

HOPE OF RUNNING GAME BY CARDIFF, STUDENTS

By A. C. Parker

HUNGERING for running rugby, a huge mid-week crowd is expected at Newlands tomorrow — if the present mild weather holds — for the match between Cardiff and Southern Universities. And if both teams remain faithful to their tradition, the spectators should not be disappointed.

The great value of this short Cardiff tour, in fact, is that the Welsh club puts the emphasis on back play. It happens to be blessed with good halves and a threequarter line of exceptional pace and attacking qualities. By running the ball, therefore, Cardiff play to their strength.

Southern Universities, man for man, are not as talented as Cardiff in the back division.

But they have two Springboks in Eben Olivier and Jannie Engelbrecht — both in form this season — and a full-back in H. O. de Villiers who can ignite a game with a sudden, instinctive piece of explosive individualism.

Cardiff, unbeaten so far and confident after their runaway win over Eastern Province are determined not to lose this game. Their shrewd coach, Roy Bish, ordered a special practice session at Green Point this morning from which the Press were excluded. The accent, no doubt, was on tactical moves.

The Cape universities, who somewhat sullied their proud record against touring teams by going down 6-22 to the Pumas in 1965, are strong this year.

Both U.C.T. and Stellenbosch have so far won all their club games, and they field a combined pack tomorrow which — even in

the absence through injury of 'Roopies' van Wyk — is quite capable of holding the Cardiff forwards in the set pieces, of beating them at the lineouts because of an exceptional jumper in Andre de Wet and also — perhaps of prime importance — proving more assertive in the broken play.

Two South African selectors — Messrs. Flappie Lochner and Boy Louw — will be looking on tomorrow, and apart from players like De Villiers, Olivier, Engelbrecht and Hannes Marais, they are likely to be interested in the play of De Wet and the Matie number eight, Albie de Waal. On May 27 they have to choose a Southern Provinces XV to oppose the 'shadow' Springbok side in the first trial at Newlands on May 31.

HOLM DOUBTFUL

At the time of writing there is some doubt whether Cilliers Holm, the Stellenbosch scrum-half, will be fit to play.

He has a thigh bruise and a decision will be taken after the universities have a run at Bellville this afternoon. Denis Raaff, the U.C.T. scrum-half, is on 'stand-by.'

Cardiff start slight favourites because of the competence and experience of their halves, Phil Morgan and Billy Hulin, and the potential brilliance of their three-quarters — Gerald Davies, Ken Jones, Keri Jones and Maurice Richards. Behind them is Gareth Edwards, a footballer with attacking instincts who will not hesitate to run and join the line.

Davies, in particular, is a centre who cannot be given any latitude. The students' inside backs, however, are bound to come up in defence man for man and appreciably faster than those of Eastern Province, who showed little resolution in their tackling.

The universities' covering, too, will have to be of the utmost tenacity. Richards (left-wing) scored two of his three tries by coming inside Davies for a reverse flipped pass.

Dropped passes also cost Eastern Province dearly, and here Taylor Botha, Olivier's partner, will have to handle more surely than in recent matches.

MERCURIAL NICOLAI

The students could strike trouble if there is lack of harmony between the halves. Mike Nicolai is no stranger to the fly-half position, having played there often enough for Border. He is a mercurial type and much will depend on his 'reading' of a particular situation.

Cardiff, it has been said, need only 40 per cent possession from their forwards to beat most teams. But this may not suffice against a fast, fit side like the Western Province universities, who will not be outmatched, physically, up front. The wily Cardiff veteran hooker, Billy Thomas, will not have things his own way against Mike Hoard.

Goal-kicking, of course, will play a part — but not, one hopes, a decisive part. Here Maurice Richards and H. O. de Villiers bear the responsibility.

Whoever wins, the Newlands crowd will be happy if the match proves half as thrilling as the 1955 game against the British Lions when 43,000 saw champagne rugby.

The match, which starts at 4 p.m., will be preceded by a 2.30 p.m. schools' curtain-raiser between Bishops and Hottentots Holland.

Clive Evans and John Hickey, the Cardiff wing forwards, are having physiotherapy treatment for bruises, but it is hoped they will be fit to play.

TEAMS

CARDIFF: G. Edwards; M. Richards, Ken Jones, Gerald Davies, Keri Jones, P. Morgan, W. Hulin (captain); J. O'Shea, W. Thomas, H. Norris, J. Hickey, John Davies, L. Baxter, C. Evans, A. Pender.

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITIES: H. O. de Villiers; S. Brynard, T. Botha, E. Olivier, J. Engelbrecht; M. Niepijn, G. Holm; G. Enderstein, M. Hoard, J. Marais (captain), J. le Roux, A. de Wet, D. van den Berg, P. Roelström, A. de Waal. (There are eight Stellenbosch and seven U.C.T. players.)

Referee: Dr. I. de V. Hevns. Start: 4 p.m.



Andre de Wet



Eben Olivier

ROY EMERSON (Australia) won the men's singles title in the West Berlin tennis tournament when Wimbledon champion Manuel Santana, retired in the fourth set.

Welshmen show their speed

By MAXWELL PRICE

THE Cardiff game against the Southern Universities at Newlands to-morrow is of extra importance to the younger student players who are trying to retain their places in the Western Province Colts team to play South Western Districts under floodlights at Green Point Stadium on May 24.

The Western Province selectors will be in full attendance at Newlands, and according to the chairman, Dr. Louis Babrow, the Colts team will be chosen after Saturday's club games.

There were 10 players from Cape Town and Stellenbosch Universities in the Colts XV which beat Northern Transvaal 11-3 in deplorable conditions on April 27.

One, Hanlon Chiddy, fly-half, who was down as centre

for to-morrow's game, has withdrawn because of an injured right collar-bone.

Chiddy's place will be taken by Taylor Botha, the 20-year-old Stellenbosch centre, who partnered Springbok Eben Olivier in the Colts match. They play together to-morrow.

ROUX'S CHANCE

Others who played for the Colts and face Cardiff to-morrow are H. O. de Villiers, full-back; S. Brynard, wing; C. Holm, scrum-half; M. Hoard, hooker; P. Robertson, flank; A. de Wet, lock; and D. van den Bergh, lock.

John le Roux, the tall Varsity flanker, with consistently good football, has slowly come to the forefront, and with similar play to-morrow and on Saturday, when UCT engage Gardens at Newlands, could win a place in the Colts XV.

A fly-half may have to be found to replace Chiddy, who is doubtful. The two who played in the curtain-raiser Colts "trial" were D. Watson-Smith (False Bay) and W. Verreyne (Bellville).

Unless there is loss of form to-morrow and on Saturday most of the student players are likely to retain their places.

BRISK SESSION

Cardiff had a brisk training session at Newlands yesterday, delighting in yielding underfoot conditions and bright sunshine.

The backs, in their usual manner, passed and ran persistently and the forwards indulged in line-out work, scrumming and quick running to the loose ball.

All the Cardiff training manoeuvres had the accent on speed.

"Tich" Astbury, the old Gardens and provincial scrum-half, who watched, remarked on their nippiness and speed and Springbok prop, Tiny Neethling, who was also there, said the forwards looked big enough to be good enough.

"Everything points to an interesting game," he said.

WELL-EQUIPPED

Dr. Tom Hugo Hamman, the manager of the Varsities XV, said that he considered his team well-equipped in all departments.

"But Cardiff on Saturday showed us what they can do on form. We respect their strength, but win or lose we will give them a good game."

Dr. I. de V. Heyns will referee to-morrow's game.

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CARDIFF KEEP EDWARDS AT FULL BACK

CARDIFF spring a surprise in their team to meet Southern Universities at the famous Newlands ground, Cape Town, tomorrow.

They prefer Gareth Edwards at full back to the goal-kicking Ray Cheney, who has recovered from the injury that kept him out of last Saturday's big win over Eastern Province.

Cheney has kicked 19 points in two outings and his omission has caused raised eyebrows among South Africans.

But Edwards is the more versatile player and is an attacking full back who is likely to be ideal for the type of running game which the universities play.

Two treated

He proved his worth when substituting for Cheney last Saturday and will act as a foil to Henry Devilliers, the Cape Universities running full back, who is being tipped to play for South Africa against France later in the season.

Cardiff practised on the Newlands ground yesterday and found the soft, yielding turf to their liking.

Absentees in training were back row forwards John Hickey and Clive Evans, who were receiving treatment for bruises. Both of them are expected to be fit for Wednesday.

Cardiff obviously feel they can get along without the goal-kicking of Cheney. Maurice Richards was a success in the role in the last game. In fact, his tally of 19 points could be a record for a British player in South Africa.

The team feel at home at Cape Town where weather conditions are very similar to those in Britain. They flew in on Sunday to be greeted by rain and made their headquarters at the same hotel where the Welsh team stayed three years ago.

BACKS BATTLE FOR TOURISTS

From 'A. C. PARKER

CAPE TOWN, Tuesday.

A MID-WEEK crowd of between 25,000 and 30,000 is expected to watch Cardiff RFC clash with the Southern Universities XV at Newlands tomorrow in what is anticipated to be the most spectacular match of their short tour. Both sides possess fast-running backs, including both full backs, Cardiff's Gareth Edwards and the universities' Henry de Villiers.

Cardiff, as a result of their excellent win on Saturday against Eastern Provinces, are named favourites for tomorrow, and I feel that with their confidence boosted so high by that runaway victory and the fact that they have the more experienced and accomplished backs, they could add to their laurels at Newlands.

Danger man

Speedy universities back row Albie Dewaac, Preston Robertson and John Leroux will be the real test for Cardiff at Newlands.

Up front, the Principality's top rugby team should hold the edge with Norris, Thomas and O'Shea, but will be made to fight hard for the ball from the lineouts and broken play if skipper Billy Hullin and Morgan are to give their threes

a change to probe for and exploit the back play.

Gerald Davies whose facial resemblance to Tuppy Owen Smith has been commented on out here, is regarded as the danger man, but if the opposition concentrates too much on him, then Ken Jones or wings, Keri Jones and Richards, supplemented by Gareth Edwards, could do the damage.

Unquestionably, Cardiff regard this as a prestige match, and coach Bish this morning ordered special private tactical rehearsals at Greenpoint.

Cardiff's wing forwards Evans and John Hickey are having physiotherapy treatment for bruised shoulder and leg respectively, but at the time of cabling both are expected to be fit for tomorrow.

Strict judge

Tony Pender has shown progressive improvement at No. 8, and second row men Baxter and John Davies are playing with the skill expected of first-class rugby exponents.

Cardiff play the fifteen that was victorious on Saturday.