

BEN MILLERS OF ST. LOUIS DEFEAT FORE RIVER FOR NATIONAL SOCCER TITLE

BEN MILLERS TAKE HONORS IN SOCCER

Defeat Fore River Team of Quincy, Mass., in National Challenge Cup Final, 2-1.

TEAMS TIED AT HALF-TIME

Dunn's Goal in Second Period Decides Game—Victory of Native Born Players Over Foreigners.

Special to The New York Times.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., May 9.—The Ben Millers of St. Louis, champions of the St. Louis Soccer League, today won the national championship of soccer football and the National Challenge Cup of the United States Football Association, emblematic of that title, by defeating the Fore River Football Club of Quincy, Mass., 2 goals to 1. The game was played at the old Federal League Baseball Park before 12,000 fans.

It was a triumph not only of the Middle West over the East, but of the American style of the association kicking game over the so-called "old country" style, for the Ben Millers, to a man, were born in St. Louis and not one of the Fore River players was born in the United States or learned his football here. Ten of the members of the Quincy team are of Scotch nativity and the other of English birth, and theirs was and is the close combination, short-passing game to be seen on British football pitches. The "old country" style of play did not stand up against the more aggressive, dash and shoot, long-driving game of the American-born players. The Millers displayed a slight advantage in speed and in stamina that stood them in good stead against the somewhat better technique of the Northern Massachusetts eleven.

Struggling with tigerish endurance from the first shrill of Referee Alex McKenzie's whistle until that which ended the contest, the two elevens gave what was deemed by veteran soccer officials the best exhibition of the sport that has been seen in any National Challenge Cup final since the inception of the United States Football Association in 1913.

Nine of the Ben Miller players are of Irish-American descent and it was one of these nine, Jimmy Dunn, whose vigorous toe shoved what proved to be the winning goal into the invaders' net 17 minutes after halftime. The score was tied at 1-1 at the intermission and the battle was waged at a terrific pace throughout the second half.

Favored when they entered the fray, the Ben Millers upheld their traditions and from the first minute of play to the close tore in with great aggressiveness and spirit, and in these departments at least were masters throughout.

The weather was ideal from the spectators' point of view, if somewhat warm for the players. The teams lined up at 3:44 P. M. with the Millers kicking off toward the West goal. At the commencement a slight breeze was blowing from the West, but it was not strong enough to lend any material aid. The Millers forced matters considerably. The visitors, however, soon broke up the attack and thereafter for some time as fast as the Millers carried the ball into their territory, Fore River ran it back. During the latter's early assault Dunn missed a fine chance to score, his attempt going wide by inches. Black made the first attempt at goal for the Easterners when he accepted a pass from Page and drove finely. McGarry executing a brilliant save.

Johnny Redden, whose scintillating work at right half both defensively and offensively drew considerable praise, threw a scare into the Fore Riverers when he hooked a high shot toward the net. The ball struck about an inch before the goal line and midway between the uprights, but bounded crazily over the cross-bar. Others of the Millers made tries, but these either were warded off or went awry. Al McHenry's game at outside right was a big disappointment to the local following.

After twenty-two minutes struggling, Hap Marre of the Millers broke the ice with a dazzling shot into the lower left corner of the visitors' net which gave Lambie, in goal for Fore River, no chance to save. The boot was made possible by a beautiful cross from the left corner by Potee. St. Louis continued to press, but superb defensive play of the visitors prevented further scoring.

Eight minutes before the end of the first half Kershaw broke away and from a cross by Page culminated a nicely organized attack by driving past McGarry for the equalizing goal. It was a bruising shot, made at almost the only point in the game when the Ben Miller defense was disorganized. Redoubled efforts failed to alter the score of one goal each at half time.

After the interval it was touch and go, with the Millers showing considerable superiority on attack until their efforts were crowned with success by Dunn's goal. From that point on the game was bitterly waged and both sides repeatedly threatened to score, but each defense was equal to the test each time.

The lineup and summary:
BEN MILLERS (2). FORE RIVER (1).
McGarry G. Lambie
Lancaster R. B. Parkinson
Johnston L. B. Littlejohn
Redden R. H. B. W. Daly
Quinn C. H. B. Green
O'Hanlon L. H. B. Black
McHenry O. R. Farquhar
Riley I. R. Page
Dunn C. F. Kershaw
Marre I. L. Underwood
Potee O. L. J. Daly
Goals—Marre, Dunn, Kershaw.
Referee—A. McKenzie, Chicago. Neutral
Linesmen—Phil J. Kavanaugh, United States
Referees' Union, and Paul M. McSweeney,
St. Louis Country Club. Time of halves—
Forty-five minutes.