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Saturday, Sept. 28th, 1946. COVENTRY v. CARDIFF

A hand of sincere welcome once more to our friends from Coventry, ever-popular visitors from across the border and withal an attractive playing side. Our readers will recall that last season Coventry earned the distinction among certain critics of being the best English club side, with a series of wins backed by really convincing exhibitions, that would indeed have been difficult to surpass. Readers hardly need reminding that Coventry has been one of the hot-beds of schoolboy rugby in England—indeed it can be truly said that the Midlands more than any district on the other side of the border, have fostered and cultivated schoolboy talent with tremendous success and pursued the policy to a logical and successful issue by promoting promising players.

Honours that come Coventry way—and they are many—thus proudly belong to the “finished article” produced by the

local scholastic “nurseries.” For many years past, Coventry have supplied Warwickshire with a host of players in that county's participation in the English County Championship, while they have at least a few players of high repute who have represented England in the international arena. Among the latter there come to light from the records the names of T. Coulson, R. S. Roberts, A. J. Rowley, A. J. Clarke, J. L. Giles, the brothers A. and H. F. Wheatley—no mention of Coventry would be complete without reference to one Wheatley or another, and there have been three of them in all. In last season's representative games, H. F. Greasley, N. J. Stock and H. Pateman played for England against Wales, two others selected, I. Preece and H. Wheatley, standing down through injury.

In the absence of requested information we regret being unable to comment

Continued on page 3, col. 1

BOVRIL within
gives Strength to Win



Dr. JACK MATTHEWS' faulty finishing *Cardiff Captain*, making the scoring sheet look far from what it should be. It was good to see Porter celebrating his return to the side by scoring a brilliant try, evidence of the fact that there are treats in store once the side's good intentions are translated into action. It's best to dismiss the game at Cross Keys with the mere statement that Cardiff won by a disputed drop goal to a penalty goal—an unsatisfactory win in an unsatisfactory game played before an unsatisfactory crowd.

The defeat at Neath last Saturday must cause much comment. True the side travelled minus several regulars owing to injuries, etc., but Cardiff are reputed to possess such a wealth of talent—often embarrassing to the selectors—that absenteeism offered no excuse for the defeat. The truth to be faced is that the Cardiff forwards were soundly beaten,

Matters are still not moving too smoothly with the side. The game with Bristol was not productive of the thrills expected something going wrong with the machinery behind.

and this certainly raises an important issue. To be out-weighted, out-scrammaged and out-manoeuvred forward is certainly not conducive to brilliant back play, even though Jack Matthews scored a great try following a typical Bleddyn Williams opening, carried on by young Wilkins. The one great task of the Selection Committee is to find a proper blend of players from its undisputed resources. By all reports, Neath were a fine side and their victory, which they are justly proud of, put paid to any pretensions Cardiff had of a record run as they enjoyed last season—a blessing in disguise perhaps but which should not cause supporters to be pessimistic. Cardiff will come again—probably they will re-establish themselves this afternoon. It is comforting to think that Bleddyn Williams is back in harness and with a powerful scrummaging pack, aided and abetted by a return to form of last season's triumphant triangle behind the scrum, we are still confident that the Blue and Blacks will startle the rugby world once more and that very soon.

Today's Cardiff team will give patrons food for thought and cause intense interest. Adrian Turnbull retains the scrum half position and at outside half his partner is Bleddyn Williams, whose place at left centre is taken by W. B.

Cleaver. It will be interesting to see how the experiment pans out, but it shouldn't jeopardise Bleddyn's unquestioned aggressiveness, while both he and Cleaver are sufficiently versatile players to fill any position behind the scrum with credit to themselves and the side. Our captain, Dr. Matthews, is due to join the R.A.M.C. this week-end, but by special arrangement he is able to turn out today. It is the fervent wish of all and sundry that Army duties will permit "Jack" to continue playing for the club this season, at least very often, if not uninterruptedly. His loss would be a serious blow to the club.

In our reference to the Athletic side in our last issue, it was stated that the captain, Lyn Williams, had previously played for the 1st XV "in several games." That was only partly true as Lyn actually captained the Cardiff XV throughout season 1943-44. The note writer tenders his apologies to Lyn for unwittingly creating a wrong impression about his past services. More anon.

Continued from page 1
any further on today's guests, but we can safely assume they will field their strongest available side, as they always do against Cardiff, whom they consider among, if not, their strongest opponents. We hope for a game worthy of the popular Midlanders.



BLEDYNN WILLIAMS

None can dispute that Cardiff's brilliant left centre, BLEDYNN WILLIAMS has made a meteoric jump into fame, and last season he was considered by many eminent critics, including the New Zealand Tourists,

to be the outstanding centre of the day—and that at the age of 23! The term "born footballer" can aptly be applied to Bleddyn, who started playing rugby when only eight, and honoured his home town school, Taffs Well, and its headmaster, Mr. Walter S. Trigg, by getting his Schoolboy "cap" but, strangely, at full back! His next scholastic move was to the famous Rydal School, where Woolley was educated, but a broken leg robbed him of a chance for a Secondary School cap. The war brought out the best in Bleddyn. He played for Cardiff 1941-2; joined the R.A.F., and thence to the U.S.A. for training and his pilot certificate. He played his first big game for South Wales v. The Army, when only 18, and has never been out of the picture since. He played for the R.A.F. in all its representative matches, also for Combined Services XV's representing Great

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COVENTRY

Full Back	...	H. PATEMAN
Right Wing	...	J. SPARKES
Right Centre	...	H. SMITH
Left Centre	...	E. D. WRIGHT
Left Wing	...	H. GREASLEY
Outside Half	...	I. PREECE
Scrum Half	...	N. J. STOCK

Referee
Mr. V. PARFITT
(Newport)

Forwards—

B. E. DANIELS
H. F. WHEATLEY (Capt.)
E. AMBLER
F. E. WALTON

D. C. POWELL
R. TILBURY
I. ROBINSON
H. WALKER

CARDIFF

(1) ST. JOHN REES	Full Back
(2) RAYMOND JONES	Left Wing
(3) W. B. CLEAVER	Left Centre
(4) Dr. JACK MATTHEWS (Capt.)	Rt. Centre
(5) G. L. PORTER	Right Wing
(6) BLEDDYN WILLIAMS	Outside Half
(7) ADRIAN TURNBULL	Scrum Half

Kick Off 3.30

Next Home Match—
OCT. 12—GLOUCESTER



Forwards—

8) HUBERT JONES	(12) W. E. TAMPLIN
(9) L. MANFIELD (V-Capt.)	(13) CLIFF DAVIES
(10) G. BLACKMORE	(14) MALDWIN JAMES
(11) ROY ROBERTS	(15) STAN BOWES

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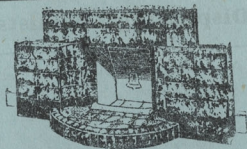
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Britain, the British Empire and Wales, and of course, in Wales' eight matches last season—a truly wonderful record. Bleddyn was proud also to partner Tanner for the Ba-Baas in a Midland Tour, but his greatest pride has been in helping to keep Cardiff so conspicuously on the rugby map. His brother Gwyn, now recovering miraculously from a war wound, also helped the Blue and Blacks for several seasons as a winging forward. Bleddyn, now Flying Officer, is still at the St. Athan R.A.F. Station, and when demobbed in Nov. will join a well-known engineering firm at Cardiff Docks, which fact will dispel rumours of his suggested severance with Welsh rugby. Here's to a very successful future for him in all his activities, and may we hope to see his lithe figure corkscrewing its way through the opposition for many years to come on the Park, where he is such a favourite.

CLUB'S INFIRMARY EFFORT

An instance of the practical help sport makes to charity was never better exemplified than by the recent Cardiff Past v. Present match for the Cardiff Royal Infirmary, when, as a result of a magnificent effort by a committee under the chairmanship of Mr. Brice H. Jenkins, supported liberally by the public, no less than £1,401 was handed over to the Infirmary authorities. Tomorrow (Sunday) the climax to this outstanding achievement will be celebrated, when Mr. Arthur Cornish, as chairman of the Cardiff Rugby Committee, will unveil a plaque in the Diamond Ward of the Infirmary, which will commemorate the goodwill of the rugby fraternity of Cardiff. The dedication service at the unveiling will be conducted by the Rev. Emrys Rees, vicar of Whitchurch, and father of Cardiff's full-back, St. John Rees.

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on...*



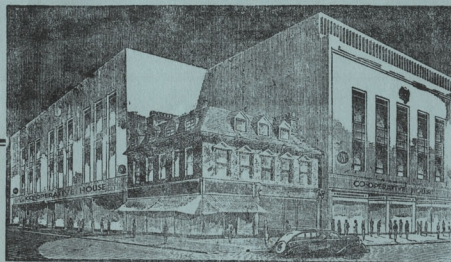
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