

CARDIFF V. NEATH.

Commonplace Display.

RAIN SPOILS FINER PHASES.

A DROP-GOAL WIN.

BOTH LINES UNCROSSED.

By "Old Stager."

Owing to injuries Neath visited Cardiff this afternoon without their full-back, Gethin, Stephens, their International forward, and several capable scrummagers. Cardiff, too, had to make some changes. Spiller, who seems to need a rest, stood down, and C. B. Davies, who won golden opinions for his play in that position for Glamorgan recently at Cheltenham, was tried at centre three-quarter.

Keen disappointment was felt at the inability of Tudor Williams to turn out for a trial at outside half. He is being trained as a manual instructor, and unexpectedly had to face examination this afternoon. Morrish, too, was not available, and the half-back line was composed of McLean, who played well during the week against the veterans, and R. P. Jones was again called upon for the "flying" position. In the three-quarter line Stanley Williams, who has been doing particularly well for the Reserves, made his first appearance for the season in the premier ranks.

It is four years since Neath won a match at Cardiff and they have only gained one victory on the ground in ten seasons. Last month Cardiff won their second match on the Gwoll in the same period. There were some last minute alterations in the home side, W. Jenkins, the captain, was not in the team, and Maddocks was replaced by W. P. Thomas, Pontypridd. The sides were:—

CARDIFF—Full-back, R. F. Williams; three-quarter backs, W. P. Thomas, Tom Evans, C. B. Davies and Stanley Williams; half-backs, H. McLean and R. P. Jones; forwards, J. Birch, M. Griffiths, J. Michael, F. Gaccon, C. Palmer, A. Lewis, A. Baker and A. Green.

NEATH—Full-back, Dick Davies; three-quarter backs, O. Hopkins, T. John, G. Evans and T. O. Jones; half-backs, Morgan Rees and Edgar Thomas; forwards, T. C. Lloyd, W. Hopkins, P. C. Pulman, M. Lloyd, W. Davies, Jack Jones, W. Perry and P. M. Davies.

Referee, Mr J. G. Davies, Ebbw Vale.

The afternoon was well suited to the game—there was a nip in the air and the ground was in nice condition while the weather suited the spectators.

Cardiff kicked off towards the river end and the play for the opening five minutes was on their side of half-way. The Neath forwards were the better at rushing and heeling. Then came a quick change and Stanley Williams ran from his own 25 to Neath's quarter, where he was pushed into touch. His run delighted the crowd and before the cheers had died away, W. P. Thomas taking the ball splendidly from Tom Evans, who had made a smart straight gallop, was only prevented from scoring by a magnificent tackle by the full-back.

For a few minutes there was rain—it was as a shower in April, and attention was diverted from the play, the spectators admiring a glorious rainbow. Neath were being sorely pressed, and soon a score came. Morgan Rees, Neath's inside half, kicked into the open. Bobby Williams held and deceived the defence by passing to Tom Evans. The latter threw to W. P. THOMAS, and Pontypridd's "Butcher Boy" dropped a splendid goal. A try was missed through C. B. Davies giving a faulty pass to Stanley Williams.

Neath rallied, and their forwards swept play to the Cardiff 25. The ball was kicked over the goal line, and Bobby Williams tried to run it out. He dodged a couple of men, but continuing to take risks—although there were two men in close attendance on him—he was tackled with the ball by Morgan Rees. Edgar Thomas tried a shot for goal, but the ball did not rise.

Then Jones, Cardiff's outside half was hurt and carried off the field. Arthur Green was brought to the three-quarter line and C. B. Davies sent to half. The Cardiff forwards heeled, but Davies missed the ball, and but for brilliant holding by Bobby Williams Neath must have scored. Cardiff forwards by good work in the open changed the venue. Smart tackling prevented the home backs getting into swing. It was poor play for a long time. Gus Lewis was hurt in a rush, but soon resumed playing, and a minute afterwards a couple of home forwards collided, and one was down for a while, but without serious hurt.

Neath forwards got the better of the argument in the tight scrummages, but the passing was not up to the standard of their half-backs. W. P. Thomas got a chance, but was unable to get by T. O. Jones. Play remained in Cardiff quarter until the interval.

HALF-TIME— G. T. P.

CARDIFF *1 0 4

NEATH 0 0 0

*Dropped.

Just on the stroke of the half-time respite there came another shower, and this time a very heavy one. Rain was still falling when play was resumed. C. B. Davies made a dash, but was tackled with the ball, and Tom Evans picked up neatly and saved with a scree kick, so robbing Neath of the fruits of a brilliant dribbling rush. Griffiths, Palmer, Baker and Michael retaliated with an equally fine rush, and Gus Lewis and Birch came into prominence a tick later.

The ball was now very slippery, and it was all the more praiseworthy that Edgar Thomas cleared cleverly. With rain still falling luck had become a controlling factor.

There was some excitement when a number of Neath men were following up the ball on Cardiff's right wing. With Bobby Williams not able to get at it Stanley Williams fell on the ball. There was some wild rushes and he might have been badly kicked, for he invited injury by bugging the ball. There were shouts of protest as a number of Neath forwards tried to kick the ball from under him, but the referee properly awarded a penalty. The kick, which was in a favourable position, was entrusted to W. Davies, one of the forwards. The ball sailed in the right direction but fell a trifle short.

Neath were now doing all the attacking, but relief came twice from penalty kicks, but Neath then kept pegging away. Bobby Williams took another unnecessary risk in rushing out of goal with a greasy ball to kick. Trevor John put in meritorious work and so did his co-centre and T. O. Jones on the right wing to which point most of Cardiff's attacking play veered. Touch was found by one of the visitors near Cardiff's left touch-in-goal flag. A desperate struggle between the forwards ensued, but Neath continued to pen their opponents.

If Neath's outside-half had done more passing, or tried to run himself instead of screw-kicking to touch on every opportunity, the defence would have been beaten. Bobby Williams, taking a high ball well, put in a long touch-finder, but the Neath forwards were soon up again. Play had dropped to common place—there was over-much wild scrambling. For once in a way the Neath three were given possession, but after three passes the ball was kicked, Williams replying to touch. Davies and Stanley Williams gained ground to half-way, where the ball came into the loose, and Arthur Green started passing. Tom Evans missed a transfer, and W. P. Thomas ran to the rescue.

T. C. Lloyd dropped for goal and in a race for the ball Stanley Williams just managed to touch down. Rain had ceased, but the ball was still difficult to hold. The best round of passing of the match followed, but Stanley Williams missed a somewhat difficult transfer from Arthur Green when he had a chance to distinguish himself, for had he taken the ball, though on the far side of half way, his speed would probably have given him a try.

Another round of passing saw W. P. Thomas knocking on, though the ball came to him most awkwardly. Edgar Thomas was again at fault in not opening up play to his three-quarters, and well-earned chances made by his forwards went abegging. His kicks now almost invariably went bang up to Williams, who generally found touch. Birch, Baker, Lewis, and Griffiths swept play close to Neath's line, but a magnificent rush changed the venue once again to Cardiff's quarter. Stanley Williams lost some ground after a fine kick by Williams by making an off-side tackle. A grand screw kick by McLean had sent the ball out of play beyond half-way when "No side" was whistled.

FINAL— G. T. P.
CARDIFF *1 0 4
NEATH 0 0 0

*Dropped.

Scorer—W. P. Thomas.

Notes on the Game:

Considering that Cardiff had lost a man in the early stages, they did well to have won at all. The pleasing feature was the plucky and skilful play of the seven Cardiff forwards, who were up against a sturdy pack, and fortunate in meeting their visitors without the lead and personal play of Glyn Stephens, as well as having to face a deputy for Gethin. It was an experimental side that represented Cardiff. So far as the test went, for all was upset by the accident to Jones, it can be regarded as satisfactory. There was more "go" shown by the wing players, Thomas and Williams, than by any other two who have appeared for the club this season.

Thomas's goal was smartly gained, and Stanley Williams and he brought off some sound tackling. Williams is an improved player all round, and Thomas's speed is increased. Williams, however, must steady himself. It was inviting disaster to hug the ball as he did, and it was wisdom that caused him to run so much when offside.

C. B. Davies had scarcely found his feet at