

CARDIFF PICK TEST STARS

This can be rugby thriller

By JAMES HATTLE

THIS has been said before, but it's worth saying again: If the Welsh tourists from Cardiff can play rugby as well as they can sing, there is little doubt that they will beat Eastern Province at the Boet Erasmus Stadium tomorrow.

Bok leads Varsities against Cardiff

HANNES MARAIS, the Springbok front-ranker, will captain the Combined Southern Universities rugby team to play the touring Cardiff Club in their match at Newlands on Wednesday.

The team, announced here today is:

H. O. de Villiers (UCT), J. Engelbrecht (Stell), E. Olivier (Stell, vice-captain), Chiddy (UCT), Brynard (Stell), Nicolai (UCT), Holm (Stell), Enderstein (UCT), Hoard (UCT), Marais (Stell, captain), Le Roux (UCT), Van den Berg (UCT), De Wet (Stell), Robertson (UCT) and De Waal (Stell).

And, indeed, if Eastern Province are not more in tune with their form than they were against Border last week, the result may turn out to be a little embarrassing to a province whose record against international touring sides since the war has been highly creditable.

The Cardiff players sang for their hosts in the City Hall last night as only Welshmen can sing.

But they can play rugby, too. Not for nothing have Cardiff been recognised, down the years, as the most powerful rugby club in the world, capable of taking on, extending and beating visiting international sides in their own land.

No accurate guide

Tomorrow, they will field seven internationals in their side.

They are Ken Jones, the 1962 British Lions centre in South Africa, Gareth Edwards, a half-back, who deputises for the injured Ray Cheney at full-back, Billy Hullin, captain and scrum-half, Gerald Davies, at centre, and the front row of John O'Shea, Billy Thomas and Howard Norris.

No accurate guide to their ability can be obtained from the results of their first two matches south of the line.

In Windhoek and Upington, they found the weather dry and a little hot, the grounds not even remotely like their own Cardiff Arms Park, and the opposition a little bent on destruction to cover up their deficiencies on attack.

Cutting the defence

In the vast bowl at the Boet Erasmus ground, with its pleasanter playing surface, Cardiff should be able to throw the ball about rather more freely.

Here they will find a solid pack of forwards opposing them, but backs who are ready to run with the ball.

The Province pack includes some weighty forwards in Hambly Parker and Gawie Carelse, the Springboks, and Danie Bothma and Bert Young.

Whatever happens down in the underworld it is pretty certain

that Eastern Province will have a big say in the argument. In the loose, too, George Barnard and his men have the capacity to make this outing a lively proposition for the sturdy Welshmen.

Outside of the forwards, there is rather less cheer. Potentially, this back-division, with Manie du Toit, at full-back, acting as an additional factor on attack, is capable of cutting the Cardiff defence to shreds.

But it is equally capable of muddling its way along.

I prefer to be optimistic. If Dave Lewis and Nicky le Roux can sharpen up their half-back service, the likes of Malcolm Cowie, Elandre de Koning, Deon du Plessis and skipper Sarel Liebenberg can make this a game to remember.

This is quite definitely their objective.

It takes two teams to play positive, attacking rugby. The result is not vital, and it is pretty certain that both sides will be out there tomorrow striving to let rugby emerge as the ultimate winner.

The teams are:

CARDIFF R.F.C.

Edwards, Richards, Gerald Davies, Ken Jones, Keri Jones, Morgan, Hullin, O'Shea, Thomas, Norris, Baxter, John Davies, Hickey, Pender, Evans.

EASTERN PROVINCE

Du Toit, Du Plessis, De Koning, Cowie, Liebenberg, Le Roux, Lewis, Parker, Cloete, Bothma, Barnard, Carelse, Young, Creed, Buitendag.

Referee: Mr L. van der Westhuizen.

LION AND DRAGON



There is a Lion and a Dragon in the Cardiff camp. Right is **KEN JONES**, who toured South Africa with the British Lions and the subsequent Welsh side, and left is **JOHN DAVIES**, one of the Welsh Dragon schoolboys in South Africa in 1956.

Cardiff run riot — Easterns crushed

By NEIL CAMERON

EASTERN PROVINCE.....(3) 9,

CARDIFF.....(29) 34.

PORT ELIZABETH, Saturday.

POOOR Eastern Province never had a chance against the dazzling running of the Cardiff three-quarters at the Boet Erasmus Stadium here this afternoon.

They stood mesmerised at the sight of the little Welsh backs, darting, jinking, weaving and selling dummies left, right and centre as they crossed for six tries, five of which were converted. Two dropped goals added to their final tally of 34 points.

Eastern Province replied with two penalty goals and a last minute consolation try.

Cardiff scored 29 of their points in the first half, and the fact that they score donly another five after half-time did not detract from their overall performance.

After two insipid displays against South-West Africa and N.W. Cape, Cardif struck their finest form today.

The home defence was completely powerles against the brilliance of the two Joneses, Ken and Kerry, Gerald Davies, Maurice Richards, Pine Morgan and substitute fullback Gareth Edwards, who was constantly joining the line to further menace the hard-pressed defence.

The match was a personal triumph for left-wing Richards, who scored a hat-trick of tries, converted them all himself and added the extra two points to a further two tries.

In all he scored 19 points.

Other tries were scored by full-back Edwards, who snapped up a loose ball near the Eastern Province line and the Joneses' boys each got one. Dropped goals were landed by fly-half Morgan in the very first minutes of the game and the other by Edwards.

The Cardiff backs would never have been able to run as they did had it not been for the solid ground work done by their backs. They tired a little towards the end, but their speed to the loose ball gave their backs the golden opportunities to attack from broken play and they took the fullest advantage.

E.P. three-quarters tried hard to match their opponents in this open running game, but they lacked the finesse and finish of the Welshmen. Mal-

colm Towie goaled two penalties and George Barnard crashed over in the closing seconds for the team's only try.

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Edwards in at full back *CHENEY INJURED*

From A. C. PARKER

PORT ELIZABETH, Friday.

CARDIFF start underdogs here for tomorrow's tour match against Eastern Province, who are stronger than South West Africa or North West Cape, and have a formidable pack which includes two Springboks, Gawie Carelse and Hambley Parker.

Still I have a feeling the Welshmen will revel in the softer turf of Boet Erasmus Stadium—and at coast level.

It could also be a good omen for the tourists that there was heavy rainfall this morning when the team practised.

Cardiff's prospects, however, have not been improved by the withdrawal of Ray Cheney through a knee injury received at Upington on Wednesday.

It is not serious, and he will be fit to play against the Southern Universities at Newlands next Wednesday.

Basic problem

Gareth Edwards deputises at full back, and while he is a versatile enough player to do well, the absence of Cheney's accurate goal-kicking could be felt—his trusty boot accounted for 22 points in the first two tour matches.

Cardiff can win this game if they can solve their basic problem—dash to win enough of the ball and run it among their backs, who for the first time on tour will include premier quartet Gerald Davies, Ken Jones, Keri Jones and Maurice Richards.

Risks may have to be taken by halves Morgan and Hulin in opening up, but one is convinced it will not pay the Welshmen to slog it out up front.

The Cardiff pack is the best they can field on current form with an all-welsh front row, and the return of Tony Pender adding mobility to the back row at No. 8.

The Eastern Province back line, with the exception of centre Elandre De Koning, is not highly regarded and if the Cardiff inside backs tackle, the team could benefit from break-downs.

Eastern Provinces' heavy pack lacked mobility in their 16-9 win over Border a week ago. Their back row is not outstanding.