39, 1939-40, 1940-41, 1943-44, 1944-45, 1945-46, 1946-47, 1947-48. (11); **GLENTORAN:-** 1941-42, 1951-52, 1960-61, 1962-63, 1966-67, 1976-77, 1977-78, 1982-83, 1986-87, 1991-92, 1994-95. (11); **PORTADOWN:-** 1933-34, 1937-38, 1952-53, 1972-73, 1978-79, 1992-93. (6); **DISTILLERY:-** 1912-13, 1919-20, 1924-25, 1929-30, 1993-94. (5); **COLERAINE:-** 1931-32, 1958-59, 1969-70, 1975-76. (4); **CLIFTONVILLE:-** 1922-23, 1932-33, (3); **GLENAVON:-** 1954-55, 1956-57, 1990-91. (3); **ARDS:-** 1953-54. (2); **CRUSADERS:-** 1985-86, 1995-96. (2); **BALLYMENA UNITED:-** 1974-75. (1); **DERRY CITY:-** 1964-65. (1); **SHELBOURNE:-** 1913-14. (1).



Matchday Sponsor's STATEMENT

We are delighted to be the sponsor of the prestigious Gold Cup. Tonight's Final between Glenavon and Coleraine should be an entertaining and exciting match. We would like to welcome the match officials and the players of each team and we wish everybody involved in the final the very best of luck.

Nationwide is delighted to be teaming up with the Irish Football League to sponsor football in Northern Ireland, alongside our strong involvement with football in England and Wales. This match is the first Cup Final to be sponsored by Nationwide and we are the first building society to become involved in the Gold Cup since it was introduced in 1911.

We would like to thank Cifford McConkey, President of the Irish Football League and Harry Wallace and Derek McKeag, officers of the Irish Football League for their tremendous support throughout the Gold Cup this season. I would also like to thank Tracy Morshead, Nationwide's Divisional Director - Marketing who has encouraged and supported our involvement with football in Northern Ireland.

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this evening in the
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A Look at...

COLERAINE

Wesley LAMONT (Goalkeeper). Born 5/4/64. Joined Coleraine in August 1996 from Belfast club Linfield. The Ballymena man spent six years at Windsor Park and played for Northern Ireland. He was a key figure in Coleraine's push for the Irish Premier League title last season.

Oliver McAULEY (Defender). Born 7/9/64. He has been with the club for three years since signing from Carrick Rangers where he was an integral part of Kenny Shiels' plans when he was manager there. Solid, reliable and one of the key players.

Stuart CLANACHAN (Defender). Born 15/8/77. Has been a revelation last season after joining Coleraine on professional terms two years ago. The Coleraine teenager has captained the Northern Ireland Under-18 schoolboy team with considerable success.

Paul GASTON (Defender). Born 7/12/72. The ginger-haired star is one of Coleraine's longest serving players. He has blossomed in the side over the past four seasons. He made his senior debut in 1990. His father, Ray, also played for the club from 1965 to 1973.

Stephen Young (Defender). Born 2/7/69. Joined Coleraine after spells with Larne and Ballymena United. Worked hard in the side which gained promotion by winning the First Division of the Irish League. A no-nonsense type of player, he represented Northern Ireland at Under-15 level.

Pat McALLISTER (Midfielder). Born 3/2/72. He joined the club from Belfast side Cliftonville for a record club fee of £32,500 in 1995. His aggressive style made him an instant hit with supporters and he played

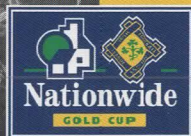
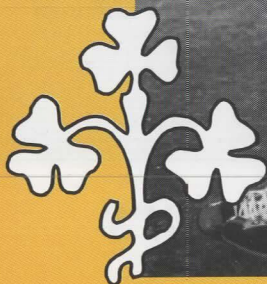
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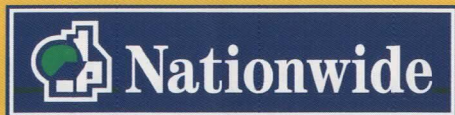
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a significant part in Coleraine's successful push for promotion. He had a loan spell with Scottish side Dunfermline in August 1992.

Johnny McIVOR (Winger). Born 12/7/73. Coleraine's longest serving player, he possesses great reserves of talent. Has been in the squad since the late Eighties, when former Northern Ireland goalkeeper Jim Platt was manager. Has played at Under-16 level for Northern Ireland.

Greg O'DOWD (Midfielder). Born 16/3/73. The Dubliner joined Coleraine in October 1995 from Shamrock Rovers in the League of Ireland. Recovered quickly after breaking his nose in the Ulster Cup final against Crusaders last September. Married earlier this summer.

Conor McKEEVER (Midfielder). Born 6/8/75. The former Portadown player is highly rated by manager Kenny Shiels. He joined Coleraine in September 1996 while still a student.

Tommy McCALLION (Midfielder). Born 18/1/77. Returned to Coleraine in the summer after a two year spell at Derry City in the League of Ireland. Began his career at Coleraine and captained the youth side to the Irish Football Association

Youth Cup. Scored in last week's friendly against Scottish club Hamilton Accies at Coleraine.

David McCALLAN (Striker). Born 26/2/70. The former Carrick Rangers, Linfield, Bangor and Portadown goalscorer cost Coleraine £32,000 in 1995 - his fee set by a tribunal after Bangor and Coleraine failed to agree a price. Had a spell in Australia with Mooroolbark and player in England for Port Vale. Has represented Northern Ireland at Under-16 and Under-19 levels.

Sammy SHIELS (Striker). Born 1/3/66. Re-joined his brother Kenny after the start of the 1995/96 season, leaving Carrick Rangers for juniors Tobermore United before arriving at the Showgrounds, where he ended up the club's top scorer with 19 goals that season, including a number of hat-tricks. He has also played for Ards, Ballymena United and Dungannon Swifts.

Danny SHIPP (Striker). Born 25/9/76. English-born Danny lives in Romford, Essex. Joined Coleraine from London club West Ham United in January 1997 for a £15,000 fee. Previously had a spell at Glenavon in Northern Ireland.

COLERAINE Times

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Four Coleraine Wins

By JOHN DUFFY

This evening Coleraine will be striving to win the coveted Gold Cup for the fifth time.

Their first success was away back on 9th December, 1932 when they met Ballymena at Solitude. (Note that Ballymena did not have the United after their name at that time). The Coleraine path to the final resulted in a 3-0 victory over Glentoran in the first round, a 5-1 win over Newry Town in the second and a 3-0 win over Derry City in the semi-final.

Ballymena had seen off Distillery, Ards and Linfield and were favourites to lift the trophy, however the 'Bannsidors' had other ideas, and coasted to an 3-0 win.

The team that represented Coleraine that afternoon was: Magee, Dickson, Mitchell, Leeky, Williamson, Mears, Chambers, Lynass, Pringle, Devan and Nesbitt. The goals came from Williamson, Devan and Nesbitt.

After that it would have been difficult to believe that it would be

another twenty-six years before the trophy went back to Coleraine. This time the venue was Windsor Park and the opponents were Glentoran, and the match was played on 18th November 1958.

Coleraine defeated Distillery 3-2 in the first round, Cliftonville 3-0 in the second and Derry City 3-1 in the semi-final.

As with the earlier final Glentoran started favourites having disposed of Glenavon and Linfield after having a bye in the first round. Coleraine must not have read the script as a single goal from John Crossan was sufficient to win the cup. The Coleraine team was: Hunter, Montgomery, McIlreavey, McDermott, Nelis, Young, Waterstone, Crossan, Coyle, Barr and Trainor.

Moving forward another eleven years and its back to Windsor Park to lock horns again with Glentoran on 9th December 1969, and the same outcome a 1-0 win for Coleraine. As

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(Back Row) – D. Pringle (Trainer), J. Doherty (Secretary), T. McCavana, E. O’Kane, W. Ard, J. McIlreavey, M. Cannon, K. Doherty, W. Buchan (Manager), J. Bell and W. McNabb (Directors).

(Front Row) – F. Montgomery, H. Waterstone, T. Cuneen, S. Walker (Chairman), C. McDermott, H. Colvan, H. McCormick, J. Graham (Asst. Trainer).

you would expect they were once again the underdogs as the Glentoran team had been good enough to beat Arsenal earlier that season in the European Fairs Cup. Coleraine also took part in the European Fairs Cup that season going out to Anderlecht.

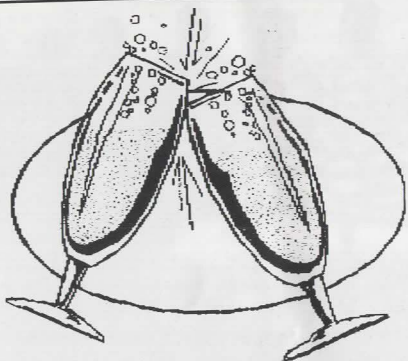
Coleraine defeated Cliftonville 6-3 in the first round and then found Portadown a hard nut to crack having played a 2-2 draw and a 0-0 draw before going through 6-1. In the semi-final they beat Ballymena United 3-1

at the Oval while Glentoran were beating Crusaders 4-1 at Windsor Park at the same stage.

The Glens had seen off Distillery 5-1 in round one and Derry City 3-1 after a 1-1 draw in the second. The goal from Brian Jennings was enough to secure the win for a Coleraine side that started as: Crossan, McCurdy, Campbell, Curley, Jackson, Murray, Dunlop, Mullan, Wilson and Jennings, with Gordon as the sub.

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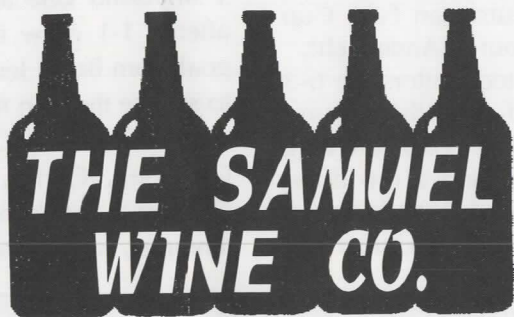


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INTRODUCING Glenavon

Dermot O'Neill (Goalkeeper). Age 37. Signed from Derry City for £7,000 in the summer of 1995. Signed a new two-year contract in March. Gained his first winners medal in cup or league competition when Derry City defeated Shelbourne to win the FAI Cup in Dublin in May 1995. Irish League 'Player of the Month' for August 1995 and 'Goalkeeper of the Month' for November 1995 and November 1996. A self-employed tiler by occupation.

Colin Russell (Full-back/central-defender). Age 18. Started his first Premier Division game against Crusaders in September and has featured several times in Nigel Best's starting line-up since. Armagh-based, Colin is a product of the youth development policy at Mourneview Park. Made an appearance as a second half substitute in Glenavon's European Cup Winners Cup tie against Legia Daewoo in Warsaw during August.

Jonny Wright (Full-back). Age 21. Joined Glenavon last month after spending three full seasons with Norwich City. Capped by Northern Ireland at every level, except full international level, Wright has regarded as one of the Provinces most talented young defensive exports. Has returned home on a contract which keeps him at Mourneview Park until the end of the season. Early indications are that he will be a major asset to the Lurgan club.

Mark Glendinning (Full-back). Age 27. Moved from Clondeboye Park to Mourneview Park in a £40,000 transfer deal in July 1995. Capped by Northern Ireland at U-18, U-19 and U-21 international level. Runner-up in the Glenavon 'Player of the Season' award for 1996/97. An outstanding talent. Widely regarded as the top left-back in Irish League football.

Gary Smyth (Central-defender). Age 27. Joined Glenavon from Glentoran for £19,000 in June 1995. Had been at the Oval from December 1988. Won League Championship, Gold Cup and League Cup winners medals with the Glens. Glenavon 'Player of the Season' for 1996/97. Capped for Northern

Ireland at 'B' international level against Portugal U-21s in March 1997.

Nigel Quigley (Central-defender). Age 28. Joined Glenavon from Coleraine for a £20,000 transfer fee in January 1992. Had been eight years with his home town club. A joiner by trade, Nigel returned to the Lurgan Blues' starting line-up in November 1996 after almost two and half years out through injury. Won his second Irish Cup winners medal in Glenavon's 1-0 final victory over Cliftonville in May 1997.

Paul Byrne (Central-defender). Age 33. Joined Glenavon from Drogheda United in September 1983. Since then has played in every back-four position and also in midfield. Made his 500th senior appearance at the beginning of April 1994 and started his 563rd match on 20th January 1995 breaking Wilbur Cush's post-war Glenavon appearance record. Signed a new one-year contract in August.

Stephen Caffrey (Defender/Midfielder). Age 21. Signed a three and a half year contract for Glenavon in February 1997. Moved to Mourneview Park from Bohemians in November 1996, initially on loan. Made his senior debut for the Lurgan Blues in the final of the Sun Life Gold Cup. Has played in both the centre of defence and midfield for Nigel Best's side. Glenavon's 'Player of the Month' for October.

Darren Murphy (Midfielder). Age 22. Had spent six seasons with Portadown before joining Glenavon via a short stop-off at Loughgall during summer 1995. Made 28 full match appearances for Glenavon last season and scored 4 goals. Won his first senior medal in the County Antrim Shield final victory over Crusaders at the Oval in January 1996. Collected Coca Cola Cup and Irish Cup winners medals in April and May 1997.

Lee Doherty (Midfielder). Age 34. Joined Glenavon from Linfield in July 1994. Had spent 14 years at Windsor Park. Won 8 League Championship winners medals with the Blues. Had one Irish Cup winners medal and four runners-up medals from his Linfield days. Capped by Northern Ireland against Israel in

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1985 and Turkey in 1987. Scored Glenavon's late winner in the Coca Cola Cup Final triumph over Glentoran in April.

John Gregg (Midfielder). Age 23. Son of former Manchester United and Northern Ireland goalkeeper Harry Gregg. Joined Glenavon in November 1996, initially on a short-term contract. However, decided against a return to Norway where he had been playing previously and signed a three-year contract for the Lurgan Blues in March 1997. Although lacking in inches, John is a fiercely competitive midfielder. Portstewart-based.

Barry Tumilty (Midfielder). Age 19. Made his full-match debut in Glenavon's final Premier Division fixture of the 1996/97 campaign. Has featured in Nigel Best's starting XI on a number of occasions this term. Scored twice in Glenavon's 3-1 Nationwide Gold Cup victory against Larne at Inver Park in September. Reckoned to be a midfielder with considerable potential.

Paul Byrne (Midfielder). Age 25. Joined Glenavon from Southend Utd in October. Had spent two full seasons with the Shrimpers. Broke, into Irish League football during the 1991-92 season with Bangor. Established

himself as the top player in the local game during the 1992-93 season and climaxed a memorable season by scoring the Seasiders' late winner against Ards in the twice replayed Bass Irish Cup Final. Spent two years with Glasgow Celtic before moving to Roots Hall.

Glenn Ferguson (Striker). Age 28. Widely regarded as one of the top all-round strikers in Irish League football. Joined Glenavon from Ards in August 1990. Has since established himself as one of the most prolific targetmen in Glenavon's post-war history. Scored his 100th goal for the Lurgan club in February 1993 and his 200th in November 1996. Capped for Northern Ireland at 'B' international level against Portugal U-21s in March 1997. Has scored twelve goals so far this season.

Tony Grant (Striker). Age 21. Drogheda-born. Capped at Republic of Ireland youth international level. Joined Leeds United as a teenager. Released by then Elland Road boss Howard Wilkinson and put pen to paper for Preston North End. Joined Glenavon on-loan in September 1996 and then moved in a £10,000 permanent transfer deal in January 1997. Scored four goals in the Lurgan club's successful Bass Irish Cup campaign last term.



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wish them every success in the
Gold Cup Final.*



A hat-trick of wins for Glenavon

By JOHN DUFFY

This evening the Lurgan 'Blues' will be trying to win the Gold Cup for the fourth time, and I feel it is only natural to look back at the previous three wins.

Their first success came back on 4th May 1955 at the Oval when they beat Linfield 3-2. That season had really belonged to Glenavon when they won the Ulster Cup and the City Cup. They finished runners-up to Dundela in the Irish Cup and lost a play-off for the Irish League title with Linfield. This was in the days before goal difference when in fact Glenavon had a goal difference of 34 to Linfield's 25.

They play-off took place just two weeks before the Gold Cup final and with Linfield winning it 2-0 they started favourites to win. Glenavon made two changes by bringing in Maurice Masters and Stewartie Campbell and it proved decisive as they won 3-2. The Glenavon team was Durkin, Greer, Armstrong, Corr, Liggett, Cush, Masters, Denver, Jones, Campbell and McVeigh.

Two years later on 17th May 1957 Glenavon overcame Derry City by three goals to one at the Oval. The Lurgan team beat Linfield 3-1 in the first round, Crusaders 2-0 in the second and Cliftonville 3-1 in the semi-final. This was another good year for Glenavon as they had completed the big two double i.e. winning the Irish League and the Irish Cup, beating Derry City in the latter, and winning the league by a single point from Linfield. Only five

players had survived from the earlier final in 1955, and they were Armstrong, Corr, Cush, Denver, and McVeigh. The Glenavon team was Rea, Armstrong, Lyske, Corr, Davis, Cush, Wilson, Denver, Jones, McVeigh and Elwood. The goals came from Jimmy Jones who got two and Joe Elwood. Note: Sammy Wilson went on to win another Gold Cup medal in the 1959 final with Coleraine.

The men from Mourneview did not have another victory until 20th November 1990 when they beat their old Mid-Ulster rivals Portadown 2-1 here at Windsor Park. By this stage the competition was known as the TNT Gold Cup and was played in the now norm sectional basis with Glenavon topping their section.

In the quarter-final they beat Larne 1-0 and in the semi-final beat Cliftonville 2-1. Meanwhile Portadown also topped their section and beat Ballymena United and Bangor on the way to the final. Like their opponents in 1957 this was a good season for Portadown as they won the League, Irish Cup, Budweiser Cup and Ulster Cup so they naturally through Joey Cunningham it looked as if the pundits had called it correctly. What ever Manager Terry Nicholson said at half-time seemed to work as Dean McCullough got an equaliser after 20 minutes, and within five minutes Glenavon had a spot kick. Stephen McBride duly dispatched it



Glenavon, winners of the 1956/57 Irish League Championship, Irish and Gold Cups. (Back row, L. to R.) – J. Uprichard, J. Jones and S. Humphries (directors); (Middle row, L. to R.) – J. Beckett (director), J. McAlinden (manager), P. Corr, B. Armstrong, R. Rea, J. Davis, R. Lyske, J. Jones (trainer), J. H. Balmer, FRCS (honorary surgeon), J. Graham (director); (Front row, L. to R.) – W. J. Adair (chairman), S. Wilson, M. McVeigh, J. Jones, W. Cush, S. Campbell, J. Elwood, C. Wright (vice-chairman), W. Walker (honorary secretary).

past Mickey Keenan, and the cup was on its way to Mourneview for the first time in 33 years. The Glenavon starting line-up was as follows:- Beck, Davies, Scappaticci, McCullough, Byrne, Ferguson, McConville, McCoy, McBride and Conville. Russell came on as a sub for Ferguson and Kennedy was not used. This evening two of those players Paul Byrne and Glen Ferguson should figure for Glenavon and will be hoping to add another Gold Cup medal of the Nationwide variety.

Moving on to 12th November 1975 and a new venue as the final place at the Ballymena Showgrounds and despite conceding home advantage Coleraine defeated Ballymena United by two goals to one. The choice of venue was not a problem to Coleraine as they had won the Irish Cup at the

same ground back in May 1975 when they finally beat Linfield 1-0 after two drawn matches. The 'Bannsidiers' path to the final saw them defeat Ards 3-1 in the first round, Larne 5-1 in the second and Glentoran 2-1 in the semi-final. The Coleraine team that afternoon was Magee, McCurdy, McNuti, Beckett, Jackson, Murray, Cochrane, Jennings, Smith, Dickson and Guy. The goalscorers were Brian Jennings and Jim 'Chang' Smith. McCurdy, Jackson, Murray and Jennings were the only members of the 1969 winning team that were still playing for Coleraine.

Twenty-two years on a whole new crop of Coleraine players are hoping to make it five wins for the famous old club who are celebrating seventy years in the Irish League.

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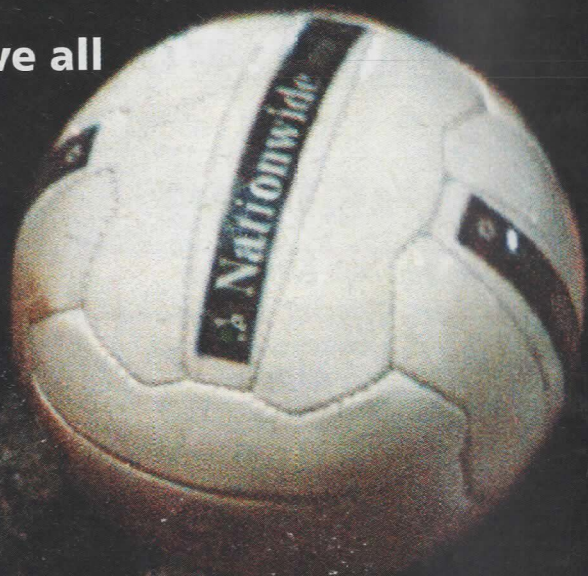
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