



Manie
du Toit



Deon
du Plessis



Elandre
de Koning



Malcolm
Cowie



Nicky
le Roux



Dave
Lewis



Hambly
Parker



Fanie
Cloete



Danie
Bothma



Warwick
Creed



Henning
Buitendag



George
Barnard

BACKS ARE DANGER IN CARDIFF XV



Gawie Carelse



Bert Young

"THE unofficial fifth Test" is how all international teams touring Britain view their fixture against Cardiff and as the Wallabies learnt to their cost on their recent visit, they are often more difficult to beat than the Welsh national fifteen.

Thus Cardiff, although only a club side, are of international class and with seven Welsh caps in their line-up for today's match against Eastern Province they present formidable opposition.

There is probably not a club in the world with as proud a record or as fine a tradition as has Cardiff and it is against this background that they take the field this afternoon.

The current side have their detractors, but this stems mainly from their failure to impress against South-West Africa and North-Western Cape. There are, however, several mitigating factors which some critics have not taken into account. They were rushed into the first match under conditions completely foreign to them with little time for preparation. Under these circumstances their 11-all draw at Windhoek was not a bad result. They then went on to win 23-12 at Upington.

Strongest team

With these two matches under their belts — and their unbeaten record still intact — Cardiff are likely to be a much tougher and more co-ordinated side today. In addition they are fielding their strongest team.

This may sound as if Eastern Province have little hope of winning. But this is not so. They, too, have a certain reputation against visiting overseas sides — some of it unfortunately not entirely complimentary — but they have a tradition for their

By

Neil Cameron

tough scrumming and rucking packs, which has been maintained for this fixture.

The strengths of both the Cardiff and E.P. sides lies in their backs, but the foundations will be laid at forward and this is where the home side can more than hold their own.

The tourists have an all-Welsh front row of Norris, Thomas and O'Shea, which certainly gives them a solid anchorage, but unless the other members of the pack assist with every ounce of support, they will find the going tough in the deep underworld of the scrums and rucks against the likes of Hambly Parker, Gawie Carelse, Danie Bothma, Bert Young and Fanie Cloete.

In the line-outs, too, the tourists have looked vulnerable

with their tapping methods. Their poor distribution has lessened the potency of their speedy three-quarters and in their two matches so far, they have not won enough "good ball" for the line to operate to its full effectiveness.

Possession from the loose is always vitally important and this phase could prove E.P.'s Achilles heel. The home pack lacks mobility but if they are to disguise this weakness, they must control the tight and tight-loose so as to force their opponents to play closer to the scrum.

Before the tour, the Cardiff manager said that his side would win all their matches given 40 per cent share of the ball. E.P. must try to deny them this or else they could be in trouble, for the Welshmen have several top-class backs presenting a serious threat to the home line.

Served by experienced Billy Hullin from the base, there is Phil Morgan at fly-half, Ken Jones and Gerald Davies at centre and international sprint star, Keri Jones on the one wing. Maurice Richards is on the other wing and an additional attacking threat comes from the versatile Gareth Edwards — if he plays.

Goal-kicker

The Cardiff managements have had second thoughts about Ray Cheney's leg injury. After treatment yesterday, Cheney showed some improvement, but a final decision on whether he or Edwards plays full-back will not be made until this morning. If Cheney plays, his accurate goal-kicking boot poses an additional threat.

The E.P. backs will be playing together for the second week in a row so the little misunderstandings which occurred against Border should have been ironed out. But like their Cardiff opponents, they will need a sound platform and quick heel from the pack to be fully effective.

Fly-half Nicky le Roux will again be a key man in setting up the attacks, because outside of him in De Koning, Cowie, Liebenberg, Du Plessis and Du Toit, E.P. have the running talent to match their opponents.

THE TEAMS

CARDIFF	E.P.
G. EDWARDS	M. DU TOIT
M. RICHARDS	D. DU PLESSIS
KEN JONES	E. DE KONING
G. DAVIES	M. COWIE
KERI JONES	S. LIEBENBERG
P. MORGAN	N. LE ROUX
W. HULLIN	D. LEWIS
H. NORRIS	D. BOTHMA
W. THOMAS	S. CLOETE
J. O'SHEA	H. PARKER
A. PENDER	G. BARNARD
L. BAXTER	G. CARELSE
J. DAVIES	B. YOUNG
J. HICKEY	W. CREED
C. EVANS	H. BUITENDAG

Referee:
L. VAN DER WESTHUIZEN



Sarel Liebenberg, the powerful Eastern Province left wing who will captain the side against Cardiff this afternoon.



Billy Hullin, former Welsh international scrum-half and captain of the visiting Cardiff Rugby Club, swinging his line into action during a practice session yesterday in preparation for their match against Eastern Province this afternoon.

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prepare for big game



Getting in some hard practice this morning at the Boet Erasmus Stadium — venue for their match against Eastern Province tomorrow — were some of the touring Cardiff Club rugby players. They are (from left to right): LYN BAXTER, JOHN O'SHEA, JOHN DAVIES (with ball) and HOWARD NORRIS.