

the 7 internationals

HANNESBURG THURSDAY MAY 4 1967



The Cardiff rugby team flew into Jan Smuts Airport this morning for their five-match tour of South Africa. Left to right are the team's seven internationals—Gerald Davies, Howard Norris, Gareth Edwards, Billy Thomas, Billy Hullin, who is the tour captain, Ken Jones and John O'Shea.

Welshmen expect it tough in Pretoria

Bowlands

Rowlands retires, aged 30

CARDIFF, Thursday.

CARDIFF'S rugby captain, Keith Rowlands, who missed the South African tour because of a broken leg, has announced his retirement.

Rowlands, a former Welsh international second row forward, went on the British Lions' 1962 tour of South Africa.

By A. C. Parker, who will cover the tour for The Star

“WE HAVE NOT YET DECIDED what our team-selection policy will be for the opening matches of the tour,” Mr. Lyn Williams (manager) said when the Cardiff rugby team arrived at Jan Smuts Airport this morning.

Mr. Williams was asked whether Cardiff's strongest side on paper would be chosen for the opening game against South West Africa in Windhoek on Saturday.

He said that the tour committee would settle this question in Windhoek. As far as possible it was hoped to give each of the 23 players an outing in the first two games at Windhoek and Upington.

On the subject of the amended laws which have been in operation in South Africa from the start of this season but which have not yet come into force in Britain, Mr. Williams said that he would consult Dr. Craven.

SIMPLE ADJUSTMENT

He did not, however, anticipate that the Cardiff players would experience any difficulty in making the necessary adjustments as no laws had been radically changed.

Mr. Williams said that he had been told quite a lot about the opposition they would meet on this tour and he did not expect any easy games. He thought that the Southern Universities would play the same type of game as Cardiff at Newlands — namely using their backs — and against Northern Transvaal they were prepared for a tough forward struggle.

Mr. Williams regretted the absence from the tour of Keith Rowlands, their captain and lock forward, through injury. But he expected the forwards to do well enough.

Howard Norris, the Lions' prop forward, would lead the

pack. The tour captain is Billy Hullin, the scrum-half.

Cardiff were welcomed at the airport by Dr. Danie Craven (president of the South African Rugby Board); Dr. F. Mynhardt (president of the Eastern Transvaal Rugby Union); Mr. Boet Smit (representing Transvaal Rugby Union); and Col. Alwyn Burger (representing Northern Transvaal rugby).

THE ITINERARY

May 6 v. South West Africa at Windhoek.

May 10 v. North Western Cape at Upington.

May 13 v. Eastern Province at Port Elizabeth.

May 17 v. Southern Universities at Cape Town.

May 20 v. Northern Transvaal at Pretoria. — Sapa-Reuter.

St. Albans lose

From Our Correspondent

CONSTANTIA, Thursday. —

The touring St. Alban's College (Pretoria) rugby team lost 0—6 to Nassau Hoërskool here on Tuesday in a game played in rain and muddy conditions which suited the heavy Hoërskool XV.

Last Saturday St. Alban's lost 9—10 to St. Andrew's College in Bloemfontein.

Cardiff have awesome name

THERE is something about the name Cardiff that must bring a shudder to many rugby Springboks.

Their uneasiness is wrapped up with the tigerish football played by the Welsh, the South Africans' experience of playing there in mud and slush, with the awesome atmosphere of the compact little Arms Park ground when it is packed with 55,000 emotional spectators in cloth caps singing "Land of My Fathers" and with a match played there sixty years ago.

APPALLING

When this country's first team went abroad with Paul Roos as captain in 1906-7 they had lost only once in 27 fixtures when they came to their final game against the Cardiff Club.

Because of a hard frost the field was covered with straw. Rain made conditions appalling. Had it not been that the Springboks were due to leave for France the next day, the match would have been postponed.

They played, as a member of the team wrote, in a sea of mud a foot deep and with a strong wind blowing.

With the legendary

STARLIGHT by LOUIS DUFFUS

centre, Gwynn Nicholls, giving a brilliant display in his farewell appearance, Cardiff won 17-0. Bryn Thomas described it as "the most sensational club victory in the history of the game."

Thus originated a forbidding spectre. The Springboks have never lost again to Cardiff, but they have been frighteningly close to defeat.

The next team, W. A. Miller's side of 1912-13, won 7-6.

Five minutes from time in 1951-52 Basil Kenyon's side was one point down, again in mud and rain, when Hannes Brewis kicked diagonally towards the corner flag.

Chum Ochse beat three defenders in the race for the ball and scored a thrilling try for a win by 11-9.

Cardiff have beaten the All Blacks once and the Wallabies four times.

Renowned for their backs, they produced Rhys Gabe, Bleddyn Williams, Jack Matthews, Haydn Tanner and the incomparable Cliff Morgan.

It will be strange for their players, nurtured in wet and cold, to play in sunshine without spectators singing. Old-time stories tell of their instructing each other in the scrums in Welsh while the Springboks retaliated in Afrikaans.

Since both countries appreciate good rugby, there should be plenty of scope after play for toasts of "Alles van die beste" and the cricketer Atholl McKinnon's favourite piece of Welsh, "Iechyd da" (roughly "yachid da" — meaning "good health").

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