



NICOLAI SETS THE SEAL ON A GREAT WIN

S. Universities 14, Cardiff 11

By MAXWELL PRICE

MIKE NICOLAI, playing astutely at fly-half, and three great first-half tries which helped them to an 11-5 half-time lead, enabled Southern Universities to stave off a magnificent late rally by Cardiff before 26,000 spectators at Newlands yesterday and so win a thrilling game 14-11.

The Varsities scored one goal, one try and one penalty to a goal, a try and a penalty by Cardiff.

Cardiff, unbeaten on their short tour until yesterday, realized that this would be their most important game to date and, perhaps under the strain, adopted surprising tactics which helped the Varsities gain a first-half ascendancy, which, in spite of brilliant back play at the end, Cardiff could not overtake.

Cardiff, with their heavier forwards and all-international front row, muscled in from the start and let their backs lie shallow to blunt the Varsities' attacking initiative.

Their excellent hooker, Billy Thomas, raked two tightheads successively in the first half, but the shallow-lining backs, who with deeper deployment scintillated later, could not take advantage.

Mike Nicolai, who only recently has been switched from centre to fly-half at UCT, displayed fine rugby sense and summed up the situation, nursing his forwards and not exposing his backs.

He kicked deep touches to discipline the game's trend and left it to referee L. de V. Heyns to discipline some wild forward play, in which several punches were thrown.

It was in this early stage when Varsities realized that the ball was more important than the man that the fortunes of the game were decided.

GREAT TACKLE

The students hunted the leather from the start, and when scrum-half Cilliers Holm kicked high to the Cardiff line, Preston Robertson was up to down Gareth Edwards (full-back) with a magnificent tackle which sent the ball flying. Holm, following up gallantly, dived on the ball amid cheers from the crowd.

H. O. de Villiers, who mixed steady full-back play with exciting and judicious incursions into the attack, took the conversion, but the ball hit an upright.

The students were having heavy weather in the scrums, but at line-out Van der Bergh, De Wet and John Le Roux more than held their own.

While Cardiff, with Morris, Davis and Pender prominent, exploited the short-passing and tapping technique, the Varsities adopted the more orthodox routine which helped to bring the

ball into the wedge, and it was from one such maul that Varsity struck again.

It was Derek van den Bergh, son of former Springbok, Mauritz van den Bergh, who took charge of the ball in the maul and with tremendous power and turn of back, prised it out for a safe delivery to his backs.

With the Cardiff loose forwards called in the student backs raced off, the Springbok Eben Olivier putting his shoulder into Ken Jones's high tackle and giving his wing Faan Brynard a chance. Brynard hared for the corner for a magnificent try. Once again "HO" had bad luck with the conversion.

TIGHT GAME

One minute later Cardiff reeled again as the ball came from the loose. Taylor Botha (centre) cut infield for a dummy scissors while Olivier cut out to link with H. O. de Villiers who characteristically joined the line at speed, took the pass, and drawing defence, sent Brynard over for his second try.

The crowd, roused by the magnificent Varsities play, roared their appreciation as H. O. de Villiers goaled from the corner (11-0).

It was at this stage that Cardiff began to show signs of a change in tactics with the ball coming more frequently to their backs who with clever handling and passing won deserving applause. Keri Jones (wing) seemed clear for a try, but Brynard downed him with a desperate tackle.

LIKE A FLASH

Cardiff pressed and were rewarded when, from a student heel, Holm fumbled. Billy Hullin was in like a flash to pick up and score a try which Edwards goaled (11-5).

A scrum penalty in the first minute of the second half gave De Villiers a chance to goal a penalty (14-5), and that was just about the end of the Varsities ascendancy.

For the rest of the game it was virtually all Cardiff. The power of their excellent front row and the support gradually began to wear down the students, and in the end it was the Varsities pack who were called in tight while

the Cardiff backs did the running.

And what exciting running this was by Richards, particularly on the left wing, who seemed to make light of the presence of Springbok Jannie Engelbrecht as he danced inside him, side-stepped and raced through a shaky defence.

RALLIED

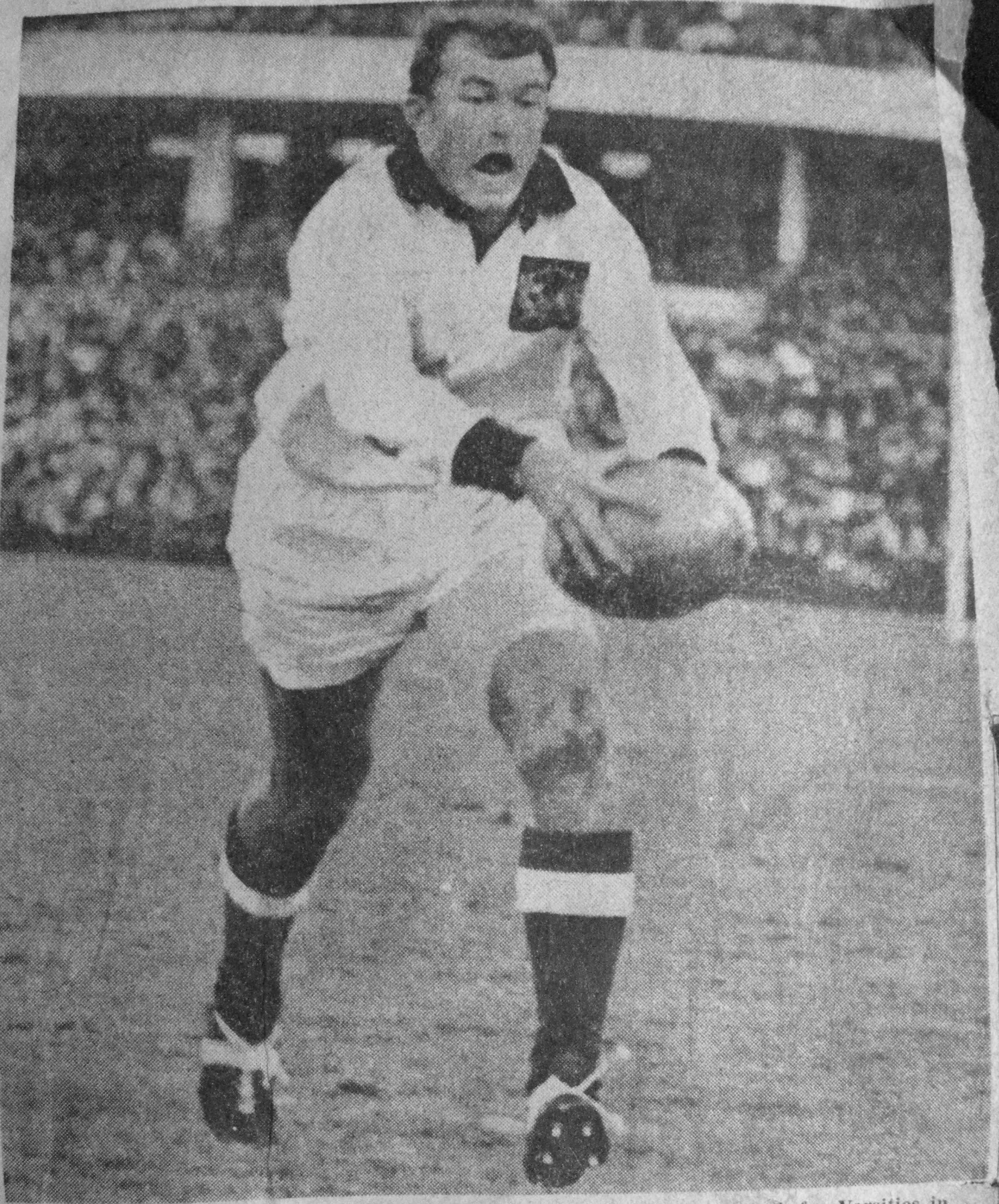
Full-back Gareth Edwards came into the line to endanger the defence further. He rallied Cardiff with a successful penalty-kick from 40 yards (14-8).

The Cardiff forwards were now all on top and fly-half Tony Williams and Ken Jones indulged in clever scissors moves and slick back passing which broke the defences. From one such move Richards received cut in and out for a fine try at the corner (14-11).

There was eight minutes to go and Cardiff were well into the picture as they stormed the Varsities line. Varsities touched down from a line-out. Williams dropped the ball with an overlap obvious, and there were groans from Cardiff supporters. Ken Jones was tackled by Robertson, and the end came with Cardiff still on the attack.

Cardiff: G. Edwards, Keri Jones, Ken Jones, G. Davies, M. Richards, A. Williams, W. Hullin (capt.); H. Norris, W. J. Thomas, J. O'Shea, C. Evans, L. Baxter, J. Davis, J. Hickey, A. R. Pender.

S. Universities: H. O. de Villiers; J. Engelbrecht, E. Olivier, T. Botha, S. Brynard, M. Nicolai, C. Holm; G. Enderstein, M. Hoard, H. Marais (capt.), J. le Roux, D. van den Bergh, A. de Wet, P. Robertson, A. de Waal.



Top, left: H. O. de Villiers kicks to touch for Varsities in yesterday's Newlands game, in which they beat Cardiff 14—11. Bearing down on him are Cardiff players G. Davies (centre) and Keri Jones (wing).

Above: Faan Brynard had a great game on the Varsities wing, scoring two splendid first-half tries.

Right: Mike Nicolai (left) moves in to head off Welsh centre Gerald Davies (with ball). In background: Keri Jones (wing).



AFTER THE GAME WAS OVER . . .

By **DICK STENT** (Sports Editor)

WELSH songs with unpronounceable names (except the recognizable *Land of My Fathers* and Llanelly's *Sospan Fach*) were chorally sung by the Cardiff team at the celebration which followed yesterday's memorable game at Newlands, and the general theme, I was told, was: "We love (live) to fight another day."

It was a match which neither team deserved to lose (not that it very much mattered who won) and it delighted all the thousands of spectators. Here were some summed-up views:

● **Bill Hullin** (Cardiff captain): The Varsities attacking and their cover defence in the first half decided it. But I hope we showed 'em something in the second half!

● **Hannes Marais** (Varsities captain): If Cardiff had started **THAT** earlier, they would have had us. But it was a great game.

● **P. J. Bayly**, president of the Western Province Rugby Football Union: Cardiff reminded us of two arts: Positional play and when to pass—and when not to pass. A draw would have been a fair reflection.

● **Dr. Louis Babrow**: Tactics did it. Cardiff showed us the way in the second session. If they had done so in the first . . .

● **Hubert Johnson**, president of the Cardiff Club: The best rugby won it. But I noticed some nails being bitten 10 minutes from time!

● **Lyn Williams**, manager of the touring team: If we had brought some other Welsh clubs to help us, maybe then we would have won! But we were beaten by some fine rugby.

● **"Sausage" Versveld**, 75 and the oldest member of the Western Province Union committee: Here was a lesson. Play the ball and not the man. We saw both. Cardiff did better when they played the ball.

● **Hymy Matthews**, 63, an old member of Cardiff Club now in Cape Town and leaving to-day on a trip: I am glad I stayed to see this!

● **"Bubbles" Koch**, former Springbok lock: I am pleased, very pleased, I came all the way from the Karoo, and beyond, to see this game. It reminded me . . .

● **Everyone**: Wonderful rugby!

Cardiff lose narrowly to Universities

*From A SPECIAL
CORRESPONDENT*

CAPE TOWN, Wednesday.

DESPITE a great second-half rally, Cardiff Rugby Club suffered the first defeat of their short tour of South Africa when they were beaten 14-11 by Southern Universities here today.

Cardiff, who were 11-5 down at half time, had drawn their opening game and convincingly won their next two matches.

Cardiff's 34-9 victory over Eastern Province last Saturday at Port Elizabeth boosted their hopes for the big clash with the Universities.

South African critics made a quick reappraisal of Cardiff's strength at Port Elizabeth and, though Southern Universities remained favourites, it was considered that Cardiff's polished backs would match them.

This they did in a rousing game, which could have gone in favour of the Welshmen.

Settling effect

A midweek crowd of 25,000 saw the game start with over-robust play, but frequent warnings to forwards on both sides soon had a settling effect.

The students won lineouts at will and usually followed with some good running and handling which paid dividends. Only late in the game were Cardiff able to retaliate effectively.

Cardiff scored two smart tries by Hullin and Richards, one converted by Richards, and a penalty by Gareth Edwards.

Bloemfontein: Orange Free State thrashed the touring Scottish Border XV by 39 points to 21.



BILLY HULLIN scored try.