

INJURED HALOM FINDS CUP JOY

ORIENT 2, BOSTON UNITED 1

THE curly mop-top of Vic Halom secured Orient more money-making FA Cup competition on Monday night when he might have been sitting on the side lines, writes **BARRIE KEEFFE**.

For Halom, star man before the interval of this replay thriller, was labouring under a severe knee injury that had threatened to force him out of the game when he headed Orient's late glory goal.

"I had Eddie Werge warming up and was ponder-

ing whether to pull him off or not," said manager Dick Graham afterwards. "But I decided against putting on a new man during such a critical finale—and my gamble paid off."

Orient's grip had slackened and extra time looked a dangerous inevitability when Mal Slater sent in a high swirling cross from the left.

Halom zoomed through the mud like a jet torpedo to head the ball past a ruck

of Boston defenders and into the net. Hundreds of delighted kids raced on to the field to celebrate the relief the goal brought. For this was a match that Orient, for all their furious running and enterprise, could not make safe.

DEFIANT

Boston played for security with an eight man guard across their goal for most of the first half and were stretched to breaking point with Slater. Halom and Owen Simpson in rampaging mood.

Better efforts from Massey and Allen had gone without reward when Orient finally went ahead a second before the break.

Terry Mancini was left unguarded and scurried in on his knees to head a Slater free kick past defiant keeper Oakley.

But Boston found the depths of skill to match their fierce physical approach, something that carried a threat in every tackle, and were back on terms in the 51st minute.

DESTRUCTIVE

Former Derby veteran star Jackie Parry found the Leyton men's defence square and sparse with a deft pass to Thompson, who slipped an angled drive past Goddard with miraculous judgment.

The goal brought a match that had always been simmering with incident and excitement to boiling point and at a furious pace Boston threatened to take victory back to Lincolnshire.

But inspiring Mancini and Wood masterfully blocked the path to goal while Jones, Allen and Howe all defended with destructive efficiency until Halom headed that glory goal.



It's a goal! Terry Mancini dives to head Orient ahead in the FA Cup on Monday night.



Quotes

TORIENT manager Dick Graham: "Boston confirmed my belief that they are one of the best non-league clubs in the country. They would hold their own in the Third Division."

BOSTON player-manager Don Donovan: "That second goal killed us. Until then I thought we were well on top and looked like winning. But all credit to Orient."