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Saturday, Nov. 9th, 1946.

NEWPORT v. CARDIFF

The very anticipation of a game between Newport and Cardiff fills one with a thrill and if to-day's event is up to the expected standard, it will provide us with the tit-bit of the rugby season as far as the East is concerned. The intense rivalry between the clubs leads one to expect a clash which will be a case of "When Greek meets Greek" rather than "When meek greets meek"! The record of the meetings of the two clubs to date provides remarkable reading. Up to and including the match at Newport five weeks ago, they had met on 223 occasions, each having won 93 times with 37 drawn games. These few figures might not convey much to the present day reader, but to those with long memories they recall many historic battles between some of the finest rugby celebrities in any land, and what a volume could be written of the neck and

neck race for supremacy between the two clubs. Space presents us referring to the great giants of the past so we must confine ourselves to a few brief remarks regarding the Newport team of to-day. They have only lost one match this season and that to Cardiff by 8 pts. to 6.

As usual, the Usksiders have a great pack of forwards, led by their captain, J. H. Bale, with a penchant for fast cohesive movements in the open even if their heeling capabilities have not always been too pleasing. Of late their back row trio has included Selby Davies the old Cardiff forward, now in business at Newport. At half back the visitors may be tested mostly, especially in the absence of J. C. Hawkins always a great asset to his side and a stumbling block to his opponents. T. Whitfield is the son of J. Whitfield, the old Newport International forward.

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NEWPORT

Full Back ... D. R. MORGAN (1)
Right Wing ... KEN JONES (2)
Right Centre ... A. H. ROWLAND (3)
Left Centre ... GWILL JENKINS (4)
Left Wing ... W. H. M. BAKER (5)
Outside Half ... N. T. FRYER (6)
Scrum Half ... T. WHITFIELD (7)

Kick Off 2.45

Referee

Mr. T. H. PHILLIPS
(Neath)

Forwards—

SELBY DAVIES (16) R. G. TYLDESLEY (11)
R. T. EVANS (15) W. G. JONES (10)
G. PARSONS (14) R. BLAKEMORE (9)
PETER DAVIES (12) J. H. BALE (Capt.) (8)

CARDIFF

(1) GWYN DAVIES ... Full Back
(2) GRAHAM HALE ... Left Wing
(3) W. B. CLEAVER ... Left Centre
(4) Dr. JACK MATTHEWS (Capt.) R. Centre
(5) G. L. PORTER ... Right Wing
(7) BLEDDYN WILLIAMS ... Outside Half
(6) W. DARCH ... Scrum Half

Next Home Match—

November 23rd

LONDON WELSH

Forwards—

(8) HUBERT JONES (12) W. E. TAMPLIN
(9) L. MANFIELD (V. Capt.) (13) CLIFF DAVIES
(10) GWYN EVANS (14) DON REES
(11) ROY ROBERTS (15) RAY BALE



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It will be a great fight at threequarter where Ken Jones and A. H. Rowland constitute a formidable right wing for Newport with very serious pretensions to Welsh "caps." Whoever makes up the quartette, we can count on a line that will give the Blue and Blacks an anxious time, given equal chances.

D. R. Morgan, Newport's full back, is making a big name for himself, as indeed are the whole side judging by the fact that they had six players in last Saturday's Welsh Trial as compared with Cardiff's three. Our patrons will recollect the first of the four fixtures last season on the Park when Cardiff won in a sensational scoring game by 28 points to 17. We hardly expect a repetition of that freakish result but we do expect rugby of the highest standard possible, and surely no two clubs are so capable of such an attainment as the "Black and Amber" (today all Amber) and the "Blue and Blacks."

Records to date:—

PTS.

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.
Newport ...	11	6	1	4	92	47
Cardiff ...	12	10	2	0	169	58
	o	o	o			

Next Home Match—

November 23rd: LONDON WELSH.



Dr. JACK MATTHEWS
Cardiff Captain.

their Captain and Cleaver, Bleddyn and Manfield engaged in the Welsh Trial. The side played grandly, with chief honours perhaps to Darch; and they had more sting about them than the Wasps whom they defeated by 21 points to 6. Strangely that, to date, only English clubs have been met on the Park this season so Newport to-day provides the first Welsh opposition.

For to-day's game Cardiff have chosen their strongest team. It is hoped that "Captain" Matthews will have sufficiently recovered from a foot injury to lead the side. An interesting choice is that of Gwyn Davies at full back. Davies is a former pupil of Cathays Secondary School and has played for the Army. Another newcomer as winging forward is Gwyn

Cardiff's victories the last two Saturdays were very pleasing. Rosslyn Park in their first game at Cardiff disappointed and were beaten by 26 points to 8. Last Saturday Cardiff travelled to London to engage the Wasps, minus

Evans, a member of the Cardiff Police Force. Both Davies and Evans have been in excellent form for the Athletic side and get their chance. Another change in the pack is the removal of Roy Roberts from the back row to the second row vice Glover, while the hooking will be done by Don Rees who takes the place of that sterling forward Maldwyn James who, all will regret to learn, has now retired. With Hale back in form, the side looks the most formidable fielded this season; capable of extending their opponents to the uttermost.

The London Welsh provide the opposition in the next home match on 23rd November and there will doubtless be a big crowd to welcome the "Exiles" who are always popular visitors to the Park and who are once more captained by the veteran Claude Davey.

THE ATHLETIC SIDE.

Seldom, if ever, have the Athletic side been so powerful as this season and they are playing typical open rugby which is winning admiration everywhere. So far, they have only lost one match and that by two points at Maesteg who, incidentally, took Llanelly's record last Saturday. The Athletic undoubtedly deserve better support from our patrons.



CLIFF DAVIES

There is no "class" distinction about the Cardiff team of today. There was a period when, say, a dock labourer had to be a player of exceptional merit to win a place in the side alongside a certain type of the

"old school-tie" fraternity. That differentiation ceased a long time ago and most certainly to-day it is that merit counts with the selectors, which fact explains why Cliff Davies, a miner at the Pentre Colliery, Kenfig Hill, has so definitely earned his place in the Cardiff pack—hence this word of tribute in our "Players' Gallery" series.

Some of Wales' finest forwards have come from our mining valleys and villages, and Cliff promises to keep up that sequence with displays which warrant his inclusion in any side, club or national. He advanced that claim last season—his first with the Cardiff club—when he played for Wales in three "representative" matches, i.e. against England, Scotland and Ireland, and only missed the away match with France owing to injury. He can adapt himself anywhere in the "scrum"; is a versatile

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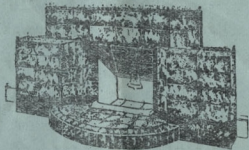
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glutton for work; displays opportunism and speed in the open which has won a few tries for his side. His ambition to become a rugby player was inspired by reading a book on the grand old game by the late E. Gwyn Nicholls, the Prince of threequarters.

Cliff is 26 years of age; 5-ft. 9-in. in height and weighs 131 stone. He started playing rugby when 10 years of age and for his school—then champions of the Mid-Glamorgan League—he scored 15 tries as a wing forward. Later he played for Kenfig Hill Ex-Schoolboys and the Kenfig Hill Senior team. When 18, he played for Bridgend and was in their side when they defeated Llanelly for the first time at Stradey in 47 years. He captained Bridgend at one period; played with and against Jack Matthews, and was proud to play with him in the Blue and Blacks' side, following the

footsteps of one brother, W. R. Davies. Three other brothers also play rugby.

Cliff's biggest rugby thrill was in the 7-a-side tournament in London last season when he had the honour of scoring the only try against the Kiwis who lost to Cardiff after previously scoring 118 points to nil. He never ran faster in his life than when scoring that try and says he is never likely to run so fast again!

o o o

CARDIFF IN FRANCE.

To-morrow morning, all being well, the Cardiff team will take the air and fly to France for their match on Monday with the Stade Nantais Universit  Club at Nantes, the rugby "capital" of Brittany and at whose invitation the trip is being made. Last season the Cardiff team made a great impression in France and revived rugby interest in Nantes.

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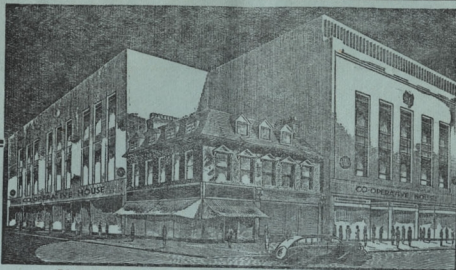
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