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HAYDN TANNER (Capt.)

CARDIFF ARMS PARK

Saturday, April 30th

1949



JACK MATTHEWS

Kick Off 3.30 p.m.

PONTYPOOL
v
CARDIFF

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SEASON 1948-49 REVIEWED

Looking back over the season the performance of the team can best be judged by dividing the season into four parts. These are roughly, (1) September 1—October 30, (2) November 2—December 28, (3) January 8—March 26, (4) April 2—end of the season. There was the usual large application for trials but, also, we were starting off without the services of Maldwyn James and Les Manfield, two vital men of the previous season. Again, Cliff Davies was on the injured list.

Nevertheless the side quickly settled down to play the same type of game as that of the previous season recording wins over such

tough opponents as Llanelly, Neath, Newport, Swansea and Bristol—all away games except Neath. But despite these victories the machine was not functioning with its usual smoothness. It seemed that the forwards were not giving the backs the opportunities as they did in 1947-48 season. Probably at this stage people realised that not enough credit was given to the magnificent and indeed intelligent pack of forwards of last season.

They realised that their function was to gain possession of the ball from everywhere and how well they did it!

Let us pass on to the second phase.

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(Captain of the Cardiff Club).

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Although we carried on winning games, the victories were by no means convincing. Newport at home was an example, we won that day because of a good covering defence. Many people were only too glad to jump to the conclusion that the Cardiff side was a spent force. People were crying out for sweeping changes.

I feel sure that at this time the Press really enjoyed themselves—the changes were not made, at least a new face appeared here and there, but this was done very gradually.

At the beginning of the third period the constitution of our pack had changed and in my opinion this part of the season is the best guide to next season's form. Our forwards settled down and once again we recorded some good wins. The most heartening display—a draw at Newport. Our young pack

held what was considered the best pack in Wales and a fortnight later under wet conditions repeated the performance at the Arms Park. It was during this period, with half-a-dozen players taking part in the Internationals, that the side, with the assistance of the Athletic XV, kept the flag flying.

The last period is the most difficult one for the player. He has to contend with extra matches, hard grounds, and the natural consequence of the first two—injuries. Under these conditions the side has come through with flying colours with three people injured they put up a great fight against the Barbarians, and also recorded a very good win indeed at Neath. A few words to sum up.

The 1947-48 side was a great side and it is interesting to note from that side, for various reasons, such

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Right Centre	...	D. GULLICK	4
Left Centre	...	J. DAVIES	3
Left Wing	...	J. WILLIAMS	2
Outside Half	...	MAX HORTON	6
Scrum Half	...	A. G. SMITH	7

Referee:

Mr. T. PHILLIPS
(Neath)

Forwards from—

8	G. HIRST (Capt.)
9	T. MATHEWS
10	R. FLOWERS
16	J. BODENHAM
18	R. BAKER
19	R. SELWYN
20	W. ROBINSON
21	A. FYNF
22	A. FORWARD

CARDIFF

1	F. TROTT	...	Full Back
5	I. McJENNETT	...	Left Wing
4	ST. JOHN REES	...	Left Centre
3	JACK MATTHEWS	...	Right Centre
2	T. COOK	...	Right Wing
6	W. B. CLEAVER	...	Outside Half
7	H. TANNER (Capt.)	...	Scrum Half
	or R. WILLIS		

Kick-off 3.30 p.m.



Forwards—

8	CLIFF DAVIES
9	J. R. PHILLIPS
10	G. JENKINS
11	S. JUDD
12	W. E. TAMPLIN or P. GOODFELLOW
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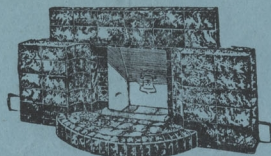
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names as D. H. Jones, Les Williams, W. G. Jones, R. Roberts, M. James and L. Manfield have disappeared. Six new names have appeared. Next season might well see more new faces in the side but I feel confident that they also will uphold the tradition of the Club.

One last word, and I hope I'll be excused for a personal note. I would like to express my thanks to the players for their loyalty to me as their captain and for the wonderful team spirit that has prevailed, not alone in the 1st XV but in the now famous "Rags." Here I think we have the reason for the Club's success.

SUPPORTERS' CLUB NOTES.

To-night a welcome will be extended to members of the Pontypool Supporters' Club at The Dowlais Restaurant. Earlier in the season a very enjoyable "Smoker" was provided by our friends from Pontypool and it is the desire of this Committee to reciprocate with something of equally good vintage. Those desirous of participating are advised to obtain their tickets after the game. Proceedings commence at 7 p.m.

DIARY NOTE—Annual General

Meeting will be held at The Cory Hall on Tuesday, May 24.

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