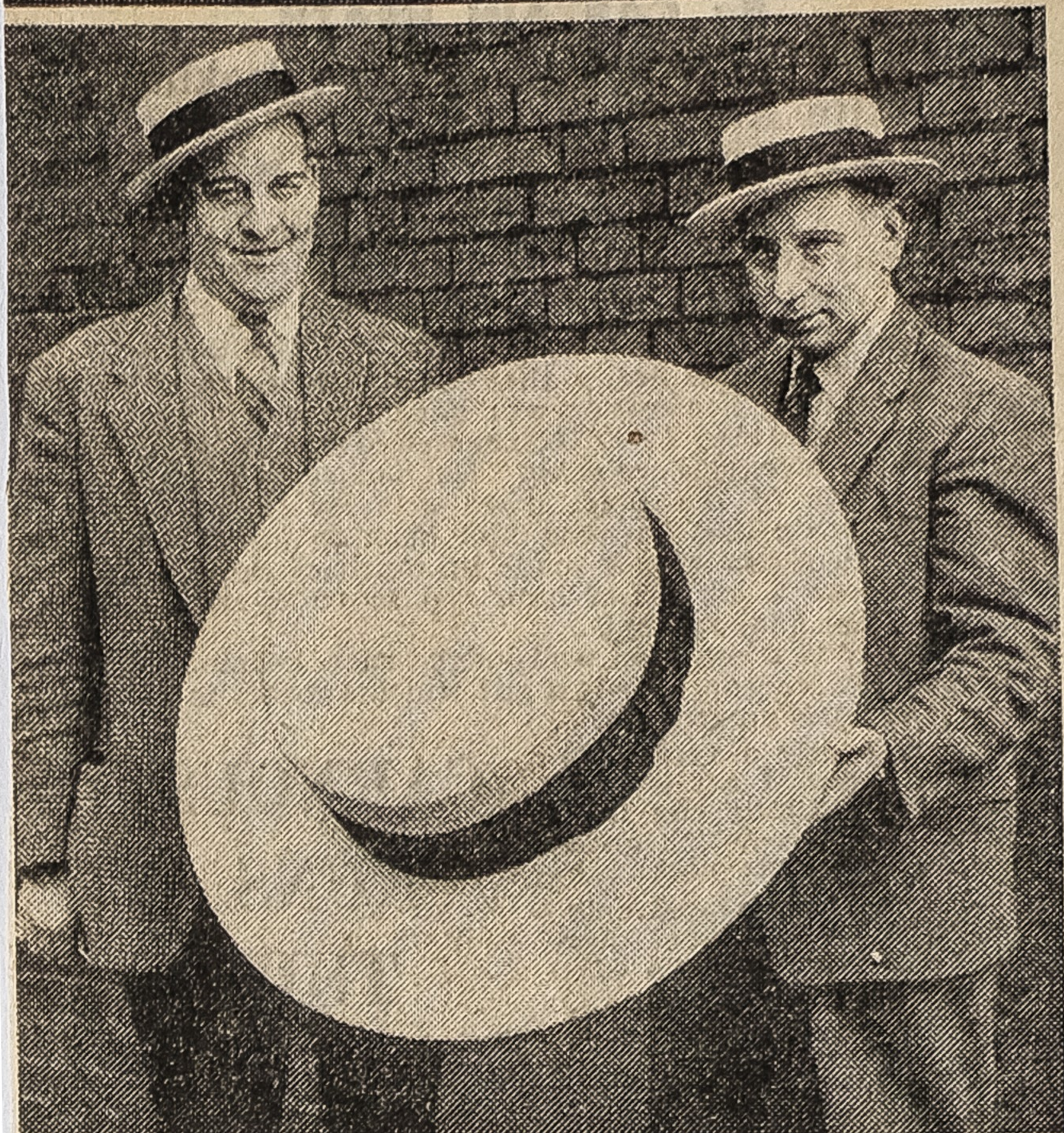




A gift for getting ahead. This outsize straw boater—it is 3ft. 6in. wide—was given to Luton football club by seven local hatmakers. The club will take it to Wembley on Cup-final day and afterwards it will hang in the board-room. Holding it are Roy (left) and Doug Olney—two of the makers

Luton shadow squad put up a fight

By CHARLES HARROLD

West Bromwich Albion 2 Luton Town 0

RATINGS.—Skill: Albion 7, Luton 6. Entertainment 6. Sportsmanship 8. Control 8.

IT was Luton's reserves against Albion. The Cup finalists, playing their third game in five days, had seven of their likely Wembley team missing, and of the four who played, only goalkeeper Ron Baynham was in his true position.

Earlier in the day Luton named a team that was almost unrecognisable. But that was only the beginning of it. Shortly before the game it was stated that Dave Pacey, Bob Morton and Brendan McNally were "not 100 per cent. fit."

So another side was chosen, showing nine changes from the team that played at West Ham on Monday night.

But full marks to Luton's Wembley shadow men. They fought a jolly sight harder than many Luton first choice teams I have seen.

Certainly Albion had to work more furiously than they had perhaps imagined. Indeed, towards the end, when Luton's attack came more into the game, only three fine saves by Ray Potter from Allan Brown (twice) and Gordon Turner kept the points at home.

Quite the most interesting thing that emerged from it all for Luton was John Groves' promise in his first-ever game at centre-half. Here is the ready-made replacement for Syd Owen next season.

Groves was outstanding. He was thoroughly tested for Albion had so much of the attack, but again and again Groves foiled them when goals seemed certain.

Burnside helps

Luton had two League new boys — centre - forward Mike Dixon and the more impressive Allen Daniel at left-back. The Luton attack generally lacked punch, but Jimmy Adam worried Don Howe often enough in the first half to suggest that he could yet be a Wembley choice.

David Burnside made the first goal for Ronnie Allen in the 10th minute when he intercepted Seamus Dunne's back pass, swerved round Baynham and pulled the ball back for Allen.

A quarter of an hour after half-time Allen ran into the penalty area, pulled his shot across the goal, and Burnside was there to ram the ball home.

W.B.A.: Potter 8; Howe 7, Williams 8; Setters 7, Barlow 7, Robson 7; Campbell 6, Burnside 7, Allen 8, Kevan 7, Hogg 7.

LUTON: Baynham 8; Dunne 7, Daniel 8; McGuffie 7, Groves 8, Hawkes (K) 7; Hawkes (B) 6, Turner 7, Dixon 6, Brown 6, Adam 7.

REFEREE: N Hough (Macclesfield). LINESMEN: D Underwood (Abertillery), G Powell (Newport Mon).