

SPORT

EXPLOIT

INTERLUDE



SCIENCE

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scrap book

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TRAVEL

GREAT TRIES AT ARMS PARK

Cardiff's third over Newport after keen game

Cardiff beat Newport by 6 points to 3 after a grueling game at Arms Park to-day and thus gained their third victory of the season over the Usksiders.

The highlight of the game were the brilliant movements which lead to tries by the wings Haydn Morris (Cardiff) and Ken Jones (Newport).

There was brilliant sunshine and a large crowd. Cardiff had Haydn Morris, their brilliant left wing, back again. Alun Thomas occupying the right wing berth. J. D. Evans came into the front row and Des O'Brien's place at lock was taken by England and R.A.F. player E. L. Horsfall.

by
Observer

hard against Collins and Judd, the Cardiff experts.

Sustained pressure by Cardiff ended in Cliff Morgan bursting through the centre in a devastating manner, drawing the defence before passing to Horsfall who slipped the ball to C. D. WILLIAMS who crossed between the posts. Tamplin muffed an easy conversion.

Bob Hughes had a chance to reduce the arrears but a 40-yard penalty kick by the Newport full-back ended in the ball swerving across the posts.

Newport persisted and from a long pass from the ruck Malcolm Thomas gained possession.

He initiated a brilliant movement which ended in KEN JONES crossing for an easy try halfway out. Malcolm Thomas narrowly missed the conversion kick.

Half—Cardiff 0 2 6
Newport 0 1 3

On the change over exchanges were remarkably even, with both sides jockeying for position, and play for the main part was characterised by keen tackling and some hectic forward melees.

One of the best combined movements of the day was originated by Cliff Morgan, who ran like a ghost through the Newport backs before passing to Jack Matthews who put Alun Thomas away on the wing.

The Cardiff winger cross-kicked and things looked decidedly awkward for Newport until Bob Hughes nipped in, beat two or three opponents before clearing his harassed line.

A beautiful long service from Billy Williams to Burnett gave Newport a chance to stage an attacking movement, but the Newport outside half elected to kick rather than pass, and a promising movement was nipped in the bud.

A devastating cut through by Cliff Morgan had the crowd on its toes and Jack Matthews and Bleddyn Williams carried on the good work before passing to Alun Thomas, who went straight for the line.

It was only coolness on the part of Bob Hughes that saved Newport from being further in arrears.

Cliff Morgan intercepted a kick ahead by Roy Burnett, streaked through the spreadlegged Newport defence and gained a lot of ground before sending out a perfect pass to Alun Thomas, who went bullet-like for the line.

KEEN TACKLING

Frantic work ensued and eventually Bob Hughes emerged with the ball and kicked clear.

Then it was Newport's turn to attack and Ken Sargeant ran strongly on the left wing, but was well tackled by Alun Thomas and the ball was worked into safety.

Try as they may Newport could not get on terms, and "no-side" sounded with Cardiff winners of a gruelling, but rather disappointing, game with a narrow three points margin.

Final—Cardiff 0 2 6
Newport 0 1 3

COMMENTS

Cardiff again proved too good for their Newport rivals and deservedly won this afternoon, although the three points margin was a fair reflection of the difference between two good sides.

Newport, who made several changes, were not let down by their Newport United talent, L. Ford, D. Whelan and Rowlands working hard throughout the afternoon.

Both full backs were sound, while a feature of the afternoon was a duel between the two "flyers," Ken Jones and Haydn Morris.

Cliff Morgan won Cardiff's dangerous man and initiated many attacking movements.

Jack Matthews was in particularly good form, as was Alun Thomas and Judd. Williams and Collins were prominent forward for Cardiff.

Linesman Les Spence runs up with his flag aloft after Haydn Morris, the Cardiff wing, has been forced into touch near the Newport line by Ken Jones and R. D. Owen.



Haydn Morris makes welcome return

ONE of the most welcome items of news that Cardiff supporters have had for a long time was that Haydn Morris, the brilliant left-wing, was fit again and appeared first for the Athletic against Old Illydians last Saturday and the premier side against Newport this afternoon (writes Observer).

Originally advised to wear a plaster-cast for three months or more, Haydn consulted a specialist, who advised remedial treatment and special exercises, with the result that the "Cardiff flyer" is now fit and well again.

A great tribute to the skill of his medical advisers and to the persistence of the player himself, who was determined to play rugby again.

His unfortunate accident cost him a Welsh cap against the Springboks, for up to then he was easily the most prominent left wing in Welsh football, his speed and deceptive swerve resulting in many tries for his club.

One of the most valuable men in the Cardiff team this season has been Alun Thomas, whose all-round ability makes him the ideal "utility man."

His services to his club in this capacity might well be the reason for his omission from the Welsh team, as he is not given the chance of settling down in one position, and with the accent these days being on "specialist players," his versatility becomes Cardiff's gain and Wales' loss.

Utility man

With team-building operations in the air regarding the Welsh national side, the selectors would do well to remember this grand all-rounder who can play with ability in half-a-dozen different positions. . . . a valuable man to have in an international or club team. . . . ask Cardiff!

Gwyn Rowlands, the former London Hospitals player, who hit the headlines some time ago—he had dual qualifications and subsequent trials for both England and Wales—is now playing exceptionally well for the "Rags."

Another player who has been doing yeoman service of late with the Athletic side is England and R.A.F. forward E. L. Horsfall, who replaced Irish international lock - forward Des O'Brien against Newport this afternoon.

Garth Griffiths, the determined young Cardiff wing, scored a beautiful try against Swansea last week when playing for a representative R.A.F. XV. This effort was the highlight of the game and enabled the Services side to gain a creditable draw with the powerful All Whites.

TRIBUTE TO WALES AND CARDIFF CLUB

THE Springboks leave Britain to-morrow for France where they will complete their European tour before leaving for home. Here is their complete record for their games in Britain: Played 27, won 26, drawn nil, lost one, points for 499, against 143.

London Counties were the only team to beat them on the tour when they gained a two point victory at Twickenham on November 10. However, the Springboks consider Cardiff gave them their toughest game and in the clubhouse at the Arms Park on Saturday a Springbok head was presented to the club.



JACK MATTHEWS holding the Springbok head after the presentation at the Cardiff Athletic Club.

The manager, Col. Frank Melish, made the presentation on behalf of the South African tour party.

He said it was as much a tribute to the hospitality they had received in Wales as it was to the splendid football played by the Cardiff team.

The head was received by Messrs. H. Johnson (chairman) and Dr. J. Matthews (captain), and will be hung in the club's museum.

The Springboks' record was: Oct. 10—Hants and Sussex, won 31-8; Oct. 13—South-west Counties, won 17-8; Oct. 18—Pontypool and Newport, won 15-6; Oct. 20—Cardiff, won 11-9; Oct. 23—Llanelli, won 20-11; Oct. 27—North-western Counties, won 16-9; Oct. 31—Glasgow and Edinburgh, won 17-3.

burgh, won 43-11; Nov. 3—North-eastern Counties, won 19-3; Nov. 8—Cambridge University, won 30-0; Nov. 10—London Counties, won 9-11; Nov. 15—Oxford University, won 24-3; Nov. 17—Neath and Aberavon, won 22-0; Nov. 24—Scotland, won 44-0; Nov. 29—Northern Ireland, won 14-3; Dec. 1—Ulster, won 27-5; Dec. 8—Ireland, won 17-5; Dec. 11—Munster, won 11-6; Dec. 15—Swansea, won 11-3; Dec. 22—Wales, won 6-3; Dec. 23—Combined Services, won 24-8; Dec. 29—England, won 8-3; Jan. 6—England, won 12-8; Jan. 12—Western Counties, won 16-5; Jan. 14—West Midlands, won 19-8; Jan. 19—Southern Scotland, won 13-3; Jan. 26—Barbarians, won 17-3.

WESTERN MAIL 25/1/52

F.E.
12/1/52

B.B.C. refused permission to broadcast Newport—Cardiff match

By J. B. G. THOMAS

NEWPORT Rugby Club have informed the B.B.C. Welsh Regional Headquarters at Cardiff that they cannot grant their request for facilities to give a running commentary of the Newport v. Cardiff match at Rodney Parade on March 1.

This match will be the final meeting of the two clubs this season and will attract considerable interest. If Cardiff win it will be for the fourth time this season. Newport, who have experienced bad luck recently with injured players, will be all out to see that they don't.

The B.B.C. state that permission has been refused by the club since commentary on the match would deplete "gate" receipts.

Smaller clubs' plight

This is the first occasion on which Welsh club has refused to allow running commentary to be made from its ground. The last occasion the B.B.C. met with opposition was when permission was refused for Mr. G. V. Wynne-Jones to broadcast a commentary from any Welsh ground by the Welsh Rugby Union. Newport's action brings to a head a question that has been discussed for several years in Welsh Rugby circles. The smaller clubs were complaining, even before the war, that their "gates" suffered every time an international match was played, particularly out of Wales, as supporters preferred to listen to the commentary.

Rugby commentaries, like television, must affect club "gates" on occasions. Since the war, however, the Newport—Cardiff matches have never failed to draw a large crowd. In 1951 48,000 attended the match at the Arms Park, a world record for a club match.

Large crowd certain

The match at Newport on March 1 is bound to attract a large crowd as there are no international matches to act as radio counter-attractions. But it may be that Newport are making a stand on behalf of the smaller clubs. It will be interesting to see how the other Welsh clubs react to this decision.

Last night Mr. W. A. Everson, secretary of the Newport Club, told me: "The club has informed the B.B.C. that on the occasion of this match they regret that they cannot agree to a commentary being made. Owing to the abnormal number of running commentaries that have been given from Wales and the other countries this season, the 'gates' of the Newport and other clubs in Wales have been affected. Spectators stay at home to listen to commentaries, particularly in bad weather, and club 'gates' are affected."

WESTERN MAIL
23/1/52

Club's film show and Brains Trust

Cardiff Rugby Club are staging an anniversary night film show and "Brains Trust" for their members at the Technical College, Cardiff, to-night. It is timed to start at seven o'clock.

Ten short films of international Rugby games will be shown. These will be followed by a "Brains Trust," at which topical questions on the game will be put to the experts, Messrs. Danie Craven, Basil Kenyon, and B. S. Viviers, of the South African party, and Messrs. Jack Matthews, Bledwyn Williams, and W. B. Cleaver, of the Cardiff Club.

Mr. J. B. G. Thomas will represent the Welsh Press, and Mr. J. G. Fourie, the South African Press. Mr. Hubert Johnson, chairman of the Cardiff Club, will act as questionmaster.



MR. IVOR DAVID,

who has been appointed referee of the Ireland v. Scotland match at Dublin on Saturday, February 23. This is Mr. David's second international match of the season. He received considerable praise for his handling of the Scotland v. France match at Murrayfield on January 12.

SPRINGBOK HEAD FOR CARDIFF R.F.C.

By J. B. G. THOMAS

THE "Western Mail" is able to announce exclusively that Cardiff Rugby Club are to be presented with a Springbok head to-morrow evening after the match between the Barbarians and the South Africans.



Wales already has two Springbok heads. During the 1912-13 tour both Swansea and Newport defeated the Tourists. Cardiff beat the 1906-7 South Africans, but did not receive a head as a reward.

It will be presented to Mr. Hubert Johnson and Dr. Jack Matthews, representing the Cardiff Club, by Dr. Danie Craven, assistant manager, on behalf of the South African party.

The head was given to the official party by a South African enthusiast, and it was the unanimous wish of the Springboks that it should be presented to the Cardiff Club, since they gave the tourists such a hard game at the Arms Park. Indeed, after the game it was said that the "shadow" of the Springbok head adorned the Cardiff Club's museum.

There will be a special ceremony at the Athletic Club, where Dr. Craven will hand over the head and an official letter of congratulation, which is to be framed and hung beneath it.

This is a splendid gesture to the Cardiff Club, and the Springboks are to be congratulated on their sportsmanship. They were the first to admit that they were lucky at Cardiff in October!

Cardiff gave away a penalty in front of the post and HOOK made no mistake with the easiest of kicks.

JOHN TAYLOR put the home side further ahead with a magnificent try after a 60-yard run. Hook failed to convert.

Tamplyn went near with a penalty attempt for Cardiff. Cardiff swarmed to the attack, but found Hook and the home defenders rocklike in defence.

clever kick by Bleddyn Williams. FIERCE TUGGLE Gloucester were having slightly the better of the early exchanges although the Cardiff back division looked the more dangerous attacking force.

With the few chances which came their way a fumble by Cartmell ruined a nice Gloucester movement.

Play settled down into a fierce forward tussle, relieved by occasional individual sorties by Matthews and Morgan.

A GREAT TRY Gloucester went ahead when Cartmell gave away a penalty in front of the post and HOOK made no mistake with the easiest of kicks.

JOHN TAYLOR put the home side further ahead with a magnificent try after a 60-yard run. Hook failed to convert.

Tamplyn went near with a penalty attempt for Cardiff. Cardiff swarmed to the attack, but found Hook and the home defenders rocklike in defence.

ONE of the most spontaneous and heartfelt tributes ever paid to the Cardiff Rugby Club was made by Colonel Frank Mellish, the genial manager of the Springbok touring team, when, after the Barbarians-South Africa game at the Arms Park last Saturday, he presented to the club a Springbok-head trophy for "the side which gave us the best game!" (writes Observer).

Basil Kenyon, now happily recovered from his eye injury, was on hand to pay his compliments to the team which, as he said: "Had me hanging half-in, half-out of the grandstand, as I yelled encouragement to the boys in those hectic last minutes against Cardiff."

Hennie Muller, who took over Basil's duties as captain, has also gone on record as stating that against Cardiff, for the first time in his entire career, he asked the referee how much time was left to play... a fitting tribute from a grand sportsman to the fighting qualities of the "blue-and-blacks."

Although Cardiff were the first Welsh team to beat the Springboks (they defeated Paul Roos and his 1906 Springboks by 17-0) they were not presented with the Springbok head trophy, which was introduced as a symbol of victory by W. A. Millar and his second Springbok side in 1912.

Then both Swansea and Newport were successful against them and became proud owners of the "big game" trophy.

It is only fitting then that Cardiff should get one... there has long been a vacant place on the walls of the celebrated rugby museum.

Chatting to the South Africans before they left for France, I discovered that players who took their eye whilst in Wales were, notably, Bledwyn Williams, Rex Willis and wee Cliff Morgan, the incorrigible Cardiff fly-half.

Highest praise

Bledwyn Williams is easily the best centre they have played against, whilst the accomplished half-back pair of Willis and Morgan have earned the highest praise from players of the calibre of "Basie" Van Wyk, who should know (better probably than any one else in the Springbok hide) of the resilience and sturdiness under pressure of Willis and the bunny-scuttling pattern weaving of Cliff Morgan, who, in South African opinion, is going to be one of the stand-out performers of all time in a season or so.

The tour of the Union by Cardiff (now being bruited both here and in South Africa) would be a powerful finale to this epic 75th anniversary season, and I know the players themselves would relish the opportunity of a short tour.

Oxford and Cambridge recently made a similar trip with outstanding success, and the prospect of seeing the celebrated Cardiff team in action would mean capacity crowds wherever they played.

Half—Gloucester	116
Cardiff	000
*Penalty	

There was a sensational opening to the second half, when, after five minutes play, CARTMELL jinked through to score a good try. Hook converted.

Cardiff were n-eblysed by the tigerish spoiling of the Gloucester forwards and m-ual form.

Cardiff tried hard to get on terms and J. D. Evans and Good-fellow were prominent in some full-blooded forward rushes.

Bleddyn Williams put Haydn Morris away on the left, but a grand tackle by Taylor grassed the Cardiff flyer a yard from the line.

M. BAKER dropped a beautiful goal to clinch the issue and Cardiff were a thoroughly beaten side at the final whistle.

Final—Gloucester	314
Cardiff	000
*One dropped, one penalty.	

FOOTBALL ECHO 23/1/52

Alun Thomas celebrated his first cap for Wales by putting up an inspired performance against his old club, Swansea, last Saturday, and there were many at the Arms Park who would have dearly liked to have seen him in action against the Springboks... he certainly would have linked up better with the rest of the Welsh contingent than the uncomfortable Cannell.

Annual re-union

In pulling off the double against Swansea, Cardiff added to their long sequence of games without defeat (the last time they lost was against the Springboks... and then only by two points).

Early defeat before the side had really settled down, have spoiled what could have been a worthy 75th anniversary record. Even so, their performances to date are the envy of many clubs, every game being a derby encounter... to beat Cardiff being the ambition of all clubs.

The annual reunion of old players took place at the clubhouse last night when stars of yesterday met together to talk over those epic tussles which have gone to make up the club's stirring history.

This get-together, the second of its kind, was a great success, and the occasion is likely to become a very popular annual event, greatly appreciated and looked-forward to by many of the "old brigade."

One of the greatest players in the club's history is, unhappily, now seriously ill with pneumonia in Llandough Hospital, and all friends and admirers of Rhys ("Rusty") Gabe (and they must be legion) will join in the expressions of sympathy and encouragement now reaching his family.

Rhys Gabe, one of the most brilliant of Cardiff's galaxy of old-time stars, has been a regular figure at almost every big occasion in Welsh rugby history, and his friends everywhere wish him a speedy recovery from his illness.

FOOTBALL ECHO
2/2/52

Cardiff's first defeat for four months

Cardiff suffered their first defeat since going under to the Springboks by 2 points, on October 20, when they were beaten by 14 points to nil, at Gloucester, to-day.

Cardiff made two changes, Derek Murphy coming in for A. Thomas and V. Hinam deputising for Brian Marks.

Gloucester made one change, D. Hill taking J. Teakle's place at left centre. Teams: GLOUCESTER: W. Hook; J. Taylor; M. Baker, D. Hill, C. Crabtree; W. B. Cartmell; V. Davies; G. Hastings; C. Thomas; A. Wadley; H. G. Weiss; J. Watkins (capt.); D. Ebbelson; R. Hodge; G. Hudson.

CARDIFF: J. Llewellyn; D. Murphy; Jack Matthews, Bledwyn Williams, H. Morris; C. Morgan, V. Hinam; C. Davies; G. Becking-

by OBSERVER

ham, J. D. Evans, W. E. Tamplyn, M. Collins, S. Judd, P. Good-fellow, C. D. Williams.

Referee: Mr. R. A. Beattie, London.

Tamplyn kicked off for Cardiff, but Hook took play into the visitors' half with a long touch-down.

The packs were well matched with the heavier Gloucester eight showing up well in the loose. Cardiff hit back and forced play to the Gloucester line, thanks to a

COMMENTS Gloucester ended Cardiff's long run with defeat and thoroughly deserved their victory.

The big fast West Country forwards dominated the game from beginning to end and the Cardiff attacking machine never had a chance to click into gear.

Llewellyn, Evans, Cliff Davies and Beckingham tried hard but it was just not Cardiff's day.

FOOTBALL ECHO 23/1/52

Another French trip for Cardiff

CARDIFF R.F.C. will make their usual "over-the-Channel" visit to France this season for the game against old friends the Stade Nantais at the Parc de Proce, Nantes, on March 31 (writes Observer).

The present arrangements are that the party will fly over on March 28 and return on April 1.

This game, which is one of the highlights of the French club's football year, is one of the most popular fixtures on the Cardiff programme and is keenly anticipated by players and officials alike.

The "entente cordiale" between the two clubs is well established, and MM. Henri Pichet and Marcel Pedron, of the Nantes club, are life members of the Cardiff R.F.C.

Although Dai Davies, the Somerset policeman, is almost certain to retain the "hooking" berth for Wales against Ireland, it is an "open secret" that his successor as Wales's "striker" is likely to be the clever Cardiff player Geof Beekingham, who has stood by as reserve this season.

When John Phillips returns to the side next season Cardiff will be able to play two hookers in the front row, a state of affairs which is likely to give rise to severe "headaches" in rival camps!

The club are now at the head of the unofficial Welsh table and have not experienced defeat since October 20, when they lost a

narrow decision to the mighty Springboks 9-11.

Apart from sharing 22 points at Rosslyn Park on November 10 they have pursued their winning way ever since and their record to date is most inspiring:

P. W. L. D. For Agst.
31 25 5 1 359 136
which compares favourably with last season's full record:

P. W. L. D. For Agst.
45 34 6 5 480 192

Two bad patches

They struck two bad patches early in the season.

First in September, when they lost 0-5 to Aberavon, 3-6 to Neath and 12-14 to the British Lions, and in successive weeks in October, when they were beaten 9-11 in London by the Wasps and 9-11 by South Africa.

With 15 games left to play in two months (including the fourth of their annual series with Newport) they have a busy time ahead!

The lone Welsh selector present at the Arms Park last Saturday must have been suitably impressed with the performance of the strong Cardiff contingent for international honours, one of whom, Haydn Morris, took the opportunity of hammering home in no uncertain fashion his claim to the controversial left wing berth in the national side.

His four tries were similar in execution to those we saw earlier in the season, when Haydn was the most prolific scoring wing in Welsh football, and his success on Saturday must have helped to bolster up his confidence for the future.

FOOTBALL ECHO

23/3/52

Result of Jim Pursey's hard work all goes 'down the drain'

CARDIFF Athletic Club groundsman Jim Pursey is a small man only in stature. When it comes to knowing his job he is as big as most and greater than some.

That's why Jim has been annoyed about reports which appeared in certain sections of the Press recently criticising the new drainage system at Cardiff Arms Park.

In effect, the reports said the new drains were no better than those torn up during last summer and the slightest rainfall still leaves the pitch surface slippery.

Jim Pursey's reply is to the point. "It's rubbish," he said. "So much so that the rain-free days recently have raised my biggest headache to date."

"If the Arms Park does not get rain within seven days it will be too hard for players to fall and we will have to water it ourselves."

"The drains were opened for inspection last November," continued the irate Jim, "to check what amount of water was flowing through."

"Out of a nine-inch pipe seven inches of water flowed, and that's as near perfect as you can get."

Appreciation

There are 3,000 pipes under the Arms Park, and it took Jim Pursey and his staff nine weeks to lay them.

He designed the lay-out so that siltling of pipes, which was responsible for last year's mud baths, would be impossible.

So pleased was the Cardiff club with the way in which the job was done that they showed their appreciation with a substantial gift to Jim for his hard, willing and successful work.

One of the penalties of being a star rugby club is that every team encountered during the season makes it a point of honour to go all out to show up well against the "glamour boys" of the game.

FOOTBALL ECHO

1/3/52

Burn a success in Cardiff XV

FOOTBALL ECHO

29/3/52

THE performance of several Cardiff youngsters at Llanelly earlier in the week gave grounds for reasonable confidence in the near future (writes Observer).

Cliff Morgan proved that he is over the worst of the calf injury which kept him out of the Wales-France game, and made a popular (and extremely speedy) touch-judge for the game at Stradey Park.

The last-minute withdrawal of Alun Thomas for this tough game had the selectors in something of a dilemma, and young Mike Evans was again called in to fill the breach at centre.

Johnnie Burn, with only three games with the "Rags" behind him, was pitchforked into the second row as a substitute for Bill Tamplin and made a promising debut in first-class football.

The son of a former Cardiff forward stalwart, he has both the size and temperament for the second row and is likely to prove of value at the Arms Park.

Frank Trott, who has been out of the game most of the season with spinal trouble, has been hard at work training with the team and is expected to play at least one game before the season finishes.

On April 7 he takes a team to Tiverton and may take this opportunity of making a welcome "come-back" to first-class rugby.

Moments of glory

The "Rags" somewhat overshadowed by the spotlights which focus on the premier team, nevertheless have their own moments of glory and recently embarked

on a "tour" of their own when they made their annual visit to Toines, Devon.

The Toines trip is one of the highlights of the Athletic year, and Stan Bowes and his colleagues take full advantage of this outing and usually return with pleasant memories from the pleasant old Devon town.

The game, naturally, is the main reason for the outing, and this year's encounter was well and truly won by the visitors by 19 points to nil.

Before the game the team were given a civic reception and amused the crowd with a "Rag" procession around the ground in which an effigy draped in the famous blue-and-black colours was carried with musical accompaniment.

Skipper Bowes has some promising material in his reserve XV, and several of these are expected to make the grade in the premier side next season.

The recent "bad patch" experienced by the first XV has not affected the normal high spirits of the team, and with "live-wires" like the two Cliffs—Morgan and Davies—to while away the long coach trips and train journeys, the team usually gives the impression of not having a care in the world.

Let's hope this will be translated soon into some carefree rugby in the famous Cardiff tradition and that the team, with its injured stars back once again, can take their place once again as Wales's premier rugby club.

Cardiff create a new 'record'

WITH only Alun Thomas left in the Welsh national XV against France at St. Helen's, Swansea, this afternoon, Cardiff R.F.C.'s representation in the post-war international Welsh sides reached its lowest level (writes Observer).

For this sorry state of affairs, the gremlins which appear to be haunting the "blue and blacks" at the moment must get the major share of the blame.

But there is a silver lining to even the most ominous cloud and it was nice to see Frank Trott and Rex Willis exercising during a recent training night, an item of news that may well help to remove the wry taste in the mouths of most Cardiff followers these days.

The recent debacle against Neath saw the club reach the nadir of form this season, a performance to which the absence of the "all-star trio"—Bledyn Williams, Rex Willis and Cliff Morgan—contributed in great measure.

Alun Thomas, who filled the gap caused by Cliff Morgan's withdrawal from the Welsh national side for this afternoon's game at Swansea, had an unhappy time at outside half against Neath in trying to link up with his backs whilst playing behind a beaten pack.

The marauding Neath wing forwards, Elvet Jones and Brian Sparkes, thoroughly upset the new Mark-Thomas partnership and I think it would be difficult to assess the value of this pair on their performance against the All Blacks.

One of the nicest pieces of sportsmanship I have encountered was the "zen talk" given by Bledyn Williams during one of the weekly training sessions to one of our up-and-coming new internationals.

Fine gesture

The player was Alun Thomas, who had taken Bledyn's place in the Welsh team to meet Ireland in the all-important "Triple Crown" decider.

A fine gesture by a fine sportsman!

Young Martin Harvey, who took over Bledyn Williams's left centre position against Neath, was a trier all through, and with a little more first-team experience will prove a very valuable standby indeed.

Another "invalid" who is now



FRANK TROTT

back in harness is Arthur Hull, the hard-working prop forward, who turned out regularly for the first XV earlier in the season.

Arthur, who hails from Treorchy, was injured in the memorable Cardiff - Springboks match and is only being kept out of the first XV now by the splendid form of J. D. Evans, the former Mountain Ash player.

With the return of John Phillips next season there should be some hectic scrambling for positions in the Cardiff front row and the prospect of two "hookers" playing alongside each other is calculated to cause our referees some head-scratching!

Next Tuesday evening at the Cory Hall, Cardiff, there will be a special gala "Sporting Quiz" in which stars of rugby, cricket and speedway will be in attendance.

The question-master will be colleague "Citizen" and the rugby "Brains Trust" will consist of Des O'Brien, the popular Cardiff and Ireland forward, Bledyn Williams, Cardiff and Welsh international centre, Ivor David, one of the best referees now officiating, and J. B. G. Thomas, rugby critic of the Western Mail.

Quite a galaxy of talent... let's hope the questions are as good!

FOOTBALL ECHO

22/3/52

Cardiff Athletic upset the 'cycle'

Neath complete double over Cardiff

IN the excitement and jubilation following Cardiff's Rodney Parade success last week against traditional friends and rivals Newport, the achievement of Cardiff Athletic in beating Newport United at the Arms Park passed almost without comment.

But it was no mean feat, for it ended the powerful United's long reign of success since the Athletic last won by a dropped goal to a try (4-3) at the Arms Park as long ago as November 8, 1947.

Success and failure have run in cycles for these "junior rivals" since the war.

Cardiff Athletic swept aside all opposition in the immediate post-war period and won the six games from 1945 to 1948.

Then followed an interlude in 1948-49 when the sides never met, and when battle commenced in season 1949-50 Newport United opened with their first post-war win and became undisputed rulers of the "roost," winning six matches in succession.

This turning point for Newport was a 14-11 win at Rodney Parade, and since then Cardiff's "Rags" have been unable to score a point in five matches against the capable Newport reserves.

But last Saturday was Redemption Day for the Athletic. In winning 8-3 they upset the "cycle" and atoned for two earlier defeats this season 6-0 and 14-0, both at Rodney Parade.

Another honour

Cardiff's feat in beating the Uskiders for the fourth time in a season must have caused skipper Dr. Jack Matthews a great deal of pleasure.

Apart from joining the famous trio, Selwyn Biggs (1897-98), Percy Bush (1905-06) and Haydn Tanner (1947-48), all captains of Cardiff sides with four wins in a season against Newport, he set the seal on a wonderful 75th anniversary season for his club.

As if that was not enough, the popular Cardiff skipper gained yet another honour for himself and for his club when he was selected to lead the famous Barbarians XV in the Mobbs Memorial Match at Northampton on Thursday.

Another player who turned out in that game was Sid Judd, the blind side wing forward, who thus gains an international cap, a distinction which many knowledgeable followers of the game consider is very much overdue as far as Judd is concerned.

The masterly display by the so-called Cardiff veterans Jack Matthews and Bleddyn Williams at Newport must have caused many erstwhile critics of the international pair to reconsider their somewhat premature conclusions that they were both finished in international football.

Matthews' own opening try was a beauty, with most of the credit for the preliminary spawework going to another "old faithful," Bill Tamplin, whose experience and goal-kicking talent make him the real cornerstone in the successful Cardiff pack.

The presence of three such experienced players as Cliff Davies, Bill Tamplin and Des O'Brien in the front, second and back rows respectively is the secret of the rise to fame this season of such youngsters as Geoff Beekingham, Gower Jenkins, J. D. Evans, A. Hull, Malcolm Collins,

Sid Judd and Derek Williams, all of whom have benefited from playing alongside such accomplished performers.

Full marks

Young Brian Mark, too, earned full marks for his display against Newport and linked up well with his international partner, Cliff Morgan.

Interested onlookers at this game were Rex Willis and Billy Williams, whose keen duels were the highlights of the previous three Cardiff-Newport tussles.

Rex has made a remarkable recovery from his accident, but is unlikely to play again this season, so that the success of his understudy, Brian Mark, must have been all the more welcome.

One thing is certain. Cardiff's well-deserved victory at Rodney Parade pleased no-one more than the scrum-half whom the Springboks described as the "best, not to mention the toughest" that they encountered during their recent triumphal tour of these islands.

John Llewellyn played soundly and appears to be a greatly improved full-back who would show up well in the most exalted company and seems well set on a course which should bring him international recognition in a season or two.

Peter Goodfellow had a difficult task in taking Des O'Brien's place at lock forward, and turned in a first-class performance which augurs well for the future when the popular Irish international "hangs up his boots."



Elvet Jones's try gave Neath a first-half lead against Cardiff to-day.

OBSERVER SUMS UP

Neath proved this afternoon that their earlier victory at the Gnuil was no flash in the pan when they handed out a decisive beating to a disjointed Cardiff side who never looked like getting on terms.

The splendid Neath pack, in which Roy John was the dominant force, laid the foundation for victory, and it was this superiority which decided the whole trend of the game.

The experiment of playing Alun Thomas at outside half was not a great success, and the Cardiff backs had little opportunity all afternoon of developing any concerted movements.

Viv Evans was superb at full-back for Neath and Wells was their best back.

The whole Neath pack played splendidly, and Thorley, Meredith and Sparks helped John to establish an early mastery.

Cardiff's form was too bad to be true, and, except for Llewellyn who had a very busy afternoon, and their forwards—Cliff Davies, Beekingham, Collins and C. D. Williams—they were a very unimpressive looking combination throughout.

Neath gained an early lead with a try by Elvet Jones, converted by Viv Evans, over Cardiff at Arms Park to-day.

The powerful All Blacks' pack, with Roy John a prominent figure, dominated play in the first half and the home defence was often hard pressed.

OBSERVER

Collins was only just inches short with a 35-yard penalty attempt.

Roy John was in formidable form for Neath and his tall figure dominated play in the lines-out and in the loose.

The powerful Neath pack bulldozed their way to within striking distance of the Cardiff line on several occasions and it was only good defensive work by Llewellyn and Derek Williams that kept them out.

Play was inclined to be rather scrappy, with few concerted movements coming from either side.

Elvet Jones was not far off the target with a long-range penalty kick.

Cardiff tried hard to get on terms and Alan Thomas, Harvey and C. D. Williams attempted individual breaks through but found the Neath full-back Viv Evans in sound form.

The All Blacks forward superiority was well defined and for long periods Cardiff were penned in their own half with the tear-away Neath eight, led by Roy John, hammering away incessantly at their sorely pressed defences.

Half—Neath	1	0	5
Cardiff	0	0	0

Cardiff started off the second half with some of the dash and spirit so sadly lacking earlier in the game, and Alan Thomas cut through cleverly to initiate a strong attacking movement on the right which ended when Murphy succumbed to the force of numbers.

With the tempo of the game accelerating the crowd were treated to some wholehearted play by both sides.

The Cardiff pack, in particular, played with much more devil than they had previously exhibited.

Neath, however, went further ahead when ELVET JONES put over a magnificent long-range penalty.

CARDIFF RATTLED

Neath were now going great guns and were well on top in most phases of play.

For long periods Cardiff were a very rattled side, indeed, handling and kicking being particularly untidy.

The pack in which Cliff Davies, Collins and Beekingham were splendid grafters, tried desperately all the time, but there was a decided lack of cohesion in the Cardiff back division.

Alan Thomas, Matthews and Harvey were always striving to find loopholes in the strong Neath defence, but found Viv Evans and company in splendid form.

Malcolm Collins again missed a chance of reducing the leeway when a spasmodic Cardiff rush had taken play to the visitors' 25.

Final—Neath	2	1	11
Cardiff	0	0	0

A bad kick by Alun Thomas gave Neath a glorious chance of going further ahead, but Llewellyn pluckily threw himself at the feet of the oncoming forwards to save an awkward situation and an almost certain score.

Neath, however, would not be denied and it was no surprise when G. Wells brushed aside a half-hearted tackle by Harvey, raced to the left and put JOHN THORLEY over for a good try which Viv Evans failed to improve.

Final—Neath	2	1	11
Cardiff	0	0	0
One penalty			



Forwards jump for the ball in a line-out near the Neath goal-line in to-day's game at Cardiff Arms Park.

FOOTBALL ECHO
8/3/52

FOOTBALL ECHO
15/3/52

FOOTBALL ECHO 15/3/52

Matthews ignored odds —shocked 'Tigers'

FOOTBALL
ECHO
5/4/52

THERE must be quite a number of red and burning ears in South Wales at the moment, the owners of which are the highly-vocal element who have long written off Jack Matthews, the Cardiff centre, as a spent force in Welsh rugby.

Last Saturday the chunky, hard-as-nails skipper played the game of his life to revitalise his depleted forces and pull off the seemingly impossible—a win against the powerful Leicester side—when all the odds seemed stacked against him.

Loyalty to his club caused Cliff Morgan to play too soon after a strained calf muscle injury and the injured tendon was again damaged. The brilliant little Rhondda-born wizard was carried from the field just before half-time.

One man short and with the gale-force wind to face, Cardiff's fate seemed sealed. Then came the Matthews-inspired effort which brought quick tries by Haydn Morris and Derek Williams to shock the "Tigers" and clinch the issue.

No one played harder than Gareth Griffiths, who looks to have the qualities necessary for first-class rugby, and his display last Saturday thawed a little of the chill that had settled round the hearts of Cardiff followers recently.

With the Cardiff captain taking up the outside-half berth in place of the injured Morgan, Derk Williams was brought out of the pack to play at left centre.

Fine kicking

The Oxford "Double Blue" seemed to fit in nicely in the improvised Cardiff back division, and his speed, tackling and football know-how may well serve his club in the future as a utility centre.

The return of the burly Magor policeman, Bill Tamplin, made all the difference in the world to the pack and his magnificent place-kicking under the most difficult of conditions had a great deal to do with the ultimate victory.

His conversion of Haydn Morris's opportunistic try in the second-half was a prodigious

effort in the teeth of a sleet-laden gale, and will rank with the best performances of the season of such "ace" kickers as Okey Giffin, Lewis Jones, Ben Edwards and Cheltenham's Tom Price (who playing for a scratch XV kicked a remarkable penalty against Aberavon earlier in the season).

Hooker Geoff Beekingham this season has won the admiration of many fans, and his untiring display on Saturday was typical of this fine player.

The news that popular Des O'Brien, the Cardiff and Ireland lock-forward, has decided to retire at the end of the season will be regretted by many rugby enthusiasts who consider this year's Irish captain to be the best player in the lock position in the four countries.

Fortunately, Cardiff have in young Peter Goodfellow a most promising deputy, and the Judd-Goodfellow-C. D. Williams back row looks likely to be the Cardiff line-up for many seasons to come.

His friends will be glad to learn that Rhys T. Gabe, the brilliant Cardiff centre of the "golden era" of Welsh rugby football, has recovered from his recent serious illness and intended being present at last Saturday's game at the Arms Park.

The weather, however, was too bad to allow this, and he is likely to wait until Easter brings a little sunshine and the Baa-Baas gambolling at the Arms Park.

WESTERN MAIL
7/4/52

CARDIFF DEFENCE HELD BRIDGEND

Bridgend, 2-0-6; Cardiff, 12-0-6

* One penalty, one dropped.

† Two penalty goals.

REPEATED onslaughts by the fiery Bridgend forwards in the second half, with the wind and sun behind them, almost brought them victory over Cardiff.

But a draw was the fair result to a hard-fought game in which defences proved too strong for brightly-executed threequarter attacks.

When the redoubtable Jack Matthews, playing at outside-half, set the Cardiff attacking machine in motion with speedy bursts from the scrums the Bridgend defence, playing well up, broke promising movements with close marking and effective tackling.

The Cardiff centres, Alun Thomas and Gareth Griffiths, always dangerous in possession, were not allowed sufficient freedom by their opposite numbers. Marcus Pearce and Howard Nicholls, while Gwyn Llewellyn, the home outside-half, was also prominent with some fine tackling and covering work. Llewellyn made some perfect kicks to touch.

Of the wingers, Haydn Morris, what little chances came his way, was obviously the fastest, and got past Lionel Emmitt several times. Emmitt, however, displayed fine determination in going for the line, despite being injured on three occasions. He gave a plucky performance.

Two good packs fought throughout for supremacy, with honours to Bridgend in the set scrums (Rhys Loveluck had the better of his duel with George Beekingham), and greater credit to the taller Cardiff forwards in line-out work. Of the forwards, Stan Judd, Des O'Brien and Malcolm Collins were conspicuous for Cardiff, and Terry Coote, John Brown, Ivor Jones and Harry Jennings for Bridgend.

Cardiff's only score in the first half was a penalty goal by W. E. Tamplin after five minutes. The same player added a second penalty goal after the interval, the ball striking an upright and bouncing over. A few minutes later Billy Morgan reduced the arrears with a penalty goal, and Bridgend got on level terms with a superb dropped goal from over 45 yards by Gwyn Llewellyn. Bridgend strove hard for a decisive score, and got very near, but the Cardiff defence remained unbroken.

Ontario Rugby Union interested in Cardiff

THE fame of the Cardiff club in the rugby world is pretty well established, but it comes as a pleasant surprise to receive evidence that the "blue-and-blacks" reputation as "Rugby's No. 1 outfit" (as one American sports-columnist describes them) is gaining ground in countries where the game is still in its infancy.

The action of Mr. Hubert Johnson, club chairman, in sending out rugby literature and offers of advice and help to the newly-formed Ontario Rugby Union has brought a warm letter of thanks.

"Although at the moment the Ontario Rugby Union is not ready to take on a team of the calibre of Cardiff our following is growing and, given a few years, we'll be more than willing to take you on!" writes Mr. S. Milne, the union's publicity manager.

The famous club fifth anniversary programme, issued for the Cardiff-British Lions game, has been well received in Canada, and Ted Reeve, of the "Toronto Telegram," one of the most popular sporting scribes in the Dominion, has quite a lot to say about it in his column.

Pointing out that although Cardiff attracted 50,000 to their gala game with the British Isles touring team, there was a time, in 1876-77, when their crowds were smaller than those of the Harlequins and other Ontario Union clubs.

Missouri 'exile'

"Sol" says this famous columnist" give us 75 years and watch our smokes!

Another letter, this time from Missouri, brings a request for aid from yet another rugby enthusiast (this time Blaengarw-born Capt. R. E. Davies, of the U.S. Army) who needs a book on rugby (preferably by a Welshman) to help him in his coaching activities with the Missouri Rugby Union.

Once again, Cardiff offer help and an autographed rugby textbook by ex-Cardiff and Wales skipper, Haydn Tanner, together with an autographed ball given by genial Jim Pursey, the Arms Park groundsman, are on their way to Missouri (Another example of the ever-helping hand of Wales's premier club.

This "helping-hand" characteristic was well in evidence at Bridgend last Saturday, when Cardiff paid their first official post-war visit to the Bandstand Field in a game which attracted a record crowd and will give the a welcome financial boost.

Cardiff skipper, Jack Matthews, himself a product of Bridgend rugby, received a special cheer, and it was fitting that in a very even 6-6 draw, the outstanding players on the home side were both former Cardiff players—Howell Greenslade and Gwyn "Dasher" Llewellyn.

WESTERN MAIL
23/4/52

Lloyd was "star"

Falmouth, 1-0-3; Cardiff, 0-2-6

* Penalty.

TREVOR LLOYD, scrum-half for Maesteg, who are touring Cornwall, was a guest player for Falmouth as his club had no fixture last evening.

Falmouth owed him a debt of gratitude, for he was the mainstay of their defence and attack and, mainly due to him, in the first half Cardiff only neared the home 25 line twice.

D. Murphy made several determined rushes on the right wing only to see his efforts nullified by the Falmouth full-back, D. Kneebone.

Midway through the first half D. McLeod put Falmouth ahead with a 45-yard penalty, S. Bowles failing to equalise with a similar kick soon afterwards.

Towards the end of play D. James equalised with an unconverted try, and to round off the scoring G. Beekingham touched down for a further unconverted try after he had cut through and beaten three men to the line. D. Murphy failed to convert both tries.

Cardiff were the last team to defeat Bridgend and last week's draw proved that the Llyngh Valley side are worthy opponents and may figure soon on the Cardiff official fixture list.

In this game Arthur Hull, the Treorchy-born prop forward, made a welcome return to the side in



ARTHUR HULL

place of Cliff Davies who was unfit.

Arthur last played for Cardiff in the memorable Cardiff-Springboks game on October 20, and received an injury which has kept him out of football ever since.

He fitted nicely into the scheme of things and he and his partner, John Evans, appear to be first-class material for the future.

The experiment of playing Jack Matthews as outside half intrigued the large crowd who were quick to notice that over 25 yards or so, the Cardiff skipper can still hold his own with anyone in Welsh football.

There was a noticeable improvement in the spirit of the team and the pack, with veterans Tamplin and O'Brien back once again, played grandly throughout.

Young Brian Mark showed up well in opposition to the knowledgeable Greenslade and seems to improve with every appearance in the first team colours.

At the Arms Park on Saturday the Athletic side were hosts to a North Wales side, Wrexham, and playing with a white ball were victors in the end by 22 points to eight.

The North Walesians gave a creditable display and at one time were leading by eight points to three.

Then skipper Stan Bowes rallied his men and the Cardiff backs, previously starved, came into their own with a second half spate of scoring.

Another souvenir

Gwyn Rowlands shone in a new role — that of goal-kicker — and put over two splendid long-range penalties as well as converting two tries.

It was a meritorious debut for the North Wales XV and they will be welcome guests at the Arms Park in the future.

REX WILLIS PLAYS FOR CARDIFF

Penzance and Newlyn, 1-0-5; Cardiff, 2-0-10

REX WILLIS, the Welsh international scrum-half, who broke his jaw playing for Wales against Scotland, returned to football last night when he played for Cardiff at Penzance.

He supplied his backs with a splendid service.

Despite a high wind and rain there was plenty of open play. The "Pirates" started well, scrum-half P. Mitchell scoring a good try after five minutes, which I. Barnes converted.

Just before the interval Cardiff equalised. After a grand break-through by Jack Matthews, playing at stand-off, left wing G. Griffiths touched down and W. Tamplin converted.

Cardiff got into their stride in the second half—and stormed the "Pirates" line. From a scrum on the Penzance 25" right wing D. C. Murphy kicked ahead and touched down. Tamplin again converted.

WESTERN MAIL
14/4/52

RAGGED PLAY AT CARDIFF

Cardiff, 1-1-6; Northampton, 1-0-3

* Penalties.

Attendance 4,000.

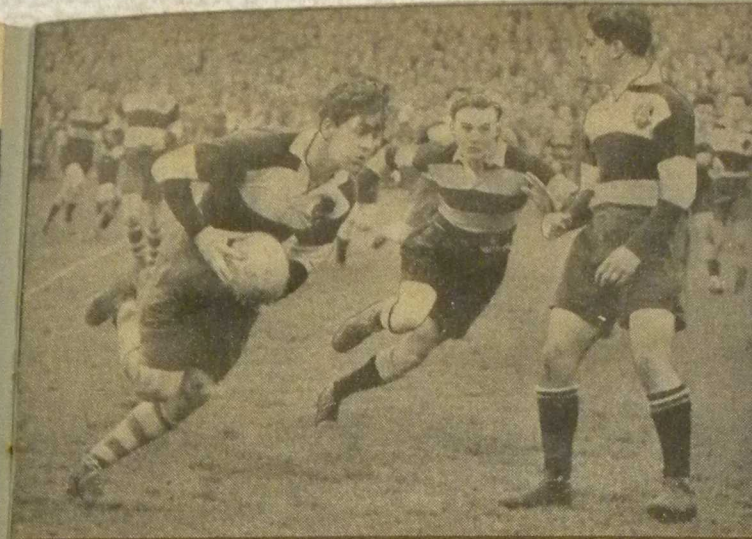
AN unusual number of penalty awards, rugged, ragged forward play, and half-speed back movements were the end-of-season mixture at the Cardiff Arms Park yesterday when Cardiff beat Northampton by a three-point margin.

After M. Collins had landed an early Cardiff penalty goal from an easy position Northampton set a gruelling forward pace, and with their good loose heeling and line-out work gave the home pack a bustling time. However, like the game generally, they lost their fire, and Cardiff's pack, with P. Goodfellow, S. Judd, and M. Collins in the van, worked effectively in the second half.

Cardiff were slow to match Northampton's brisk line-out technique—T. H. Woolnough and G. Pickford were clever jumpers—but eventually applied counter-measures, and most line-outs developed into heaving mauls.

Still, with both scrum-halves handicapped by fast-breaking forwards it was not surprising that back play did not conform to the accepted holiday pattern.

Following Collins's penalty goal Goodfellow seized a chance to dive on a loose ball over the visitors' line for a try after Judd had burst away from a scrum in Northampton's 25. Only score of the second half was a penalty goal from in front of the posts by D. P. White, Northampton's skipper.



M. P. Hardy making a break for the Cardiff line in the Barbarians' Easter game at Arms Park.

FOOTBALL ECHO 12/4/52

Cardiff's hard fight to beat Pontypool

Cardiff beat Pontypool by 14 points to 11 after a hectic struggle, featured by some spectacular tries, at Cardiff Arms Park to-day.

Cardiff's last home game of the season attracted a large crowd, who were able to while away the waiting moments in watching an exhilarating tussle between Cardiff Youth and Bridgewater Youth, which ended in a win for the former by two goals three tries (19pts.) to three goals (one penalty) (19pts.).

Both sides made one last-minute change, R. Prosser standing down from the Pontypool side and Brian Mark playing instead of Rex Willis at scrum half for Cardiff.

Cardiff: J. Llewellyn; Derek Murphy, Gareth Griffiths, D. James, Haydn Morris, Jack Matthews (capt.), Brian Mark; J. D. Evans, Geoff Beekingham, Cliff Davies, W. E. Tampion, M. Collins, C. D. Williams, D. J. O'Brien, Sid Judd.

Pontypool: Len Arnold; Johnny Jones, J. Davies, Don Prosser, Dave Richards; G. Jones, A. G. Smith; D. Dando, W. Parfitt, C. Lewis, J. Bryant, R. Baker, Colin Howe, T. Matthews (capt.), and Allen Forward.

Referee: Mr. D. C. Joynson, Rogerstone.

Straight from the start Cardiff swept to the attack and Matthews made ground before putting Haydn Morris away for a strong run on the left which Arnold halted with a sound tackle.

Pontypool fought back with spirit, and Jack Davies and Don Prosser were prominent with some spirited bursts down the middle.

Cardiff opened their score after 10 minutes when Jack Matthews put in a characteristic mid-field thrust and made a lot of ground before transferring to GARETH GRIFFITHS, who scored a fine try near the posts. Tampion, however, failed to convert from a comparatively easy position.

Haydn Morris had a splendid chance to put Cardiff further ahead when he essayed a break-away on the left wing, but a sound tackle by Johnny Jones spoiled this determined Cardiff thrust.

Judd was prominent for Cardiff in the loose, and a purposeful attempt by the Cardiff blind-side forward to bustle his way through was foiled by sound Pontypool defensive work.

Griffiths, James and Matthews were always attempting to initiate Cardiff attacking movements.

Pontypool, however, swarmed to the attack, and following good work by Forward and W. Parfitt, the latter gave JOHNNY JONES a neat pass for the Pontypool right wing to level the scores, Arnold failing with the kick.

Cardiff soon regained the lead when following splendid work by Murphy, who robbed a Pontypool back of the ball, D. JAMES dribbled over for a try, which Tampion converted.

BRAVE SAVE.

Colin Howe was getting a fair share of the strike but kept a



Gareth Griffiths, who scored a fine try for Cardiff at the Arms Park to-day.

ling and spilling by the Cardiff wing forwards, with Derek Williams especially prominent, negated Glyn Jones's attempts to put his thrives away.

Len Arnold saved what looked like a certain score when he went down bravely at the feet of a spirited Cardiff forward rush. Dave Richards, the Pontypool left wing, caught Cardiff on the wrong foot and beat man after man before his final pass went astray.

Cardiff maintained their pressure and Gareth Griffiths broke through the centre in brilliant style and when confronted by Arnold slipped a pass to DEREK WILLIAMS, who sprinted over for a spectacular try which Tampion failed to convert.

Half—Cardiff 1 2 11

Pontypool 0 1 3

Straight from the restart Cardiff piled on the pressure, and Matthews put Derek Murphy away for a scintillating run on the right which ended inches short of the Pontypool line.

From a quick line-out Collins bustled over and grounded the ball, but the referee, after consultation with the linesman, adjudged that it was no score. Pontypool were full of fight, and Len Arnold very nearly reduced the arrears with a long-distance penalty attempt, the ball hitting the crossbar.

Pontypool were not to be denied, and after good work by Jack Davies and Don Prosser DAVE RICHARDS, their left wing, crossed for a splendid try which Arnold converted from a most difficult position.

by
OBSERVER

WHOLEHEARTED FIGHT

There was little of the "end of the season" staleness about either side and Pontypool, with Parfitt, Matthews and Forwood always in the picture, were putting up a particularly whole-hearted fight.

Len Arnold was only inches wide with a 40-yard penalty kick and Glyn Jones, their clever young outside half, went through the Cardiff defence like a hot knife through butter before being well tackled by Griffiths inches short of the harassed home line.

Jones, with his body swerve and tricky running, was a rare handful for his opposite number and time and again made ground in spectacular fashion.

The forward battle was particularly severe, with the Gwent side sharing the honours with the Cardiff pack.

Jack Matthews tried a tentative drop goal, but Len Arnold caught and cleared to safety.

Splendid work by Tampion and Judd enabled COLLINS to cross for another try which Tampion failed to convert.

Allen Forward and Cyril Lewis interpassed cleverly and the very near to the Cardiff line.

A minute later a Pontypool offensive was ruined when Dave Richards dropped a pass from Jack Davies which would have meant a certain score.

Just on time COL HOWE, the Pontypool hooker, crossed for a try which Arnold failed to convert.

Final—Cardiff 1 3 14
Pontypool 1 2 11

COMMENTS

This was a really entertaining tussle with Pontypool striving to the very last to get on terms with their powerful Cardiff rivals.

Cardiff won through by their superiority behind the scrum, and with Matthews and Mark hitting off a happy partnership their three had rather more of the ball.

Cardiff's young centres, James and Griffiths, were well in the picture and in their back no-one was more prominent than Des O'Brien—making his last appearance before a Cardiff crowd.

Arnold was soundness personified for Pontypool at full back, and in Dave Richards and Glyn Jones they had two backs with plenty of ideas.

Jones, an 18-year-old Llanhilleth mineworker, showed great promise and was always in the picture with his deceptive swerve.

Parfitt, Howe and Allen Forward were the best of the Pontypool forwards.

This was Cardiff's seventh game in 14 days, and they did well to come out of this tussle as winners of a game which rang down the curtain on the rugby season at the Arms Park in a fitting manner.

FOOTBALL ECHO 24/4/52

Cardiff's understudies earn bouquets

IT was not surprising that after the busy holiday programme there were signs of staleness and leg-weariness about the Cardiff team when they wound-up their Easter rugby parade with a dull 6-3 win against Northampton (writes Observer).

This 75th anniversary season has placed a heavy burden on players and the mounting toll of injuries stresses the price that has to be paid for the reputation of being Wales's premier club.

The outstanding performance of skipper Jack Matthews in the unusual outside half role has been the main topic of discussion this week in rugby circles, but young Brian Mark, too, has come in for some bouquets from knowledgeable rugby folk.

I overheard a Harlequins supporter commenting: "They certainly can find 'em in this part of the world," and the resilience and resource of the deputy scrum half appealed to Northampton supporters as well.

The performance of the youthful centre pair—Martin Harvey and Gareth Griffiths—in the Barbarians game was most heartening and the purposeful tackling of the former and the virile break-throughs by the latter augur well for the future.

Cliff Davies and Bill Tampion have been figuring in some excellent games recently, and the return of the shrewd pack-leader had a great bearing on his side's unexpected triumph over the Barbarians.

Enjoys tough going

Cliff has been playing with his customary gusto and seems to thoroughly enjoy himself when the going gets tough.

The absence (for various reasons) of established first team stars has given many youngsters the chance of getting first class

FOOTBALL ECHO 19/4/52

CARDIFF WIN KEEN GAME AT PLYMOUTH

Cardiff beat Plymouth by 9 points to 5 after a keen struggle at Plymouth to-day.

Cardiff fielded one of their strongest teams in overcast weather at Beacon Park to-day.

Because of ear trouble Len Gibbs, the Plymouth captain, was unable to turn out and Peter Luffman captained the home XV.

Cardiff made three late changes—M. Harvey for Alun Thomas at left centre, G. Rowlands for H. Morris at left wing, and J. D. Nelson for D. J. O'Brien in the pack.

PLYMOUTH: P. M. Luffman (capt.); G. F. Crimp, R. Hosen, J. L. Beamish, G. H. Martin; D. Luffman, L. L. Williams; R. Ruston, Les Semmens, G. Jeffery, D. Bowden, L. S. Harter, M. Gibson, R. F. Wiltshire, W. Tantrum.

CARDIFF: J. Llewellyn; D. C. Murphy, G. Griffiths, M. Harvey, G. Rowlands; Jack Matthews (capt.), B. Mark; Cliff Davies, G. Beekingham, J. D. Evans, W. E. Tampion, M. Collins, C. D. Williams, J. Judd, J. D. Nelson.

Plymouth handled nicely but play was delayed while the Cardiff captain, Dr. Jack Matthews, gave professional attention to Gibson, one of the home forwards who got a speck of grit in his eye.

Plymouth kept up the pressure but Llewellyn brought relief with a nice touch finder. Both sides showed a tendency to keep the game close.

Then surprisingly Cardiff took the lead when in a forward rush C. D. WILLIAMS went over for a try but Tampion failed with the kick.

After this Cardiff tried to open up the game but a good handling movement was spoiled when right centre Griffiths dropped a pass from scrum half Mark.

A slip by the Welsh defence almost let Tantrum in, Llewellyn rushed over to clear in the nick of time.

Cardiff were by no means having matters their own way and Plymouth were showing plenty of life.

Nelson, the Cardiff wing forward, checked another Plymouth raid. Then, five minutes from the interval, G. ROWLANDS improved Cardiff's lead with an unconverted try.

Almost with the last move of the half MARTIN, the Plymouth left wing, snapped up a pass to dash over in the corner. Hosen converting.

Half—Cardiff 0 2 6
Plymouth 1 0 5

Cardiff did the bulk of the attacking after the interval.

Rowlands made a brilliant left wing run, but when about to be tackled punted ahead and the ball went dead.

For a scrum infringement Plymouth were penalised and TAMPIN scored from the resulting kick.

Cardiff had chances of improving their score in the closing stages but Tampion twice failed with penalty kicks from near the half-way line.

Final—Cardiff 1 2 9
Plymouth 1 0 5
One Penalty.

FOOTBALL ECHO 19/4/52

Cardiff discovered glory in 75th anniversary year

ill-health debarred him from taking very much part in the ensuing programme.

Geoff Beckingham, who came into the side in his place, made a fantastic rise to fame and was reserve hooker in all Wales's international encounters. Another player I expect to represent Wales next season.

Cliff Davies added the extra touch of experience to the front row and inspired several youngsters in the other prop position to even greater efforts. D. Evans and Gower Jenkins all fitted into the scheme of things nicely.

The scorers

Records of the two teams are:

First XV.

	Points		
P. W. L. D. For Agst.			
46 34 9 3 465 235			

Athletic XV.

	Points		
P. W. L. D. For Agst.			
31 23 6 2 344 175			

Chief scorers

First XV: Tries.—Haydn Morris (25), Bledwyn Williams (11), Derek Murphy and C. D. Williams (9 each), Jack Matthews and Sid Judd (7 each), Alun Thomas (6), Gareth Griffiths, Malcolm Collins and J. D. Nelson (5 each), Mike Evans (4), Cliff Morgan (2 each), Horstall and D. J. James (2 each), Cliff Davies, Geoff Beckingham, Peter Goodfellow, Arthur Halls, Brian Mark, Des O'Brien and Gwyn Rowlands (one each).

Bill Tamplin kicked 22 penalties and 26 conversions; Malcolm Collins, 5 penalties and 7 conversions; John Llewellyn, 2 converted goals, and Frank Trott one converted goal.

Athletic XV: Tries.—Hugh Goodfield and Denis Murphy (7), Gwyn Rowlands and J. B. Neagle (6), Paul Ash (5), Martin Harvey (4), E. M. Cooke, Alan Greedy, J. D. Nelson, D. J. Walsh and Glyn Williams (3 each), B. Mapstone, Mike Evans, Peter Goodfellow, V. Hinam, E. L. Horstall, D. J. James and Brian Mark (2 each), A. Barter, T. Burns, H. Comelton, F. C. Ferguson, Arthur Halls, T. W. Jones, Dudley Owen, B. Speke, C. Hewitt and Vaughan Williams (one each).

Vaughan Williams kicked one dropped goal; Alan Friday, 7 penalties and 22 conversions; Garfield Owen, 5 penalties and 6 conversions; Hugh Goodfield, 1 penalty, and Gwyn Rowlands, 5 penalties and 3 conversions.

FOOTBALL ECHO

3/5/52

A PLETHORA of injuries to star players ruined Cardiff's chances of celebrating the club's 75th anniversary season with an undefeated record but, nevertheless, 1951-52 will rank in Mr. Dannie Davies's archives as one of the greatest years in the history of the famous "blue-and-blacks." (writes Observer).

The season started off in great style with the exhilarating game against the British Isles touring team—the Lions—and although Cardiff narrowly lost by 14-11 the quality of the football displayed augured well for the future.

The club achieved its greatest glory in the memorable match against the fourth South African touring team—the Springboks—and few who were present at that epic encounter will forget that Ochse try in the closing minutes of the game which snatched certain victory from an inspired Cardiff XV.

Four in row

The club's feat in achieving "four in a row" against Newport was particularly pleasing to skipper Jack Matthews, and, in my opinion one of the best games seen at the Arms Park all the season was the thrill-crammed first Cardiff-Newport tussle which was an exhibition of modern rugby football at its brightest and best.

Injuries were the biggest "headache" with which the selectors were confronted (unless it was the phenomenal demand for "big game" tickets which characterised the international season at the Arms Park), and several of the club's outstanding

performers were absent as a result in several important games.

Cliff Morgan (who had a wonderful international season) started off as a casualty and missed the opening games. Unhappily, his injury in the "Triple Crown" decider in Dublin put him out of action for the rest of the club's programme.

Frank Trott, who announced his retirement on Tuesday, was also badly injured early on and Cardiff were lucky to find in young John Llewellyn a capable deputy.

Another star performer who was in the "wangs" all through the season was Bledwyn Williams, who suffered first a face injury and then a fractured arm, and his absence thoroughly upset the normally smooth-working Cardiff attacking machine.

Capable understudies in Gareth Griffiths, Alun Thomas, Mike Evans, D. James and Martin Harvey were given their chance to gain experience and acquitted themselves well.

Then the hoodoo struck at Rex Willis, who suffered a bad jaw injury in the Wales-Scotland game at Cardiff Arms Park, and was thought to be out of the game for the rest of the year. Rex, however, made a remarkable recovery and played in two games at the tail-end of the season.

The club were again remarkably fortunate in having in reserve young Brian Mark, who took over Rex Willis's duties in extremely competent fashion.

With both international half-backs injured, Jack Matthews moved to the outside half position as partner to Mark, and this "ersatz" duo gave several excellent performances.

The pack was great all through the season, with the shrewd and knowledgeable "near veterans" Des O'Brien, Cliff Davies and Bill Tamplin laying the foundation for some first-rate forward performances.

Des O'Brien, who was honoured with the captaincy of the Ireland international XV, was a tireless worker in the Cardiff pack and acted as guide and mentor to those promising near-internationals, Sid Judd and Derek Williams.

With Tamplin as leader, the Cardiff eight was a force to be reckoned with, and his uncanny accuracy with his place-kicks made him an invaluable member of a great side.

Malcolm Collins, playing alongside the Magor policeman, must have gained a great deal of experience, and his displays towards the end of the season augur well for the future.

John Phillips started off the season as Cardiff's hooker, but

Cardiff R.F.C.'s 75th anniversary team



Players and officials of Cardiff R.F.C. in the club's 75th anniversary year. Photograph shows: Back row: D. E. Davies, J. Thomas, Tom Holley, Mike Evans, Arthur Halls, J. D. Nelson, Alun Thomas, Bledwyn Williams, G. Porter, Lyn Williams, W. B. Cleaver. Third row: Jim Pursey, Maldwyn James, Gareth Griffiths, J. D. Evans, Des O'Brien, Sid Judd, Malcolm Collins, Geoff Beckingham, G. Arcas, D. A. Brown. Second row: Derek Williams, Cliff Davies, Mr. Hubert Johnson (chairman), Jack Matthews (capt.), Brice Jenkins, Rex Willis (vice-captain), W. E. Tamplin. First row: John Llewellyn, Brian Mark, Derek Murphy, Haydn Morris.

FOOTBALL ECHO

3/5/52

Rex Willis Out Of Action For Some Weeks

By OBSERVER

THE jinx that dogged Cardiff's footsteps all through last season is still haunting the Arms Park arena and, with rugby football officially starting to-day, the club will start off their programme without the services of skipper Rex Willis, who is nursing a torn shoulder muscle sustained in Saturday's final trial.

In the twentieth minute of an interesting tussle, Rex, tearing away at full speed, was tackled heavily and left the field ruefully rubbing his shoulder.

He was taken to hospital where it was found that the injury is likely to keep him out of football for the first fortnight or so of the season.

Personal Triumph

For Haydn Morris this game was a personal triumph and his four tries were well taken after Bledwyn Williams, Cliff Morgan and (on one occasion) Colin Hewitt had done the necessary preparatory "spade-work."

Malcolm Collins showed a welcome return to goal-kicking form and his touchline conversion of Morris's first try was a particularly fine effort.

The Cardiff pack with John Phillips back alongside his fellow-hooker Geoff Beckingham looked a compact unit and Nelson at "lock" and Bill Ferguson, in the second row, fitted into the scheme of things nicely.

For the Rest no-one did better than Gordon Wells, the former Neath centre, who capped a first-rate performance with a fine try between the posts which Rhys Loveluck, another successful trialist, converted with ease.

Colin Hewitt, the Llandaff scrum half, played soundly and was promoted to the Cardiff side at the interval.

McCarthy (St. Illtyd's) linked up well, first with Hewitt and then with Mark, and as a result the Rest backs had quite a number of chances to show their paces.

The score, 21-8, in the premiership, was a fitting reflection of the play, although full marks should go to Stan Bowes and his men for a spirited display against an often impressive Cardiff team.

To Meet District XV

After the game the side to play the Cardiff and District XV at Cardiff Arms Park on Wednesday (kick-off 6.0) was chosen and the selectors, obviously pleased with Saturday's performance, have relied on last season's personnel, no newcomers being included.

Team: John Llewellyn, Gareth Griffiths, Alun Thomas, Bledwyn Williams, Haydn Morris, Cliff Morgan, Brian Mark, Gower Jenkins, Geoff Beckingham, J. D. Evans, W. E. Tampilin, Malcolm Collins, C. D. Williams, J. D. Nelson, Sid Judd (captain). Reserves: Gordon Wells, Derek Murphy, John Phillips, Bill Ferguson.

The Athletic XV which plays Llanharan on the same day, however, includes N. Velliardis, the Barry wing, Rhys Loveluck (Bridgend), E. Jones (Maesteg), Eddie Thomas (Neath) and the half-back pair, Colin Hewitt (Llandaff) and W. G. McCarthy (St. Illtyd's).

Team: Alan Frisby, Mike Evans, T. W. Jones, Martin Harvey, N. Velliardis, G. McCarthy, Colin Hewitt, Stan Bowes, Rhys Loveluck, Arthur Hall, E. Jones, Tom Burns, E. M. Cooke, Eddie Thomas, D. J. Walsh.

SOUTH WALES ECHO

1/9/52

For Some Weeks

Haydn Morris Enhances Claim For Left-Wing Berth

THE jinx which has haunted the Arms Park for the past season or so appeared to be still domiciled there, for before the official programme started key-players of the calibre of Rex Willis and Bledwyn Williams were nursing injuries.

Their absence was obviously felt against the District XV when the Cardiff side looked a trifle unimpressive against a scratch junior combination. With Derek Williams and Haydn Morris also standing down, Cardiff brought in Eddie Thomas and Gordon Wells, both former Neath stalwarts.

Both are experienced players and should fit into the scheme of things at the Arms Park without too much trouble.

Wells is exceptionally fast and, when he settles into the pattern-weaving intricacy of the blue-black back division, is likely to become a thrustful centre in the Bledwyn Williams manner.

Special Boots

Talking about speed, Haydn Morris's nine tries in two games (the Final Trial and the Penarth v. Bledwyn Williams XV matches) demonstrated just how fast the Cardiff flyer can go when the occasion arises.

At Penarth he was like "greased lightning." A continuation of this form throughout the season should find him challenging strongly for that controversial left-wing berth in the national side.

Few people know that Haydn has his boots specially made for him. They are light-weight affairs

without solid toe-caps. The ones in use at the moment have seen yeoman service and have broken apart after repeated repair.

He has had a nail on order for eight months or so... in the meantime he is doing pretty well with the patched-up pair... nine tries in two games is pretty good going in any sort of boots!

The amenities at the Arms Park will be further improved by the new scoring box now under construction and which should be ready in a fortnight.

The box will have special clocks showing time played and time remaining to be played. A useful innovation.

Renewed Acquaintance

Whilst the premier side were engaged so busily at the Arms Park on Wednesday evening the "Rags" (the Athletic XV) were running into surprisingly stiff opposition at Llanharan.

Although they won by 11 points to 9, the young Llanharan lads certainly made a game of it.

Colin Hewitt, the former Llandaff scrum half, threw out his usual long pass and, with W. G. McCarthy, formed a smooth-working half-back pair. This duo played together in Welsh schools trials three years ago and this familiarity with each other's play was obvious throughout.

E. M. "Emma" Cooke played well in the Athletic pack and J. D.



HAYDN MORRIS

Walsh looks to be a valuable acquisition.

The decision of Rhys Loveluck to remain with his club, Bridgend, and the approaching transfer of policeman Dudley Owen to the Port Talbot area, means that the hooking rivalry will be resolved between Geoff Beckingham and John Phillips.

As both are first-class front row forwards, Cardiff may decide to play one at hooker and the other at "prop," but with such fine players as J. D. Evans, Gower Jenkins, and Arthur Hall available there is likely to be an even competition for the "prop" position.

Clever Juniors Give Cardiff Eye-Opener

By OBSERVER

CARDIFF R.F.C.'s annual start-of-the-season frolic with a District XV is considered to be something of a "pipe-opener" before the earnest business of competitive rugby begins, but last evening's game at the Arms Park was more of an eye-opener!

Although Cardiff won comfortably enough by two goals and four tries (22pts.) to nil, the crisp first-time tackling of the juniors thoroughly disorganised their usually smooth-working attacking machine which too often found the brake applied just when it was meshing into top-gear.

With Geoff Beckingham dominating the set scrums, Brian Mark and the lively Cliff Morgan initiated attack after attack, but enthusiastic spoiling by Dafydd Iwan (North) and some tenacious tackling by Peter Nyhan (Old Iltydians) and Billy Boston (Internationals) thoroughly upset the Cardiff centres, Alun Thomas and Gordon Wells.

The comparative eclipse of the Cardiff three-quarters caused Cliff Morgan to adopt alternative measures, and his all-round excellence at running, weaving and "ghosting" through the opposition were happy auguries for the coming season.

Outstanding for the District was the redoubtable Billy Boston, their skipper, who set the pattern for the game with some whole-hearted covering and tackling which inspired his side to great deeds in defence.

Ding-dong Tussle

Unhappily, this star-in-the-making goes into the Forces in a fortnight or so and will be lost to Welsh rugby for a time—perhaps for ever, if his undoubted qualities are recognised, as they are bound to be, by some shrewd English club.

Cardiff scored 10 points in the first half, Gareth Griffiths and skipper Sid Judd scoring tries which Bill Tampilin converted.

The second half was a much more even affair and for nearly half-an-hour a ding-dong tussle ensued with the District battling grimly and, for a time, successfully against the superior individualistic skill of the senior side.

Then Derek Murphy, who previously had been well policed by Pip Day (the smallest man on his side) evaded a tackle and scored in the corner.

Cliff Morgan wriggled through twice in brilliant fashion to increase Cardiff's lead, and Sid Judd scored his second try of the game to complete the scoring. For Cardiff, Cliff Morgan, Brian Mark, Sid Judd (captaining the side for the first time) and Malcolm Collins (dominating in the line-outs) were the "pick," whilst in addition to Billy Boston the District XV owe a debt of gratitude to Peter Nyhan, Dafydd Iwan, R. S. Griffiths, Frank Callus and Aubrey Pugh.

Cardiff should have learned quite a lot from this game about their deficiencies—and, quite frankly, there were quite a few!



THIS Neath player appears to be calling for help as he is tackled by Haydn Morris (right) and another Cardiff player behind him at the Cardiff Arms Park.

WESTERN MAIL

8/9/52

SOUTH WALES ECHO

4/9/52

Cardiff Soon Go Well Ahead Against Neath

Despite keen defence Cardiff had built up the substantial lead of 11 points to nil at half-time against Neath, at Arms Park, to-day.

Neath supporters were present in great strength. Intent on repeating last season's double over Cardiff, Neath fielded their strongest available fifteen but Cardiff, hit by pre-season injuries to Rex Willis and Bleddyn Williams, had selection difficulties. Alun Thomas cried off at the last minute, causing Gareth Griffiths to move into the right centre berth while Gwyn Rowlands came in on the right wing.

This gave Cardiff an all R.A.F. right wing as Gwyn Rowlands yesterday joined the R.A.F. as a flight-lieutenant surgeon.

The teams were
CARDIFF: J. Llewellyn; Gwyn Rowlands; Gareth Griffiths; Colin Bosley; Haydn Morris; Cliff Morgan; Brian Mark; Gower Jenkins; Geoff Beckingham; J. D. Evans; W. E. Tamplin; Malcolm Collins; Sid Judd (capt.); J. D. Nelson; C. D. Williams.

NEATH: Viv Evans; J. Huins; M. Morgan; N. Edwards; K. Maddocks; D. Thomas; G. Thomas; C.

Meredydd; R. Jenkins; G. Lewis; Roy John; L. Harris; W. Brennan; Rees Stephens (capt.); Brian Sparkes.

Referee: Mr. D. C. Joynson, Caerleon.

Tamplin kicked off for Cardiff, the ball going to Viv Evans who banged it into touch just outside his own 25.

Smart spoiling by Sparkes and

BY OBSERVER

Brennan, the Neath wing forwards, caught Cliff Morgan in possession, but the Cardiff outside half managed to work the ball to Bosley, who found a safe touch.

Neath surged to the attack and a shrewd cross-kick by Norman Edwards caused John Llewellyn an awkward moment before he managed to get in his relieving kick.

The opening stages were marked by whole hearted work by both packs, Judd and his men standing up well to the battering of the formidable Neath eight.

Denzil Thomas was caught with the ball in his own 25 by Judd and Cardiff were given a glorious chance of opening the scoring, but Gareth Griffiths failed to hold a difficult pass, with the Neath defence gaping wide open.

BOSLEY UNLUCKY

A second later Cliff Morgan wriggled through and Bosley was unlucky in losing possession of the ball when he seemed through.

Consistent Cardiff pressure was rewarded when Collins and Judd charged down a kick by Garth Thomas and J. D. NELSON, following up, hurled himself over for a try, Tamplin narrowly missing with the kick.

Cardiff went further ahead five minutes later when TAMPLIN put over a penalty kick following an incident when C. D. Williams was tackled without the ball in an effort to run round the Neath full-back.

BRILLIANT BURST

Gareth Griffiths impressed with a brilliant burst down the right wing, but the Neath covering was sound and halted a dangerous movement.

The Cardiff backs looked the more dangerous, Morgan, Mark and Griffiths often running and passing cleverly.

In the line-out the duel between Collins and the great Neath specialist Roy John was a very close affair.

An abortive drop at goal by Griffiths led to a further Cardiff score, the ball hitting the foot of an upright and being pounced on by C. D. WILLIAMS, who went over for an opportunist try, Tamplin converting from the easiest of positions.

Neath were again in dire trouble when Bosley, the new boy, earned a round of applause for an incisive run which spread-eagled all the Neath defence except Viv Evans, who was in the right position at the right moment to bring the former Newbridge centre down.

Denzil Thomas, the visitors outside half initiated a strong attack which Sparkes carried on to within five yards of the Cardiff line, where his pass to Brennan was dropped when a score seemed inevitable.

Half—Cardiff *2 1 1
Neath 0 0 0
*One penalty

Neath restarted with the obvious resolve of improving on their somewhat disappointing first half showing, and after intensive pressure on the Cardiff line Denzil Thomas elected to drop for goal when a pass might have paid better dividends.

Cardiff, however, were in no mood to adopt a defensive role and a clever kick by Brian Mark found them once again on the offensive inside the Neath half.

Although the visitors pack was keen and go-ahead there was



Tamplin scored five of the points by which Cardiff led Neath at half-time.

backs, D. and G. Thomas, failed to work in harmony and frittered away many chances of opening up the game.

Morgan and Mark, on the other hand, were always impressive and gave their centres, Bosley in particular, plenty of opportunity to shine.

MAGNIFICENT DASH

The former Newbridge man had the crowd on its toes when he made a magnificent solo dash for the Neath line, and when the ball went loose after a tackle, GWYN ROWLANDS was on the spot to pick up and hurl himself over for a splendid try. Tamplin had no difficulty in adding the extra points.

HECTIC TUSSELS

Neath fought back grimly and following nice work by Morgan and Edwards Keith Maddocks was given a chance to show his paces on the left, but the danger was short lived, the Neath wing being well tackled by his opposite number, Gwyn Rowlands.

Neath were now showing up to much better advantage and piled on the pressure with the result that there were some hectic tussles in the Cardiff 25.

Rees Stephens narrowly missed reducing the lead when he was just wide with two penalty attempts.

The Neath pack were now giving great runs and Brennan, Rees Stephens and Sparkes combined cleverly only for Denzil Thomas to drop his pass a yard or so from the Cardiff line.

Cardiff swung back to the offensive and Griffiths and Bosley interpassed brilliantly before sending Haydn Morris away on the left and the Cardiff flyer dived for the line and must have been only a matter of inches short.

Final—Cardiff 14 1 21
Neath 1 0 3
*One penalty. *Dropped



Judd being forced into touch in to-day's game between Cardiff and Neath at Cardiff Arms Park.

FE

6/9/52

SOUTH WALES FOOTBALL ECHO & EXPRESS

THE EXPRESS, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1952



With Jeffrey (in the foreground) offering a further threat, Cardiff's Cliff Morgan was well tackled by a Plymouth forward at Cardiff Arms Park to-day.

PEÑARTH'S YOUNG SIDE WERE GAME

Cardiff, *3-4-25; Penarth, 1-1-8
* One penalty.

By J. B. G. THOMAS

FIELDING a young side Penarth did well against Cardiff at the Arms Park last night. They gave away 14 points in the first half, but although fighting back gamely in the second were defeated by two goals, a penalty and four tries to a goal and a try. Their policy of persevering with young players is to be commended.

Cardiff, too, had several young players and during the first half they looked like running up a large score. After the interval, however, they tended to become casual and Penarth were quick to take advantage of any half-speed play.

RUNSAM'S FINE TRY

The Penarth pack got a good share of the ball in the right, where P. Roberts hooked well, although they were beaten in the line-out. K. Gibbins, J. Carhill and E. Jenkins all worked hard. G. Nyhan and E. Rumsam were splendid defenders on the wing and ran well with limited chances. Rumsam's try was the best of the match. K. Bush, at full-back, had plenty to do, but was particularly sound.

Tamplyn, Jones, Judd and Thomas were the best Cardiff forwards, and Morgan and Mark were again good at half-back. The new centre, A. Barter, was a strong runner, but rarely parted with the ball at the right time. Still, he and co-centre Bowley show promise.

Scorers for Cardiff were Mark (2), Thomas (2), Morris, and Bosley tries; Tamplin converting two and a penalty. Rensam and Carhill scored tries for Penarth, one of which Bush converted.

Cardiff's 66 Points In Three Games

CARDIFF'S 66 points in three games has given the club the best possible send-off to what should be a much better season than was at one time visualised (writes *Observer*).

This 20-points-plus per game is the result of all-round excellence rather than of individual brilliance, and the manner in which recruits like Collin Bosley, Alan Barter, Gordon Wells, Eddie Thomas and Eddie Jones have settled down into the distinctive Cardiff style of play has been most encouraging to supporters of the team.

Bosley, the 21-year-old former Newbridge player, made a story-book debut against the formidable Neath XV last Saturday and followed it up with a useful performance against Penarth on Wednesday evening.

The Cardiff pack excelled against Neath and more than held their own with the Rees Stephens-Roy John-inspired "All Blacks" eight.

Bill Tamplin and acting-skipper Sid Judd turned in tip-top performances, and it was this amazing forward resurgence (the best by a Cardiff pack since that memorable Springbok game last year) that laid the foundation for a well-deserved 21-3 victory.

Against Penarth John Llewellyn demonstrated his soundness, whilst the Morgan-Mark half-back duo linked up cleverly with the backs to give them plenty of scoring chances.

D. J. Walsh, who came in for J. D. Nelson, played grandly, as did Thomas and Jones, the newcomers from Neath and Maesteg.

The amount of talent at Cardiff's disposal is formidable enough to merit suggestions from several fans regarding the possibility of running two senior fifteens as was the case in the '30s.

But there is little likelihood of this happening!
The "Rags" (the Athletic side) beat a strong Cardiff H.S.O.B. XV

at the Harlequins ground by 13 points to 3, Friday, their full-back, kicking a penalty goal and putting over two splendid conversions.

Making Come-back

McCarthy at outside half and Dafydd James and Mapstone in the centre were always trying to open up the game, while in the pack Stan Bowes found Arthur Hull, the Treorchy-born prop forward, always up with him in the loose rushes.

Arthur, who was injured in the game against the Springboks last season, is making a strong come-back, and may well challenge for a place in the first fifteen before long.

This Athletic victory was all the more commendable as for most of the game they were playing with only 14 men.

All the Cardiff scoring took place in the first half, the Old Boys replying with a solo effort by skipper Doug Pike which ended in an unconverted try.

The forthcoming Veterans' international match, on Friday, September 26 (kick-off 6.15 p.m.), is arousing great interest. Cardiff rugby fans are longing to see some of the famous stars of the past in action.

This game against the Nantes (S.N.U.C.) fifteen is for the "Veterans' Championship of the World," and the winners will hold the valuable Noilly-Prat Trophy for one year.

Tickets are selling briskly and a bumper "gate" is assured.

Wendy Davies, a I understand, has been training by playing soccer, whilst Wilf Wooller has kept in trim during the cricket season.

Harry Rees, Lyn Williams, Gwyn Porter and others are to be seen at the club's practice night sessions religiously plodding around the track in a determined effort to be fit and ready for the big occasion!



Cardiff and Neath players tackle each other as the ball is caught by an All Black in the line out.

Howells, the City goalkeeper, failed to stop the ball entering the net in to-day's game with Burnley at Ninian Park, but fortunately for Cardiff, Shannon, the Burnley inside forward, was off side when he shot.

Cardiff Backs In Riotous Scoring Mood

Playing brilliantly Cardiff overwhelmed Plymouth Albion at Arms Park to-day, the visitors line being crossed no fewer than 11 times, and Haydn Morris bagged five of the tries.

Playing their fourth home game in 11 days, Cardiff entertained old rivals in Plymouth.

BY OBSERVER

Plymouth made one last-minute change, D. Bowden coming into the second row, with the result that the front row was reshuffled. W. O. Williams, the Swansea and Welsh international, reverting to his usual position.

Another Welshman in the Plymouth side was scrum half Leighton Williams, who also hails from Swansea.

The new scoreboard, a brick-built structure at the Westgate-street end, came into use for the first time in this game. Cardiff fielded unchanged. Teams:

Cardiff: J. Llewellyn, G. Rowlands, G. Griffiths, C. Bosley, H. Morris, G. Morgan, B. Mark, J. D. Evans, G. Beekingham, A. Hull, W. E. Tamplin, M. Collins, I. D. Nelson, S. Judd (captain), C. D. Williams.

Plymouth: R. Hosen, G. E. Crimp, L. Luffman, D. Haine, D. C. Joyce, D. Luffman, L. L. Williams, G. Jeffrey, H. J. Biddle, W. O. Williams, D. Bowden, L. Gibbs, T. G. Bourdon, A. R. Griffiths, M. Riley.

Referee: Mr. Ray Thomas, Caerleon.

Straight from Tamplin's kick-off Cardiff attacked strongly, first Gareth Griffiths, then Bosley probing the Plymouth defence.

It was no surprise when, after only three minutes play, COLIN BOSLEY streaked through almost unchallenged to score in the right-hand corner.

Tamplin failed to convert.

Two minutes later Cardiff forged further ahead, this time through Gareth Griffiths, who put in a fantastic jinking run in the best Bledwyn Williams tradition.

GRIFFITHS started inside his own half, beating man after man with consummate ease to score a magnificent try behind the posts.

ing. Cardiff were now going great guns and had the crowd roaring when Morris broke away on the left and kicked ahead.

The ball went loose for J. D. Nelson to get a boot to and MORRIS picked up to score in the corner, Tamplin converting with a magnificent touch-line kick. Cardiff were thus 13 points up after only 10 minutes play.

SHORT RESPIRE

Plymouth fought back gamely and Hosen and P. Luffman put in some grand defensive kicking to peg back the enthusiastic Cardiff pack.

Leighton Williams, the red-headed little Welsh scrum half, earned applause for his all-round excellence and put in some neat defensive kicks.

After a few minutes of even play the new score-board was at work again.

Bosley sensed an opening and cleverly drew the Plymouth defence before passing inside to CLIFF MORGAN, who scurried over for a try behind the posts which Tamplin converted.

The Blue and Black scoring machine meshed into action time after time and after one of these superlative passing movements the ball was worked out to Haydn MORRIS, who outstripped the visitors' defence to score as he liked. Tamplin converted.

COPY-BOOK HANDLING

Cardiff's form was a revelation, passing and inter-passing being real copy-book stuff, and their formidable total was the result of combined team work rather than of individual brilliance.

Gwyn Rowlands earned an ovation from the 12,000 crowd for a thrust on the right which carried him to within 10 yards of the harassed Plymouth line.

In the closing stages of the first half Plymouth tried hard to reduce the leeway, but the Cardiff defence, brought into action for the first time, proved too strong.

Half—Cardiff 4 1 23
Plymouth 0 0 0



HAYDN MORRIS

Plymouth started off the second half with plenty of determination but most of their early passing bouts broke down at the vital moment.

HAYDN MORRIS scored his hat-trick of tries when he intercepted a wild pass and darted for the line.

Cardiff were unstoppable and Cliff Morgan cut a wide gap in the Plymouth defence before handing over to HAYDN MORRIS who scored in the corner. Tamplin just missed with his conversion.

FINE SOLO RUN

GWYN ROWLANDS added to Plymouth's discomfort with a try following a fine solo run on the right, Tamplin fluffing the resultant kick.

Rowlands's try brought Cardiff's 100th point of the season in only four games—a truly amazing record.

When John Llewellyn caught a high clearance from Hosen he threw out a long pass to the unmarked danger man HAYDN MORRIS, who tore over for his fifth try of the game. Tamplin again failed to convert.

DEFENCE RIDDLED

The flood of points continued when Cliff Morgan once again had the Plymouth defence running round in circles and when the Cardiff outside half was brought to a halt DEREK WILLIAMS was in position to carry on the good work and scored near the corner flag. Gwyn Rowlands, who was entrusted with the kick made no mistake.

Before the applause had died away Cardiff were over again. This time it was BOSLEY who intercepted a pass, to score behind the posts. Rowlands again converting.

Final—Cardiff 7 4 47
Plymouth 0 0 0

COMMENTS.

Despite the weakness of the opposition this afternoon Cardiff played so brilliantly that they would have made most teams on this afternoon's showing appear second rate.

The Cardiff pack, playing magnificently, got on top early on and dictated the play throughout, with the result that the Cardiff backs had a field day.


Morris finished off many traditional Cardiff passing movements by harrying over for tries and his five scoring chances were well taken.

Llewellyn had very little to do, while the whole Cardiff back division played with the fluidity of a well-oiled machine. Cliff Morgan being in superlative form.

It would be invidious to mention any of the Cardiff pack individually, though Tamplin kicked well early on.

For Plymouth W. O. Williams and Griffiths played well in a losing pack, while Little Williams, at scrum half, tried hard throughout.

15/9/1952 S.W.E

35	MINUTES EACH WAY	GOALS	TRIES	POINTS
CARDIFF		7	4	47
PLYMOUTH				

The result of Cardiff's game proudly shown on the new scoreboard, which was opened on Saturday.

Cardiff Didn't Please All Their Supporters

CARDIFF'S "massacre of the innocents" from Plymouth at the Arms Park on Saturday by seven goals and four tries (47 points) to all does not appear to have pleased all their supporters.

A strident-voiced minority (and I would stress that it is a minority) claim that the club's fantastic record of 113 points against 11 in four matches is due not so much to their own brilliance as to the woeful inadequacy of visiting sides to the Cardiff ground this season.

A statement which does scant justice to the exhilarating brand of sling-it-about rugby football which, in my humble opinion, would confound the best club sides in the country... as the formidable Neath XV found out to their cost a week or so ago.

Granted that the Plymouth side

was an overawed and completely outclassed combination, the straight running and intricate passing movements of the home team would have had much stronger clubs running about in ever decreasing circles.

Cliff Morgan and company have seldom played better and, thanks to a pack which dominated matters forward from the very first scrum, the ebullient Cardiff backs had a field day.

Haydn Morris (5), Colin Bosley (2), Gareth Griffiths, Gwyn Rowlands, Cliff Morgan and Derek Williams scored tries, Tamplin kicking five goals and Gwyn Rowlands two.

It was a thorough testing for the impressive new scoreboard at the Westgate-street end of the ground which, although hard pressed all afternoon, managed to keep pace with the point-a-minute progress of the cock-a-hoop Cardiff team!

Bring Cardiff City's only goal against West Bromwich last night, his debut in the City's Football League side. 18/9/52

Cardiff Rugby club win by only try

Cardiff, 0-1-3; Cheltenham, 0-0-0
Attendance, 8,000

By R. T. GABE

THE few critics who found Cardiff's game against Plymouth on Saturday too one-sided to be entertaining must have deemed this match on the same ground fully meeting their wishes.

There was very little to choose between the teams, the only score being a try by Gwyn Rowlands after Alun Thomas had made a clean break-through early in the game.

Cheltenham were definitely superior in the forwards, A. D. Carpenter taking the honours for hooking, with J. R. Phillips, who after his long lay-off has not yet completely recovered his skill in that direction.

SUPERIOR BACKS

Cardiff had the superior backs. Danger always threatened when they got going but the Cheltenham defence managed to be just adequate enough to keep their line intact.

The Cheltenham backs, although having more of the ball, generally resorted to kicking to gain ground.

The wings were never entrusted with a pass, and with the strong-running P. Davies being one of them, these were quite the wrong tactics.

Iltyd Pearce, the captain and brother of Marcus Pearce, the Bridgend captain, was a veritable glutton for work at scrum-half. He gave Brian Mark a harassing time which marred somewhat the latter's usual accuracy of transfers.

NO OPPORTUNITIES

Alun Thomas did very well, but he has not got quite the genius of Cliff Morgan. Gordon Wells ran strongly at times but Bledwyn Williams had no opportunities worthy of the name.

Gwyn Rowlands had more work to do than Haydn Morris who had a fairly easy evening. This was a change for him.

The heavy-weight Walter at full-back for Cheltenham started very shakily, but as the game proceeded he was a pillar of strength in extricating his side from trouble.

W. Price, at outside-half, plied the threequarters with chances galore, and it was not his fault that the opportunities were wasted.

It may be added that the slippery ball and the long grass made the handling more difficult than was apparent to the onlookers.



Cardiff forward, A. Mull, battering his way with the ball from a line-out in the game with Plymouth at the Arms Park last Saturday.

Cardiff's BIG Victories Bring Complaints

RECENT happenings at Cardiff Arms Park seem to have dismayed those "doubting Thomases" amongst the club's supporters who within the space of a fortnight have swung from pre-season gloom concerning the club's prospects to the opposite extreme of assuming after only four matches that the current XV is too good (writes Observer).

The spate of points-scoring which culminated in a 47-0 victory last Saturday aroused complaints of "one-sidedness" and "too much of a good thing."

Yet among the "weaklings" who were overcome to achieve that 115-11 record in only four games were Neath and Plymouth, neither of which could be so described with justice.

This carping criticism does not reflect the views of the vast majority of Cardiff supporters, who consider that acting-captain Sid Judd and his men have given the club the best send-off in recent years not by dint of luck and impoverished opposition, but by first-rate open rugby in the best Cardiff tradition.

The mid-week tussle against the lively Cheltenham side, on the other hand, was a much more even (and if the comments that I

overheard are any criterion!) a much less attractive affair.

Against a plucky keep-the-game-open-at-all-costs Plymouth side the Cardiff team exhibited all the machine-like precision in attack for which they are famous and it would be a good team indeed which could have stood up to them last Saturday afternoon.

Cliff Morgan, the little "Rhonda roundabout," was in superb form and his understanding with Brian Mark resulted in the superiority of the Cardiff pack being transmitted to the powerful back division.

There was not an apparent weakness in the side and on that day's showing they would have beaten the best team in the country.

Against Cheltenham four days later (after a wholesale reshuffle in order to rest the key men for the forthcoming Midlands tour) they just managed to scrape through to a narrow 3-0 victory against surprisingly tough opposition.

Met Shrewd Hooker

John Phillips returned to the side after a long absence and met up with Carpenter, one of the shrewdest hookers in English rugby football. As a result the Cardiff backs, with Bleddyn Williams and Gordon Wells fit once again, had an extremely thin time.

Young Samuels, the Loughor full-back, impressed with his long kicking and Bill Ferguson, Gower Jenkins and Eddie Thomas played hard in a somewhat unwieldy pack.

Arrangements for the visit of the Nantes-Cognac Veterans' XV for the game against Cardiff Past at the Arms Park on Friday next are now complete.

It will be an all-pay fixture and season tickets will not be valid.

The French party of 22, plus three supporters, will be the guests first of the Cardiff club and then of Newport, who meet them on the following Monday.

These are "veterans" indeed with Paul Gringoire, their captain, owing to 37 years; whilst his brother Maurice is 54!

To complete the Gringoire contribution to the side, Paul's son Jean Gringoire, will operate at half-back. He is a mere 33 years old.

The Frenchmen's full-back, Jean Hervoché, an automobile engineer, is 48, and the three-quarter line will be chosen from Luc Raffin (44), Henri Barbe (44), Dr. Armand de Fallois (37), Raoul Margat (37), Jean Leroux (32) and Dr. Ivan Denis (40).

Frenchmen's Target

Amongst the officials to accompany the team will be several contemporaries of the famous Percy Bush. Dr. Yves Thomas, the hon. president of the club, being a regular member of the club in 1911-14 whilst Alexis Merland, the vice-president, also played alongside the old Welsh star in those early days.

These French veterans have been training religiously for the past three weeks and hope to win and thus take the Nully Prat trophy back to its original home.

Owing to the dwindling hours of daylight the veterans' game will start at 5.45 p.m. and not 6.15 as previously announced.

It should be a hectic tussle worth going a long way to see!

F.E. 20/9/52

SOUTH WALES FOOTBALL ECHO & EXPRESS, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER

Cardiff Soon Led At Coventry

—And Went On To Win By 13-3

When Cardiff played Coventry at Coventry to-day Cliff Morgan gave them an early lead with a try which Llewellyn converted.

Coventry: R. Rowland, B. Tomkins, H. Greasley, B. Edwards, A. E. Sutton, J. Mauchlan, L. Ashcroft, B. Lilley, E. Robinson, G. Turnbull, N. Jones, S. Adkins, J. Gardiner, D. Naylor, R. Batstone. Cardiff: J. Llewellyn, G. Griffiths, Alun Thomas, Bledwyn Williams, H. Morris, Cliff Morgan, Brian Mark, J. D. Evans, G. Beckingham, G. Jenkins, T. Burns, F. Fergusson, J. D. Nelson, F. Judd, E. Thomas.

Referee: Mr. T. E. Priest, London Society of Referees. W. Tamplin and C. Williams were late withdrawals from the Cardiff pack. T. Burns and J. Nelson substituting. Clem Thomas withdrew from the Coventry side due to a business appointment in Bristol and John Gardiner replaced him.

A 40-yard run by the Cardiff right wing, Sutton, took play to the edge of Cardiff's 25.

The visitors were penalised for a scrum infringement, but Coventry's place-kicker, Tompkins, sent wide from a good position.

Griffiths picked up well on the right for Cardiff and beat his man, but was crash tackled by Gardiner.

A bad pass by Morgan fell short of Morris and Coventry cleared.

Llewellyn with a fine kick nearly landed a long-range penalty for Cardiff.

CLIFF MORGAN went

straight for the line and scored a try for Cardiff, which Llewellyn converted.

By this early success Cardiff clearly had their Midland opponents showing a lack of determination. It was only Coventry's greater share of the ball from the set scrums that was seeing them through.

Then LLEWELLYN increased the Cardiff lead with a 35-yard penalty.

Almost unhindered by the Coventry back-row, Morgan's kicking was proving of great value to Cardiff.

Coventry were making more successful efforts just before half-time, but their back division was weak.

Half—Cardiff	1 1 8
Coventry	0 0 0

HAYDN MORRIS received a tremendous ovation from the Coventry crowd when he scored the try which put Cardiff further ahead.

Coventry were attacking 10 yards out when a pass went astray. Morris grabbed it, and, outstripping all pursuers, he ran for 125 yards before grounding under the posts. Llewellyn had no difficulty in converting.

MEDIOCRE

The Coventry pack was holding its own in the tight, but the handling of the backs was mediocre.

Morris started another grand run for Cardiff and with a check and sudden acceleration to avoid a tackle he appeared likely to burst through again, but ran into touch.

Edwards went close with a drop for Coventry, but MAUCHLEN crossed shortly afterwards. Tomkins failed to convert.

Final—Cardiff	*3 0 13
Coventry	0 1 3

*Penalty

Cardiff deserved their win because of an all-round display of determination. The Cardiff backs had less of the ball than Coventry's outsiders, but they made more effective use of it.



Cliff Morgan scored an early try for Cardiff at Coventry to-day.

DOCTOR JACK'S FAREWELL

THE Cardiff Athletic Club's annual report, published this week, contains an interesting article by Dr. Jack Matthews upon his retirement (writes J. B. G. Thomas). In it he has this message for all players:

"Perhaps one of the most difficult decisions I have had to make is this one—to retire from playing Rugby football: the finest team game for any boy or man. What a terrific hold this game obtains on all who play it.

"I have played this wonderful game since I was eight years of age, so it is not difficult to realise that it was nearly impossible for me to decide to retire, to give up the game I loved so much, and the fellowship of the grand sportsmen I have played with and against.

"To the younger generation of players I say, 'I am envious of you—you have wonderful times and experiences before you. Reap the fruit thereof; you will never have better friends or meet finer people than those in the Rugby world.'"

These words are sincere, as was Dr. Jack's loyalty to the game, his club, and his country.

20/9/52

MAIL

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WESTERN MAIL & SOUTH WA

Haydn Morris dashed 120 yards for try

Coventry, 0-1-3; Cardiff, *3-0-13

*One penalty

WELSH international winger H. Morris carved for himself a personal niche in Midland Rugger memoirs by the try he scored in the second half of Cardiff's game at Coventry. His 120 yard dash before scoring has never been equalled within living memory on this ground.

Coventry were developing a three-quarter attacking move only ten yards from Cardiff's line when a wild pass fell aground, and Morris snatched it up. His "atomic" burst from scratch left the majority of Coventry's players standing in sheer bewilderment. He outpaced those who pursued him and rounded two defenders who flung themselves across in desperate tackles before grounding under the posts.

DOMINATED TIGHT

Coventry ought to have made more impression on the Cardiff side, for they were dominant in the tight, due to Robinson's continual success in the hooking duel with Beekingham. The Coventry backs were never as confident as their forwards. Scrum half Derek Ashcroft, succeeded in getting the ball back despite the close attentions of his opposite number, Brian Mark, but too many passes went to ground.

Cliff Morgan again showed his international form, but it must be admitted that he was helped by the ineffective work of the Coventry back row.

It was Morgan who dealt the blow to Coventry's hopes. When the ball came straight back from a line-out close to the home line he slipped his tackle and forged straight through the opposition. Llewellyn converted and followed this with a penalty goal. It was Llewellyn who converted the try by Morris in the second half while the winger's tremendous ovation from the crowd continued.

MATCHED IN LOOSE

The Cardiff pack had a hard task in the loose, but they matched anything the Coventry eight could produce in this respect.

Coventry had some consolation when their Cardiff-born outside half John Mauchlen dodged through for an unconverted try in the last minute of the game.

Cardiff make four changes

Cardiff R.F.C. who are on a short tour of the Midlands, make four changes in the side which defeated Coventry on Saturday for the game with Leicester to-day. G. Rowlands, M. Evans, W. E. Tamplin, D. J. Walsh will replace H. Morris, G. Griffiths, S. Judd, and J. D. Evans.

Brian Mark, who was slightly injured on Saturday, is a doubtful starter, and if a fitness test does not prove satisfactory this morning his place will be taken by C. Hewitt. This would be Hewitt's first appearance in the first XV.

Fine last minute try brought Cardiff victory

Leicester, *2-0-6; Cardiff, *1-2-9

WITH only a minute to go and a scrum being formed five yards from the Cardiff line the game at Leicester looked like being a draw.

The ball came out on the Cardiff side and Bledwyn Williams set his line going with the result that the three-quarters raced the whole length of the field for Rowlands to ground the ball in the corner.

It was so near the end that there was only time for Tamplin to make an unsuccessful attempt at goal before the whistle went.

It was a tough game, and Leicester surprised their supporters by standing up so well to the Cardiff attacks. Their tackling and covering only failed them twice and tries came on each occasion.

As Leicester failed to cross the Cardiff line and, in fact, rarely looked like doing so, the visitors may take credit for a deserved win. Their defence was the stronger, although it had its anxious moments as a result of Leicester's forward bursts.

The Leicester three-quarters had no-one with the genius of Bledwyn Williams, and the Wells-

Rowlands wing was always the most prominent of the attacks on both sides.

It was this wing that scored both tries, Wells scoring the first and Rowlands the second. More use might have been made of it, but there was rather too much kicking to touch.

In the scrums and line-outs there was not much to choose between the teams.

Leicester opened with a penalty goal by Barrow. Wells neutralised this with a try, and Tamplin put Cardiff ahead with a penalty goal. Channer equalised with another penalty goal, and then came the dramatic finish.

23/9/52
er probables

Internationals in Veterans XV.

The Cardiff Veterans XV, which opposes the Nantes Veterans at the Cardiff Arms Park to-night, includes six former Welsh internationals. These players have been training hard for the past month, and are all out to retain the World Veterans' Championship, which they captured from Nantes at Cardiff in September, 1947 (writes J. B. G. Thomas).

The French party, headed by M. Henri Pitcherit, will arrive this afternoon. The Combined Nantes and Cognac First XV, to play Cardiff to-morrow will be with them.

On Monday evening the Combined Nantes and Cognac XV. will oppose Newport at Rodney Parade.

The Cardiff Veterans XV. will field as follows: G. Davies; H. Wilkins, W. Wooler (captain), E. Welsh, G. Porter; L. Williams, W. B. Cleaver; W. E. N. Davis, M. James, G. Blake-more, H. Rees, Dr. R. J. Drummond, G. Evans, L. Mansfield, and L. M. Spence.

The six internationals are Wooler, Cleaver, Davis, Rees, Evans, and Mansfield. The kick-off has been brought forward from 6.15 to 5.45. Admission charges will be 2s. and 1s.

The Cardiff First XV. to play the Combined XV. on Saturday (kick-off 3.30) will include Lloyd Williams, younger brother of Bledwyn, at scrum-half, in place of the injured B. Mark.

The team will be: J. Llewellyn; G. Rowlands, A. Thomas, B. L. Williams, H. Morris; G. Morgan, L. Williams; G. Jenkins, G. Beekingham, J. D. Evans, W. E. Tamplin, M. Collins, C. D. Williams, J. D. Nelson, S. Judd (captain).

MAIL 27/9/52



LES MANFIELD kicks for touch and a Frenchman puts up his hands to protect his face in the match between the Cardiff Veterans and Nantes Veterans at Cardiff Arms Park last night.

Cardiff veterans too young

Cardiff Veterans 2-4-20
Nantes Veterans 0-1-3.
*One penalty
Attendance, 10,000
By J. B. G. THOMAS

THE Veterans Rugby championship of the world remains in Cardiff's safe keeping. In a "titanic" struggle at the Arms Park last night they defeated their rivals, Nantes, by a goal, a penalty and four tries to a try. They won because they were far too young, too fit, and too serious for their opponents.

The Frenchmen were brave if at times humorous. Before the next challenge match the Nantes club might suggest diplomatically that the age limit be fixed at 40 with production of birth certificates. Cardiff had 11 men under this age yesterday and, with them all playing with the spirit of their youth, the Frenchmen had little chance of making a game of it.

But how the large crowd enjoyed the play.

The visiting hero of the evening was Jean Hervoeche, the 43-year-old full-back, although some of his manoeuvres defied the best intentions of the manual of Rugby football.

OWN IDEAS

The father of them all—the 57-year-old Paul Gringoire, a master baker, had his own ideas of play. He took all the kicks, threw the ball in from touch and even put it into the scrum.

Unfortunately for Nantes they lost Henri Hamon, a forward, just before half time and played gallantly in the second half with 14 men.

For Cardiff G. Davies, at full-back, was faultless and should be playing big Rugby still. H. Wilkins was a try-getter, and W. Wooller as happy as a sandboy running and kicking with power. W. B. Cleaver and Edgar Welsh were very lively. In the pack G. Evans, L. Manfield, and W. Davis, "went well," but M. James moved with careful precision from scrum to line-out. L. M. Spence had a private "battle" with Gringoire, who had definite plans for overcoming the wing-forward menace.

Scorers for Cardiff were: Wilkins (1), Wooller and Cleaver, tries, Wooller, a penalty, and G. Davies one conversion. For Nantes Padovani scored a try.



DES O'BRIEN

Injury 'Hoodoo' Hits Cardiff Again

ONCE again the old "hoodoo" of injuries has reared its ugly head at Cardiff Arms Park, and to the row of disconsolate players nursing more or less serious knocks is added young Brian Mark, the deputy scrum half, who has his leg in plaster following a knee injury during the recent Midlands tour (writes Observer).

Although Cardiff emerged from their most serious test to date with their sequence of victories unspoiled, the toll of the two hard games at Coventry and Leicester has presented the worried Cardiff selectors with further headaches.

Mark, injured in the Coventry game, was replaced by Colin Hewitt, the former Cathays High School and Llandaff player, who stood up to 'the ordeal against the "Tigers" at Leicester in commendable manner.

The amazing try scored by Haydn Morris against Coventry earned one of the most spontaneous tributes that can be remembered by Midlands rugby followers, who described his dazzling zig-zag 125-yards burst from his own 25 to score behind the posts as "the best try for years."

Jinking, swerving, and showing a baffling change of speed, Haydn had the entire Coventry side groping and slithering helplessly, and this superb effort was the highlight of a keen and attractive game.

One of the best of the Coventry men was Naylor, a former Cardiff forward, who played superbly throughout.

Bleddyn Williams, showing a welcome return to form, was always impressive, while Gordon Wells was the architect of victory in Cardiff's successful last-minute effort against Leicester.

Pack Experiment

Without Malcolm Collins (suffering from an ankle injury) and pack-leader Bill Tamplin, Cardiff was forced to experiment with the pack, with the result that the front-row trio of Gower Jenkins, Geoff Beckingham and J. D. Evans had a gruelling time while the reshuffled pack settled down.

When I saw Geoff on his return he was sporting a multi-coloured eye, a badly-bruised finger and a prime collection of miscellaneous bruises and abrasions.

Bill Ferguson, deputising in the second row, played well. Eddie Thomas again proved that he is a powerful contender for one of the back-row positions.

This spate of injuries has drawn attention to the often overlooked resources of the Cardiff club in the way of masseurs and treatment, and in Ted Arcus and Tom Holley they have two "back room" boys whose value has been proved to the hilt recently.

The clash of fixtures with Cardiff City, big boxing events

and the rest, caused by the decision to play mid-week games on Wednesdays, has resulted in much smaller "gates" than would be the case if these games were played on a Thursday.

Bush Honoured

There was a pleasing ceremony this week at the home of Percy Bush, one of the greatest of all Welsh rugby stars, when M. Marcel Pedron, the president of the Nantes-Cognac side, handed him a certificate of life membership of the French club.

Percy Bush, then on the consular staff at Nantes, was responsible more than any other for the growth and strength of rugby football in France and the rapprochement between the two clubs for which he played is now firmly cemented.

Jack Matthews, Bleddyn Williams, Danny Davies and Hubert Johnson share with Percy Bush the honour of life membership of the French club, while M. Henri Pitcheret is a life member of the Cardiff club.

At a time when rugby football is breaking all barriers of race and colour it is good to know that important pioneer work in this respect was done by the famous Cardiff club itself.

The world is all the better for it!

F.E. 27/9/52

Delightful Rugby At Arms Park

Cardiff Too Clever For Frenchmen

Delightful rugby was served up in the match between Cardiff and the Combined Nantes and Cognac XV at Arms Park to-day, brilliant scoring movements being a feature of the play.

This gala game attracted a crowd of over 25,000. Among those present were the Lord Mayor of Cardiff (Councillor W. H. J. Muston) and the French Consul in Cardiff (M. Henri Langlois) who, at a civic luncheon before the game, presented Percy Bush, the famous Welsh player, with the French Government's silver medal of gratitude.

By OBSERVER

Nantes and Cognac: M. Cibial (Cognac); M. Chaillat (Nantes), R. Fabre (Nantes) (capt.), C. Jaubert (Nantes), J. Butsaunt (Cognac), M. Lecomte (Nantes), P. Lapierre (Nantes); G. Duffy (Cognac), P. Tissandier (Cognac), R. Fuzeaux (Nantes), J. Gimisty (Nantes), R. Porchier (Cognac), R. Saiot (Nantes), R. Savin (Cognac), R. Biennes (Cognac).

Cardiff: J. Llewellyn; G. Rowlands, Alun Thomas, Bledwyn Williams, Haydn Morris; Cliff Morgan, Lloyd Williams, Gower Jenkins, G. Beckingham, J. D. Evans, W. E. Tamplin, M. Collins, C. D. Williams, Sid Judd (capt.), J. D. Nelson.

Referee, Mr. Trevor Jones, Maesteg.

Before the game started Judd, the Cardiff captain, was presented with a bouquet by Raymond Fabre, the Combined team's skipper.

Lecomte kicked off for the Combined team and in the first minute a penalty attempt by the French outside half sailed right across the Cardiff posts and was worked away into safety.

Cliff Morgan burst through the centre and it was only the presence of Biennes which prevented Cardiff from opening the score.

Three minutes later, however, Cardiff went ahead, Alun Thomas shrewdly kicking ahead for HAYDN MORRIS to snatch up the ball and sprint for a corner try, which Tamplin converted.

Cibial did well to touch down at the feet of the tearaway Cardiff pack when they followed up a beautiful cross-kick by Rowlands.

Cardiff were well on top and Fabre and Jaubert put in some good relieving kicks to keep the lively Welshmen at bay.

BRILLIANT RUN

Haydn Morris was recalled after going over following a breakaway by Collins, but a minute or so later a characteristic run by Bledwyn Williams resulted in HAYDN MORRIS being given a chance to put in one of his brilliant touch-line runs and he outsped the French backs to score near the posts, Tamplin again converting.

In a 40-yards' run BLEDDYN WILLIAMS beat man after man with his celebrated link before scoring between the posts. Tamplin added the extra points.

Nantes and Cognac fought back with spirit and PORCHIER reduced the arrears with a good individualistic try which Cibial narrowly missed converting.

With a strong, gusty wind behind them Cardiff were always on the offensive and it was no surprise when C. D. WILLIAMS finished off another Bledwyn Williams sortie with a try between the posts for Tamplin to put over another easy conversion.

Cibial earned applause for an acrobatic save at the feet of the Cardiff pack.

Half—Cardiff 4 0 20
Nantes Cognac 0 1 3

With the wind in their favour the combined team showed more confidence, but after some early pressure in the Cardiff half JUDD was on hand to set the seal on some carefree interpassing and scored half way out. This time Tamplin failed to convert.

Cibial narrowly missed reducing the leeway with a penalty attempt and later earned applause for clean handling under pressure.

ROWLANDS added another unconverted try after a misunderstanding between the French backs.

Cardiff were demonstrably a better team but the Frenchmen never gave up trying.

TENACITY REWARDED



Rowland breaking away for Cardiff at the Arms Park to-day in the game with Cognac and Nantes.



H. MORRIS

Evans, W. E. Tamplin, M. Collins,
C. D. Williams, Sid Judd (capt.),
J. D. Nelson.

Referee, Mr. Trevor Jones,
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TENACITY REWARDED

After 15 minutes of the second half Nantes and Cognac's tenacity was rewarded when their left centre JAUBERT intercepted a wild Cardiff pass and swerved past Llewellyn to score between the posts. Cibial converted.

The French has no answer for the brilliance of the Cardiff backs and HAYDN MORRIS romped over for his 'hat-trick' of tries after Cliff Morgan had side-stepped and dodged cleverly to put the French defence at sixes and sevens. Tamplin again converted.

Cardiff were now serving up some brilliant stuff, and HAYDN MORRIS was over again for a beautiful individual try for Tamplin to kick his sixth goal. The Frenchmen hit back, and SAHOT gained consolation for them when he put over a good penalty goal.

Final—Cardiff 6 2 36
Nantes & Cognac *2 1 11

*One penalty
COMMENTS

Although they were no match for the brilliant Cardiff scoring machine, Nantes and Cognac put up a plucky fight against odds.

Cardiff were in scintillating form and the Haydn Morris—Bleddyn Williams—Cliff Morgan mid-field jugglery had the Frenchmen nonplussed.

Morris scored almost at will whilst the other two did many clever things.

Outstanding for the Frenchmen were Cibial (full-back), Fabre and Jaubert (centres) and Biennes, Porchier and Satot in a hard-working pack.



MADE IN
ENGLAND