GB·2509

Ireland

How ~~Belfast~~ defeated Italy 17th January 1958

Belfast: With 45,000 fans on their best behaviour, Skipper Danny Blanchflower exchanged goodwill pennants with Segata of Italy, at ~~Windsor~~ Windsor Park.

Italy, (in the dark stockings) kicked off - in this world cup-tie.... following the recent "friendly" that became a free-for-all. 5 (down)

At the start, Italy moved well - and reserve goalkeeper ~~Uri~~ Uprichard held a dangerous centre.

Ireland soon got going. A combined move took them upfield; ? And ~~and~~ Jimmy McIlroy won Irish hearts and the interest of the Arsenal.

With a two-goal interval lead, Ireland looked safely bound for Sweden - until Uprichard made that tragic mistake. Da Costa got the goal.

Italy right on top now - battling for the draw they needed to qualify. Then Ghiggia kicked out at Alf McMichael in a goalmouth scrimmage...and promptly got his marching orders from the Hungarian referee. ~~Italy 2 Scot~~

~~Reduced to~~

Reduced to ten men, Italy (twice World Cup winners) were hard-pressed. But this goal by Simpson was ruled off-side.

~~A~~ A last all-out attack ~~[illegible]~~ nearly saved Italy's soccer prestige. But Ireland won two-one - to reach the World Cup Finals - for the first time..