



Cardiff v. Oxford University

WEDNESDAY, 5th NOVEMBER, 1986 KICK-OFF 7.15 p.m.

I don't suppose you could have failed to notice all the alterations that have been going on over the place during recent weeks. We, for our part, have gone hell for leather to complete these necessary improvements in as little time as possible. The scheduled date was November 1st. With hold ups in equipment here and weather there, however, the ready for service date has inevitably slipped back slightly. Ironically however, with the greatest of the expenditure being incurred on emergency lighting, tonight happens to be the last occasion we shall need them for a floodlit game until the Friday evening prior to the Wales v Ireland international game against City of Derry on January 16th next. Now that's sod's law for you isn't it. Then again that could be understating the case because in all fairness we have to use lights from here on in for our normal Saturday kick off's at 3 o'clock. By half time things can be getting murky so be rest assured that you are now viewing your rugby from one of the safest grounds in the country. As I've previously stated two plans are being formulated to raise the appreciative cost of the exercise and when these are finalised we will be putting you in the picture.

The next hot topic today is the forthcoming game in The Schweppes Cup Competition. Anyone at home would have done nice and tidy but Lady Luck has seen fit to cast us in the away role again for this first round proper. I say again because this means we now go away for the fourth time in succesion after Senghenydd in 1983, Tonyrefail in 1984 and then South Glamorgan Institute last year. And what a draw it is—it's one we could have well done without because there are many, many easier teams we could have drawn. Treorchy are quite delighted with the way they came out of the hat and probably it was the very one they were praying for. In this their centenary, they have certainly put the wind up several first class clubs. They will, no doubt, also be extremely happy for the opportunity to erase the image of our last game against them which is best forgotten. On the basis that you are always best remembered by your last game, let's hope this forthcoming cup tie can be a game enjoyed by both sides and one to be remembered for all that is best for the good of Rugby Football.

Talking of games to remember, last Saturday's saw off another challenge to our ground record. As Cardiff/Leicester games go, perhaps it was not up to the usual standard, but the excitment remained until the end. Fiction they say is highly unprobable fact. Well, Dusty Hare's role must be regarded as a fictitous one last Saturday, because who would have given even second thought to such an unsuccessful afternoon for this prodigious kicker.

Tonight however, it gives us great pleasure to welcome Oxford University to Cardiff Arms Park for this our swan song of home Wednesday floodlit games. Oxford, of course, is renowned as England's first seat of learning. According to legend King Alfred started it all going in 872 when he engaged in scholarly discussions with a group of clerics that went on for days. Henry II was its actual founder in 1167 however, when he ordered all English students studying on the Continent to return home to establish this eminent seat of learning. After trouble in 1209 a temporary closure came about and some students dispersed to a small Fenland town called Cambridge and founded a new university. Thus was established what must be the greatest of all rivalries — the light blue and dark blue. It's strange also that nobody seems to be impartial on the issue. Come varsity match day and everybody seems to favour one side rather than the other. This perhaps subconsciously reveals which would have been your choice had you been fortunate enough to have attended either.

This great rivalry between these two marvellous establishments however, is no more keenly depicted than on the rugby field. From that very first Varsity game played

at Oxford in 1871 (which incidentally The Dark Blue won by 1 goal and 1 try to 0) a further 103 have taken place in each of the spanning years except for the two world wars. The record for the series shows that of 104 official games played Oxford have won 44 games to their rivals' 47 with 13 drawn games. This is obviously much to the chagrin of our Dark Blue friends because they held the whip hand over Cambridge in terms of wins right from the very first game in 1871 until the Light Blues overhauled them some 110 years later in 1981. They were neck and neck in 1977 with 41 each and Cambridge, having won the previous five games, were hot favourites to go ahead in terms of victories. On the day however, our own recently returned (and much lamented by us) Gareth Davies took the game by the scruff of the neck, not an unusual happening for Gareth, and steered the Dark Blues to an unexpected 16-10 victory. Cambridge were not to be denied however and in 1981 finally overtook Oxford to lead for the first time ever in the series by 44 wins to Oxford's 43. In fact, The Light Blues have dominated the series very much so of late because of the last 14 games they have won 11 of them.

So Oxford come to Cardiff tonight with some marvellous tradition behind them. The games after the second world war between us have been like mini internationals with so many capped players on either side. Oxford's team was comprised of such great players as the Van Rynevelds, Kendall-Carpenter, Kininmouth, Currie, Robin Davies, Onllwyn Brace and partner Mike Smith. Today sees the series reach its 53rd game and the current record stands at 36 wins to us, 13 to Oxford with 3 drawn, Points wise we have scored 771 to their 388. Oxford's last win came in 1974 when they won on The Arms Park by 21 points to 8. This was the sixth time they had won the spoils on the Arms Park. They will be all out tonight to make that seven because their current record is not too impressive but a win against Cardiff would give them a real shot in the arm for their appearance at Twickenham on December 9th. Tonight we welcome Oxford to Cardiff and wish them the best of luck for their big day in this year's Varsity game.

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MATCHES RECALLED

J.B.G. THOMAS this evening dons mortar-board in his trips down Memory Lane to recall an occasion when the students proved to be the masters

Brace for Oxford

November 5, 1955: OXFORD UNIVERSITY 23pts CARDIFF 5pts

CARDIFF'S MATCHES against Oxford University have always been interesting, with the undergraduates providing youthful entertainment whether blessed with an ordinary or a superb side. The clubs first met in 1888 and there was a long break between 1902 and 1932 although Oxford have achieved many victories at home and away from Iffley Road. The match recalled found Oxford at their best with a truly brilliant side.

In November 1955, Cardiff travelled to Iffley Road to meet a side as good as any to wear the dark blue jerseys since the war, headed by their South African captain, R. P. Allaway, the hooker. The halves were Onllwyn Brace and M. J. K. Smith, who were to be capped in opposition to each other two months later at Twickenham. There were three forwards of international quality in R. H. Davies, J. D. Currie and P. D. G. Robbins, all to be capped and to enjoy illustrious careers.

Allaway based his tactics upon the ball-winning ability and pace of his pack to provide possession and enable a wizard of a scrum-half in Brace to launch movements that were quite revolutionary, including a short retreat before moving forward in attack. Smith was a most able follower at outside half in the process of switching tactics that often bemused opponents as it did Cardiff in this match.

The side lost only one match prior to the inter Varsity game which Oxford won 9-5. It was a remarkable term with the critics arguing for and against the 'new-look' rugby, making Brace both the hero and the villain at the same time.

When Cardiff arrived at Oxford they had already lost eight of their first 15 matches, an unusual record. There were six players capped or due to be capped under the captaincy of Malcolm Collins, in A. J. Priday, H. Nicholls, K. Richards, G. Wells, J. D. Evans and Glyn John.

Oxford were in charge from the start as Brace inspired the scoring of the first try with his special reverse pass to Smith that enabled the outside-half to race through diagonally and score for John Currie to convert. After 20 minutes Currie charged over for a try which he converted for a 10 points lead.

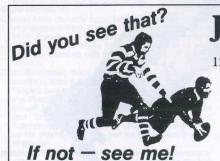
Another strong forward rush produced a second try for Currie and Oxford led comfortably by 13-0 at the interval. After the break Cardiff rallied and Ken Richards side-stepped cleverly before dropping a goal and this was followed by a long penalty goal from Maldwyn Gough.

Oxford, however, could not be contained for long with Brace unpredictable and menacing behind his powerful pack. The side roared back with flair and purpose for centre, T. J. Fallon, to score a good try which Currie converted.

Then Brace completed a virtuoso performance by pouncing on a loose Cardiff heel to gather and dive over for his side's fifth try, again converted by Currie to make the final score 23-5, the heaviest defeat inflicted by the University on Cardiff up to that time.

Although Currie collected 14 points, a splendid performance for a big lock, it will be remembered as Brace's match and his play led the way for the winning of his first cap as Cliff Morgan's partner against England in the January.

In the seasons that followed Cardiff suffered six more defeats by Oxford but non since 1974 while the fixture remains a happy one for both clubs. The season 1988-89 will find them celebrating 100 years in opposition, a period full of memories and great players.



J. Warren Hailes

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QUIDNUNC'S COLUMN

Under the darkened grandstand, long after the crowds had departed, discussing the latest Cardiff home-ground escape story, the last (as usual) figure emerged from the Cardiff dressing-room. "Those bits of elastoplast told you to wear on your fingers," groundsman, baggagemaster, advisor, golfer and confidante-to-the-stars Albert Francis told him. "Put them on with the sticky side facing out in future." The subject of this evening's firework-night discussion had of course earlier in the afternoon had a rocket from his colleagues for scoring rugby's equivalent of an own goal, been named as the crowd's favourite for the post of Guy Fawkes on every bonfire in town and then finished with a banger of a try.

But if you think that moment when he picked up the ball cleanly and actually took a step before dropping it and presenting Leicester with a damp-squib of a try was one of the most spectacular of the classic bricks, colleagues will tell you it was not in the same league as his biggest of all time. This took place in the quarter finals of the Snelling Sevens at Bridgend one year when our hero — "he really is a superb Sevens player," says a teammate, "one of the fastest men in Welsh rugby" — actually crossed the line unaccompanied and, instead of grounding the ball, bounced it. And so Teflon as he is named because of his non-stick hands lived up to his reputation yet again: indeed, as Cardiff looked like going down to the hungry Tigers on Saturday, our man received the afternoon's biggest cheer so far when he did catch a ball early in the second-half. And what about that spectacular, old-fashioned cross-kick? Well, yes, it could have landed in the Empire Pool, lagree, but for once the boot worked and the crowd's applause must have been music to his ears.

Come to think of it, most things sound like music to his ears because it is only on the pitch that you will find him without earphones on.

Maybe that's why he is one of the quiet man of the Cardiff squad, recognisable also by the smart tracksuits that he seems to wear from dawn till dusk. He survives more knocks from the crowd than he does from the opposition and possibly feels on occasions that he might prefer the relative anonymity enjoyed by his brother Stephen with the Cardiff Dragons American football side.

If you think about it seriously, though, he may be an easy player to criticise for a certain tactical innocence, or for the slippery hands or for the overzealous kick ahead, but the rise to top-class rugby of this boy from Butetown—"they're all behind me down there," he says, "it's my home and I love it"—is remarkable. There are not many around who kicked off a rugby career at the age of 18 and made it to the blue-and-black jersey. Even fewer, perhaps who prefer orange and lemonade to something stronger: indeed, he didn't drink alcohol at all for some seasons and even now it's just the very occasional pint.

And so Fingers — yet another of his nicknames — will continue to mind his own business, go his own sweet music-filled way, be the butt of the crowd's jokes and still emerge with a smile. If there had not been a change of management a few years ago at Ninian Park, it's possible that you might have seen on the Cardiff City programme and not in Quidnunc's Column, the name of

GERALD MICHAEL CORDLE

PERSONAL DETAILS

Birthplace: Butetown, Cardiff. Birthday: September 29, 1960.

Height/Weight: 6ft 1in; 13 stone 7 lb.

School: Bishop of Llandaff High School (where he was taught, among other, by Bob Newman).

Married: Yes, to Louise.

Children: Two. Daughter Soraya, who is three, and Marvin, who is five months.

Employment: Alas, nothing — but Gerald would be prepared to have a go at anything.

Superstitions: Nil.

Career: A late starter to rugby football, not having played at all between Form One at school and youth rugby at 18 ½. Soccer was his game. Played youth rugby in Butetown before finally having a trial at Cardiff and, after two seasons with the Rags, taking a first team chance.

Club Nickname: Take your pick here, each person seems to have a different name for him. Try Teflon or Fingers (see text above), or Socks (after Socrates — the Brazilian soccer player, not the philosopher: though I don't know...) Dikas — a name which he and Chris Webber call each other (see last Saturday's programme) and which is not Rastafarian as Mr. Webber believes but merely a Lenny Henry character.

Hobbies: Training, running, and, wait for it, learning to catch a rugby ball and practising chipping the ball into the Taff and Westgate Street.

PERSONAL FAVOURITES

Rugby Players: Terry Holmes, David Bishop ("because he really is a tremendous player"), Glen Webbe, Majid Davies and everyone in the Cardiff squad.

Referee: Clive Norling, Alun Richards, Kenny Parfitt.

Biggest Influence: CAIACS coach Chris Stanton, his brothers and Cardiff backroom men Roger Beard and Gary Samuel.

Other Sport: Boxing, soccer, American football.

Other Sportsmen: Mohammed Ali. Sugar Ray Leonard. Film: Spartacus.

Actor: Majid (Gareth Davies, to new readers of the column).

Actress: Daugher Soraya.

Comedians: Bill Cosby, Pablo Rees, Alun Donovan.

Pop Stars: Marvyn Gaye, Bob Marley and any music. Holiday Resort: Queensland's sunshine coast up near Brisbane in Australia.

Food: Curry and rice. Or, sometimes, Chinese.

Drink: Orange and Lemonade.

Politicians: Malcolm X, Nelson Mandela, John Scott and Thumper.

Ground: Murrayfield (where he loves to play Sevens).

MEMORIES

Best: Winning the cup finals against Neath and Newport.
Playing for Mark Ring's XV against St. Albans.
Worst: Losing the cup final to Llanelli

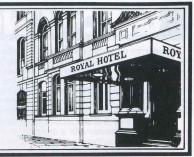
AMBITION

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A glaring omission occured in the quiz concerning Wales B caps when Robert Lakin was omitted. All I can say in mitigation is the fact that I took my information from the official WRU handbook in which Robert is not mentioned. I have pointed out this omission to the WRU.

Rugby Quiz - No. 9

- In the 1977 Varsity game Gareth Davies played on the winning Oxford side. What was his contribution to Oxford's 16 points?
- 2. Who was the Welshman who, in 1973, scored all Oxford's 12 points but still lost the game?
- 3. Who started the 1972 season as Oxford's coach but ended it as captain?
- 4. Who was the Oxford Blue of the late 1950s who was born in Mysore, India and had the initials R. A. W.?
- 5. Who was captain of the Oxford side made famous for the Brace-Smith half back partnership?

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Cardiff

- 15. M. RAYER
- 14. G. CORDLE
- 13. C. WEBBER
- 12. R. CARDUS
- 11. A. HADLEY
- 10. G. JOHN
- 9. N. O'BRIEN
- 1. J. WHITEFOOT
- 2. A. PHILLIPS (Capt.)
- 3. C. COLLINS
- 4. M. PARRY
- 5. H. STONE
- 6. P. CRANE
- 8. R. LAKIN
- 7. T. CROTHERS
- 16. J. SOUTO
- 17. D. GIBBON

Oxt

Full Back Right Wing Right Centre Left Centre

Try the

Left Wing

Outside Half Inside Half

Forwards



Replacements

Oxford University

J. RISMAN 15.

R. VESSEY 14. B. MULLIN 13.

R. RYDON 12.

I. McDONALD 11.

A. JOHNSON 10.

S. ROBERTS 9.

T. WILLIS 1.

J. CHISLETT 2.

S. FERGUSON 3.

C. McDONALD 4.

C. CRANE 5. W. CALCRAFT 6.

N. McBAIN 8.

S. GRIFFIN 7

S. WENSLEY 16.

S. DINNEW 17.

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PAST PLAYERS CORNER

This is the match programme of the game played in November 1957. It was the first game that centre Alan Barter played for Cardiff since coming down from Cambridge.

	CARDIFF			OXFORD	
1	A. J. PRIDAY	Full	Back	R. W. WILSON	1
5	D. C. MURPHY	Left Wing	Right Wing	J. R. C. YOUNG	2
	A. BARTER	Left Centre	Right Centre	M.S. PHILLIPS	3
	C. WILLIAMS	Right Centre	Left Centre	P. C. SIBLEY	4
2	G. JOHN	Right Wing	Left Wing	J. A. DIAMOND	5
6	C. MORGAN	Outside	Half	B. A. G. WESTON	- 6
7	L, WILLIAMS	Inside		D. A. CROFTS	7
8	C. HOWE	Forwards		L. T. LOMBARD	8
9	G. BECKINGHAM			A. H. M. HOARE	Š
10	J. D. EVANS		-	D. JESSON	10
11	W. R. EVANS	1.46	ATT	R. H. DAVIES	11
12	K. JONES	1		M. W. SWAN	12
	C. D. WILLIAMS	1/ROF	MM	D. R. BOUWER	13
14	E. THOMAS (Capt.)	K	1 00 00	P. G. D. ROBBINS	14
15	D. HAYWARD	FURNIS	Nu	S. H. WILCOCK	15
		ANCHES	VERYWHE	Referee:	
				Mr. D. J. WILLIAM	AS .
				(Newport)	

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Rugby Quiz No. 9 - Answers

- 1. 12 points 4 penalty goals.
- 2. Steve Lewis, a try, conversion and 2 penalties, but lost 14-12.
- 3. Darrell Jones who went to Oxford on a one year P.E. course at the age of 30. He took over from the injured captain Tim Seymore.
- 4. Richard Sharp, 14 times England outside half.
- 5. South African hooker Richard Allaway.



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STATISTICAL CARDIFF

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Season						areer			
the law release	App.	Tr.	Con.	Pen.	Pts.	Арр.	Tr.		Is Pts.
G. JOHN	10	2	14	8	60	29	4	50	139
M. RING	13	10	2	1	47	120	59	72	409
D. EVANS	5	1	8	4	32	30(1)	6	48	139
A. HADLEY	13	7	-	7-1	28	145	92	_	368
G. DAVIES	9	7	-	-	28	9	7		28
G. ROBERTS	13	5		-1	20	63	19		76
G. CORDLE	7	5	_	-	20	80(1)	61	-	244
M. RAYER	12	1	1 _	4	16	43(1)	9	4	48
T. CROTHERS	11	4	100	100	16	83(1)	22	DE D	88
A. DONOVAN	14	3		-	12	109	16	_	64
C. NORMAN	2	3		-	12	2	3	_	12
C. WEBBER	2		3	1	9	86(7)	17	103	330
P. RING	3	2	-	_	8	3	2	_	8
R. NORSTER	6	1		-1	4	217	13		52
J. SOUTO	8(1)	1		T.A.	4	38(9)	4	-	16
N. O'BRIEN	2	1			4 4 4	28(9) 8 199	10 1 3		40 4 12
M. PARRY		1	re a gai	-					
I. EIDMAN	9	1	_	_					
K. EDWARDS 11		1	. .	_	4	150	13	_	52
J. SCOTT	9	1	_	_	4	226(2)	34	. –	132
G. PRITCHARD	5(3)	1	i , ii	1 1 3	4	5(3)	1	_	4
D. WRIGHT	4	1	ATO	-	4	5(1)	1	-	4
J. HOWELLS	1	-	2	1=.0	4	4(2)	3	2	16
Also played:	77.5	1.01	A. PHILLIPS			364	137		548
10 – J. Whitefoot. 8 – C. Collins. 7+1 – R. Lakin. 4 – A. Phillips, Blackmore, Greenslade, Crane. 3 – C. Jones, Rowley, Cardus, Gibbon (+2). 2 – Cannon. 1 – Mogridge, Humphreys, Conway, Stone, R. Rees, Golding, Charles,			J. WHITEFOOT			218	7	T'L'	28
			R. LAKIN			229(3)	55	_	220
			S. CANNON			59(5)	7	_	28
			O. GOLDING			139(2)	47	_	188
			T. CHARLES			144(2)	31		124
			A. MC	GRID	GE	96(4)	2	_	8
			H. STONE			79(1)	10		40
M. Hadley (+1)					(.)				

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By J. E. MALCOLM THOMAS

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- (2) A try may be scored if the momentum of a player carries him into his opponents' in-goal **even though** he is tackled.
- (3) It is **not** a tackle if the ball carrier is lifted by an opponent so that both his feet are off the ground.
- (4) If a tackle occurs in such a position that the tackled player whilst complying with the Law, is able to place the ball over the goal line he may do so to score a try.

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Cardiff Rugby Club 1986-87

			FIRST XV	FIXTUF	RES		
1986 SEPTE Mon. Wed.	EMBER 1 3	R St. Peters Glamorgan Wanderers	A 27-12 H 22-13	Sat. Fri. Sat.	20 26 27	W.R.U. Cup 2nd Round Pontypridd Bridgend	H H
Sat. Wed. Sat. Sat. Wed. Sat.	6 10 13 20 24 27	East District Bristol Neath Coventry Pontypridd Aberavon	H 30-9 A 14-27 A 7-24 H 22-4 A 39-12 A 22-26	Thur. Sat. Sat. Fri.	JARY . 1 . 3 . 10 . 16	Bath Moseley Aberavon City of Derry	H H H H
OCTO Sat. Wed. Sat. Sat. Wed. Sat. Wed.	BER 4 8 11 18 22 25 29	Newport Bridgend Northampton Wasps Pontypool Harlequins Bath	H 28-21 A 29-18 H 35-4 A 16-25 H 17-11 H 26-19 A 9-28	Sat. Sat. FEBF Fri. Sat. Sat. Sat.	24 31 RUARY 6 14 21 28	W.R.U. Cup 3rd Round Llanelli Maesteg Bristol Ebbw Vale W.R.U. Cup 4th Round	A H H
NOVE Sat. Wed. Sat. Sat. Sat.	1 5 8 15 22	Leicester Oxford University Ebbw Vale W.R.U. Cup 1st Round Llanelli	H 16-10 H A	MAR Fri. Sat. Wed. Sat.	6 14 18 28	London Welsh Pontypool Penarth Newport (S.F. W.R.U. Cup	H A H p) A
Wed. Sat. DECE! Sat. Sat.	26 29 MBER 6 13	Newbridge Bangor (N.I.) Swansea London Welsh	A A	APRI Wed Sat. Sat. Sat. Sat.		S. Glam. Institute Bedford Swansea Barbarians Neath	H A H H

ATHLETIC XV FIXTURES

1986 SEPTI	EMBER		Hi Dala Shout	DECEMBER Sat. 6	Swansea Athletic	н
Wed.	3	Glamorgan Wanderers II	A 35-20	Wed. 10	Cardiff & District	H
Sat.	6	Kidwelly	H 36-16	Sat. 13	Risca	H
Wed.	10	Bristol United	H 23-27	Sat. 20	Neath Athletic	H
Sat.	13	Maesteg Celtic	H 20-16	Sat. 27	Bridgend Sports	Α
Wed.	17	Garndiffaith	A 25-9	1987		
Sat.	20	Coventry Extras	A 16-12	JANUARY		
Wed.	24	Old Illtydians	H 18-9		Manalay United	^
Sat.	27	Abercynon	H 35-20	Sat. 3	Moseley United	Α
				Sat. 10	Llanharan	A
OCTO	BER			Sat. 24	Bath United	H
Sat.	4	Newport United	A 43-30	Sat. 31	Pontypool United	H
Wed.	8	Bridgend Sports	H 28-29	FEBRUARY		
Sat.	11	Neath Athletic	A 25-31	Sat. 7	Bridgend Ravens	H
Wed.	15	Resolven	H 70-0	Wed. 11	Pencoed	H
Sat.	18	St. Peters	H Post.	Sat. 14	Bristol United	Α
Wed.	22	Pontypool Athletic	A 9-37	Sat. 21	Ebbw Vale Athletic	Α
Sat.	25	Tondu	A 10-23	MARCH		
Wed.	29	Pyle	A 12-23	Wed. 11	Pontypridd Athletic	Н
				Sat. 14	Pontypool Athletic	H
	MBER			Tue. 17	Abercynon	Α
Sat.	1	Leicester Extras	A 4-27	Wed. 25	Maesteg Celtic	A
Wed.	5	Newport Saracens	Α	Sat. 28	Newport United	Ĥ
Sat.	8	Ebbw Vale Athletic	H		Newport Officed	П
Wed.	12	Pontypridd Athletic	A	APRIL		
Sat.	15	Pontypool United	A	Sat. 4	Caerleon	H
Wed.	19	Bedwas	H	Wed. 8	Bedwas	Α
Sat.	22	Bridgend Ravens	A	Sat. 11	Swansea Athletic	Α
Wed.	26	Berry Hill	H	Wed. 15	Cardiff H.S.O.B.	Н
Sat.	29	Abercarn	Α	Mon. 20	Blackwood	H

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