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NOTTS COUNTY

VOLUME XXXIII Number 6

VERSUS

October 17th, 1953

LUTON TOWN

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CLUB NOTES ★ SEASON 1953-1954

It has not been a pleasant story for our supporters so far this season and the more we try the less reward we appear to receive. We are not offering any excuses for our heavy defeat at the hands of the Forest last Saturday. They deserved their victory because as a team they played better together and were always alive to a shooting opportunity. At the same time we feel that a score of five goals to none flattered them, for remember the penalty award was open to doubt and three of the Forest goals were involved in efforts which first hit an upright. An inch the other way and they would not have been goals.

Unjust Criticism

The directors have been criticised for the team changes made on that occasion. We made the changes in the hope that the tide would turn. Neither Leuty nor McCormack have been playing up to accustomed form and we felt it wise to give the captain a run with the reserves in a less strenuous match. He has had to shoulder a big burden this season.

The reintroduction of Tom Johnston at wing half-back was the outcome of the feeling that he would restore the necessary connecting link

with the forwards. Alas, such an anticipation did not materialise and the team as a whole fell back into the rut where they lost sense of combined effort and relied too much on individual ability. The match provided a sad story and it was the heaviest defeat Forest have inflicted on us for 53 years.

There were, however, a few bright features, notably the play of Gordon Bradley in goal and Tommy Deans at left-back. Both gave remarkably good service, and let it be said immediately that there has never been any intention on the part of the Board to seek for the services of Bernard Streten, the Luton international goalkeeper who was once on our books. There has been no approach and this shows how inaccurate some of the supposed "inside information" can be, especially in some of the Sunday newspapers.

A Team Manager

The club has possibly suffered by the absence of a manager in recent weeks, but that will soon be remedied. The members of the Board have spent many hours in the last ten days going through the qualifications of numerous aspirants

— continued overleaf

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is certain to cheer!

for the position. We have decided, this time, to appoint a team manager only and his job will be to look after everything appertaining to the team, including their training. We feel that a man of experience, relieved of other duties connected with the club, who devotes his whole attention on team building and general policy should be able to bring about the revival in the club's fortunes we all desire.

Who the new team manager will be we cannot say at the moment. We have received applications from men of proved ability and experience. From these we have chosen a short-list, all of whom will be interviewed. We do not wish to act hurriedly, we desire to be reasonably certain that the man we appoint will be able to bring about an improvement in the present unen-

viable position of the club in the league table.

Playing Staff

So far as the playing staff is concerned we intend to augment it and our search concerns a defender a wing half-back, a centre-forward and a winger. But as we have so often said, transfers are not easy to negotiate these days.

There are bright hopes that we shall be able to land an international winger — the deal might have materialised before this programme is in your hands — and members of the Board and scouts will today be abroad searching for other players and watching those who have already been recommended to us.

We can assure our supporters that we are doing everything we possibly can to improve the present state of affairs.

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Competitive Floodlit Football



WHAT is the future of floodlit football? This is a question which Notts County directors have been considering. The installation at Meadow Lane was only completed last season and our supporters will be pleased to learn that we are negotiating for matches with some of the most attractive sides both in England and Scotland.

But while floodlit football is still in its infancy and is novel, there is the wider aspect. We know it can be of immense value for training during the dark evenings, but that does not particularly interest our supporters. For the moment we feel that they will flock to attractive friendly matches, but in time we are afraid that in the absence of the competitive element "gates" might eventually fall.

There is a general feeling that floodlit football is more attractive than daylight football, and the reason given is that under lights there is a compelling force to keep the ball low.

It might be that in time to come some league matches will be played under floodlight. Already a move is being made among some London clubs to start a floodlit football league or a knock-out competition. What can be done in London can also be accomplished in the Midlands. Thus your directors are pioneering a movement to start competitive floodlit football in this area. They have written to Doncaster Rovers, Hull City, Grimsby Town, Derby County and Coventry City asking if they are interested in such a project. If their replies are satisfactory we shall convene a meeting of the representatives of the various clubs to discuss the matter and formulate plans.

All these clubs have floodlighting and it would therefore be possible to arrange home and away fixtures. We feel that competitive football of this nature would be more acceptable to spectators who for so many years have lived on the thrill of searching for points or the exciting quest for a cup.

We would welcome the views of supporters on this project.

Football at Meadow Lane

★ SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31st

Notts. v. Swansea

★ SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24th

Notts. Res. v. Corby Town

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Our Visitors Today

LUTON are again our visitors today and they are fielding a strong side. Actually, there are only four changes compared with the side that played at Meadow Lane last season. Bernard Streten is in goal, Morton is at centre-half, Moore goes on the right wing and Turner is his partner, and Cummins is at inside-left. Here are a few pen pictures of the line-up:

STRETEN, BERNARD (Goalkeeper). Formerly with Notts County, and Shrewsbury as an amateur. Product of Norfolk junior football. He went to Luton in 1947-48 and was capped against Ireland in 1949.

DUNNE (Right-back). A speedy and powerful defender who positions extremely well.

AHERNE, T. (Left-back). Known to his team mates as "Bud". Although his first appearance for Ireland in February 1946 was at left-half, he is now regarded as a left-back — and a very good one too. Since 1946 has played for both Ireland and Eire many times. He joined Luton from Linfield in 1949.

SHANKS, W. (Right-half). Utility player who can operate on the wing or as an inside forward. Wally joined Luton after a month's trial and before that had been on Chelsea's books. Born at Malton.

MORTON, R. (Centre-half). Bob is normally a right-half, is a Luton discovery and before joining them played for Eaton Bray and Waterlow's.

WATKINS, C. (Left-half). Charlie was born at Glasgow. He developed his football talents with the illustrious Glasgow Rangers before coming south to Luton in 1948. He plays at left-half or inside-left.

MOORE, B. (Outside-right). Was a centre-forward or inside-forward and is a big, well-built player with plenty of speed. He was a thrustful centre-forward with Brighton Boys and the Brighton & Hove Albion Juniors. He served with the RAF during the war, but after his demobilisation he had difficulty in regaining his form so he moved to Hastings. There, he scored fantastically and moved to Luton in 1950.

TURNER (Inside-right). A clever forward and a first-class schemer who gives excellent assistance to Jesse Pye, with whom he has a good understanding.

PYE, J. (Centre-forward). This name needs no introduction at Meadow Lane. A fine inside or centre-forward. Fast, constructive, hard shooting, he was snapped up by Notts County from Sheffield United. He shone in wartime Middle East football and made his first appearance for England in 1945-46 versus Belgium, then moved to Wolves in 1946. An inside forward at that time, he became a centre-forward with success and scored twice from there in the 1949 Cup Final and won a cap versus Eire in the same year.

CUMMINS (Inside-left). Scheming type of players with excellent ball control.

MITCHELL, A. (Outside-left). Albert's first club was Stoke — his home town. A progressive outside-left he did well with Northampton before joining Luton. Has also played for Kettering and Blackburn.

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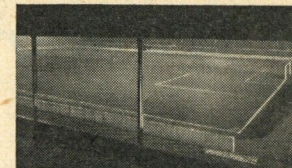
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| | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|--|
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| | JARVIS 6 | | |
| DEANS 3 | | WYLIE 10 | |
| BRADLEY 1 | LEUTY 5 | JOHNSTON 9 | |
| SOUTHWELL 2 | | LEVERTON 8 | |
| | ALLEN 4 | COOLE 7 | |
| RIGHT | | | |

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~~BENNETT~~
~~MOORE~~
7

~~SCOTT~~
~~TURNER~~
8

PYE
9

CUMMINS
10

MITCHELL
11

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~~MORTON~~
~~SHANKS~~
4

~~OWEN~~
~~MORTON~~
5

WATKINS
6

LUTON TOWN

RIGHT

DUNNE
2

STRETEN
1

AHERNE
3

LEFT

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| E CHELSEA MIDDLESBROUGH | P DERBY COUNTY WEST HAM UNITED |
| F HUDDERSFIELD TOWN LIVERPOOL | Q DONCASTER ROVERS STOKE CITY |
| G MANCHESTER CITY PRESTON NORTH END | R EVERTON SWANSEA TOWN |
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Recorded History

OF LUTON TOWN

LUTON TOWN, formed in 1891, do not possess an entrancing history. They have never been members of the First Division and came nearest to distinction last season when they finished third in the Second Division. At one time it was felt that the "Hatters" would gain promotion, but steadily Huddersfield rose above them until the points gap was unapproachable. They had a very successful season and it was principally Jesse Pye, the former Notts player and international, whom they obtained from Wolverhampton Wanderers, who restored their fortune. He had no fewer than 28 goals to his credit.

After playing in the Southern League, Luton joined the Third League (South) and gained promotion in 1937. But if they have not the attractive background of Notts County they have often been a thorn in the side of the County. Twice they have beaten them at Kenilworth Road by six goals to nil – once in the Cup on January 11th, 1947, when Eric Houghton the former County manager was playing his first match for Notts after his transfer from the Villa, and once in the League. Few of the Notts contingent will forget the remark of Leon Leuty after the League match. The President (Mr. C. G. Barnes) was feeling the effects of the disaster when Leon said: "You know who started all the trouble – the referee when he blew his whistle to begin the game".

Luton did not start this season very well, but they have now begun to run into form, although they have not yet won away from home. They have five points more to their credit than Notts, chiefly due to success at home. Notts, on the other hand, have only once won at home – thus we can expect two teams determined in an attempt to change the tide.

Apart from Jesse Pye we shall probably see another former County player in the Luton goal – Bernard Streten – who, since he went South has gained international honours. A good goalkeeper, rather on the spectacular side, and we can recall encounters with Luton when he alone has prevented Notts from winning.

We welcome the Luton team to Meadow Lane and look forward to an interesting struggle.

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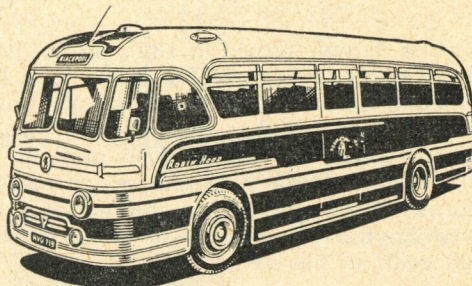
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Christmas Whist Drive and Dance

Tickets are now available for the Christmas Whist Drive and Dance which is to be held on Tuesday, December 29th, at the Palais-de-Danse, Nottm., 7.30 p.m. to 11.30 p.m. The Executive are hoping for a very large attendance and all supporters are cordially invited.

Tickets, price 2s. 6d. each, are obtainable from the General Secretary, Mr. T. A. Hardy, 116 Wood Lane, Hucknall.

Games Section

Arrangements have now been completed and all leagues — darts, dominoes, table tennis, snooker, etc., will commence next week. Ten branches will be taking part in the competitions and keen rivalry is assured for the trophies to be won in each league.

Supporters interested in arrangements for the Plymouth match on Saturday, October 24th, should contact Mr. W. Reynolds, 45 Bridlington Street, Nottingham, as soon as possible.

Sherwood Branch

Solo and Whist Drives have been arranged for Monday and Thursday of each week at Haydn Road Schools, 7.30 p.m. All supporters are invited to attend.

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DIVISION II

| Date | Opponents | Gr. | F. A. |
|--------------|-----------------|-----|-------|
| AUGUST 1953 | | | |
| 19 W | Leeds United | ... | 0 6 |
| 22 S | Bury | ... | 3 3 |
| 27 Th | Oldham | ... | 2 0 |
| 29 S | Doncaster | ... | 1 5 |
| SEPTEMBER | | | |
| 1 Tu | Oldham | ... | 3 1 |
| 5 S | Blackburn | ... | 0 2 |
| 10 Th | Everton | ... | 0 2 |
| 12 S | Derby County | ... | 0 1 |
| 19 S | Brentford | ... | 0 0 |
| 23 W | Everton | ... | 2 3 |
| 26 S | Bristol Rovers | ... | 1 5 |
| OCTOBER | | | |
| 3 S | Lincoln City | ... | 0 3 |
| 10 S | Nottm. Forest | ... | 0 5 |
| 17 S | Luton Town | ... | ... |
| 24 S | Plymouth Argyle | ... | ... |
| 31 S | Swansea Town | ... | ... |
| NOVEMBER | | | |
| 7 S | Rotherham | ... | ... |
| 14 S | Leicester City | ... | ... |
| 21 S | (1) Stoke City | ... | ... |
| 28 S | Fulham | ... | ... |
| DECEMBER | | | |
| 5 S | West Ham | ... | ... |
| 12 S | (2) Leeds | ... | ... |
| 19 S | Bury | ... | ... |
| 25 F | Birmingham | ... | ... |
| 26 S | Birmingham | ... | ... |
| JANUARY 1954 | | | |
| 2 S | Doncaster | ... | ... |
| 9 S | (3) | ... | ... |
| 16 S | Blackburn | ... | ... |
| 23 S | Derby County | ... | ... |
| 30 S | (4) | ... | ... |
| FEBRUARY | | | |
| 6 S | Brentford | ... | ... |
| 13 S | Bristol Rovers | ... | ... |
| 20 S | (5) Lincoln | ... | ... |
| 27 S | Nottm. Forest | ... | ... |
| MARCH | | | |
| 6 S | Luton Town | ... | ... |
| 13 S | (6) Plymouth | ... | ... |
| 20 S | Swansea Town | ... | ... |
| 27 S | (S.F.) Stoke | ... | ... |
| APRIL | | | |
| 3 S | Fulham | ... | ... |
| 10 S | Rotherham | ... | ... |
| 16 F | Hull City | ... | ... |
| 17 S | Leicester City | ... | ... |
| 19 M | Hull City | ... | ... |
| 24 S | West Ham | ... | ... |
| MAY | | | |
| 1 S (F.) | | | |

MIDLAND LGE.

| Date | Opponents | Gr. | F. A. |
|--------------|----------------|-----|-------|
| AUGUST 1953 | | | |
| 22 S | York City | ... | 2 1 |
| 29 S | Goole Town | ... | 4 2 |
| SEPTEMBER | | | |
| 2 W | Lincoln City | ... | 0 1 |
| 5 S | Denaby Utd | ... | 1 0 |
| 7 M | Grantham | ... | 3 3 |
| 12 S | Bradford | ... | 2 4 |
| 17 Th | Grimsby | ... | 0 1 |
| 19 S | Gainsborough | ... | 2 1 |
| 24 Th | Hull City | ... | 2 2 |
| 26 S | Doncaster | ... | 0 4 |
| OCTOBER | | | |
| 1 Th | Hull City | ... | 1 1 |
| 3 S | Peterborough | ... | 2 2 |
| 7 W | Grimsby Town | ... | 0 3 |
| 10 S | Halifax Town | ... | 8 0 |
| 17 S | Worksop Town | ... | ... |
| 24 S | Corby Town | ... | ... |
| 31 S | Mansfield Town | ... | ... |
| NOVEMBER | | | |
| 7 S | Wisbech Town | ... | ... |
| 14 S | Bradford City | ... | ... |
| 21 S | Rotherham | ... | ... |
| 28 S | Frickley Coll. | ... | ... |
| DECEMBER | | | |
| 5 S | Grantham | ... | ... |
| 12 S | Scarborough | ... | ... |
| 19 S | York City | ... | ... |
| 25 F | Nottm. Forest | ... | ... |
| 26 S | Nottm. Forest | ... | ... |
| JANUARY 1954 | | | |
| 2 S | Goole Town | ... | ... |
| 9 S | Scunthorpe | ... | ... |
| 16 S | Denaby United | ... | ... |
| 23 S | Bradford | ... | ... |
| 30 S | Scunthorpe | ... | ... |
| FEBRUARY | | | |
| 6 S | Gainsborough | ... | ... |
| 13 S | Doncaster | ... | ... |
| 20 S | Peterborough | ... | ... |
| 27 S | Halifax Town | ... | ... |
| MARCH | | | |
| 6 S | Worksop | ... | ... |
| 13 S | Corby Town | ... | ... |
| 20 S | Mansfield | ... | ... |
| 27 S | Wisbech Town | ... | ... |
| APRIL | | | |
| 3 S | Bradford City | ... | ... |
| 10 S | Rotherham | ... | ... |
| 16 F | Boston | ... | ... |
| 17 S | Frickley Coll. | ... | ... |
| 19 M | Boston United | ... | ... |
| 29 Th | Lincoln City | ... | ... |
| MAY | | | |
| 1 S | Scarborough | ... | ... |

MID-WEEK LGE.

| Date | Opponents | Gr. | F. A. |
|--------------|----------------|-----|-------|
| OCTOBER 1953 | | | |
| 21 W | Derby County | ... | ... |
| NOVEMBER | | | |
| 5 Th | West Brom. | ... | ... |
| 19 Th | Birmingham | ... | ... |
| 25 W | Kidderminster | ... | ... |
| DECEMBER | | | |
| 3 Th | Stoke City | ... | ... |
| 17 Th | Port Vale | ... | ... |
| JANUARY 1954 | | | |
| 13 W | Aston Villa | ... | ... |
| 21 Th | Leicester City | ... | ... |
| FEBRUARY | | | |
| 4 Th | Stoke City | ... | ... |
| 11 Th | Derby County | ... | ... |
| MARCH | | | |
| 4 Th | Aston Villa | ... | ... |
| 10 W | West Brom. | ... | ... |
| 24 W | Birmingham | ... | ... |
| APRIL | | | |
| 1 Th | Kidderminster | ... | ... |
| 8 Th | Leicester City | ... | ... |
| 22 Th | Port Vale | ... | ... |

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- ★ Tommy Martin, Nottingham Forest's inside forward, came very close to winning the professional footballer's golf championship. A putt at the 18th hit the back of the hole and bounced out. He therefore tied with Ron Simpson, Newcastle United's goalkeeper, but lost the play-off over four holes.
- ★ Frank Broome and Ian McPherson, two of County's forward who were transferred during the close season to Brentford, are on the move again. It is possible that Broome will land with a Third (North) club. Ian McPherson has requested to be placed on the open to transfer list, possibly because of the new manager's edict that all players must live in London.
- ★ There is a lot to be said for the opinion of Mr. Dodgin that players should live in the town of their club. That is the only way of developing team spirit, and a proper understanding of each others play. It is only by training together that this can be really accomplished.
- ★ However, it is not easy to lay down a hard and fast rule, especially as players have been encouraged by the F.A. to take part-time jobs. There are many good players who would not enter the professional ranks at all if they had to give up their civilian job, which they regard as vitally essential to their future after footballing days are over.
- ★ No one can blame an individual from looking after his own interests in this respect. Football was too often regarded in the light of a dead-end profession. Of course, conditions of players have changed immensely in the last 20 years and today, by comparison, it is a well paid job.
- ★ There is a move on foot to try and form a Midlands section of the Third Division. Will clubs succeed? It is possible. At the moment there is a vast area in the Midlands which has no real league football.

CHAMPIONSHIP TABLES

SECOND DIVISION

| | P. | W. | D. | L. | F. | A. | Pts. |
|-------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|------|
| Rotherham United | 14 | 9 | 1 | 4 | 28 | 24 | 19 |
| Leicester City | 13 | 6 | 6 | 1 | 28 | 16 | 18 |
| Everton | 13 | 7 | 4 | 2 | 26 | 18 | 18 |
| Nottingham Forest | 13 | 8 | 1 | 4 | 31 | 18 | 17 |
| Doncaster Rovers | 13 | 8 | 1 | 4 | 24 | 14 | 17 |
| Birmingham City | 13 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 29 | 17 | 15 |
| Lincoln City | 13 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 21 | 13 | 15 |
| West Ham United | 13 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 26 | 20 | 15 |
| Stoke City | 14 | 3 | 9 | 2 | 23 | 23 | 15 |
| Derby County | 12 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 23 | 20 | 14 |
| Blackburn Rovers | 12 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 21 | 21 | 14 |
| Bristol Rovers | 13 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 28 | 19 | 14 |
| Leeds United | 13 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 29 | 27 | 13 |
| Luton Town | 13 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 21 | 23 | 11 |
| Plymouth Argyle | 13 | 2 | 7 | 4 | 16 | 21 | 11 |
| Fulham | 13 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 26 | 29 | 10 |
| Bury | 13 | 2 | 6 | 5 | 15 | 21 | 10 |
| Swansea | 13 | 4 | 2 | 7 | 17 | 25 | 9 |
| Brentford | 13 | 3 | 3 | 7 | 11 | 26 | 9 |
| Oldham Athletic | 13 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 11 | 24 | 8 |
| Hull City | 13 | 3 | 1 | 9 | 13 | 24 | 7 |
| NOTTS COUNTY | 13 | 2 | 2 | 9 | 12 | 36 | 6 |

MIDLAND LEAGUE

(Up to and including 12th Oct, 1953)

| | P. | W. | D. | L. | F. | A. | Pts. |
|----------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|------|
| Peterborough United | 16 | 12 | 2 | 2 | 43 | 21 | 26 |
| Doncaster Rovers | 14 | 12 | 0 | 2 | 40 | 14 | 24 |
| Nottingham Forest | 13 | 9 | 3 | 1 | 43 | 8 | 21 |
| Grimsby Town | 14 | 9 | 2 | 3 | 29 | 14 | 20 |
| Lincoln City | 14 | 8 | 3 | 3 | 34 | 19 | 19 |
| Hull City | 15 | 8 | 3 | 4 | 32 | 19 | 19 |
| Rotherham United | 15 | 8 | 3 | 4 | 29 | 19 | 19 |
| Grantham Town | 12 | 7 | 2 | 3 | 38 | 26 | 16 |
| Worksop Town | 12 | 7 | 2 | 3 | 20 | 12 | 16 |
| NOTTS COUNTY | 14 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 27 | 25 | 14 |
| Corby Town | 11 | 6 | 1 | 4 | 27 | 20 | 13 |
| Denaby United | 12 | 6 | 0 | 6 | 17 | 16 | 12 |
| Wisbech Town | 11 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 17 | 18 | 11 |
| Boston United | 12 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 22 | 30 | 11 |
| Scarborough | 16 | 4 | 3 | 9 | 23 | 37 | 11 |
| Scunthorpe United | 13 | 4 | 2 | 7 | 24 | 25 | 10 |
| Gainsborough Trinity | 15 | 4 | 2 | 9 | 27 | 34 | 10 |
| Bradford P.A. | 13 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 28 | 34 | 9 |
| Frickley Colliery | 11 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 15 | 25 | 8 |
| Goole Town | 13 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 22 | 45 | 8 |
| Mansfield Town | 13 | 3 | 1 | 9 | 14 | 29 | 7 |
| Bradford City | 13 | 2 | 2 | 9 | 23 | 43 | 6 |
| Halifax Town | 12 | 1 | 2 | 9 | 12 | 48 | 4 |
| York City | 13 | 2 | 0 | 11 | 13 | 34 | 4 |

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