

County by three to one in the following season. Only one club—Bury—has equalled the Rovers' half dozen in a final tie, and a lot of water flowed under Putney Bridge before Stan Mortensen equalled the William Townley hat-trick feat against the Wednesday.

Quite naturally, after his success, this Blackburn forward was asked about the secret of goalscoring. He summed the whole thing up in a very few words. "It's dead easy," he said. "I shoot to hit the goal-minder, and I nearly always miss him!" Is there a hint in that bit of advice for the current forwards who so often miss the target completely because they try to place the ball out of the reach of the goal-minder, as he was called in the olden days?

The Rovers were not among those who are so ready to blame an enforced change of attire for a defeat. On the journey to their sixth final at Kennington Oval the skip containing the clothing of the players went astray. As desperate efforts to buy or hire a complete set of shirts proved unsuccessful, some of the men were duly dolled up in what are called dress-shirts—that is with starched fronts and cuffs. But what matter? They beat Notts County "comfortably" as one player quite incorrectly described it.

### Not So Good Days

Now there comes the contrast part of the Rovers story. The Blackburn people who had gone well-nigh mad over Cup triumphs had to wait more than twenty years for something to shout about in respect of League returns. Eventually, however, a team was built up which did win the championship.

In 1912, and again two years later, Blackburn finished on top of the table. The big personality of a fine side was Bob Crompton, an automatic choice for England at right-back for a dozen years. Immediately after the club's second championship success came a sad day for Crompton. In the first round of the Cup competition their opponents were Swansea Town, then in the Second Division of the old Southern League.

"Don't worry" said Billy Bradshaw after he had failed with a penalty kick, "we shall win by eight!" The Rovers lost by one goal, and bang went the last chance of Crompton of adding a Cup medal to his trophies. So far as there can be adequate compensation, Crompton had it in 1928, when he was manager of the Rovers team which again won the Cup.

Until eight years later the Rovers shared with Aston Villa the distinction of having played in the First Division from the commencement. Along with the Villa the Rovers were relegated. They soon came back—champions of the second class, only to drop again after the second war.

The wonder finish of 1958, which ended in a dramatic last match victory at Charlton, is well remembered. And now they come to the Bridge again with a side which includes a player who may equal the record of Crompton—Ronnie Clayton, England's new captain.

### BLACKBURN ROVERS

Ground: Ewood Park.

Colours—Shirts: Blue and White Halves. Shorts: White. Stockings: Blue and White Rings.

Attendance Record: 61,783 v. Bolton Wanderers.

F.A. Cup Winners: 1884, 1885, 1886, 1890, 1891, 1928.

F.A. Cup Runners-up: 1882.

Division I Champions: 1912, 1914.

Relegated to Division II: 1936, 1948.

Division II Champions: 1939.

Division II Runners-up 1958.

### Chelsea v. Blackburn Rovers

#### Past League Results

Season	Home	Away	Season	Home	Away
1907-08	1-0	0-2	1930-31	3-2	0-2
1908-09	1-1	0-2	1931-32	1-2	2-2
1909-10	3-1	0-1	1932-33	2-2	3-1
1912-13	1-6	1-1	1933-34	3-0	2-4
1913-14	2-0	1-3	1934-35	4-2	2-1
1914-15	1-3	2-3	1935-36	5-1	0-1
1919-20	2-1	1-3	1946-47	0-2	2-1
1920-21	1-2	0-0	1947-48	1-0	1-1
1921-22	1-0	1-1	1958-59	0-2	3-0
1922-23	1-1	0-0	1959-60	Today Mar. 26	
1923-24	2-0	0-3			

#### F.A. Cup

1908-09	Round 2 (Away)	...	...	1-2
1930-31	Round 5 (Home)	...	...	3-0

#### SUMMARY

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	Pts.
League: Home	20	11	3	6	35	28	25
Away	20	4	6	10	21	32	14
F.A. Cup	2	1	0	1	4	2	—
Total	42	16	9	17	60	62	—

### The Matches Last Season

Thursday, 25th December.

Beat BLACKBURN ROVERS (Away) 3-0. Half-time: 2-0.

Referee: Mr. L. N. Peake (Rotherham).

Attendance: 31,900.

Team: Matthews; Sillett (J.), Sillett (P); Mortimore, Scott, Crowther; Brabrook, Greaves, Gibbs, Saunders, Blunstone.

Scorers: Sillett (P.) 2 (1 pen.), Greaves.

Saturday, 27th December.

Lost to BLACKBURN ROVERS (Home) 0-2. Half-time: 0-1.

Referee: Mr. A. W. Sparling (Grimsby).

Attendance: 46,312.

Team: Matthews; Sillett (J.), Sillett (P.); Huxford, Scott, Crowther; Brabrook, Greaves, Gibbs, Saunders, Blunstone.