

# NORTHERNS PACK MAY DOMINATE

## Cardiff backs likely to be starved

From A. C. Parker

Pretoria, Friday.

CARDIFF would like nothing better than to end their short tour with a win over Northern Transvaal at Loftus Versfeld tomorrow. Their chances are by no means negligible, but Northern start favourites.

*Two potentially decisive factors are the well-drilled Northern pack and the experience of their scrum-half, Piet Uys, who will be a key man in the shaping of tactics.*

The Welsh club, with Phil Morgan back at fly-half, possess backs who have been superior in thrust and guile to any they have opposed on this tour. These backs, especially in the three-quarters, also look better equipped than those of Northern Transvaal.

But Cardiff's big problem has been the inability of their forwards to win a sufficient share line-out ball and also to exercise dominance in the rucks and mauls.

The tourists, therefore, will have to rely on possession from set pieces and feeding off break-downs to bring their class centres, Gerald Davies and Ken Jones, into the game.

Cardiff, however, do have one invaluable asset up front — a solid front row formed by the Welsh international trio of Howard Norris, Billy Thomas and John O'Shea.

The 33-year-old Thomas, a fast striker, has outhooked his opponents to date and will fully test Gys Pitzer, who is a candidate for the coming tests against France. Ben Alberts and Ronnie Potgieter are two highly rated props, and the duel between the front rows will be quite a feature.

### Doubtful starter

Sakkie de Klerk, the rangy Northern Transvaal lock who has been preferred to the Springbok Frik du Preez, was reported this morning to be a doubtful starter. He injured his right foot in a floodlit club game on Wednesday night and a decision on his fitness will be taken after a special try-out this afternoon.

Du Preez is the official reserve and, if he plays, he will have the chance to convince the national selectors — they will be well represented tomorrow — that he is still worthy of Springbok consideration.

Johan Spies, the other Northern lock, is effective at the short end of the line-out and fits well into a hard-driving pack led by the flank Oupa du Piesanie, who is a firm believer in control up front.

### Improved

The Cardiff loose forwards, John Hickey, Tony Pender and the light but active Clive Evans have improved progressively and as a trio may not be overshadowed by Thys Lourens, Johan Conradie and Du Piesanie.

Piet Uys will have to contend with considerable harassment by the Cardiff scrum-half, Billy Hullin, who worried the life out of Cilliers Holm at Newlands on Wednesday.

An injury to the regular Northern fly-half, Gerhard de Haas, means a first cap for Piet Steyn, a protege of Hannes Brewis. As he is Uys's club-mate, combination will not be lacking and it will be interesting to see whether Steyn makes much use of his three-quarters.

### Midfield threat

Mauritz Neuhoff, with his strong inside break, could be a threat to Cardiff in midfield and those strong-running wings, Corra Dirksen and Koos Meiring, are both in the running for the first Springbok trial.

Behind them is another Springbok candidate in the full-back Dries Pretorius, who on his day is a deadly goal-kicker — as, for that matter, is Ray Cheney, the Cardiff full-back.

It could be a high-scoring game. And if Cardiff pull it off against the odds, they will avenge the 22-0 defeat suffered by the full Welsh national side on this field in 1964.

### The teams

**Cardiff**—R. Cheney, M. Richards, G. Davies, Ken Jones, Ken Jones, P. Morgan, W. Hullin (captain), H. Norris, W. Thomas, J. O'Shea, J. Hickey, John Davies, J. Baxter, C. Evans, A. Pender.  
**Northern Transvaal**—A. Piesanie, G. Pitzer, C. Neuhoff, J. Neuhoff, J. Meiring, R. Steyn, J. de Klerk (cap), G. du Preez, T. Lourens, J. Conradie.  
Referee: D. E. A. Strachan.  
Start: 4 p.m.



**JANNIE ENGELBRECHT**, the Springbok wing, runs into trouble during the Southern Universities-Cardiff match at Newlands on Wednesday. Here he tries to break through with Maurice Richards (left) and Gerald Davies struggling to hold him. Cardiff play their fifth and last fixture of their tour against Northerns in Pretoria tomorrow.

Lions centre has score to settle at Pretoria

# BLACK DAY SPURS JONES

BY BARRY GLASSPOOL

**KEN JONES**, the 26-year-old British Lions centre, was in the Welsh team beaten 22-9 by Northern Transvaal three years ago. Today he returns to Loftus Versfeld, and, with his Cardiff teammates, is hoping for a clearcut victory to avenge that defeat of the national team and end the famous Welsh club's five-match tour on a resounding note.

Jones's electrifying 70-yard run for glory in the first Test against the Springboks at Ellis Park in 1962 — a try which earned the Lions a 3-3 draw — is still fresh in the mind's eye whenever great tries are discussed.



PIET UYS . . . key to Northern's attack.

However, it wasn't exactly Jones's happy day on that May afternoon three seasons ago when Northern, aided by some poor backplay by the Welsh threequarters came hammering through to win a match which Bev Price, that lion-hearted Welsh lock, and his co-forwards had all but won for the tourists via their dominance of possession from line-outs and loose scrums.

It says much for the resilience of Northern Transvaal rugby that the "light blues" were able to fully exploit their chances and one feels that for today's clash, the home team will need to command the loose ball if the Welsh wizards behind the scrum are to be denied free expression of their undoubted attacking qualities.

## TACTICAL DEMANDS

Piet Uys, Northern's Springbok scrumhalf is the man who has so often stood at the heart of many ravishing Northern performances.

Today he partners his club flyhalf Piet Steyn and his grasp of the tactical demands of the game should again have a big bearing on the result.

Then, too, his personal tussle with the Cardiff skipper Billy Hullin should be a match highlight.

The Northern pack boasts pace and punch with five solid tight forwards in Ben Alberts, Gys Pitzer — a strong candidate to hook against the French — Ronnie Potgieter, Johan Spies — a real find at lock — and Sakkie de Klerk.

Throw in Oupa du Pisanie, Thys Lourens and Johan Conradie and the visitors are up against a unit which should

pose just as many problems

for them as the Universities did in the lineouts and tight-loose. With this obviously in mind, Cardiff, by their own admission, are fielding their strongest combination and with the exception of fullback Ray Cheney this is the team which pulverised Eastern Province 34-9.

## RELIABLE UYS

Northern's backs disappointed against Transvaal last month, so much depends on the reliable Uys to bring out the best in strong-running threequarters Koos Meiring, Cora Dirksen and Mauritz Neuhoff.

A quick glance at the Cardiff threes shows a fast thrustful line which includes international centres in Ken Jones and Gerald Davies and strong wings in Maurice Richards and Keri Jones.

Let's hope today's gladiators can live up to pre-match expectations of a titanic struggle with the accent on constructive attacking rugby.

**CARDIFF** — R. Cheney; M. Richards, G. Davies, Ken Jones, Keri Jones, F. Morgan, W. Hullin (captain); H. Norris, W. Thomas, J. O'Shea, J. Hicks, P. Morgan, L. Baxter, C. Evans, A. Pender.  
**NORTHERN TRANSVAAL** — A. Pretorius, G. Dirksen, G. Rester, M. Neuhoff, J. Meiring, P. Steyn, P. Uys, B. Alberts, R. Potgieter, H. Paganoni, S. de Klerk, J. Spies, J. Sakkie, Z. Lourens, J. Conradie.