



SPORT

EXPLOIT

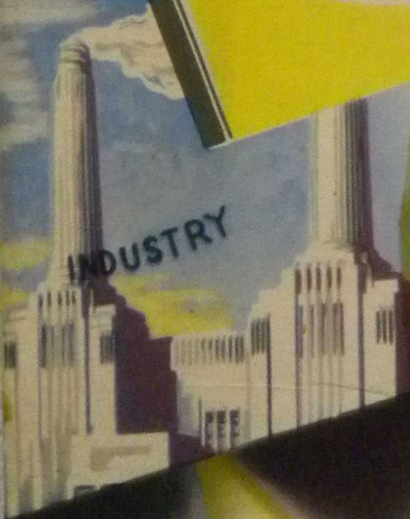


INTERLUDE



SCIENCE

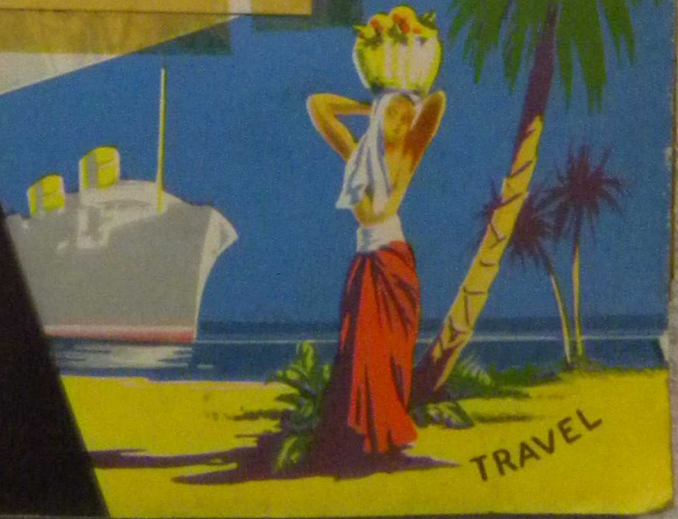
INDUSTRY



CRFC. CUTTINGS
JUNE, 1955 - AUG. 1955

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DRAMA



TRAVEL

Expensive win for British Lions

From J. B. G. THOMAS

JOHANNESBURG, Wednesday.

PLAYING open, thrustful Rugby, the British Isles Rugby Union touring team beat Northern Universities by 32 points to six at Ellis Park here to-day. But it was an expensive victory.

The tourists finished with only 13 men, McLeod and captain Cameron leaving the field injured. Another player, outside-half Baker, was also injured.

The Lions won by four goals, two penalties and two tries to one penalty and one try before 45,000 spectators.

The gruelling pace and the determined tackling by both sides took its toll of the players and there were frequent hold-ups because of injuries. The touring team suffered worse in this respect.

Scottish international prop-forward Hugh McLeod received a head injury in the second half and was taken to hospital suffering from concussion.

Baker aggravated his injured Achilles' tendon and was moved to full-back by Cameron. Then Cameron himself was forced to go off with a cut head.

BACKS STAND OUT

The tourists' backs were outstanding and the forwards did well against a lighter pack, most prominent being Elliott, Higgins, Robins, Greenwood and Reid.

At scrum-half Williams, though sometimes erratic, sent out a long service to Baker who controlled play smoothly.

Cameron was cool and efficient at full-back which helped his side enormously, and when at outside half in the final 10 minutes, he played accurately to make a good try. O'Reilly always looked dangerous at centre with his long striding run and powerful burst.

Pedlow, playing centre as substitute for Quinn, standing down with a groin injury, was a success. He ran and passed well, kicked two penalties and made four conversions. Both wings ran well but while Morris got two tries, a score still eluded the hard working Sykes.

The tourists did not heel quickly from the set scrums, and this must remain a disadvantage particularly when playing against heavier packs than that which opposed them to-day. In line-out play that was cleanly regulated, they held their own comfortably.

The tourists scored 11 points in the first 13 minutes. Pedlow kicked a penalty—the first of the tour—from 30 yards, and O'Reilly snapped up a loose ball to dive over for an unconverted try.

A minute later Baker kicked high up the middle of the field

Clem Thomas progressing

KIMBERLEY.

Wednesday.

CLEM THOMAS, the wing forward of the British Isles Rugby touring team, who underwent an appendicitis operation here on Sunday, is progressing well and hopes to rejoin the team at Cape Town on July 8.—Reuter.

and Ulyate misfielded for Morris to gather in his stride and race beautifully for 55 yards to score between the posts. Pedlow converted.

16 POINTS LEAD

Scrappy play followed until the "Lions" attacked before the interval. Following a loose maul after a line out, O'Reilly cut through, swerved, and dived over for a fine try which Pedlow converted to give the tourists a 16-point lead at the interval.

Pedlow landed another 20-yard goal, and converted a try by Williams.

The "Lions" combined play was now so good that they scored again. Sykes put Baker over and Pedlow converted.

The Varsities eventually scored, Cloete landing a 45-yard penalty, but Morris got another unconverted try for the "Lions." The Universities scored a simple unconverted try through Van Vuuren before Cameron left the field with a cut head.

Team: Cameron; Sykes, O'Reilly, Pedlow, Morris; Baker, John Williams, McLeod, Roe, Elliott, Reid, Michie, Higgins, Robins, Greenwood.

WESTERN MAIL
30/6/55

Lively opponents for

"Lions"

From J. B. G. THOMAS

JOHANNESBURG, Monday.

THE British Isles Rugby Union tourists arrived here to-day after an overnight train journey from Kimberley. Some players found it difficult to sleep in the comfortable bunks owing to the speed of the train which brought them into the "gold city" early this morning.

All reported fit, however, except Rhys Williams, of Wales, who has damaged a finger. He is receiving attention and should be fit for Saturday's important match at Kroonstad against Orange Free State.

KICKING PRACTICE

The "Lions" were accorded a civic welcome and entertained to lunch at Selbourne Hall by the Mayor after a practice at Ellis Park. They were helped in scrummaging routine by former Springbok, Hopple Van Jaarsveld, who played prop against the 1949 All Blacks.

After lunch place kickers had special practice.

Wednesday's match should

provide football more in keeping with the British tradition of play. Northern Varsities have a light pack but the whole side is fast and lively and should test the tourists.

Included in the side are several Springbok trialists, and two members of the Western Transvaal pack. Ulyate, who did well in the trials at outside-half, plays full-back.

TICKETS SELLING

Local critics say the "Lions" may lose as they are playing so many new players, but manager Siggins says that all must have a chance to prove themselves before there is any thought of picking the best available fifteen.

"I expect the best side to be fielded on Saturday at Kroonstad," he said.

Tickets for all the tourists matches are selling well and Test matches are virtually sold out.

Clem Thomas is making good progress, a bulletin from Kimberley said to-day.

WESTERN MAIL
29/6/55

RUGBY TOUR

Open play promised

From J. B. G. THOMAS

JOHANNESBURG, Tuesday.

THE British Isles Rugby Union tourists match at Ellis Park to-morrow promises to be one of the high-lights of the tour from a Rugby standpoint.

Jack Phelan, manager of the combined Northern Universities team drawn from Witwatersrand, Pretoria, and Potchefstroom, told me to-day: "Our aim is to play sound but constantly open football."

If the Universities do play open football they will find the "Lions" revelling in such an atmosphere for even without crack players like Morgan, Butterfield, and Davies, the tourists will still field a good back division.

Unfortunately, Quinn is unfit and Reid is a doubtful starter. Pedlow has moved in from the wing to centre, and Sykes, of England, plays on the wing.

After practice on the famous Wanderers ground in the centre of the city residential area, the tourists were entertained informally in the magnificent club house termed by the well known secretary, Algy Frames, as the "Buckingham Palace of South Africa."

The Wanderers' old club house and ground was in the centre of the city until 1945, and is now the site of the main railway station. The site was sold for over half a million pounds and the new club house and grounds erected at Kent Park cover 200 acres and include a golf course. It is the finest sports lay-out I have ever seen.

Ben Myburgh, the flank forward, who toured Great Britain with the Fourth Springboks in season 1951-52, will captain Orange Free State against the Lions at Kroonstad on Saturday.

LIONS TRY O'REILLY AS WING

From J. B. G. THOMAS

KROONSTAD

(Orange Free State), Thursday. **F**OR the hardest match of the tour to date here on Saturday the British Isles Rugby touring team have selected the strongest available side.

The South African critics argue that a victory for the "Lions" would prove a happy pointer for their chances in the Tests.

The team will be:—Cameron; O'Reilly, Davies, Butterfield, Morris; Morgan, J. Williams, W. Williams, B. Meredith, C.

Alun Thomas

THE British Isles Rugby Union touring team are now three men short.

In addition to Clem Thomas, who is recovering from an appendix operation at Kimberley, Hugh McLeod, the Scottish front row forward, is suffering from concussion after Wednesday's game against Northern Universities at Johannesburg, and Alun Thomas, the Welsh full-back, was sent to hospital with a bad attack of influenza.

Arthur Smith (Scotland), who was at first thought to be in need of attention from a bone specialist for his fractured left thumb, travelled with the rest of the party to Kroonstad for the match against Orange Free State on Saturday.

Meredith, R. Williams, Thompson (capt.), Wilson, Robins, Greenwood.

LIGHT FLANKERS

The side is not particularly heavy on the flanks where break-away forwards Wilson and Greenwood are light compared with the opposing wing forwards. Cameron showed good form on Wednesday and will take place kicks in the absence of Pedlow, who has a minor injury.

O'Reilly, who ran so well in his first match, is played on the wing and if he does well there, I am certain he will be a strong candidate for the test side.

Williams gains preference over Lloyd at scrum-half mainly because he has a longer pass and is a quicker runner with the ball.

Williams will have to do well in this match to offset the challenge of Lloyd and Jeeps for the test place.

WELSH FRONT ROW

The Welsh front row takes over against the heaviest scrummaging pack met to date and our biggest second-row men R. Williams and Thompson are included.

WESTERN MAIL
1/7/55

Robins who has played two intelligent matches at number eight, retains his place to appear in his third successive match. Higgins is not included merely because he appeared in the first three matches, he is a near certainty for the Test side.

RECORD "GATE"

The Lions' match at Ellis Park on Wednesday produced a record mid-week gate for any sporting event in South Africa. The attendance was 51,000 and included 8,000 school children who were admitted free of charge. So far the Lions have produced record attendances at each ground on which they have played.

Wednesday's victory was the largest ever gained by a touring side over the Universities.

WESTERN MAIL

29/6/55

LIONS SHATTER FREE STATE DEFENCE

From J. B. G. THOMAS,
KROONSTAD, Orange Free State, Sunday.

IN producing some of the best combined play ever seen in South Africa here yesterday British Lions overwhelmed a strong Orange Free State side by five goals and two tries (31 points) to a penalty goal (three points).

They performed superbly after a quiet start, and rarely wasted a chance while first cutting the Free State defence to shreds and then annihilating it.

It was most impressive as a spectacle, and encouraging for a team suffering from injuries and many other alarms, including the threat of a mumps epidemic.

More important still is the fact that the victory has rocked the South African Rugby public with the daring audacity of its challenge.

In a country where forward and defensive play has been developed to a fine art this display has come as a sporting revolution.

Lions proved themselves faster and more accurate than the 1953 Wallabies, to sow seeds of doubt in home followers that South Africa will win the Test series rubber, which has been in their keeping for 52 years.

BEST OF CAREER

Springbok Test selectors Craven and Zeller, who sat unnoticed on the touchline, must have wondered at the supreme attack of Morgan, playing the outstanding attacking game of his colourful career in representative football. Smooth, fast and accurate, Morgan showed his true quality, while at his elbow the powerful pair of Davies and Butterfield punched away with the speed and thrust of a panzer armoured division. So effective were they that Lions' wings had comparatively little to do. Behind these stars was cool and accurate Cameron, whose long punts always found touch.

His success as goal-kicker merely confirmed the improved all-round play of Lions. While the backs performed everything according to the text-book, the forwards did a grand job in holding the Free State pack.

INSPIRING LEADER

Locals anticipated the Free State players getting on top early in the match and dictating the run of the play, but Lions' forwards never allowed them such luxury and chased their opponents hard from the first whistle, under the inspiring leadership of Thompson. In the last quarter they were right on top, and the sight of them joining in effectively with the backs produced a complete crack-up in the Free State morale.

Indeed, few sides in the world could have stopped these roaring red Lions. The Welsh front row of the two Merediths and Williams stood no nonsense, although losing the scrums 17 to 10, and they rampaged in the loose. There was considerable improvement in line-out play, where Thompson, Robins, and the two Williams' jumped well. Robins again appeared perfectly happy as No. 8.

Greenwood and Wilson were ever in attendance upon the ball in the loose, but were not quite happy as blind-side markers, suggesting need for the heavier Higgins in the Tests for the specialist job.

ROCKET-LIKE PASSES

Behind the pack John Williams started indifferently owing to an early hand injury and the fact that he was playing for the first time with Morgan. In the second half he produced his rocket-like passes to set free the dancing feet and sure hands of his partner.

Of the Free State side, one player alone showed Test qualities—the diminutive and lively Strydom at scrum-half. Most of the other players were run off their feet by the close, for the pace was a killer, and Lions were really fit.

Butterfield (three), O'Reilly (two), W. P. C. Davies, and Thompson got the tries, and Cameron converted five. Klopper kicked the penalty for the Free State.

For the match at Windhoek in South-west Africa, on Tuesday the team chosen is: Cameron; Sykes, Quinn, O'Reilly, Davies; Baker, Lloyd; W. Williams, Roe, McLeod, Elliot, Michie, Higgins, Reid, Thompson (capt.).



Cliff Morgan scoring the first try of the Lions' tour when they played Western Transvaal and were beaten.

Lions show poor form in victory

From J. B. G. THOMAS
WINDHOEK, Tuesday.

IN striking contrast to their great win over Orange Free State on Saturday, the British Lions gave an extremely disappointing display here to-day when they beat South West Africa by three tries (nine points) to nil.

They lacked punch and cohesion and were never allowed to settle down by a determined local side which tackled and covered well.

The Lions were strangely disjointed and lacking in judgment. Their forwards got a good share of the ball in the scrums but lacked their usual devil in the loose and never hunted as a swift moving pack.

Thompson dropped out of the side during the morning with septic tonsils and Higgins, who worked hard, took over.

MEN INSPIRED

South West played like men inspired in an attempt to beat the Lions. At full back Rautenbach was sound, and Swart and Eberstein looked better three-quarters than many Springbok trialists. In the pack Laubscher and Westhuisen were outstanding.

Lions like Wilson, Robins and W. O. Williams were rarely seen, and best of the pack were Higgins, Michie and Roe. Lloyd did not have a happy match at scrum half and Morgan was injured in a late tackle early on. He continued to make openings, but the three-quarters wasted chances through indecision and lack of judgment.

One effect this poor display may have on the Lions is to dispel any spirit of over-confidence gained as a result of previous heavy scoring.

Once again the Lions started badly and South West often looked dangerous before the Lions took the lead. O'Reilly made a break and gave Sykes a pass to score in a corner. Ten minutes later Quinn sent Morris diving over in the other corner for a second unconverted try. O'Reilly scored the third try from a loose maul.

British team: Cameron; Sykes, Quinn, O'Reilly, Morris; Morgan, Lloyd; W. Williams, Roe, Elliott, Michie, Reid, Higgins, Robins, Wilson.

ALUN THOMAS

Alun Thomas, of Llanelly and Wales, is suffering from yellow jaundice and will be unfit for a month.

Thomas was left behind at Kensington Sanatorium on Thursday when he was stated to be suffering from influenza. He was said to be "comfortable."

This latest blow, since Thomas is the key utility player in the side, makes it very necessary that substitutes be requested.

RUGBY FOOTBALL

LIONS BACK PLAY v. FORWARD POWER

From J. B. G. THOMAS
KROONSTAD, Friday.

THE British Lions faces their stiffest test of the tour so far when they play Orange Free State here to-morrow.

Since the tourists are fielding what is their strongest available side South African critics intend to assess the Lions chances in test matches by their display to-morrow.

Dogged by injuries and illness, the tourists are faced with many problems since only 23 players are available for selection.

After a hard workout this morning, doubtful starters, O'Reilly and Butterfield, have been adjudged fit, although O'Reilly is continuing treatment.

The management is still considering the possibility of sending for a substitute, and if a request is made I expect it to be for Ross, the Irish back-row forward.

RECORD OVER TOURISTS

Here in the Free State there is enthusiasm as strong as in Wales and the local side will have great vocal support in its attempt to repeat its performance of twice defeating the 1953 Wallabies.

The local side is not quite as strong behind the scrum as it was in 1953 but has a powerful pack of forwards ably led by 1951 Springbok Ben Myburgh.

The Free State will attempt to control at forward and deny the Lions possession of the ball.

STRONGEST PACK

Lions are playing their strongest available pack with five Welshmen included, and it will attempt to get at least 40 per cent of the ball from tight and loose.

Special emphasis will be laid upon the necessity of getting the ball quickly from loose mauls in order that Williams can send the elusive Morgan away with long rocket-like passes. It will then be Morgan's duty to pierce the Free State defence sharply and pave the way for the powerful centres.

To-morrow's match will provide an answer to Lions' theory that aggressive back play will counter dominating forward play providing forwards and backs combine smoothly and speedily in the loose.

WESTERN MAIL 11/7/55

WESTERN MAIL 6/7/55

WESTERN MAIL 2/7/55

RUGBY'S BLACK MARK

SOUTH WALES
ECHO 5/8/55

FOR B.B.C.

No Broadcast Plans For Springboks — 'Lions' Test

By DAVE PHILLIPS

POOR old B.B.C., whipping-boy in many a controversy, finds itself involved in yet another spot of bother—this time with irate rugby enthusiasts.

To-morrow's rugby Test at Ellis Park, Johannesburg, in which the British Isles touring team come to grips with South Africa—unofficial "Champions of the World"—has been completely ignored by the British broadcasting authorities.

A match which is expected to attract a world record rugby crowd of 90,000 (many of them paying fabulous "black market" prices for their tickets) does not even merit a moment of the corporation's valuable time! Stay-at-home rugby fans must perforce twiddle their thumbs in impotence while history is being made in the "Golden City" . . . or (and this is the advice of a B.B.C. official) try to twiddle the knobs of their short-wave sets in the hope of picking up a commentary from South African stations.

Might 'Strike Lucky'

"There are 20 to 25 frequencies on the short-wave band where rugby men might 'strike lucky,'" said the official. "They range from 19 to 91 metres and there should be several audible in Western Europe."

But he adds, "They will have to be good sets to get them."

But is there any need for this hit-or-miss ether searching? Most rugby enthusiasts are outspoken in their criticism of the short-sighted policy of the B.B.C. concerning what, after all, is one of the most important sports events of the year.

When the fourth New Zealand "All Blacks" toured this country, radio commentator, Winston McCarthy, was a popular member of the party, and the fourth Springboks, too, took the trouble to bring along their own radio reporter to describe the four highlights (and there were many) in English and Afrikaans to the folk at home.

But not the B.B.C.

Startling Contrast

Nothing at all has been done in the domestic services of the corporation to cover this important sporting series—an attitude which is in startling contrast to the expense and trouble incurred to bring up-to-the-minute reports of other sporting events, particularly cricket, soccer and athletics.

Rugby football, it seems, is the poor relation of British sport . . . not even a re-broadcast is envisaged of any of the rugby Tests or key-games in South Africa.

When I got in touch with the Welsh Region offices of the B.B.C. I was told that no special arrangements were being made to bring listeners in this country any of the thrills

90,000 Have Rugby Test Fever

South Wales Echo, Special Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG, Friday. TEST fever—rugby variety—has descended on Johannesburg with a vengeance. With a crowd of 90,000 already guaranteed, enthusiasts are pouring into the city.

The new Springbok team is an unknown force. It contains a number of surprise selections and, as it has never been seen in action, it is tempting providence to say how it will function when put to the test.

Individually it contains some very fine players but it remains to be seen whether they can settle down as a collective force at such short notice.

'Lion's' Advantage

This is where the touring team has an undeniable advantage.

Dr. Danie Craven has done his best to counter this by having his team together since last Tuesday.

When the Springboks toured Britain in 1951-2, home international teams did not assemble until the day before the match.

It seems a pity that when the boot is on the other foot, as now, the Springboks do not observe similar conventions.

The British team are all announced to be fit up to the present moment, and it can only be hoped that former "doubtfuls" owing to injury, Cameron and Butterfield, are not deluding themselves.

South Africa have, as usual, a mighty pack of forwards, but four of them, Du Plooy, Fry, the captain, Van Wyk, and Relief, are 30 years of age or over.

Key Man

If the British forwards can win a reasonable supply of the ball, Cliff Morgan, Butterfield, Davies and O'Reilly behind the scrum are fully capable of winning the match.

My own feeling is that the Welsh front row of Billy Williams and the two Merediths will not let the team down and I am hoping for the best.

Cliff Morgan is the key man of the match as opposed to the young, inexperienced Springbok fly-half, Clive Ulyate, who is only 21 and is said to be brilliant and erratic by turns.

REPLACEMENTS FOR INJURED LIONS STANDING BY

Cliff Morgan's hurt ankle should hasten decision

From REG SWEET

Cape Town, Thursday.

WHILE an X-ray plate indicates what part Cliff Morgan will play in the next few weeks of the British Isles tour, and the team management confers with the executive of the South African Rugby Board, today and tomorrow will be at least as important to the Lions as the Western Province match on Saturday.

The manager, Mr. Jack Siggins, will decide in this period whether to ask for replacements from Britain or not. Four players, it is understood, are standing by to fly out to the Union if called for. They have already had the necessary inoculations and could probably be with the team within a week.

They are: Gareth Griffiths (Cardiff and Wales centre or wing three-quarter), George Hastings (Gloucester and England lock), G. P. Ross (Cymus and Ireland flank or number eight forward) and Alan Edwards (Army and England full-back).

It is thought that if replacements are called for, Griffiths and Ross are the players most likely to be selected.

Although Mr. Edgar Tudhope, the president of the South African Board, Mr. Frank Mellish, the convener of the Selection Committee, and other board members conferred last night with the British Isles team management, it is unlikely that Mr. Siggins will make a final decision on reinforcements at least until Clem Thomas, who was operated on for appendicitis in Kimberley, rejoins the team today.

Morgan's disability has come at a bitterly unfortunate moment for a side which has been harried by injury and illness from the start of the tour.

DELAYED TACKLE

His nimble-footed thrusts have made it very clear within the first two weeks of the tour that Morgan has a clear edge on any fly-half in the Union for sheer dash off the mark and he led a succession of loose forwards an embarrassing dance until a delayed tackle at Windhoek brought this misfortune.

The injury problem has clearly led to a decision, if not necessary, to rest players regularly regardless of the nature of the opposition.

This seems clear enough in the omission from the Western Province match of Jeff Butterfield at centre, Reg Higgins on the flank, and scrum-half John Williams.

For all that the Lions should command remarkable thrust at centre through Davies and O'Reilly. The selection of Pat Quinn on the wing came as a surprise for Quinn, though he has five England caps at centre has not played in this position before.

Equally surprising was the decision to break up the all-Welsh front rank. But here again the necessity to rest key players has obviously dictated policy.

The Lions arrived in rain last night, and it was still drizzling when the team went out to train at Newlands today.

The team to play Western Province is:—

A. Cameron; J. P. Quinn, W. P. C. Davies, A. J. O'Reilly, H. Morris; D. O. S. Baker, R. E. G. Jeeps, H. F. McLeod, B. Meredith, C. Meredith, J. T. Greenwood, R. H. Williams, R. H. Thompson (capt.), D. S. Wilson and T. E. Reid.

TO BURN THE STAK 7/7/55



P. Quinn

Heavy-Footed Province XV Were Left Standing Lions "Come Back" on Wet Newlands Pitch

WESTERN PROVINCE 3, BRITISH ISLES 11.

CAPE TOWN, Saturday.—A grand fighting second half, in which their forwards showed up magnificently, brought the British Isles Rugby team victory over Western Province by 11 points (goal and two tries) to 3 (a penalty goal) at Newlands to-day. A 35,000 crowd saw the Lions come back after being three points down when Roy Dryburgh kicked a 45-yard

Although the British team had shown in their five previous matches that they are "dry ball" players, they were mobile enough on this rain-soaked pitch. As a fact, it was their ability to get around the ball quickly in the loose which swung the game against a somewhat heavy-footed Western Province fifteen.

In that splendid second half when the Lions sustained the pace to give some of the opposing forwards a very leg-weary look, the touring team scored their 11 winning points—a try by Phil Davies, the England centre, and two tries by the Welsh hooker, Bryn Meredith, with Dougie Baker adding the goal points when Meredith went over for the second time.

Once again the British forwards

From
PAUL IRWIN

showed that their speed in getting around the ball will set big problems for the South African opposition.

While the scrum count went 18-12 in favour of Western Province, there, sure enough, would be the opposing loose forwards to break up attacks before they could really get started.

Tom Reid, the Irish international at number eight, got well into the rucks. So did the powerful Courtney Meredith, the Welsh front row "prop," and stocky Hugh McLeod.

But why pick out the players by name? Every man jack of the Lions' pack sloged it out on a pitch that was heavy after a 48-hour soaking.

On the tighthead count it was three all. Thus Province's advantage arrived on their loose head when the British defence, lining shallow, was able to come up fast to "kill" possible Province attacks.

That's not all. With the British pack pushing hard, Province's heeling was often a fraction slow—slow enough at any rate for the opposing flankers and the terrier-like Dicky Jeeps to pounce on Dick Lockyear.

When Lockyear did get the ball back Dennis Fry, who has only recently made a return to first-class Rugby, usually booted for the line.

Let's say it now. Fry was never

one of the fastest outside half-backs in the land, and it is obvious that he has lost half a yard—maybe more—of the speed which he did possess. Thus he was having to do a lot of his work in a hurry, and the result was that his centres, Mike East and Alan Skene, didn't see much of the ball.

It was only in the waning minutes, when the Lions were hanging tenaciously to their winning lead that the centres broke on two occasions. Even then the wings, "Chum" Ochse and Theuns Briers, didn't get the ball.

Served Ball Smartly

Working in reverse, Dicky Jeeps, the only non-international in the Lions' Fifteen, often got the ball out smartly—especially when sweeping it up as it was heeled from the rucks—to send Dougie Baker and his centres on the move.

When the chances came their way, the British backs were always trying something on at attack.

It is my opinion that had the ground been dry they would have shown such pace as they took the ball to go through the gap that their victory would have been even more conclusive.

Mind you, Mike East, the Union Club centre, showed qualities of defence far in excess of those when he played for the South African Fifteen in the first Test trial at Springs. It was East who took his opposing centre, the big,

smashing Phil Davies, time and again as the England player—all 190 lbs. of him—went thrusting through the middle.

Two Good Breaks

Then again, we saw East make two splendid breaks in the waning minutes when it seemed that a few of those stout-hearted Lions were beginning to feel the pace which they had set themselves.

And Alan Skene? No, it just wasn't his day. One glaringly black mark against him was put down as he missed the red-headed Tony O'Reilly completely, only for Briers and East to do the "life-saving" work.

O'Reilly had a good match, as indeed did the whole British back division. With his long stride and powerful hip action, this young Irishman, the "baby" of the touring team, is most difficult to stop.

Crowd Rose to Him

The crowd certainly rose to him during one second half break that took him between Briers and Skene.

But there was the unflagging Briers again to do the tackling and end a likely-looking movement.

"Butch" Lochner, at No. 8, and Hugo van Zyl were the pick of the Province forwards. Lochner rarely went into the mauls, operating more as an extra back to do some great-hearted work on defence.

The dark-haired Van Zyl also showed up in the tackling. Indeed, he was often doing tackling which I thought should have been the job of Stephen Fry.

On this showing I don't see how Fry can possibly be South Africa's captain True, he got into the mauls, but he was seen only once on attack—this with a penetrating run, which came near to bringing Province a try.

How the scoring went: Dryburgh put Province 3-0 ahead with a 20-yard penalty. Ten minutes after half-time Lions equalised with Davies' try. Bryn Meredith dived over following a line-out to give Lions 6-3 lead. Meredith added a second try which Cameron converted with a great kick from near the corner flag.

Another "Lion" injured

From J. B. G. Thomas
CAPE TOWN, Friday.
NO sooner had Manager Jack Siggins, of the British Rugby touring team, learnt the news that Welsh international Gareth Griffiths was being flown out as a replacement than he received a medical report that Irish hooker Robin Roe has cracked a rib, and will be out of the side for at least ten days.

To-morrow's match at Newlands against Western Province promises to be one of the hardest of the tour. Six inches of rain have fallen on the ground in the last 24 hours and a gale and rain are promised for to-morrow as the barometer falls at an alarming rate.

Local followers are saying the rain will favour the Lions, but I do not agree entirely. It will slow down the pace of the Lions' football.

There is a possibility that skipper Robin Thompson and wing Haydn Morris may withdraw from the side in the morning.

If this is so the Lions will not be as strong as the side which administered a powerful defeat on Orange Free State last Saturday.

WESTERN MAIL
9/7/55

ELLIOT HAS PLEURISY

CAPE TOWN, Saturday.—Tom Elliot, the Scottish front ranker with the British Isles Rugby team, has gone down with pleurisy and is in bed at the team's Cape Town hotel.

Elliot has been suffering from heartburn for the past few days and it was only when a doctor was called in to-day that it was established he had pleurisy.—SAPA.

Lions on tour

CLIFF MORGAN'S INJURY NOT SERIOUS

From J. B. G. Thomas

CAPE TOWN, Thursday.
JACK SIGGINS, the British Rugby team manager, who has had an extremely worrying time since arriving in South Africa, smiled to-day when an X-ray examination of Cliff Morgan, diminutive Welsh outside half, revealed that he had broken no bones.

"It is a great relief to me," he said, as it was to every member of the party, for without Morgan for Tests the Lions would be up against it. With only one outside half available the side would be in a worse position than it is at present.

I expect Mr. Siggins to cable home to-day for Gareth Griffiths, since the two backs Arthur Smith and Alan Thomas will not be fit for some time.

Clem is back

Clem Thomas arrived here by air to-day from Kimberley and told me, "I am feeling fine and eager to get back into training." It may be possible for him to start training in two to three weeks.

Other injuries include Thompson (sore tonsils), Trevor Lloyd (pulled ankle muscle), Eddie Mielie (sore ear), Haydn Morris (slight cold), Pedlow (bruised foot), Butterfield and Cameron (sore leg muscles).

This is a formidable list and the manager's worries can only be eased by the arrival of reinforcements.

The Lions practised in pouring rain at the wonderful Newlands ground this morning. "It is lovely," said Russell Robins, "just like playing at Ponty on a wet day."

Western Province whom the Lions meet on Saturday had a practice to-day.

They will field a strong side, including Ochse and Briers, the most formidable pair of wings yet met on the tour.

WESTERN MAIL
8/7/55

Lions get their best win of tour

From J. B. G. THOMAS

CAPE TOWN, Sunday.

BRITISH LIONS gave their best display of the year here yesterday in gaining victory over Western Province, champions of South African provincial Rugby, by a goal and two tries (11 points) to a penalty goal (three points).

Without the services of Test candidates Morgan, Butterfield, J. Williams, W. O. Williams, Robins, Higgins and Morris, Lions showed they have remarkably strong reserves and need only good fortune from injury and illness to achieve a most successful tour.

A week ago at Kroonstad it was a triumph for the British backs with their speed and power. Yesterday belonged to the forwards for they performed superbly and by the close were in control, having obtained the measure of their opponents, led by Springbok Stephen Fry.

BASIC PRINCIPLES

Starting quietly and slowly gathering momentum as the match progressed, Thompson and his fellows, stuck to the basic principles of forward play. They scrummaged hard with a compact formation, excelled in line-out play and fought for the ball in rucks with a tenacity of purpose comparable with the All Blacks.

The line-out work of Thompson, Williams and Reid was the best seen so far, while Welsh hooker B. Meredith was in charge in the short line, and well deserved his two tries as an opportunist and intelligent backer up in the loose.

In general loose play, whether harrying or supporting, Greenwood and Wilson did well, and the Lions' eight had mastered the slightly heavier province pack by the end of the match.

Behind the scrummage, Jeeps performed with lively intelligence at scrum half and rarely wasted an opportunity of harassing his rival or helping his own forwards.

Varying his play wisely he managed to draw some of the spoilers away from his backs and showed quality when making the second try for Meredith.

Baker, at outside half, enjoyed slower and softer going for he is strong and well able to stand up to tight play. His conversion from the touch line with an in-step soccer style was the best place kick of the tour.

At centre Lions held the upper hand with a successful mixture of the powerful, thrusting Davies and the elusive long legged "Darling Boy" O'Reilly. Though East, one of the Province centres, tackled well he could not hold two Lions who with added luck might have scored more tries.

Sykes had a better day on the wing, coming in as a late substitute for Morris, but Quinn was not quite fast enough for the wing position.

MANY PENALTIES

One feature which tended to detract from Lions' powerful display was the tendency to concede penalties in kickable positions. The tally read 14 to five against them, and had the Province's Test favourite (Dryburgh) been showing normal place-kicking form Lions would have been worried.

During the match there was a strong wind blowing from one end, and squalls of rain presented a scene and atmosphere in keeping with the British Isles.

Province took the lead near the interval. Lions got offside at a scrum 20 yards out, and Dryburgh placed an easy goal.

In the second half against wind and rain the Lions made a great effort at forward, and Davies soon equalised, supporting a breakthrough by O'Reilly.

In the last 10 minutes Meredith dashed over from a short line-out and then supported Jeeps to score a try which Baker converted.

Scottish forward Tom Elliot is confined to bed suffering from a fever. However, he is making good progress.

WESTERN MAIL
11/7/55

To 'BURG.
SUNDAY
TIMES
10/7/55

LIONS MAKE CHANGES

From J. B. G. THOMAS

OUDESHOORN, Tuesday. THE British Lions arrived here last night after negotiating an Alpine pass which would have put Switzerland to shame during a 300-mile journey by coach from Cape Town.

The party were greeted by hundreds of townfolk with their run of spectacular victories the Lions have become headlines in the papers.

So far the Tourists have played six matches with only one defeat, and scored 113 points to 37.

While South Africans rate our chances as high, we realise that the Tests will be far more difficult than any matches played to date. Injury and illness can still plague the team as they have done in the first month of the tour.

Taking no chances

But the Lions are taking no chances for their match with the South Western Districts here tomorrow. Certain players have had to be rested, including Cameron and Bryn Meredith, and thus McLeod and Williams will share hooking, and Pedlow will play at outside-half, with Baker at full-back.

All the players have had previous positional experience. Reid remains at No. 8, while Robins is on the flank, as Greenwood has a heavy cold. Team—

D. G. S. Baker (England); F. D. Sykes (England); J. Butterfield (England); J. P. Quinn (England); H. Morris (Wales); A. C. Pedlow (Ireland); J. E. Williams (England); C. C. Meredith (Wales); H. F. McLeod (Scotland); W. O. Williams (Wales); R. Higgins (England); R. H. Thompson (Ireland); captain, E. J. S. Michie (Scotland); R. J. Robins (Wales); T. E. Reid (Ireland).

WESTERN MAIL

16/7/55

Weakness in winning side

From J. B. G. THOMAS
OUDESHOORN, Wednesday.

THE British Rugby touring team gained a comfortable win over South-west Districts here to-day, but the match was disappointing and much of the play was scrappy.

Eight thousand spectators saw the Lions achieve victory by two goals, one penalty goal and three tries, 22 points to a penalty, three points.

Only occasionally did the Lions reveal their power in combined attack, and this was mainly due to the fact that the half back play was not of the traditional high standard.

South-west Districts played bravely and were more than useful at forward but lacked initiative and speed behind the scrum.

The refereeing was not good and often confused the players of both sides.

John Williams, the England scrum-half, received a back injury and left the field midway through the second half. Higgins deputised for him.

SLOW SERVICE

The Lions won an equal share of the ball from the set scrums and the line-outs, but the ball never came back quickly enough and when it did, Williams lacked his usual speed of service.

Pedlow was not a success at outside-half, being inclined to hold on to the ball when the centres needed a quick pass. Near

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the interval he changed places with Quinn. The latter improved in midfield play, but Morgan and Baker were missed.

Baker was a sound full-back with a beautiful left foot kick, and is obviously the best available deputy for Cameron in an emergency.

The pack never dominated in the loose, although McLeod, Michie, Thompson and Higgins did well.

EARLY PENALTY

It was a strange coincidence that the Lions should play below standard in mid-week matches and against weaker sides after the tremendous performances against strong provinces like the Free State and Western Province.

South-west took the lead in the first minutes, when John Williams got offside at the first scrum and Martin kicked a goal.

The Lions equalised ten minutes later, Williams sending Sykes over for Baker to convert. Baker launched an attack from his own 25 and Reid dived over for a second try.

Second half scorers for the Lions were Quinn (penalty and a conversion), Sykes (2) and Morris, tries.

Lions: Baker; Morris, Quinn, Butterfield, Sykes; Pedlow, J. Williams; C. Meredith, McLeod, W. Williams, Thompson, Michie, Higgins, Reid, Robins.

FLYING 'LION'



Boarding a plane at London Air port to-day is Cardiff and Wales three-quarter Gareth Griffiths, who is flying out to reinforce the British Isles Rugby Union tourists in South Africa. The "Lions" have suffered three casualties since the tour started. A. R. Smith, of Cambridge University and Scotland, has a broken thumb; R. C. C. Thomas, of Swansea and Wales, has had an appendix operation; and Alun Thomas, of Llanelli and Wales, has jaundice.

SOUTH WALES ECHO 15/7/55

Now Lions' Selectors Must Make Up Their Minds O'Reilly's Test Place Is Wing

From VIVIAN JENKINS

PORT ELIZABETH, Saturday.—Only three weeks to go! On August 6, at Ellis Park, 15 men in red jerseys will go out before a crowd of 90,000 people to try and wrest the spoils from South Africa in the first of the four Tests.

No doubt they will be keyed up for the effort of their lives, but the question is which members of the touring party will be occupying the 15 jerseys.

So far manager Jack Higgins and his co-selectors, Robin Thompson and Angus Cameron, have wisely been experimenting with a number of positional changes. Some of these have been forced on them by the exceptional number of casualties, but in many cases it has been founded on a deliberate policy.

Both Quinn and O'Reilly have been tried on the wing, though they were chosen for the tour as centres. Greenwood and Robins, picked originally as number eights, have been tested as flankers.

MUST DECIDE

Pedlow and Baker have both had games at full-back, though here the absence of the unlucky Alun Thomas with jaundice has been the primary cause.

So far so good and a lot has been learned from the various switches. But the time is now fast approaching when the selectors must finally make up their minds.

They have learned that O'Reilly has all the makings of a really dangerous attacking wing. Greenwood, too, has been one of the successes of the tour up till now, whether at number eight or flanker.

If the Test team had to be chosen now neither of them could be left out. With Davies and Butterfield showing such fine form in the centre, it follows that O'Reilly can only go in as a wing.

On the evidence of the games we have seen so far, it would not surprise me to see the line-up for the Test something like this: Cameron; Sykes, Davies, Butterfield, O'Reilly,

Morgan, J. Williams; W. O. Williams, Bryn Meredith, Courtenay Meredith, Higgins, Thompson (capt), R. H. Williams, Greenwood, Robins.

It could be that Gareth Griffiths, who has now arrived in South Africa as a replacement, will win a place. He will not have had much time to get into top condition, but as a brilliant runner equally at home at centre or on the wing and would have been one of my original choices for the tour.

Another alternative would be to play O'Reilly on the right wing with the speedy Haydn Morris on the left. But it seems that O'Reilly prefers the left wing and played there in his school days.

Chief Morgan and John Williams are obvious first favourites for the half-back positions. Should they be injured, Baker and Jeeps are playing first-rate Rugby and could be relied on to give a good account of themselves.

COVERED ACRES

In the pack there are others who will challenge very strongly for places, such as "Tug" Wilson, of England, and Irishman Tom Reid. Wilson had a great match against Western Province and covered acres of ground, both in defence and attack.

What the selectors have to decide is whether they should vote for a heavier man with a view to getting the ball in the tight scrums. It is a difficult problem for them, but whatever team they finally choose I am sure it is going to give South Africa a tough match.

No one in the touring party is foolish enough to underestimate the Springboks, but there is a real determination among them to be on the winning side at Ellis Park.



TONY O'REILLY... selected for British Isles tour as a centre, but may come into Test team on wing.

O'Reilly is full-back

From J. B. G. THOMAS

PORT ELIZABETH, Friday.

THE last minute withdrawal of Cecil Pedlow from the full-back position in the British team with a bruised foot has brought a tactical experiment in the British Rugby team to play Eastern Province to-morrow.

Tony O'Reilly, the 19-year-old Irish three-quarter, has been moved to the full-back position where he will play for the first time in his short career.

Haydn Morris, of Wales, will fill O'Reilly's place on the wing.

The British team are so badly hit by injuries that the selectors had no other choice but to play O'Reilly there because he is the best kicker of the back division.

It is raining hard here tonight and may make the going soft for to-morrow's match.

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JO BURG SUNDAY TIMES

17/7/55

To 'BURG
SUNDAY TIMES
17/7/55

Lions Pulverised in Scrums

Tour Forwards Finished On "Rubber Legs"

From PAUL IRWIN

EASTERN PROVINCE . . . 20 LIONS 0
PORT ELIZABETH, Saturday.—Pulverised until several members of their pack looked like badly punished boxers moving around on "rubber" legs, the British Lions were scrummed into the ground by Eastern Province's mighty pack on the Crusaders ground to-day.

Eastern Province won by 20 points (goal, five penalty goals) to nothing—and had Trevor Mills used his three-quarters in the last 20 punishing minutes, the winning margin would have been much wider.

At the end of it all, Amos du Plooy, the Province captain and front-row "prop," was chaired off the field as the British players lined the approach to the dressing-rooms to applaud him.

Certain—at Last

The magnificent Du Plooy, best South African forward in post-war years never to gain Springbok honours, deserved the tribute. And in the bargain, it is a pretty safe bet that he has at long last made a place certain for himself in a South African Test fifteen.

Look at the scrum count, which tells its own story of the overwhelming superiority of the home pack. Yet, the best pack the British Lions have met thus far in their eight games of the tour.

Here it is: 24 to Eastern Province and six to Lions. In the first half, when it did seem that Dr. A. A. Gordon, the yellow-jerseyed referee, was lenient on Province's persistent bad habit of getting the ball out between the outside man's feet, the count was 12-6 against the Lions.

All through that agonising second half for the British forwards, whose backrow was a long, long way below standard, Province raked the ball 12-2.

That's not all. The well-drilled Province forwards, who proved that South African scrummaging is the answer to the Lions' back-play, could hold the ball at will as they pushed their rivals back.

Long before "no side," there were British forwards flying signals of distress as they plodded wearily into the line-outs.

After Robin Thompson, the touring team's captain and Jim Greenwood had done much to keep the first half line-out struggle reasonably even—Province had a 14-11 edge—the towering Derek Staples and Ray Griesel did pretty much as they liked.

At any rate, Province won those second-half line-outs by three to one (the total was 16 against five) and Staples, like his captain, must have impressed Basil Kenyon and Bill Zeller, the two Springbok selectors present in the 22,000 crowd.

Big Success

Yet again, the dark-haired, athletic-looking Richard Johnson, the Port Elizabeth Crusaders' flanker, was bang in the limelight. Johnson not only did tremendous work around the scrum, where Bill Cunningham also hampered the big-hearted British flyhalf, Baker, but was seen showing intelligent positioning and good handling in the open.

Another big success was Dr. Colin Kroon, the ex-Cape Town University hooker. Besides out-rucking Robin Roe, who was a late Lions substitute for Bryn Meredith,

with Thompson, joined in the back-row depression. Dicky Jeeps was as plucky as ever—behind a sorely-beaten pack, often pouncing on Singleton as Province won the ball.

Dougie Baker tried desperately hard in face of a meagre service, and made one second-half run—there were only three by the Lions into Province territory after the interval—which ended only when Wilson was collared by Visagie.

It wasn't a day for Butterfield (uncertain in his handling when the ball did come his way) and Davies. Thus, the wings, Haydn Morris and Frank Sykes, automatically were out of it.

Nineteen-year-old Tony O'Reilly tried his best at fullback, but let's say it now—this isn't his position. Nobody knew this better than Trevor Mills and Singleton, who kicked on to him persistently.

Referee Gordon played a whistling solo with 38 penalties, some of which seemed wholly unnecessary. Thus there was a danger of the game being whistled to pieces.

THE SCORING

Province were ahead in three minutes via a Mills penalty goal on the Lions 25 and five yards from the touchline. Griffiths made it 6-0 with a 45-yard penalty in the 13th minute, when the Lions went offside in the line-out. And it was nine nothing at half-time as Griffiths booted yet another penalty goal 18 minutes from the interval.

So to the second half story, which was all Province. Though the home forwards hammered away persistently, it wasn't until the 23th minute that Singleton dived over, following his Lions' holding the ball on the Lions' line and then heeling smartly.

Trevor Mills converted and five minutes later Griffiths landed his third penalty goal. Finally there was an infringement in front of the British posts—and Mills made it 20 points for a superb Province victory.

Griffiths Is Here—Sssh!

GARETH GRIFFITHS, the Welsh Rugby three-quarter, arrived at Jan Smuts Airport last night to join the British Lions on their South African tour. He was welcomed officially by Mr. Charlie Rose-Innes, manager of the Transvaal Rugby Union's Ellis Park Stadium, and friends of the Lions team.

Griffiths would not speak to the Press beyond saying: "I am very sorry but I have not the necessary permission from my manager, Mr. Jack Higgins, to say anything to newspapermen."

Griffiths who is of medium build has an athlete's physique. Even when reporters asked him the destination of the cable he sent to Britain immediately on his arrival, he said laughingly: "I'm sorry, I can't even tell you that."

Griffiths stayed in a Johannesburg hotel last night. To-day he will meet Alun Thomas, the British fullback who has been laid up in Johannesburg with jaundice, and leave by train to-morrow night to join the Lions in Bloemfontein.

Eight Look Like Ellis Park Test "Certainties"

Sunday Times 17-7-55

By T. J. BOTHA

Sinclair Favourite

Des Sinclair, Wilf Rosenberg and Jeremy Nel will probably vie for the position of centre partner to Van Vollenhoven, Rosenberg and Nel have both played well for the junior Springboks, but unless Sinclair upsets his chances against the Lions, I expect to see him get the vacancy.

Manettejie Gericks and Tommas Gericks are favourites for the scrumhalf position. Gericks is a man in position, but the diminutive Gericks has turned in three top-class displays for the Junior Springboks, and looks like challenging the more sturdily-built Gericks in the final trial.

Loose-head "prop" is another headache for the selectors. Harry Newton Walker played at East London, but it was significant that he was asked to switch places with tighthead Amos du Plooy after half-time. Does this mean the selectors want to play Du Plooy as loose head in order to make a place for Jaap Bekker, essentially a tight-head player?

Pickard Returns

Piet Wessels and Bertus van der Merwe are certain to battle out the hooking berth. . . . Vic Wilkens should again partner Du Rand in the South African fifteen in spite of Northern's perseverance with Ernst Dinkelmann and Stephen Fry. I feel still carries the selectors' confidence despite his indifferent cover defence.

Jan Pickard was scheduled to play his first game for the Hamiltons second team yesterday after a shoulder operation. If he strikes his true form immediately, he can strengthen the Springboks' Test chances considerably—for there is no doubt that he is the outstanding lock and line-out forward in the country.

Hard Job

Thus, the selectors are in for a hard job of elimination if they hope to field the best "Probables" and "Possibles" at Durban.

At this stage eight players look like certainties for the first Test at Ellis Park, August 6. They are Roy Dryburgh (fullback), Frans Roux (wing), Tom van Vollenhoven (centre), Theuns Briers (wing), Natie Bess (flyhalf), Amos du Plooy (tight-head "prop"), "Salty" du Rand (lock), and Dan Retief (Number Eight).

It may be surprising that "Bastie" Van Wyk is not mentioned as a certainty. But he has been out of the game for three weeks with a hip injury, and will have to prove his fitness during the next three weeks. If he can find the form he showed against Western Province and in the East London trial until his injury, he would "walk" the Test side.

Dan Retief at Number Eight may surprise supporters of Danie Schwanze, "Butch" Leshner and Jaap Purser. But I put him first, because it is obvious that the selectors have him in mind for the Test, otherwise they would not have switched him from the flank to eighth man for the Junior Springbok tour.

Freddie Herget has come back into the Springbok team argument with two excellent performances against Northern Transvaal and Boland. If he is against the Lions when he left off, expect to see him casting Free State's back position at Durban.



THEUNS BRIERS . . . one of the eight.

The likely teams for the final test at Kingsmead on July 30 are:
South African XV: R. Dryburgh (W.P.), F. Roux (Tvl.), T. van Vollenhoven (N. Tvl.), D. Sinclair (Tvl.), T. Briers (W.P.), J. Nel (Tvl.), A. W. Trill (W.P.), P. Wessels (Tvl.), A. Plooy (Tvl.), C. J. van Wyk (Tvl.), du Rand (N. Tvl.), V. Wilkens (Tvl.), S. Fry (W.P.) capt.

The Rest: F. Herbet (Tvl.), Swart (S.-W.A.), J. Nel (W.P.), Rosenberg (Tvl.) or M. East (W.P.), M. Antelme (N.), C. Koch (Boland), Gentles (W.P.), G. Koch (Boland), van der Merwe (Boland), J. Bekker (N. Tvl.), C. de Wilsen (O.S.), Claassen (W. Tvl.), capt. J. Pickard (W.P.), Lochner (W.P.), D. Schwanze (E.S.).

To 'BURG
SUNDAY
TIMES
17/7/55

SOUTH AFRICANS WON'T GROUND THIS FORWARD WITHOUT A STRUGGLE

CLIFF MORGAN TO LEAD THE LIONS

From J. B. G. THOMAS

BLOEMFONTEIN, Monday.
THE British Lions arrived here this evening en route to Allwal North, where they will play on Wednesday against North Eastern Districts.

On arrival at the airport from Port Elizabeth they were met by Gareth Griffiths, who was enthusiastically welcomed by his Welsh colleagues.

The team are in good spirits considering they lost so heavily on Saturday to Eastern Province. They had early morning training at Port Elizabeth before catching the aeroplane, and while they were at work I discussed Saturday's defeat with Amos du Plooy, captain of the winning side and candidate for the Springbok side as prop forward and possibly pack leader.

Du Plooy was most emphatic that the Lions will not win the Test matches unless the front row can be supported from behind.

For Wednesday's match Cliff Morgan will lead the Lions for the first time and resume his place at outside half. Baker moves back to full-back and Pedlow goes on the wing.

O'Reilly returns to the other wing, and Lloyd comes in for the third match at scrum-half. Reid plays in the second row, and Robins at No. 8. The full team is: Baker; O'Reilly, Quinn, Davies, Pedlow; Morgan, Lloyd; McLeod, B. Meredith, W. Williams, Mitchell, Reid, Wilson, Robins, Greenwood.

Gareth Griffiths told me that he had been training twice weekly and keeping fit, and would be ready to play when called upon.

Lion-Hearted Billy Williams Never Gave Up Fight

From VIVIAN JENKINS,
"South Wales Echo" Special Correspondent
PORT ELIZABETH, Sunday.

BILLY Williams, Swansea and Wales prop forward, is proving one of the big successes of the British Isles rugby team on tour in South Africa.

He takes his training very seriously and has been one of the outstanding forwards in every match in which he has taken part. Above all, he wants to beat South Africa in the Tests, and in his modest way has strong ideas on how it can be done.

"Every one of us must fight," he says, by which I hasten to add he does not mean taking a leaf out of the book of Joe Louis and resorting to fisticuffs. Rather, he realises the formidable nature to Springbok opposition in the Tests, especially forward, and knows that only an all-out effort by every man in the tourists' pack will be good enough.

That was underlined on Saturday when the team met with a severe lull to their complacency, losing to Eastern Province here by a goal and five penalty goals (20 points) to nil.

The crux of the trouble was that the forwards were unable to hold their own against the powerful and determined Province pack, who dominated the game throughout.

Goal-Kicking Weak

In addition, home place kickers Griffiths and Mills succeeded five times with shots at penalty goals out of seven attempts whereas Baker, taking kicks for the losers, was wide of the mark four times from not impossible positions.

He kicks with the inside of the instep like a soccer player. This gives him plenty of length, but he is inclined to hook the ball left of the posts. Baker, I should explain is a left-footed kicker.

Thus it is emphasised once again that it is sheer folly to send a team out here without a tip-top goalkicker recognised at home as such. It is too much to expect members of the team to transform themselves into experts in this department overnight.

Referee Dr. Gordon was very strict, awarding no fewer than 38 penalties, including 22 to the tourists, so it can be seen what effect it might have had if he or similar hawk-eyed official were appointed to take charge of a Test.

Doomed To Failure

Quite apart from goalkicking the British team was doomed to failure when hooker Robin Roe, of Ireland, was unable to get the ball in more than six scrums out of

Springbok prop in the first Test at Johannesburg on August 6. Honours ended about even between the two and Williams was not bested in spite of the failure of the pack as a whole.

"They are not getting me down without a struggle," says Billy.

That could serve as a motto for the team as a whole.

the 42 which took place. It was uncertain until two hours before the kick-off whether he or Bryn Meredith, of Newport, would play.

Meredith was the original choice, but has been troubled with an abscess on his neck, and the management decided to substitute Roe instead, thus jumping from the frying pan into the fire. Roe cracked two ribs just over a fortnight ago, and apart from the injury itself had had no scrummaging practice worth talking about in the meantime.

He was strapped up in a complicated kind of whalebone girdle before going on the field, but it is doubtful whether this did more than hinder movement.

At all events by the end of the match he was in considerable pain and unable to lift a foot to hook even on his own loose head. As things turned out it would have been better to play Hughie McLeod, the Scottish prop, as hooker.

Forwards Exhausted

Another cause of Roe's eclipse, it is only fair to add, was that Province hooker Kroon had the loose head 32 out of the 42 scrums.

While the tourists invariably attempted to pass and dropped many passes the Province fly-half invariably kicked.

The visiting pack spent most of the afternoon chasing backwards after kicks ahead from Mills and covering the inexperienced O'Reilly, playing his first game as full-back owing to injuries. Thus they were exhausted and unable to show up in the line-outs.

The backs had little or no chance and Baker, Butterfield and Davies were promptly grassed by their opposite numbers on the few occasions when they got the ball.

Billy Williams waged a private war in the front rank with his vis-a-vis Amos Du Plooy, the Eastern Province captain. Du Plooy is reckoned one of the most rugged characters in South African rugby and may be



BILLY WILLIAMS

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POWER RUGBY SMASHES BRITISH LIONS

From J. B. G. THOMAS
PORT ELIZABETH, Sunday.

BRITISH hopes for the Test matches suffered a serious blow here yesterday when the touring side were defeated by Eastern Province by a goal and five penalties (20pts.) to nil.

For the first time on the tour the "Lions" were snuffed right out of the game because the forwards were hopelessly outplayed and could gain no more than 15 per cent. of the ball from the tight and loose.

Eastern Province played the power Rugby that has dominated Springbok Test football since the war, and one could sense the master brain of Dr. Dannie Craven dictating the plan of campaign in the mind of each Provincial player. The cry was "possession," and the "Lions" had no answer.

Adopting a true perspective in defeat, one must allow for the fact that experienced players like Cameron, Morgan, J. E. Williams, Bryn Meredith, Robins and Clem Thomas were not playing, and that the injured Roe should not have played as hooker, but many disturbing factors were made evident by the unhappy display.

COULD NOT STRIKE

The "Lions" were outscrummaged and this started with Roe's inability to strike while remaining comfortable and compact in the front row because of a painful strapped rib. He played because Bryn Meredith was forced to withdraw at the last moment, but it would have been wiser to have played the fitter but less experienced McLeod.

The scrum did not bind well and the back row failed to produce a supporting shove. In the line-outs, where Province were allowed to block, the Tourists did poorly.

O'Reilly did well at full-back and made many brave marks before finding accurate if not long touches. Unfortunately the initial weakness at place kicking, a fault of the tour selectors in the British Isles, was evident.

Three kickable penalties were missed. Had they gone over the

Tourists might have been inspired to greater things.

In view of this defeat the Tourists can expect similar vigorous and efficient tactics to be employed against them in the tests. A tremendous effort will have to be made forward to afford a chance of victory.

EFFICIENT TACTICS

The Tourists have attempted to prove that open back play is as successful and more attractive than Springbok power football, but yesterday's defeat emphasised the efficiency of Craven's colourless but error-free tactics.

Penalty goals were kicked in the third, eighth, and 22nd minute of the first half by Mills and Griffiths (2). In the second half Singleton popped over from a scrum on the tourists' line for Mills to convert, and Griffiths and Mills kicked further penalties.

The British Isles team was: O'Reilly; Sykes, Butterfield, Davies, Morris; Baker, Jeeps; W. O. Williams, Roe, C. C. Meredith, Thompson, R. H. Williams, Higgins, Greenwood, Wilson.

GRIFFITHS ARRIVES

Gareth Griffiths, the Cardiff and Wales three-quarter, has arrived at Johannesburg from London to reinforce the touring side. He will join the touring side at Bloemfontein.

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Griffiths A Tonic For 'Lions'

From VIVIAN JENKINS
"South Wales Echo" Special Correspondent

BLOEMFONTEIN, Tuesday.
THE arrival of Gareth Griffiths, the Cardiff and Wales three-quarter, at Bloemfontein, where he joined the British Isles rugby team as a reinforcement yesterday, was a real tonic to the tourists, who had been smarting under their 20 points to nil defeat by Eastern Province at Port Elizabeth a few days previously.

Officials at Bloemfontein airport tried to stop Gareth going out on to the tarmac to meet the plane bringing the team from Port Elizabeth on the way to the next match at Aliwal North, to-morrow against North-eastern Districts. "Not allowed," they said, but Gareth was so anxious to meet his team mates that he thrust aside restraining arms at the barrier and ran out to the incoming aircraft. As soon as the players stepped down from the plane he was there to greet them. There was much excitement as his Cardiff colleagues, Cliff Morgan and Haydn Morris, first sighted him.

Must Wait

They threw their arms around him as though greeting a long-lost brother, as also did Billy Williams and other members of the party who have been colleagues of his in the Welsh team.

There is no doubt that his advent could not have come at a better time as so many are on the injured list.

"I would love to play straight away," he said. "I have never felt better."

It is good to see Cliff Morgan in action once again after the ankle injury which has kept him out of the team since the match at Windhoek. He is one of the key men of the tour and it would be a tragedy if he were unavailable for the Tests.

Tom Elliot, the Scottish prop, has also happily rejoined the party after the bronchial attack which caused him to be left behind at Cape Town after the Western Province match.

Can He Make It?

The question is: Can Gareth Griffiths win a place in the team for the first Test against the Springboks at Johannesburg on August 27?

There are only four matches in the meantime: v. North-eastern Districts to-morrow, in which he is not playing; v. Transvaal at Johannesburg on Saturday; and v. Rhodesia (twice) the following week.

He is unlikely to play against Transvaal—expected to be an extra hard match—which leaves only the matches against Rhodesia available to him.

Personally, I think him such a good player that I would have included him in all four matches and then played him in the Test. I am convinced of this after seeing how fit he looked on arrival.

WESTERN MAIL
19/7/55

Morgan sharpens up Lions

From J. B. G. THOMAS
NORTH EAST DISTRICTS 0-2-6,
BRITISH RUGBY XV. 5-3-34
ALIWAL NORTH, Wednesday.

THE British Lions gained their biggest victory of the tour here to-day in defeating North East Districts by five goals and three tries (34 points) to two tries (six points).

At first the Districts provided reasonable opposition but rather faded as superior pace and fitness began to take their toll and they could not stem the weight and speed of the combined Lions attacks.

However, though the Lions entertained the crowd in delightful style, and displayed their power behind the scrum when supplied with the ball, they were often casual in their approach and over-elaborated.

One felt that certain players were not always prepared to risk injury on the hard ground and in view of the heavy programme ahead and a long list of injured players this was a wise policy.

The return of Cliff Morgan at the outside-half sharpened the cutting edge of the attack and he scored two typical blind side tries.

GREAT HEART

This great-hearted little Welshman is certainly the life and soul of the Lions machine and the success of the tour must depend upon the fitness of this player.

Lloyd, at scrum-half, was injured early on, but managed to get the ball moving to the backs. All three-quarters did well, O'Reilly showing his great speed on the wing.

Baker kicked well at full-back, and in the pack, which was right on top in the second half, none did better than B. Meredith, Reid, Greenwood and W. Williams, who led the forwards.

There was an improvement in scrummaging and line-out play while in stamina the pack outlasted the Districts.

HARDEST TEST

This concluded the first and the easiest part of the tour for Saturday's important match against Transvaal, at Johannesburg, starts the hardest period.

Victory on Saturday would restore prestige and encourage the players for the first Test on August 26.

It took the Lions ten minutes to gain the first score and then Morgan went to the blind side of the scrum before straightening up and putting O'Reilly over in the corner for an unconverted try. The Irishman scored again, this time behind the posts for Quinn to convert.

RUGBY FOOTBALL

NO MORGAN v. VAN WYK DUEL YET

From J. B. G. THOMAS
JOHANNESBURG, Friday.

THE British Isles Rugby Union tourists are not playing their star attacker, Cliff Morgan, against Transvaal here at Ellis Park to-morrow, but will include Gareth Griffiths, recently arrived from Britain.

The game is regarded as a Test preview, for Transvaal have a strong side, including the great "Basie" Van Wyk as flank forward and Natie Krens as outside-half.

Des Sinclair, who toured Britain in 1951, is in the centre, and several probable Springboks are also on view.

A large crowd is expected to see how "Lions" fare against Transvaal power Rugby. I understand the home players have been told to copy the Lions' style of play if possible so as to make the match really attractive. Cameron returns to the full-back position, although still

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O'Reilly completed a hat-trick with a magnificent 70-yard sprint. Quinn's conversion was disallowed and then B. Meredith raced 40 yards from a line-out to score a try which Lloyd converted from the touch line to give the Lions a 16-point lead at half-time.

Early in the second half Morgan and Quinn engineered a try for Pedlow which Lloyd converted.

North East scored when the Lions had a clearing kick charged down outside the line and Rensburg won the race to touch down.

But the Lions soon replied with a solo effort by Morgan around the blind side for an unconverted try.

North East got another try when the Lions failed to cover a loose ball and Cloete gathered to score.

The Lions appeared to take the match casually but soon scored another try through Pedlow which Lloyd converted.

Before the close Morgan got another which Lloyd converted.

The Lions team was: Baker; Pedlow, Quinn, Davies, O'Reilly; Morgan, Lloyd; W. Williams, B. Meredith, McLeod, Michie, Reid, Wilson, Robins, and Greenwood.

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21/7/55

THE LIONS AT BAY

From J. B. G. THOMAS

"Western Mail" Rugby Correspondent with the British tourists in South Africa.

THE 1955 tour of the British Lions is well under way, and in this first "progress report" especially prepared for Welshmen, I want to analyse the tour so far and examine British chances in the Test series.

When the team left the British Isles early in June, and, indeed, when it was chosen, there was considerable doubt whether the forwards would be strong enough to hold their own against the heavyweights of South Africa, and whether the backs were experienced enough to break down the intricate system of "Springbok" covering defence.

In the first match against Western Transvaal at Potchefstroom, the "Lions" had their initial taste of forward slugging; they were not quite ready for it.

Line-out play here in South Africa is vastly different from that in the British Isles. The packs stand two yards apart—often the line is wider at front than near mid-field—with the referee standing or crouching between the touch-line and first forwards.

BARGING

Some referees allow a great deal of barging, but others are stricter. A player can move into a line-out and even come into bodily contact with an opponent as long as he does not cross the "line of throw." Line-out play as we know it in Britain was almost non-existent in the first match, but this improved considerably with stricter refereeing in subsequent matches.

Even so, all referees are strict on off-side play at line-outs and in loose mauls which may follow. The "Lions" have suffered penalties in this direction and as a result of excessive speed around scrummages when spilling opponents' heels.

British scrum-halves and blind side wing-forwards spoil around the scrummage with the lock forward breaking to the side opposite where the ball is being put in, and then continuing across the field as a defensive coverer.

South African Bankers stay in the scrum as long as possible and allow the lock to break wide on to the outside-half. So far, the "Lions" have capitalised on this method of defence, but stronger covering can be expected in Tests.

In the second match of the tour on the hard Kimberley ground the "Lions" played much better and with more confidence. Morgan was in good form and the backs attacked with great speed for Morris to score three tries. It was refreshing football.

ENCOURAGING SIGN

All the time little faults were being corrected, and at Kroonstad, one felt the tour was really starting. Free State's record against touring sides had been good since the war, and everywhere folks were saying, "The Lions will never beat Free State!"

In this match the Lions were perfect, giving the best exhibition of combined play I have seen from a British representative side for a long time. The

covering defenders could not hold them once Morgan had made the initial break, and the Lions forwards outlasted the heavier Free State pack. This was the most encouraging sign, suggesting there was something more than hope with which to enter the Tests!

While the Lions were winning well with open play, Dennis Craven, the Springbok selector, was subjected to criticism and told to advocate open Rugby in the Tests as the best means of defeating the Tourists. Now it is certain South Africa will play power Rugby in the Tests to deny the Lions possession of the ball. Chances of winning the Test series have been seriously reduced.

The Tourists did not play well on Saturday and were well beaten by Eastern Province 20-0, and play better. Great improvement is needed forward to win enough of the ball in the Tests. Morgan, Robins, Bryn Meredith, and Clem Thomas must be at their best.

Alun Thomas would be a great asset, but unfortunately he is not likely to be fit for some time.

Saturday's match with Transvaal promises to be one of the most important of the tour outside the Tests.

Gareth Griffiths will be in the British side.

The Tourists' Test side will not be selected until after the Transvaal match, but may look something like this: Cameron, O'Reilly, Davies, Butterfield, Griffiths; Morgan, J. E. Williams; C. C. Meredith, B. K. Meredith, W. O. Williams, Robins, R. H. Williams, Higgins, Thompson and Clem Thomas (if fit).

Trevor Lloyd injured

ALIWAL NORTH, Thursday.

TREVOR LLOYD, who badly sprained a shoulder on Wednesday, is expected to be out of side for at least three weeks, cables J. B. G. Thomas. This leaves one fit scrum-half for the next seven days until J. Williams is fit again, and justifies the tour selection committee sending three scrum halves.

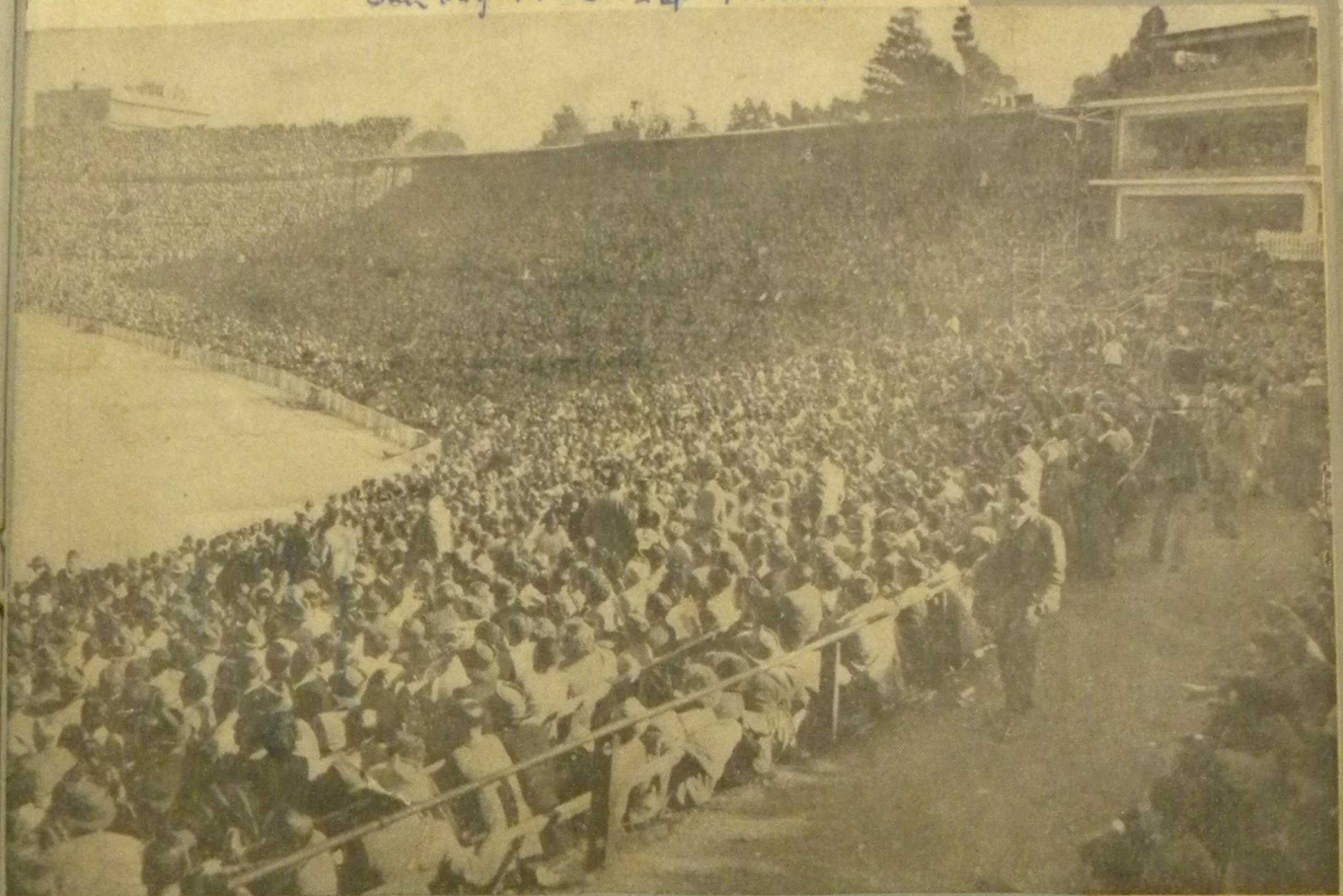
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They Watched Lions Win

Sunday Times 24 7 1955

Jo'burg.
SUNDAY TIMES
24/7/55



Bryn Meredith Shows Great Form With 'Lions'

From VIVIAN JENKINS

"South Wales Echo" Special Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG, Sunday.

THERE is a tonic spirit of confidence among members of the British Isles Rugby Union team here after their magnificent win by 36 points to 13 against Transvaal on Saturday.

Coming as it did after a depressing 20-0 defeat by Eastern Province at Port Elizabeth only a week earlier, it revived spirits which had dropped noticeably.

It is obvious now that hooker Robin Roe should never have played in that match so soon after his cracked ribs injury and that his failure to win the ball in the scrums was the root cause of the team's troubles.

Against Transvaal Bryn Meredith, now fully recovered from a neck abscess, showed that it was not impossible to get the ball even from South Africans.

Although his opposite number Piet Wessels is a former Springbok captain the Newport man succeeded in 26 scrums against 18.

'Best In World'

Thus the backs were able to get plenty of opportunities and made use of them brilliantly.

Baker, Jeaps, and O'Reilly were outstanding in a superb display of handling and running which brought seven tries and a number of near misses.

Bryn Meredith is doing so well, not only as hooker but as a roaming forward in the loose that some South African judges are beginning to describe him as the "best forward in the world."

That statement may be going a bit far but the mere fact that critics are talking in those terms shows what tremendous form the Newport man is showing.

After the Transvaal match we were "pulling his leg" and saying he is slipping and might be dropped because of not scoring a try.

In the loose he showed amazing speed and ball handling ability for a hooker and he also knows how to sidestep like a back when he wants to.

Russell Robins is another who could take a place in the three-quarter line with no trouble at all if the occasion demanded.

Once on Saturday he threw a perfect dummy to a Transvaal defender, then sidestepped another in a run which any outside half or centre would have been proud of.

He is another Welshman certain of a place in the Test side, which is also likely to include Rees Williams, Billy Williams, Courtenay Meredith in the forwards and Cliff Morgan and Gareth Griffiths in the backs.

Test For Griffiths

Griffiths was given a severe test in being put into such a stiff match so soon after arrival, but in the circumstances he did extremely well.

Although he looked remarkably fit when he joined up with the party at Bloemfontein a week ago it is no joke to have to play a full-scale match at an altitude of 5,000ft. at such short notice.

It would have been better to give him a run out in the easy North-eastern Districts match at Allwal North during the week. In spite of this handicap Gareth lasted out the game, which was fought at a terrific pace from beginning to end on a bonehard surface under a blazing sun.

"I thought the first half was never going to end," he told me afterwards, "and I felt my lungs would burst."

This was not apparent to on-lookers, however, and when the Cardiff boy scored his try, chasing a punt ahead by Baker, he travelled at lightning speed and even shot past Ireland's Tony O'Reilly to win the touchdown.

O'Reilly was probably tired too by then as he had scored two sensational tries, and followed with a third later.

Cameron's goalkicking — he kicked seven goals out of eight attempts — was another source of immense satisfaction to the tourists.

Although he has put on weight and now scales some 16 stone, he managed to find a way out of some difficult situations and has the invaluable asset of being very cool in whatever trouble he finds himself.

He has no nerves, which is a telling point when playing before a crowd of 90,000, as is expected for the first Test on the next ground, Ellis Park, a week next Saturday.

About 30,000 standing tickets are not distributed through clubs but sold to the public who queue.

They book places with seats, then return to report every four hours.

Early Queue

For tickets being sold tomorrow (Monday) a queue began forming on Friday night and by Saturday stretched what seemed like miles.

After the team's great display against Transvaal, Test fever has now reached peak and everyone is speculating on the likely result. That I will leave for the time being, but British chances have obviously improved.

The team leaves by air tomorrow (Monday) for Rhodesia, where two matches will be played at Victoria Falls visited before returning to Johannesburg.

Alun Thomas had an encouraging report from his doctor following an attack of jaundice.

If the improvement is maintained I may be able to start training in two or three weeks time," Alun tells me.

But I hope he is not being too optimistic.



Welsh forward Russell Robins, who could "take a place in the three-quarter line with no trouble at all."

SOUTH WALES ECHO
25/7/55

THIS is a section of the crowd of about 50,000 people who clustered in a seemingly solid mass from the edges of the field to the topmost grandstand seats, watched the British Lions touring team beat the Transvaal 36 points to 13 at Ellis Park, Johannesburg, yesterday afternoon.

Although the crowd yesterday seemed to pack the ground, the Rugby Union expect to fit another 30,000 people into the ground on August 6, for the Test match.

The booked seats on the grandstand side of the field are unlikely to accommodate a larger crowd than they did yesterday, but many more people will be able to get tickets for the "popular side" embankments.

LIONS "ROAR" PAST TRANSVAAL TO WIN 36-13

Oh, What a "Massacre!"

At Times It was Match of Herbst v. Tour Team

Transvaal..... 13 British Isles..... 36

What a transformation! And it saw the British Isles Rugby team come thundering back to their most impressive form with a best-ever victory for any touring side over Transvaal by 36 points (six goals, try, penalty goal) to 13 (two goals, penalty goal). It was vintage football and the 50,000 Ellis Park crowd rose to the red-jerseyed Lions as they went on their triumphant way.

Except for the last 10 minutes, when I fancy that Old Man Allitude, the Rand's all-time champion, caught up with the Lions, Transvaal were never really in the game. At times it seemed that it was a match of the British Lions v. Freddy Herbst.

Let's say it now. Herbst was the only Springbok candidate in a badly-outplayed team who showed form that could have appealed to the five South African Test selectors — Frank Mellich, Basil Kenyon, Bill Zellar, Maurice Zamerman and Dr. Danie Craven — who got a touchline view of the Transvaal "massacre."

Maybe Frans Roux, on the left wing, also did enough on occasion to merit consideration for the final Springbok trial at Durban next Saturday.

But it has to be said that red-haired Tony O'Reilly, the opposing wing-threequarter to Roux, went over for three tries.

Transvaal's other Test candidates — "Basil" van Wyk, Piet Wessels, Natie Rens and Des Sinclair — shared in the general depression. They were swallowed up in the shadow cast by a team of magnificent stature.

"Basil" van Wyk, save for a brief period in the first half and in the waning minutes of the game, was out of touch.

He hadn't the pace to counter the play of the Lions forwards in the loose or to get to the nippy little Dicky Jeeps, who laid the foundation of victory with his scrumhalf performance.

As a fact, the Transvaal pack was badly beaten. Besides failing to push his weight in the scrums, where the home forwards were a lot too loose, Jack Rahm tackled high. Still, that was a prevalent Transvaal fault, and the opportunistic Lions capitalised on it heavily.

Slow Service

Natie Rens was a long, long way below top form. All right, he wasn't helped by the poor service of his scrumhalf, Piet Ferreira, who was slow, uncertain, and a natural target for the British flankers.

Yet Ferreira's lapses don't account entirely for Rens's sorry showing. The Springbok flyhalf, rated first favourite for the first Test on August 6, was sluggish in attack and, something new for Rens, wasn't always taking his passes cleanly. His best work was done on defence — and there was plenty of defensive stuff for Transvaal to do.

Sinclair did bring off one try-making move in the first half and, unlike his Wanderers club-mate, Peter Williams, went for the tackle.

With the Lions leading 13-0, Sinclair broke smartly, put in a neat "rubber" as he came up to Jeff Butterfield, and then picked up the ball to send Roux over for Herbst to convert.

Perhaps Sinclair would have done better had Williams not delayed his pass after receiving from Rens. What happened? With Williams hanging on to the ball that split-second too long, Sinclair

By PAUL IRWIN

found himself running into a cloud of defenders — and, believe me, there always seemed to be two or three British players to every one of Transvaal's around the ball.

Transvaal paid the penalty — and deservedly so — for (1) ragged play at forward, where only Koos Leonard and Paul Hippert, the front-row "props," seemed prepared to battle it out with the opposition, and (2) shockingly bad tackling that was a lot too high or, worse still, wasn't tackling at all.

Unlike the Eastern Province game, where they were out-scrummed and could not get past honest crash-tacklers, the Lions found things running their way at Ellis Park.

Opportunists to a man, ready to grab the half-chance and make the most of it, they seized their chances to turn on a display that had the crowd applauding them all the way.

Tough little Dicky Jeeps was in immense form. I know he was made the scapegoat of the Lions 22-0 defeat by Eastern Province — unjustly, I thought, for he was a trier all through. Now he deserves a salute from the British team's officials for his brilliant performance.

Fearless

Jeeps showed intelligent kicking under pressure and all the heart in the world as he tackled or went down to the feet of the opposition.

Highlight of his display was a Legging it for 30 yards, Jeeps kicked ahead to see O'Reilly come flashing from the right wing to put a foot to the rolling ball, pouch it neatly as it bounced up, and go over the try-line as Roux tackled him.

O'Reilly had a wonderful afternoon. This 19-year-old Irishman — the "darlin' bhoy" of the Lions — has an inside swerve that certainly set too many problems for Transvaal.

His second try was a beauty. After the Lions won a scrum, O'Reilly received via Butterfield and Gareth Griffiths. Taking the final pass at top speed, he went with his high knee action and strong hip action to shake off, in turn, Roux, Sinclair and Herbst.

Team-work

Still, in the last resort it was team-work, not any one individual, which brought the Lions their great victory. The forwards won the scrums 26-18 and took the line-outs (where there was too much tapping back) 23-20. In the bargain, they reproduced their work in the loose which pulverised Free State to defeat at Kroonstad.

The more I see of Bryn Meredith, the Welsh hooker, the more am I moved to admiration. Here is the complete forward Robin Thompson, the Lions' captain, and Jim Greenwood jumped well in the line-out, where good support was given by Rens Williams. And it was Greenwood who engineered the final try — this, when he broke from the loose, picked up and made a centering kick which Butterfield dotted down as Herbst and Roux missed the ball.

Butterfield not only gave Transvaal's backs a lesson in tackling, but came along with two tries. Besides being on the spot to capitalise on Greenwood's kick, he was there in the first half to beat Herbst to the touch-down, after Baker cleverly curled a left foot kick in-goal, when the Lions heeled in the opposing "25."

Justified

It was also Butterfield who schemed a try for Griffiths, who justified the gamble in being thrust by the Lions' selectors into such a testing game (on paper) for his South African debut.

Receiving from Jeeps, the England centre kicked to the right and there, sure enough, was Griffiths to beat Roux in the race for the touch-down.

Add a Butterfield interception of a Van Wyk pass, which led to a try by eighth man, Reg Higgins, and you can realise well enough that the England centre had a grand afternoon.

Angus Cameron, the touring team's Scottish full-back and vice-captain, kicked 15 of the 36 points — six conversions and a penalty goal.

He still showed a tendency to let the ball bounce instead of running under it, but, save for one Rens diagonal kick, was never caught out of position.

Here is the scoring time-table: 4 mins., a Cameron penalty goal when Rahm went offside in his own "25"; 12 mins., Butterfield over from Baker's shrewd kick for Cameron to convert; 34 mins., O'Reilly try after Jeeps' run — with Cameron converting; 36 mins., Roux try for Transvaal with Herbst adding the extra points; 38 mins., O'Reilly try and Cameron converting.

With the second half seven minutes old, Herbst posted a penalty goal after a scrum infringement inside the Lions "25" only for Griffiths to cross for his first try in South Africa five minutes later. Cameron's kick made it 23-8, and, two minutes later, Cameron was adding the goal-points following Higgins' being up to take Butterfield's pass and cross under the posts.

Another four minutes, and over goes O'Reilly for his third try. This time Cameron took an unconscionable time over placing the ball and the referee ruled "No kick." Sinclair struck back for Transvaal as he received from Williams, who really side-stepped inside a defender and Herbst converted in the 28th minute. Finally, with two minutes to "No side," Butterfield touched down from Greenwood's centering kick and Cameron, bang on the mark, converted to end the scoring at 36-13.



long run into Transvaal territory after Rens dropped the ball to "make" a try for O'Reilly.

And here (above and below) are two of the tries that made the Transvaal players feel so miserable. Jeff Butterfield (above) found the ball bouncing right for him behind the Transvaal line and he dotted down for the first try. Then there was a second-half try for "New Boy" Gareth Griffiths, playing at centre. The Welshman pounces on the ball to beat Frans Roux for the touch-down with Tony O'Reilly, who scored three tries, in the background.



Their Heads Were Bowed



Every picture tells a story — and this is the story of a dejected Transvaal Rugby side. As the British Lions trot joyfully back to the mid-field after Tony O'Reilly, the Irish wing, had scored his third try in the 36-13 win at Ellis Park yesterday, the Transvaal players stand about with their heads bowed. Frans Roux (left) is injured after trying to hold up the "props" O'Reilly. Other depressed players are (left to right): Natie Rens, Piet Wessels (No. 11), Paul Hippert and

Jo'burg
SUNDAY TIMES
24/7/55

LIONS REGAIN PRESTIGE

TRANSVAAL, 43-0-13;
BRITISH LIONS, 17-1-36
One penalty; 10ne penalty
From J. B. G. THOMAS

JOHANNESBURG, Sunday. THE British Isles Rugby Union Tourists showed magnificent form here at Ellis Park yesterday in gaining their best victory of the tour and defeating Transvaal by six goals, one penalty and one try (36pts.) to two goals and one penalty (13pts.). A crowd of nearly 60,000 stood and applauded the teams as they left the field, and on being congratulated by Transvaal officials Lions realised they had regained the prestige lost in last week's fall from grace at Port Elizabeth. It was a grand match for Transvaal kept play open, and Lions revelled in the brilliant sunshine, while producing swift, accurate match-winning Rugby.

Most of the praise for the record victory, however, must go to Lions' forwards, who stormed into battle from the start, and determined to get possession of the ball from their speedy backs.

PACK TAMED

Leader Robin Thompson, hooker Bryn Meredith, Greenwood and Higgins were outstanding in their efforts to get the ball, and by the end of the match had tamed the Transvaal pack and gained 65 per cent. of the ball from scrums, line-outs, and loose play.

Such a fine display by the pack contrasted strongly with the feeble effort made against Eastern Province, and as one Transvaal forward commented after the match, "The Springboks will have their work cut out to hold Lions if they play like they did to-day."

BEST OF TOUR

Behind the forwards, Jeeps and Baker, at halfback, had their best match of the tour and I have never seen Baker play better. Jeeps was here, there, and everywhere, passing, falling, saving and counter attacking with skill, while Baker controlled play efficiently in the first half before showing in the second half how well he can run with the ball. Gareth Griffiths had a good first match at centre and virtually made certain of a place in the Test side with all round ability and speed in attack.

Butterfield again pulled a thigh muscle early in the match, but continued bravely and it is hoped he will be fit for the Test. O'Reilly had another outstanding day with his powerful running and deceptive inside swerve which left opponents gasping. He got three tries to bring his tour total to 10.

At full back Cameron showed his quality and amazingly cool temperament as he positioned himself to deal with high kicks and rushes. He landed seven goals in eight attempts. The other kick was not allowed by the referee.

Transvaal disappointed even if they played as well as Lions allowed. Their forwards did not show the power anticipated although Kruger, Carter and Van Wyk tried hard.

There was a Test atmosphere when the teams fielded and the Tourists set a cracking pace from the start. Within three minutes Cameron had put them into a lead they were not to lose with a lovely 40-yard penalty following a scrum infringement.

Then Baker kicked diagonally to the left from a scrum for Butterfield to gather and dive over, and Cameron converted.

This was the encouragement Lions needed, and before the interval O'Reilly got two storming

tries which Cameron converted, while Sinclair grubbed-kicked and regathered to make a try for Roux which Herbst converted.

FAST SCORING

Herbst kicked a penalty for Transvaal after a scrum infringement before Lions scored three tries in eight minutes to decide the match through Griffiths, Higgins, and O'Reilly.

Cameron converted two, and then Sinclair got a good try for Transvaal which Herbst converted before Butterfield got the final Lions try for Cameron to kick a seventh goal.

The British team was: Cameron; O'Reilly; Griffiths, Butterfield, Morris; Baker, Jeeps; C. C. Meredith, B. V. Meredith, McLeod, Thompson, R. H. Williams, Higgins, Robins, Greenwood.



GARETH GRIFFITHS, the Welsh centre, being greeted by Cliff Morgan (left) when he arrived at Bloemfontein. He was flown from England to strengthen the depleted British Lions team.

SELECTORS 'SCRAP' 9

Nine South African fifteen players in the East London Springbok Rugby trial last month were "scraped" by the South African selectors—Messrs. Frank Mallesh, Bill Zeller, Maurice Zimerman, Bash Kenyon and Dr. Danis Craven—when they chose their "Probable" side for the final trial at Kingsmead next Saturday (writes T. J. HOTHAM).

The players who lose their places in the S.A. fifteen are Theuns Briers and Frans Roux, the two wings. "Bok" Fourie, the Free State centre, scrum-half "Mandjetjie" Gerrieke, and forwards Harry Newton Walker, Stephen Fry, Vir Wilkens, "Bassie" van Wyk and Danis Schonken.

Four forwards—Newton Walker, Fry, Wilkens and Van Wyk—have been given another "bite" in the "Real" fifteen, but it seems as if Roux, Briers, Fourie, Gerrieke and Schonken can forget about playing in the first Test at Ellis Park on August 6.

Surprise inclusions in the South African fifteen are Wilf Rosenberg, who was not considered good enough by Transvaal's selectors, Mike

Antelme, Natal's right wing, Derek Staples, the Eastern Province lock, and Peter Taylor, the Natal Number Eight.

Amos du Plooy takes over the captaincy of the top team from Fry—probably as a result of his magnificent leadership of Eastern Province against the Lions last week-end. The teams are:

SOUTH AFRICAN XV: R. Dryburgh (W.P.); K. van Vollenhoven (N. Tvl.); D. Sinclair (Tvl.); W. Rosenberg (Tvl.); M. Antelme (N.); I. Rens (Tvl.); vice-capt., P. Strijdom (O.F.S.); J. Bakker (N. Tvl.); A. van der Merwe (Bolandi); A. du Plooy (E.P.); capt., R. Johnson (E.P.); S. du Rand (N. Tvl.); D. Staples (E.P.); B. Lochner (W.P.); F. Taylor (N.).

THE REST: J. van der Schyn (W. Tvl.); B. Pfaff (W.P.); M. East (W.P.); P. Montini (W.P.); S. Swart (S.W.A.); C. Uysate (Tvl.); T. Gentles (W.P.); H. Newton Walker (W. Tvl.); C. Kroon (E.P.); C. Koch (Bolandi); S. Fry (W.P.); capt., J. Classens (W. Tvl.); V. Wilkens (N. Tvl.); C. J. van Wyk (Tvl.); D. Relief (N. Tvl.).

Jo'burg SUNDAY TIMES 24/7/55

£7,000 offer to O'Reilly

JOHANNESBURG, Sunday. TONY O'REILLY, 6ft. 2in., 14st. auburn-haired member of the British Lions team, is likely to become one of Ireland's greatest players (writes J. B. G. Thomas).

Offered £7,000 to join Huddersfield Rugby League club before the end of last season, when he was preparing to travel to South Africa with the British team, O'Reilly, articulated to a solicitor, turned down the offer flat.

It remains the biggest single offer made to a player since Bloddy Williams and Lewis Jones were approached several years ago.

WESTERN MAIL 25/7/55

RUGBY FOOTBALL

Cliff Morgan may miss Test

From J. B. G. THOMAS
KITWE, RHODESIA,
Tuesday.

CLIFF MORGAN, the brilliant Cardiff and Wales scrum half, is a very disappointed young man.

The Lions' chief attacker is still worried by an injured ankle and is a very doubtful starter for the first Test match on August 6.

The ankle, which was injured at Windhoek, is still too sore for him to play to-morrow in the first match against Rhodesia.

If he cannot play on Saturday he will not be fit enough to achieve his ambition of playing in the Test.

Before he left Wales he said, "I am going to play as hard as I can to get the better of the Springboks and particularly 'Bassie' Van Wyk in the Tests."

Cliff was pessimistic about his

chances of playing in the Test to-day, but other Welsh players thought he would be there. They want to see him in action.

PROBABLES

Welshmen most likely to play are C. C. Meredith, B. V. Meredith, who has captured the hearts of South Africans as the outstanding British forward, W. O. Williams, Russell Robins and Gareth Griffiths.

I do not expect Clem Thomas to challenge until the second Test while Morris will not get in unless Griffiths plays in the centre in place of Butterfield who is a doubtful starter with a groin injury.

Thus I anticipate six Welshmen in the Test team for certain with possibly another two if fit.

Waiting to welcome the Welsh Lions in Salisbury is Dr. Tom Ellis Williams, of Llanelly, former Llandoveryan who was a good schoolboy outside half, and nephew of former Welsh International and Western Mail contributor Rhys Gabe. I met him en route yesterday and Viv Jenkins and myself brought him up to date on Welsh rugby.

Another enthusiast coming over from Bulawayo is former Cardiffian Oliver Long, now teaching out here. Wherever the Lions go Welsh exiles are there to greet the men of Cymru.

TEAM CHOSEN

Eight of the British team which defeated Transvaal last Saturday are included in the side for the match against Rhodesia. They are Griffiths, Morris, Baker, Jeeps, B. Meredith, Thompson, Williams, and Higgins.

Team: G. M. Griffiths (Wales); H. Morris (Wales); A. C. Pedlow (Ireland); W. P. C. Davies (England); F. D. Sykes (England); D. G. S. Baker (England); R. E. G. Jeeps (Northampton); W. O. Williams (Wales); B. Meredith (Wales); G. Meredith (Wales); B. S. Wilson (England); R. H. Thompson (captain) (Ireland); R. H. Williams (Wales); R. Higgins (England); T. E. Reid (Ireland).

WESTERN MAIL 27/7/55

Thousands queue for Test match tickets

From J. B. G. THOMAS

JOHANNESBURG, Monday. THE British Isles Rugby Union tourists left here to-day in two aeroplanes for Northern Rhodesia, where they will play two matches before returning next week to prepare for the first Test match here on August 6.

Alun Thomas did not travel but will leave for Victoria Falls to-morrow and will rejoin the party when the Lions stop at the Falls on the return journey next Sunday.

Appreciation

MANY readers have written to the Sports Editor expressing appreciation of the coverage which the tour of the British Rugby team in South Africa.

Mr. Leo M. Frank, of Kensington, London, writes: "Mr. J. B. G. Thomas is doing his job of reporting admirably and all Rugby fans everywhere are deeply indebted to the service which the Western Mail is providing."

To keep up to date with the British tour in South Africa read the Western Mail every morning.

A crowd of about 9,000 gathered at the Ellis Park ground to-day to buy tickets for the first Test.

A third of them, nearly all of whom had taken their places in the queue immediately after the Saturday's game between the touring team and Transvaal, were lucky.

The remainder were told that all seats had been sold and that although 20,000 standing tickets were still available they would not be sold until Wednesday.

Two guinea tickets changed hands in the "black market" to-day for £12 and 10s. 6d. tickets went for £2.

WESTERN MAIL 26/7/55

Morgan stands up to hard play

From J. B. G. THOMAS

THE British Rugby touring team gained a well-deserved victory over a determined Rhodesian side here to-day after playing most of the second half with only 14 men. They were behind for some time, but finished strongly to win by 14 to 14pts.

It was a vigorous match, with the Lions' forwards having a particularly hard time of it in the first half when Rhodesia won most of the ball in the set scrums and line-outs, but in the second half they managed to more than hold their own through superior speed and fitness.

There was a shock before kick-off when it was announced that Cliff Morgan would play to try out his leg as a Test trial. Baker went to full-back, and Hayden Morris was replaced by Gareth Griffiths.

ARRAY OF TRICKS

Anxious eyes watched the Welsh half back throughout the match, but he stood up to the hard tackling and showed his full array of tricks to help engineer his side to victory.

Morgan led the side in the absence of Thompson, who withdrew because of a septic knee. The Lions had the faster backs, with Morgan as the spearhead, but it was not until the second half that they had enough of the ball to test the Rhodesian defence.

Griffiths ran well for the first try and W. P. C. Davies tried hard to wear down the Rhodesian mid-field defence, but it was Sykes who played best in the three-quarters, scoring three grand tries to challenge for a Test place.

The Lions took the lead after 11 minutes, when Pedlow gathered in the loose to counter attack and put Griffiths away for the wing to swerve past the full-back and score a try which Baker converted. Eight minutes later Wilson got off-side at the scrum and Rogers landed an easy penalty

from in front of the posts for Rhodesia.

Rhodesian forwards got on top in the line-out and when they harassed the Lions and when they whipped back the ball smartly from the line-out the outside-half Baartman dropped a good goal. Then Rogers kicked an easy penalty after test-up in the scrum. Baker landed a 30-yard goal after obstruction to reduce the Rhodesian lead to a penalty again.

Early in the second half Lions forced a scrum outside the Rhodesia line and Morgan went to the blind side to put Sykes over in the corner for a try. This was followed by a try near the posts by Davies. Morgan converted, after fourteen minutes Reid left the field with a pulled thigh muscle. Slowly the Rhodesian forwards pegged the Lions down and scored again when scrum-half LeGrange broke from a loose maul and put Jutronic over for a try which Rogers converted.

FINE TRY

Only two points divided the sides, but the Lions fought back and a swift three-quarter movement, with Davies making a break, saw Sykes score in the corner for Pedlow to kick a lovely goal.

Then came a really fine try from Sykes after he had scooped up a long pass from Morgan and beat two men to get over in the corner. Finally Jeeps got an unconverted try to complete the scoring.

Lions team—Baker, Griffiths, Pedlow, Davies, Sykes, Morgan, Jeeps, C. Meredith, R. Meredith, W. Williams, Elliot, R. Williams, Higgins, Reid and Wilson.

WESTERN MAIL 24/7/55



CLIFF MORGAN... may be returning to Cardiff.

Back To Cardiff?

What wonderful news that Cliff Morgan will probably be fit for the first Test between the British Lions and South Africa in Johannesburg next Saturday.

Bothered by an ankle injury, the brilliant Cardiff and Wales fly-half was considered a doubtful starter.

Now, Springbok jaws have dropped again—for Morgan, by all accounts, is revelling in the conditions and may prove the decisive weapon.

However, one South African seems to think that with or without Morgan the Lions will be beaten next Saturday.

He is Mr. A. E. van der Merwe, rugby "pen pal" of scrapbook-crazy Mr. John Rowe, of Llanishen, who corresponds with fans the world over.

Mr. van der Merwe writes to Mr. Rowe: "Cliff Morgan will give us a lot of trouble in the Tests... but I think our forwards will be too much for your boys. It has already been proved that if the Lions are forced to use all their weight in the scrums, they are not so hard to beat."

There is talk by the way, that Morgan will be returning to Cardiff next term.

He will go back to Dublin when the Lions come home. Then, apparently his employers will transfer him to South Wales.

What a wonderful thing for Welsh rugby if this comes off! We've been Morgan-starved too long—and club rugby, with its falling gates, cries out for such a Pied Piper.

SOUTH WALES FCMB 30/7/55

WESTERN MAIL 24/7/55



OVER the line with three opponents goes O'Reilly for the British Isles Rugby touring team against Transvaal. This was the end of his storming run and the finest try of the tour so far. The young Irishman got three tries in the match won by the British Lions.

'OVERWEIGHT' RUGGER MEN LEFT BEHIND

From J. B. G. THOMAS SALISBURY

(Southern Rhodesia), Thursday.

FOUR members of the British Isles Rugby Union team had to remain in Ndola (Northern Rhodesia) to-day when the rest of the party flew here for their second match on Saturday against Rhodesia.

They were J. Butterfield, T. Llood, R. Higgins and A. R. Smith. When the team was due to leave, it was found that the total weight—including luggage—was too much for the plane.

All four, however, are on the injured list and have not been included in the team for Saturday's match.

They will leave Ndola tomorrow and arrive in Salisbury in the late afternoon.

The team for Saturday's match will be: D. G. S. Baker, A. J. O'Reilly, J. P. Quinn, G. Griffiths, F. D. Sykes, C. I. Morgan, J. E. Williams, W. O. Williams, R. Roe, H. F. McLeod, J. T. Greenwood, E. J. S. Michie, R. H. Williams, R. C. C. Thomas, R. J. Robins.

The tourists beat Rhodesia 27-14 on Wednesday.

WESTERN MAIL 29/7/55

Lions have Test team troubles

From J. B. G. THOMAS SALISBURY, Southern Rhodesia, Friday.

ALTHOUGH the British Isles Rugby Union tourists will field a reasonably strong side against Rhodesia in the return match here to-morrow, the selectors are worried about the composition of the Test XV.

Cliff Morgan gambled with a leg injury on Wednesday to test his fitness and the other three key players are all doubtful starters.

Butterfield's pulled groin muscle is mending very slowly and he may not have the opportunity of giving it a real trial before next Saturday.

Cameron is having treatment for fluid on the knee, but like Butterfield he needs rest. The third key player is skipper Robin Thompson, who has a septic leg.

MORGAN MAY LEAD

Three key positions will have to be filled if these men are not available, and Cliff Morgan will take over the captaincy, but there is hope that Thompson at least will play.

I expect the selectors to delay the announcement of the side as long as possible so that injured players may have a chance of getting fit, but they must not wait too long for the Test XV, must have special training.

The South African selectors watch their final trial at Durban to-morrow, and the Springbok team for the Test will be announced on Sunday.

The Lions had a good run out to-day and the team selected for to-morrow has reported fit.

WESTERN MAIL 30/7/55

CLIFF MORGAN INJURED AGAIN

Thumb Trouble Not

Likely To Keep Him Out Of Test

From VIVIAN JENKINS

"South Wales Echo" Special Correspondent
LIVINGSTONE, Rhodesia, Monday.

CLIFF Morgan gave the management of the British Isles touring rugby team another fright when he injured his right thumb in the second match against Rhodesia at Salisbury on Saturday.

It was feared for a time that it might be a fracture as it was badly swollen and bruised.

Two X-ray plates revealed, however, that it was no worse than a sprain, and although the thumb will be sore for a few days it is unlikely to prevent him playing in the first Test against South Africa at Johannesburg on Saturday.

Morgan had an uncomfortable afternoon against Rhodesia and was probably as relieved as most of the British party to see the team win by 16 points to 12.

He was given very erratic service by scrum half John Williams, of England, who was playing his first game after a lay-off with an injured back.

Pushing Off

With the ball often going behind him, Morgan had to turn round continually to make recovery efforts and to try to avoid fast following Rhodesian flank forwards.

It was in pushing off one of them that he hurt his thumb. On this evidence, Williams is a doubtful choice for the Test owing to lack of match practice.

He scored a fine individual try with a dash from scrum 40 yards out, but it is essential that Morgan should get better service.

It is more than likely that the scrum half place in the Test will go to Jeeps, of Northampton, the only uncapped member of the party. He has been playing outstandingly well and is quite fearless in spite of his lack of inches.

Choice of the team for the Test is not expected to be revealed until the middle of the week as it depends on the injuries situation.

Cameron, Butterfield, Reed and Higgins are all "doubtful" for one reason or another. O'Reilly and Billy Williams, Welsh prop forward, also got bumps against Rhodesia, but apparently they are not serious.

O'Reilly damaged an elbow when being tackled near the corner flag, while Williams had to go off for a short time with a jarred kneecap after a heavy fall.

My idea of what the Test team is likely to be is something like this: Baker; Sykes, Davies, Griffiths, O'Reilly; Morgan, Jeeps; W. O. Williams, B. Meredith, C. Meredith, R. H. Williams, Thompson (captain), Wilson, Robins, Greenwood.

Springbok Surprises

Higgins will be in instead of Wilson if his sprained wrist recovers in time, and Pedlow may displace Sykes on the wing because of his goalkicking ability.

This is bound to be an important factor in the absence of Cameron.

Meanwhile South African selectors have announced their team, which contains several surprise choices (see Page Seven).

Swart, on the left wing, is chosen "out of the blue" as it were. Until he played a fine game for South-west Africa against the British team at Windhoek he had never been heard of. Then he played in the final trial and is now chosen for his country.

He is a coppermine worker from a place called Tsameb, which is 400 miles north of Windhoek. It is a remarkable feat for a man from such an outlying part to win a place in the Springboks team.

Van Der Schyff, at full-back, is the one who beat the tourists in the opening match against Western Transvaal at Potchefstroom with his colossal kicking. He is capable of putting goals over from anything up to 65 yards or even more, and his punting is equally colossal. So it will not pay the British to give away penalties.

There is no doubt that this is a powerful team and will take a lot of beating.

Here at the Victoria Falls the tourists are having two days holiday in perfect surroundings at a most luxurious hotel.

Unconvincing win for Lions

Fry to lead Springbok Test XV

SALISBURY (Rhodesia), Sunday.

STEPHEN FRY, who toured Great Britain with the Springboks in the 1951-52 season, leads South Africa against the British Isles in the first Test at Johannesburg next Saturday (writes J. B. G. Thomas).

The team is: J. Van der Schyff; S. Swart, D. J. Sinclair, K. Van Vollenhoven, T. Briers; C. Ulyate, T. A. Gentles; A. J. J. du Plooy, C. Kroon, A. C. Kooh, S. Fry (captain), J. du Rand (vice-captain), J. Claassen, G. J. Van Wyk, D. Retief.

The side contains several surprises and only six former Springboks, including three of the 1951 side in Britain.

Du Plooy, who led the



STEPHEN FRY

Eastern Province to victory, makes his first appearance for his country at the age of 32.

Van der Schyff kicked Western Transvaal to victory against the Lions in the first match, and is the biggest kicker in the game to-day.

The halves, Gentles and Ulyate, are essentially attacking players, which indicates a new outlook in the selectors' policy. Swart gets his first cap following his good performance against the Lions at Windhoek.

All except Vollenhoven, Gentles, Kooh, du Rand, Claassen, and Retief have played against the present Lions.

The British team left here to-day for the Victoria Falls near Livingstone where they will take two days rest before going to Johannesburg in preparation for the first Test match.

The Test XV is not expected to be announced before Tuesday. All tickets have been sold and a crowd of nearly 90,000 is expected.

From J. B. G. THOMAS

SALISBURY (Rhodesia), Sunday.

ALTHOUGH the British Isles Rugby Union tourists gained their second victory over Rhodesia their performance was not entirely satisfactory in view of the nearness of the first Test match.

The Lions were much the better side in the first half at the Police ground here yesterday; they were never as convincing as a Test side should be on the eve of battle.

They beat Rhodesia by two goals and two penalties (16 points) to four penalties (12 points).

Root of the trouble was the poor form of J. E. Williams of England, playing his first match since being injured. His service from scrum and line-out to Morgan was poor and he was generally hesitant in contrast to his normal form. As a result, Morgan had to take passes standing still, often in the manner of a conjuror and in face of fast breaking spoilers.

MORGAN SOUND

However, Morgan played a sound game and covered Williams as far as was possible but, since he could not infuse speed into his line, comparatively little was seen of the three-quarters.

When they were in swift possession they ran well, and there was one glimpse of Williams at his best when he ran diagonally to score a good try.

On the form of this match it would appear that Jeeps will gain the scrum-half position in the first Test on Saturday and thus play for the British Isles before playing for his country—England.

Griffiths and O'Reilly, the right wing pair, were good, running with speed and purpose whenever the opportunity presented itself.

W. O. WILLIAMS HURT

The other centre, Quinn, was handicapped by a cut knee, but Sykes tried hard and may get the other wing berth in the Test.

W. O. Williams who led the pack received a knock on the leg late in the first half but recovered and completed the match. He worked hard as did hooker Roe—now fully recovered from an injury to his ribs—Michele and Robins.

The Rhodesians did quite well forward, and showed speed on the ball in the loose and tackled hard, although the Lions got most of the ball.

Best of the eight was Poole, who led by example. Van Jaraveld and Jutronic. The halves lacked speed, although the outside-half Baartman kicked well and notched four penalty goals.

RHODESIA SCORE FIRST

Of the three, the big Springbok trialist, Van Der Spuy, took some holding on the right wing. Conditions were cool, and

15,000, including the Governor of Southern Rhodesia and International Board member, Sir Wavell Wakefield, watched the match.

Rhodesia took the lead with the first penalty by Baartman and the Lions replied with one by Baker, before O'Reilly and J. Williams scored tries, both of which Morgan converted. Baartman got another penalty before the interval and Baker one early in the second half.

The Lions appeared set for a big win but play deteriorated and Baartman landed two more goals as the Lions conceded penalties.

WESTERN
MAIL
1/5/55

SOUTH WALES ECHO

1/5/55

SIX WELSHMEN IN BRITISH TEST XV

From J. B. G. THOMAS

VICTORIA FALLS, Monday.

THE British Isles Rugby Union touring team selectors caused surprise here this afternoon when they announced the side to meet South Africa in the first Test match at Johannesburg on Saturday.

It had been stated yesterday that the team would not be announced before Tuesday when there would be definite news of the injured players. The team announced contains several "injured" who have not had a fitness test.

This appears to be a considerable gamble.

The team is:—

A. CAMERON (Scotland);
A. C. PEDLOW (Ireland);
W. P. C. DAVIES (England);
J. BUTTERFIELD (England);
A. J. O'REILLY (Ireland);
C. MORGAN (Wales); R. E. G. JEES (Northampton); W. O. WILLIAMS (Wales); B. MEREDITH (Wales); G. C. MERE-DITH (Wales); R. HIGGINS (England); R. H. WILLIAMS (Wales); R. H. THOMPSON (Ireland); (captain), R. J. ROBINS (Wales); J. T. GREENWOOD (Scotland).

SURPRISE CHOICES

Biggest surprises are the inclusion of Cameron and Pedlow, for if Cameron is fit there should be no need to play Ped-

low, who is not as good a wing as Griffiths or Sykes.

The idea is to include two goalkickers, but I still feel that Cameron may not be fit enough to play, and, if that is so, then Baker will replace him at full-back.

Butterfield has not had a fitness test and is included despite a painful groin injury.

If these players should break down during the match it will mean forfeiting the chance of winning the Test.

It was anticipated that Jeeps would play following the poor display of J. E. Williams on Saturday.

BEST PACK

The forwards are the best available eight and should do well, for five of last season's Welsh pack form the nucleus, with one Scot, one Irishman and one Englishman.

If the forwards do well and one of the backs breaks down it will be a tragedy. While the early announcement of the team is a good thing for players concerned, I feel the selectors have been hasty in gambling on the fitness of certain key players.

No risks can be taken when other players almost as good are 100 per cent fit.

If the players are fit on Saturday then there is every prospect of a hard and exciting match for the Springboks have revised their policy and will play mainly attacking football.

WESTERN MAIL

2/8/55

Rugby Test match fever in Jo'burg

From J. B. G. Thomas

JOHANNESBURG, Wednesday.

RUGBY fever has this great golden city in its grip—people here talk of nothing else but the first Test match to be played on Saturday at Ellis Park.

All 90,000 tickets have been sold and command prices ten times their face value in the "black market."

Enthusiasts are flying from all parts of South Africa and air companies state that all available aeroplanes have been chartered. It is reported to-day that a party of London business men will travel by air for the match, returning on Monday.

The British players arrived here last night from Victoria Falls where they enjoyed two days' rest. They were greeted by Mr. W. C. Ramsay, last year's president of the Rugby Union, who has come out to see the first two Tests.

Manager optimistic

The Lions had a full practice this afternoon at the Wanderers' ground and the Springboks practised at a ground 20 miles away.

The Springboks met on Tuesday for coaching by Dr. Danie Craven, but this is contrary to the International Board ruling.

The Lions' manager, Jack Siggins, is optimistic. When I spoke to him after the practice he said, "Our boys will try harder than they have ever done in their lives. We all realise the strength of the Springboks and that they will play hard but we will do our best to win."

Pitch perfect

There is still doubt whether Cameron or Butterfield will be fit for the match. If they withdraw it will not be before Saturday morning, but Baker and Griffiths are standing by as reserves. I hope that Mr. Siggins will not take a risk with unfit players.

I inspected Ellis Park this morning and found the turf in perfect condition for a fast match. The players are receiving telegrams from all parts of the world wishing them well in their bid to capture the title of world champions from South Africa.

The referee appointed for the match is Mr. Bob Burmeister, of Cape Town, who handled the Western Province match so efficiently.

SOUTH WALES Echo
2/8/55

Too Many Doubtful 'Lions'

SWELTERING Welsh rugby enthusiasts have received a cold douche from Victoria Falls, South Africa, where the British Lions' selectors yesterday announced the team to meet South Africa in the first Test on Saturday (writes Dave Phillips). Six Welshmen out of 15 might appear a fair reflection of Welsh rugby strength. . . . But looking more closely at the team it will be found that five are forwards—only Cliff Morgan, mercurial Welsh outside half, being chosen among the backs.

Kicking Edge

Inclusion of injured Angus Cameron at full-back is something of a gamble, while the preference for Irishman Cyril Pedlow on the right wing is probably due to doubts about Cameron lasting the pace of a gruelling Test against the tough Springboks.

His place-kicking ability has given him the right wing position despite strong claims from "Flying Welshman" Gareth Griffiths and England's Sykes.

Phil Davies and Jeff Butterfield are the first-string centres, but the selection of teen-age star centre O'Reilly on the left wing keeps out the free-scoring Welsh left wing Haydn Morris. Butterfield has not had a fitness test and is included despite a painful groin injury, while the only non-international in the side R. E. G. Jeeps (Northampton), gets the scrum half berth as partner to Cliff Morgan, due to the poor display of England's J. E. Williams on Saturday.

Welsh Nucleus

The pack is considered the best available eight, with the famous Welsh front row of the two Merediths and Billy Williams, R. H. Williams in the powerhouse and Russell Robins at No. 8 as the nucleus.

Most Welshmen will follow the fortunes of this first Test with more than usual interest and particular attention is likely to centre on the display of Pontpyridd forward Robins in a position which many critics think is his best.

This early team announcement—it was originally scheduled for to-day—sets the scene for one of the most intriguing clashes on record with a record 90,000 crowd watching the mighty Springboks defend their proud title of "Rugby Champions of the World."

British rugby men would feel happier if there were not so many injury doubts. It will certainly need 100 per cent fitness from every manjack in the Lions' side to withstand the enthusiastic surge of the famous Springbok "green tide."

WESTERN MAIL
6/8/55

Welsh 'Lions'

Sir,—I feel I must write to tell you what a grand ambassadorial job the Welsh contingent of the Lions Rugby team is doing for Wales. On or off the field their bearing has brought forth much praise from South Africans.

The Rev. Emyln Jones has invited them to his church, where they have taken an active part in the service. Alun Thomas, Cliff Morgan and Haydn Morris have read the Gospel, the latter's reading of the Scriptures was something I shall not forget. These boys are a grand lot of fellows and we are proud of them.

FRANCIS RUSSELL
Johannesburg.

RUGBY FOOTBALL

Chance of Test victory

From J. B. G. THOMAS

JOHANNESBURG, Thursday.

THE British Isles are given more than an even chance by the critics here of winning the first match in the Test series of four. Reason for this is the splendid play of the Lions in 12 matches played to date, with only two defeats.

They have captured the imagination of the South African followers and worried the Springbok selectors, particularly Danie Craven, who is coaching the opposition.

The Springbok side includes a group of attacking mid-field players for the first time since 1937, and Craven is nervous about them.

"If I had them for three weeks they could win the series easily," he said.

"British Lions are one of the best sides ever to come to South Africa."

SPRINGBOKS FIT

Springboks finished their training on Wednesday, and are all fit. They are staying at an hotel half-a-mile from the Lions. To-night the Springboks will study

films of the two Lions' matches at Ellis Park.

The Test match promises to be one of the greatest events in Rugby history, for in addition to 90,000 spectators at the match, commentaries and eye-witness accounts will be broadcast to all corners of the Commonwealth.

Success for the Lions depends on the percentage of the ball obtained by the forwards from the scrum, loose and line-out play in the face of determined Springbok forward play.

Springboks have older and more experienced forwards—their new cap, Duplooy, is the oldest player at 34—and they will attempt to deny the ball to the brilliant British backs, all of whom have reported fit after to-day's final training session.

Again the Springboks are expected to attack behind the scrum through the halves.

The Springbok threequarters are faster and more elusive than any played since the war, and Vander Schyff is the longest and most accurate kicker in the game to-day at full-back.

The Lions intend to play their normal style of game with the forwards, led by Thompson, going hard all the time, and the backs making full use of their own chances and counter-attacking.

WESTERN MAIL
5/8/55

Packs hold key at Ellis Park

FROM J. B. G. THOMAS
JOHANNESBURG, Friday.

TO-MORROW afternoon at Ellis Park, here, the first stage of the struggle of Rugby "giants" between Great Britain and South Africa will be fought out.

The British Lions have high hopes of ending South Africa's dominance of international Rugby Union, which they have maintained since 1928, when New Zealand halved the series here.

Although the British Isles are slight favourites to win, their fluctuating form, ranging from the brilliant heights of wins over Orange Free State and Transvaal, to the lowest ebb in the resounding defeat at the hands of Eastern Province, makes the result unpredictable.

The match should provide a brilliant contrast of styles. The touring side will rely on the potential match-winning thrust of their back line to pierce the South African defence, and the Springboks may favour the tactics so successfully exploited on the 1950-51 tour of Britain and France.

OBJECTIVE

On that occasion the first objective of their forwards was to establish command of the game in the set scrums before breaking away in close hand-to-hand passing rushes, and suddenly switching the ball out to the three-quarters.

The key to the match lies in the ability of the Springbok forwards to subdue their opponents to such an extent that the British backs, with the mercurial Cliff Morgan at outside-half, are given only a minimum of the ball.

The battle for possession of the ball has intriguing possibilities, with the British Isles all-Welsh front row of Billy Williams, Bryn Meredith and Courtenay Meredith in the van of a pack which is regarded as the strongest threat to the South African forwards since the 1949 All Blacks.

Behind the scrum every member of the British back-line is speedy, thrustful, and safe in defence. Full-back Angus Cameron's recently developed consistency in goal-kicking augurs well for the Lions should the match be close.

STUDIED FILMS

The Springbok team, containing 10 new internationals, are fully aware of the magnitude of their task. They practised assiduously earlier this week, and last night they studied films of the British team in action.

Teams—South Africa: J. van der Schyff, S. Swart, D. Sinclair, K. van Vollenhove, T. Briefs, C. Ulyate, T. Gentles, A. du Plooy, C. Kroon, C. Koch, S. Fry (captain), J. du Rand, J. Claassens, C. J. van Wyk, D. Retief.
British Isles: A. Cameron (Scotland); A. C. Pedlow (Ireland); W. P. C. Davies (England); J. Butterfield (England); A. J. O'Reilly (Ireland); C. I. Morgan (Wales); R. E. G. Jeeps (Northampton); W. O. Williams (Wales); B. V. Meredith (Wales); C. C. Meredith (Wales); R. H. Williams (Wales); R. H. Thompson (Ireland); R. J. Higgins (England); R. J. Robins (Wales); J. T. Greenwood (Scotland).

WELSH FRONT ROW



B. MEREDITH C. MEREDITH W. O. WILLIAMS

suggests the 13, 16 or 19 metre bands as most suitable for receiving Johannesburg during the late afternoon, but reception at that time is not expected to be good.

Last evening shortwave wireless enthusiasts, on their "ham sets," were receiving good reception from South African stations. Several hope for favourable conditions again this afternoon.

On Tuesday, in "News Extra," Western Mail Rugby correspondent, J. B. G. Thomas, who is touring with the British party, will give a review of the match.

WESTERN MAIL
6/8/55

Facing a hard task



Critics agree that the British Isles forwards face a hard task against the Springbok pack at Ellis Park tomorrow, but they look cheerful enough about their prospects. They are (left to right): C. Meredith, B. Meredith and W. Williams (front row); J. Greenwood (flank), R. Williams and R. Thompson (locks), R. Higgins (flank) and R. Robins (No. 8).

Jo' Burg
The Star
5/8/55

Tourists have scored 55 tries

TONY O'REILLY, 19-year-old junior member of the British Isles team and who plays on the wing in the first test tomorrow, has been the most prolific scorer on the tour to date.

Of the 55 tries scored by the Lions in 12 matches, O'Reilly has scored 11. Among the remainder of the test back line Davies and Butterfield have scored five tries each, Pedlow three, Morgan and Jeeps two apiece.

The Lions' leading scorers next to O'Reilly are: A. Cameron (11 conversions, one penalty goal), 25; H. Morris (eight tries), 24; A. C. Pedlow (three tries, five conversions, one penalty goal), 22; P. Sykes (seven tries), 21, and D. G. S. Baker (one try, three penalty goals, three conversions), 18. Then follow Davies (15), Butterfield (15), B. Meredith (12), and C. I. Morgan (12).

The tour record is:
P. W. L. D. P. A.
12 10 2 0 248 103

The British line has been crossed eight times.

Jo' Burg
The Star
5/8/55

Springboks are worried, says British critic

From Our Correspondent

London, Friday.

ROY McKELVIE, who is in South Africa to report the R Rugby tests for the London "Daily Mail," says in a message from Johannesburg that he gains the impression that the five Springbok selectors "are worried men. They foresee the possibility of defeat and the initiative passing for the first time in many, many years, from the world champions, South Africa."

He goes on to say that there is no doubt that the Springboks' worry and the Lions' success "can be traced to the tourists' policy of experimenting with players in unusual positions and getting away with it. This has shown South Africa that the Lions are skilled Rugby players, not just specialists as are all the players here."

The experiments have not only been forced by numerous injuries but were a definite policy by the Lions' selectors—the manager, Mr. Jack Siggins, the captain, Robin Thompson and the vice-captain, Angus Cameron.

"Talking to Mr. Siggins, I get

the idea that he has been out to fox the Springboks. If he has succeeded in disturbing their thoughts and discussions, and perhaps shaken some of the complacency founded on the Springboks' long series of outstanding successes, he has gained one victory before the test series begins."

Jo' Burg
The Star 5/8/55

FIRST RUGBY TEST WILL BE DUEL OF PACE AGAINST POSSESSION

Six former captains to see match

SIX former Springbok captains will watch the first Rugby International between South Africa and the British Isles at Ellis Park tomorrow. They are Theo Pienaar, who led the Springboks in New Zealand in 1921; Phil Mostert, who led South Africa against the All Blacks in South Africa in 1928; Phil Nel, who captained them against Australia in the Union in 1933 and in 1937; Australia and New Zealand; Dante Craven, who captained South Africa in a test match in New Zealand in 1937 and led the Springboks against the British Isles team in the Union in 1938; Felix du Plessis, captain against the 1949 All Blacks in South Africa, and Basil Kenyon, who led South Africa in one test in 1949 and was captain of the side which toured Britain in 1951-52.

Test results of previous tours

SATURDAY'S will be South Africa's 14th Rugby International since the war, of which only one—the second test against Australia, at Newlands in 1953—has been lost.

The Springboks' record in this period is:

v. NEW ZEALAND, 1949.
 1st test: South Africa 15, New Zealand 11.
 2nd test: South Africa 12, New Zealand 14.
 3rd test: South Africa 7, New Zealand 10.
 4th test: South Africa 11, New Zealand 8.

IN BRITAIN AND FRANCE, 1951/52.
 1st test: South Africa 44, Scotland 0.
 2nd test: South Africa 17, Ireland 3.
 3rd test: South Africa 6, Wales 3.
 4th test: South Africa 8, England 3.
 5th test: South Africa 25, France 1.

v. AUSTRALIA, 1953
 1st test: South Africa 25, Australia 3.
 2nd test: Australia 18, South Africa 14.
 3rd test: South Africa 18, Australia 8.
 4th test: South Africa 22, Australia 9.

On the 1938 British Isles tour of South Africa, the test results were:
 1st test: South Africa 19, British Isles 12.
 2nd test: South Africa 19, British Isles 3.
 3rd test: British Isles 21, South Africa 16.

Gentles is shortest Springbok

IN a country world-renowned for the physical attributes of so many of the finest forwards the game has known, the "little men" of Rugby have been comparatively less in evidence, writes Reg Sweet.

But they have played a big part in the Springbok Rugby story, for all that. Tommy Gentles, of the Villager R.F.C. in Cape Town, has a record and a reputation to live up to when he takes the field against the Lions at Ellis Park on Saturday. No Springbok ever came more rapidly into the international picture.

Gentles is the "smallest" player ever to have represented South Africa, though not the lightest. He bows on the weight scale, to Pierre de Villiers, who was 136lb. when the 1931-32 Springboks were in Britain. But he is just over 2lb. heavier than was Bill Sendin (132), South Africa's scrum-half in New Zealand in 1921.

Sendin, though, was 5ft. 6in. tall. De Villiers was his "senior" by an inch—and Gentles, at 5ft. 3in. is the shortest among the "little strong men."

Lions' threat to proud Springbok record

By REG SWEET

PRESENTING the most impressive credentials earned by an overseas team in many years, backed by an attacking record which has not been beaten in this country by the sides who came before them, yet fully conscious of the magnitude of the task ahead, the British Isles Rugby team will approach the first international match tomorrow with the brightest prospects of any side which has come to South Africa since the New Zealanders shared the rubber here 27 years ago.

They are well aware of the implications. A test victory at Ellis Park tomorrow will require from them effective countering of a South African pack, and there is possibly no sterner task in Rugby.

Yet the Lions have added significant advances in forward play to their remarkable drive in the back division and they will, without doubt, take the field tomorrow with the highest hope of any international team in South Africa since the war.

It would be wise to be cautious, for all that. What the Lions seek to achieve at Ellis Park is a target only twice attained by British Isles international sides against South Africa in more than 50 years since the "educational" tours ended. The duel, on the face of it, is one of pace against possession.

South Africa has awarded 10 new international caps, the majority of them in the search for striking power behind the scrum. For the entire Springbok line, Ellis Park presents the chance to demonstrate that South African back-play is adequate in the quality if its newcomers.

FOUR STALWARTS

It would be reasonable to expect the South African pack, based on the wide experience of its four surviving stalwarts of the magnificent test packs in Britain four years ago, to have an edge. At the lineouts, too, there may be a small advantage for Du Rand and Claassen.

In the open the question of pace is raised afresh though Retief, the successor to Hennie Muller, Koch and possibly Kroon, judged by his impressive work in the final trial match, might be considered exceptions.

It involves one more key to this match, the ability to get across to the fleet-footed Cliff Morgan at fly-half. Morgan enters this match in just the same way as he made his international bow—against the flanking of Stephen Fry and Basie van Wyk. He is a considerably more accomplished player now than on that occasion at Cardiff Arms Park, and the firm South African grounds have suited his style to perfection.

GOOD SERVICE

Morgan has developed a good understanding with Dick Jeeps, his inside half, and the only uncapped player in the Lions' side. He has a good service from the sturdy, young, Northampton half, and Jeeps in turn has intelligently adjusted his tactics without ever overdoing the break on his own.

Ability to check the powerful running of the Davies/Butterfield link at centre, the general problem of covering a three-quarter line which takes its passes at speed and of matching its variety of tactics brought to a high standard of efficiency on this tour, are the immediate concern of South African three-quarters and cover-defence alike.

O'Reilly who has developed on the right wing into a fier of quite remarkable drive with the attributes of pace and swerve added to his weight, is the first problem of the new Springbok, Sias Swart.

The young South-West African, like the new half-back pairing of Gentles and Uiyate, has come into the Springbok picture with a heavy responsibility after a relatively short but undoubtedly impressive period this season. He has added a staunch defence to bold aggression on the run, and these are qualities his side will require in full measure tomorrow.

Briers, on the other wing, has a good provincial record. He has shown the ability to use, and make, a cross-kick with good timing. Sinclair and Van Vollenhoven, neither with any illusions as to the test ahead for their defensive qualities, should have opportunity enough to strike out on their own.

SINCLAIR'S EXPERIENCE

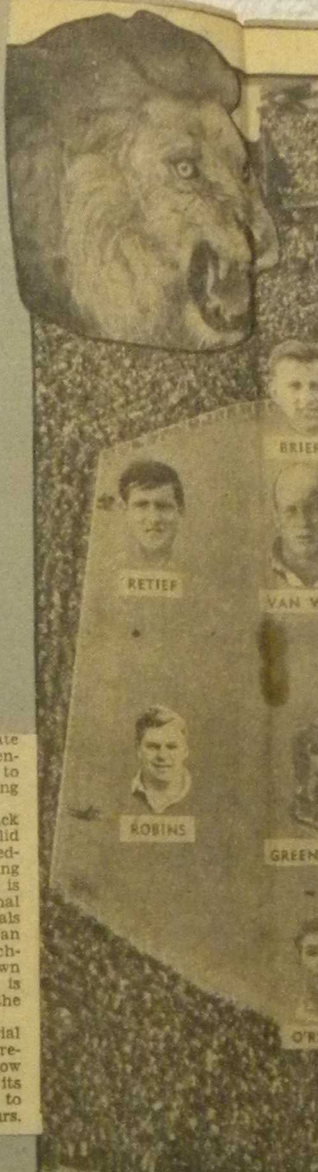
Van Vollenhoven may be as fast of the mark as any back on the field. Sinclair's experience in class Rugby will be vital in the centre of an otherwise untried line, and

the ability of Gentles and Uiyate to move ahead of Higgins, Greenwood and Robins will be the key to their own prospects of striking back.

Van der Schyff at full-back will outrage both the solid Cameron opposite him, and Pedlow, another back of attacking ability, with the boot. If this is to be another international match in which penalty goals play their important part, Van der Schyff's potential as a match-winner is clear enough. His own defence will be tried, and it is here that the Lions should be the sounder side.

On the face of it, this is a trial indeed of the quality of the replacements South Africa has now been called upon to find for its test teams. They will do well to come through it with top honours.

*Jo'burg
The Stars
6/8/55*



Experienced referee

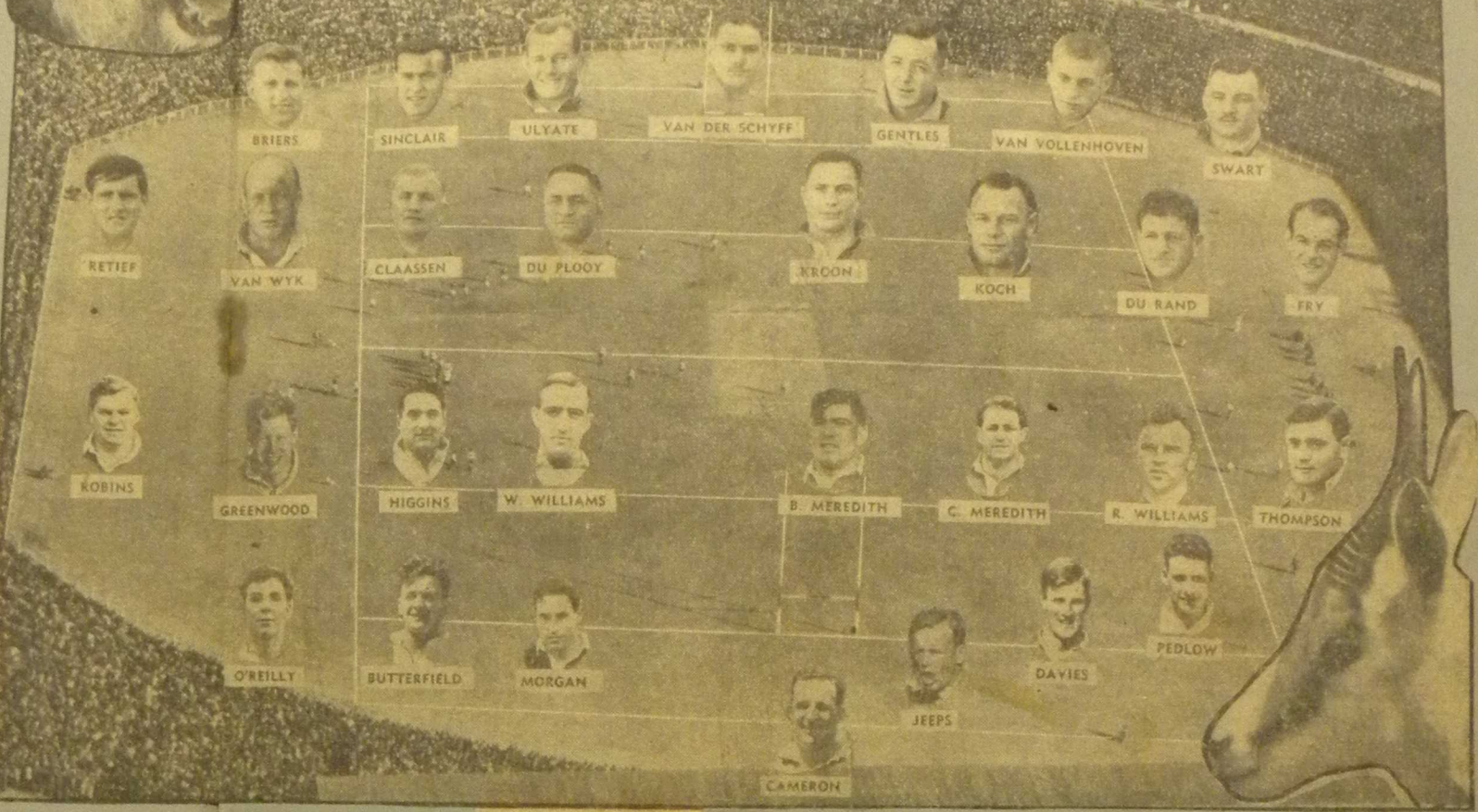
Mr. Ralph Burmeister, handling his fourth international Rugby match tomorrow, is the most experienced test referee in South Africa at the present time, writes Reg Sweet.

He handled two internationals against the 1949 All Blacks, and one during the Australian tour in 1953.

His quiet efficiency has been one of the most impressive features of South African refereeing in recent years, for his services have been in demand despite the fact that a few of the matches he has handled—such as the first All Blacks test, and last year's Currie Cup final at Newlands—have featured in considerable controversy.

Mr. Burmeister, who is a son of the 1906 Springbok, the late Mr. Arthur Burmeister, is a fruit farmer in the Stellenbosch area.

ALL SET FOR ELLIS PARK



THE STAGE IS SET for today's first Test match between the touring British Isles team and the Springboks at Ellis Park. Here the teams, the Springboks under the growling lion and the Lions being viewed quite confidently by the springbok, are shown against the background of Ellis Park.

Ready for the battle



The Springbok forwards as they will face the British Isles in the test at Ellis Park tomorrow are (left to right): Amos du Plooy, Collin Kroon and Chris. Koch (front row); Basie van Wyk (flank), Johan Claassen and Salty du Rand (locks), Stephen Fry (flank) and Daan Retief (No. 8).

Jo'burg
The Star
6/8/55

OPPOSING TEST TEAMS

SOUTH AFRICA

J. van der Schyff

T. Briers D. Sinclair K. van Vollenhoven S. Swart

C. Ulyate T. Gentles

D. Retief

C. J. van Wyk J. Claassen J. du Rand S. Fry (capt.)

A. du Plooy C. Kroon C. Koch



W. O. Williams B. C. Meredith C. C. Meredith

R. Higgins R. H. Thompson R. H. Williams J. T. Greenwood (capt.)

R. J. Robins

C. Morgan R. E. G. Jeeps

A. C. Pedlow W. P. C. Davies J. Butterfield A. J. O'Reilly

A. Cameron

BRITISH ISLES

Magnificent Lions won match of generation

ONE TRY FOR WEL

From J. B. G. THOMAS
South Africa, *4-2-22; British Isles, 4-1-23
*Two penalties

JOHANNESBURG, Sunday.

RUGBY history was made at the giant Ellis Park Stadium here yesterday where the British Isles Rugby Union team gained a dramatic one point victory over South Africa before a world record Rugby crowd of more than 90,000.

FOR THE RECORD

BY winning in such spectacular manner at Johannesburg, Britain have drawn level with South Africa in the number of Tests won by each country since the first encounter in 1891.

The Lions and Springboks have now each won nine games, with three drawn, though South Africa hold a points scoring advantage, having obtained an aggregate of 198 to Britain's 152 in the 21 Tests played to date.

South Africans consider the three Tests in 1891 and the four played in 1896 in the nature of "educational" matches, the first six of which were won by Britain, with the Springboks gaining an historic 5-3 victory at Cape Town in the fourth Test of 1896.

That proved the turning point of South African Rugby, and they won the Test "rubbers" against Britain in 1903, 1910, 1924 and 1936. In fact, the only country to defeat them in a Test "rubber" has been Britain during those pioneer days of 1891 and 1896, though New Zealand shared honours in New Zealand in 1921, and in South Africa in 1928.

Britain's only successes, following the two preliminary "skirmishes," came at Port Elizabeth in 1910 by 3-3, and at Cape Town in 1936, with the Lions three times taking the lead, and staging a famous revival to snatch a thrilling 21-18 win.

Strangely enough, as on Saturday, there was only one Welsh back in the successful Lions team. He was Elvet Jones, of Llanelly, who was capped on his return. In the pack the only Welshman was W. Travers, the Newport hooker.

As reigning "Rugby Champions of the World," South Africa had lost only one of their last 13 matches prior to Saturday's defeat. And that was in the opening Test of the 1952 tour by Australia, who won another match of tension and thrills by an 18-14 margin at Cape Town.

It is to be hoped that Robin Thompson's team will not be buoyed up by false hopes, as were the Australians after their initial success. They succumbed in the three following Tests in 1953, losing heavily. It has been a great start to the Lions Test "rubber" victory bid, and with the target in their sights of becoming the first country to conquer the mighty Springboks in a Test series for 59 years, Britain has an ambition that is well within her compass to achieve.

In one of the greatest struggles I have ever witnessed Lions won by four goals and a try (23 points) to two goals, two penalties and two tries (22 points) to place the British Isles in direct line for the recapture of the unofficial world championship title.

From the first whistle to the last the match produced an atmosphere of intense excitement with swift moving play of exceptionally high standard. Such a match comes but once in a generation.

The margin between the sides was a mere point at the close, and while the comparatively high scoring reflects the attacking power of the two sides, it does not tell the story of the Lions struggling against odds and their remarkable show of courage.

First the tourists were 11 points to three down after 30 minutes, and immediately after the restart in the second half lost the services of stalwart back-row Reg. Higgins with a leg injury.

INSPIRED BY MORGAN

All appeared lost with the Springboks holding a considerable advantage, but it was then that Lions showed their quality to match great sides of the past. Inspired by mercurial Morgan at outside-half giving his best ever display in representative football, two brilliant attacking England centres, Butterfield and Davies, cut their way through diffident tacklers to soften the first Springbok lines of defence.

Covering defenders failed hopelessly as the whole Lions team attacked, and when they led by 23 points to 11 victory appeared secure. The loss of Higgins was temporarily forgotten in the glory of the play, but soon the Springbok eight, with skipper Fry in superb form, were pounding away at Lions defences.

Every ounce of available British energy was brought into action to cope with continuous attacks but slowly the Lions' endurance was sapped.

The Springboks nibbled into Lions lead with a try before launching their final onslaught. Though the Lions played bravely, the clock at the corner of the ground recorded the passage of time grudgingly and when 40 minutes had passed there was left only injury time.

MOMENT OF DECISION

It was a moment of decision for South Africa and they made a supreme effort.

Chris Koch, veteran of many a thrilling Test, crashed his way over from 15 yards amidst deafening applause and Van der Schyff kicked a goal to leave Springboks only four points behind. Koch's success had exposed the tiredness of the valiant Lions and another goal would have seen the tourists beaten.

Once more the Springbok forwards crashed through during the very last minute of the match and Briers dived over to complete a rush. Two points more and Springboks were home and dry.

Van der Schyff, an accurate marksman and Lions greatest

HIGGINS OUT FOR THREE WEEKS

JOHANNESBURG, Sunday.

REG HIGGINS, the Liverpool and England forward who was carried off the field during the first Test between Great Britain and South Africa here yesterday, is likely to be out of the game for at least another three weeks.

Higgins, who is suffering from a badly torn knee ligament, was left behind in a Johannesburg nursing-home to-day when the rest of the British Isles team left for Durban.

According to a doctor who examined his injury, Higgins is not expected to be fit to re-join the team until they return from Cape Town for the third Test at Pretoria at the end of the month.

J. K. Ochse, who toured Britain and France with the 1951-52 South African Rugby team, is included in the Boland side to meet the British Isles at Wellington (Cape Province) on Saturday.

The local team will be captained by front-row forward, Chris Koch, who scored one of South Africa's tries in the first Test yesterday, and also includes his younger brother, Willem Koch.—Reuter.

enemy, placed the ball in silence. He kicked for goal, but away went the ball outside the far upright. The referee's whistle sounded for "no side" and the red and green jerseyed heroes were engulfed by spectators happy to break the tension of the closing minutes.

RECORD SCORE

Lions deserved their win and the record Test score against the Springboks because their forwards gained more than the necessary 40 per cent. of the ball required for victory, and because the backs showed greater speed and thrust than their opponents.

Morgan, Davies and Butterfield gave outstanding displays in midfield and the Springboks were never able to subdue them. Jeeps, at scrum-half, was a giant fellow behind his seven brave forwards all of whom achieved glory.

In Van der Schyff the Springboks had a match winning goal-kicker but Lions probed his weakness as a fielder and tackler to play upon him with demoralising effect.

Fry led the Springbok pack well, and although Koch, Durand, and Retief worked tirelessly the covering was never perfect and the whole eight were never able to dominate the Lions even until the closing minutes.

MORE OPEN PLAY?

Gentles was small and elusive at scrum-half, but ran too frequently with the ball and rarely sent Ulyate away smoothly.

Vollenhoven, in the centre, and Briers on the wing were the best three-quarters, and although changes may be made in the Springbok side, its potential strength and desire to play good Rugby promise a magnificent Test series which may restore South African desire for open play.



CLIFF MORGAN, the British outside-half, swerves through the South African defence, despite the close attention of his old adversary, Basie Van Wyk (left), to score his try in the Test at Johannesburg.

Crowds filling the avenues outside the ground prior to the kick-off had to be accommodated between the touch lines and railings, and the teams fielded to the accompaniment of Scotsman Michie's bagpipes.

Lions were soon in the lead when Butterfield put Pedlow over following a half break by Davies. The long leg of Van der Schyff landed two penalties while he converted a try by Briers after Gentles's break to the blind side to put the Springboks well in the lead.

Lions countered with a typical Morgan break and a beautiful swerving run by Butterfield which carried the centre through the defence for him to score at the posts, Cameron converted.

Higgins was carried off on a stretcher as soon as the second half started, but Lions turned on full pressure to score three tries in seven minutes.

MAGNIFICENT TRY

First Morgan went through the defence like a rocket to leave Van Wyk standing for a magnificent try. Then Greenwood scored, supporting a powerful O'Reilly run, before he returned the compliment by kicking ahead for the full-back to fumble and O'Reilly score. Cameron converted all three.

Stalemate followed until Swart supported Gentles's kick to the blind side corner and scored a try. Finally came the Springbok rally which nearly carried the day.

South Africa: Van der Schyff; Briers, Sinclair, Vollenhoven, Swart; Ulyate, Gentles; Duplooy, Kroon, Koch, Durand, Glassens, Van Wyk, Retief, Fry.

Lions: Cameron; O'Reilly, Butterfield, Davies, Pedlow; Morgan, Jeeps; C. C. Meredith, B. V. Meredith, W. P. Williams, Thompson, Higgins, R. H. Williams, Robins, Greenwood.

RUGBY IN FIN

SOUTH AFRICA WHAT a game would have back Van der Schyff

Park, Johannesburg There was a death crowd of 90,000 as it went wide, so it exciting clash since the

This is how the total up—four goals and a try to two goals, two penalties and two tries (22 points). Words fall short of expressing the crazily tense atmosphere of the British forwards, who out the second half with Higgins.

The British fought valiantly to the back and fell before the dangerous rushes to carry the day. The Lions snatched a victory before the Springboks, at times to build up an advantage.

The British took a long second half and fell before Higgins, who scored they managed to score in seven minutes.

This came with a wonderful play of attacking football, headed by the active and running Cliff Morgan. Leading the Lions could whether the Lions could were bound to try. The Springboks pounded as their forwards and the Lions were pressed to the limit into "injury time" play and Koch dashed off the Springboks within a

WESTERN MAIL
8/8/55

TRY FOR WELSHMAN



half, swerves
pite the close
Wyk (left), to
nesburg.

DRAMATIC RUGBY TEST

SUNDAY PICTORIAL
7/8/55

Seven Welshmen help in great win

S. Africans 22 pts., British Isles 23

SEVEN Welsh players yesterday helped British Isles triumph in the most dramatic Rugby Union Test ever seen in South Africa.

A 90,000 crowd—a world record for Rugby Union—watched the match at Ellis Park, Johannesburg, being in the balance right to the last vital kick.

South Africa snatched a try in the last minute—an extra minute because of stoppages—amid tremendous excitement to make the score 22-23.

The crowd went wild, then became dead silent as full-back Jack Van der Schyff, ace of Rugby goal-kickers, prepared to take the win-or-lose conversion.

The try had been scored in the corner flag.

Scheyff had already landed ten points of South Africa's score. Could he pull the

game out of the fire? In a hushed silence he ran to the ball—bowl—but it sailed wide of the goal amid one tremendous groan from the crowd. Then the referee's whistle blew—South Africa had suffered one of their rare defeats in international Rugby.

After being down 11-8 at half-time British Isles staged a remarkable rally. Within seven remarkable minutes of the restart they had snatched a further 15 points to lead 23-11.

Cliff Morgan (Wales), Phil Davies (England) and Tony O'Reilly (Ireland) all scored within eight minutes.

Full-back Angus Cameron (Scotland), after a disappointing opening, converted each one to bring his points total to 8.

South Africa then began the fireworks, but never looked like catching up—until Swart got an unconverted try.

Then front-row man Koch

barge through to score. Scheyff converted—19-23.

Then came the vital try by Briers—and Scheyff's unavailing attempt to snatch a victory from South Africa would have hardly deserved.

From the moment that Cecil Pedlow gave British Isles the lead with an unconverted try, the tourists seemed more impressive.

Jeff Butterfield got the second try before the interval.

South Africa could not match the British backs who showed thrust and enterprise.

From half-backs Dickie Jeeps and the mercurial Cliff Morgan to the wings, every player was a threat to the South African line whenever he touched the ball.

Wing forward Reg Higgins was carried off with a badly twisted knee early in the second half, so that the South Africans then had the better of the forward struggle.

The remaining Tests are on August 29, September 3, and September 24.

Morgan's amazing display

From J. B. G. THOMAS

JOHANNESBURG, Sunday.

HIGHLIGHT of Saturday's record Test match between British Lions and the Springboks was a magnificent display by Welsh wizard Cliff Morgan.

Determined to defeat the Springboks and avenge the narrow defeat of Wales in December, 1951, Morgan set his heart on getting the better of his old enemy, "Basie" Van Wyk, burly South African flank forward.

Morgan fooled the opposition into thinking he would not run on his own. Then, after 30 minutes, he opened out and from 11 points to three down Lions moved to 23 points to 11 in the lead.

"Greatest moment"

The inspiration of this rally was Morgan, who told me after the match, "It was the greatest moment of my life to walk off the field on the winning side."

In 1951, Springbok flankers Van Wyk, Fry and Muller boxed Morgan and forced him to kick hurriedly.

Van Wyk told me last night, "Little Cliff is the greatest outside

J. B. G. Thomas will give a review of the match at 6.40 p.m. on Tuesday in the B.B.C. Home Service programme "News Extra."

half in the world. It was he who beat us to-day."

Five other Welshmen played their part in the victory. The front-row of the two Merediths and W. O. Williams held their own with Koch, Kroon and Duploye in the set scrums.

Welsh—world class

In the loose all three were prominent and Rhys Williams did well to hold the mighty Durand in the line-outs.

As No. 8 for the second time in his career in a big match, Russell Robins had a good day.

Wales is fortunate to have so many players of world class.

WESTERN MAIL

8/8/55

RUGBY EPIC ENDS IN PHOTO-FINISH WIN

by J. B. G. THOMAS

SOUTH AFRICA 22pts. GREAT BRITAIN 23

WHAT a game and what a score-line—yes, 22pts. to 23! But it would have been a British Lions' defeat had South Africa's full-back Van der Schyff converted that last-minute try by Briers at Ellis

Park, Johannesburg, yesterday.

There was a deathly silence from the world record rugby crowd of 90,000 as Schyff took the vital kick.

It went wide, so the injury-hit Lions had won the most exciting clash since that 1935 Welsh victory over New Zealand.

This is how the total was made up—four goals and a try (23pts.) to two goals, two penalties and two tries (22pts.).

Words fall short of expressing the tenseness of this crazily sea-sawing struggle, but all glory must go to the British forward, who through-out the second half were without Higgins.

They fought furiously to get the ball to the backs and fell and saved before the dangerous Springbok rains to carry the day for British.

The Lions snatched up the lead before the Springboks scored three times to hold up an eight-point advantage.

The Britons took a long time to get second wind and then, although losing Higgins with a leg injury, they managed to score three times in seven minutes.

This came with a wonderful display of attacking football—speculative master of the art of dodging and ransacking, Cliff Morgan.

Leading 24-11, it was a case of whether the Lions could hold on to the lead, for their seven forwards were bound to die.

The Springboks went up steadily as their forwards pounded away with short-passing and the Lions defence was pressed to the limit.

Into "injury time" went the play and Koch dashed over to leave the Springboks with striking distance.

Like a bomb

The Lions started the second half like a bomb and Davies ran hard almost to get O'Reilly in, before Morgan swept from a scrum ten yards out and left the defence standing as he scored near the post. Cameron converted.

Two minutes later the Lions scored again when O'Reilly had a great run for the line and although brought down, got the ball to Greenwood who scored.

Cameron landed the goal to put the Lions seven points in front.

Higgins had gone off the field in the first minutes of the second half with a pulled ligament and the seven forwards did wonderfully well to get the ball back for the backs to score.

The Lions forged even further ahead when Greenwood kicked only for Van Der Schyff to fumble and see O'Reilly scoop the ball up to touch down a try which Cameron converted.

South Africa then rallied and pressed hard before Gentles kicked to the corner from a loose man. Swart beat Cameron to the ball to register an unconverted try in the corner.

The Springboks nearly scored again when Briers got away to beat Pedlow and then put a foot in touch. Excitement was now nearing its peak.

Lions hold on

As the clock ticked away and the Lions held on with 14 men in a desperate struggle for victory. However, the Springboks scored another try when Koch battled his way over from 15 yards.

Open play

Then came the final episode of the conversion failure and it was all over but the shouting.

The open nature of the play made the match the most attractive in Springbok Test rugby since the war. It was indeed a match to remember and a wonderful start to what promises to be a magnificent series.

Ten minutes after the start the Lions raised the siege through O'Reilly, and a swift move from the away. He took the ball well and put Pedlow over in the corner, the kick falling.

Then the Lions got offside in the loose, and Van der Schyff landed a lovely 40-yard goal to equalise before sending South Africa into the lead with another easy penalty from 30 yards.

The Springboks went further ahead when Gentles went to the blind side of the scrum 20 yards out, and Fry supported on the outside to open a gap and put Briers over in the corner for Schyff to convert.

The Tourists hit back immediately and from a scrum, Morgan made a half break to send Butterfield haring.

The centre went right, and then straightened up, to swerve his way through and cross between the posts for Cameron to convert.

EMPIRE NEWS 7/8/55

RUGBY FOOTBALL

Clem Thomas bids for Test place

From J. B. G. THOMAS
DURBAN, Monday.



CLEM THOMAS

THE tired British Rugby Lions Test heroes arrived here this morning after an overnight train journey from Johannesburg. Their headquarters are in the New Hotel on Durban's famous waterfront.

The Lions meet Central Universities, a team composed of players from the three universities of Natal, Free State, and Rhodes on Wednesday, the first occasion for the combined side to meet a touring team.

The British Isles side contains only five of those players who helped to win Saturday's Test match. Robin Roe, Irish hooker, is playing as "prop" because Elliott is still unfit and C. C. Meredith has sprained a wrist.

The team will be: Cameron; Sykes, Quinn, Griffiths, Morris; Baker, J. E. Williams, Roe, B. V. Meredith, McLeod, Thompson, Michie, Greenwood, Robins, Clem Thomas.

CLEM THOMAS BACK
This is a good side, and there will be keen competition for Test places.

Higgins, who was left behind at Johannesburg yesterday, is at the same sanatorium as was Alun Thomas and will be there for a few days before further examination by a specialist. If a ligament in the knee is torn Higgins will undergo an operation, and will not play again on the tour, but it is twisted then he should be fit in four weeks.

The loss of Higgins coincides with the return of Clem Thomas, who should make the Test side if he shows his best form in the next few matches.

Pedlow's position on the wing may be challenged by any one of three—Griffiths, Sykes, and Morris.

The South African Press have splashed Lions' victory across the front pages, and critics and former Springboks have paid tribute to the skill and courage of the British players.

TV FILM
Critics here call for changes in the Springbok side but I do not anticipate more than four. The team will be announced next Sunday after the selectors have watched Lions' match with Boland at Wellington.

The British Isles team will not be selected until after next Tuesday's match against Western Provinces Universities at Cape Town.

Televiewers in the British Isles this week may see the Test match, as a special film taken on Saturday is now on its way to London by air.

Lions saw the film at a local cinema to-day before training at Kingsmead Ground.

WESTERN MAIL 9/9/55

WALES v. LIONS MATCH DOUBT

Western Mail Reporter

THERE is growing concern in Wales that the date of Saturday, October 15, has not been confirmed for the match between the British "Lions" and a Welsh XV, at the Cardiff Arms Park to celebrate the Welsh Rugby Union's 75th anniversary.

It is understood that despite frequent communications with the touring party in South Africa, no satisfaction has yet been gained in an attempt to find an alternative date, so that the game will not clash with the Swansea—Cardiff club encounter on the same day.

Mr. Brice Jenkins, acting secretary of the Welsh Rugby Union, has cabled Mr. D. E. Davies, secretary of the British party, in an effort to solve the problem, and news is anxiously awaited.

It would be a great pity if

WESTERN MAIL 10/8/55

RUGBY FOOTBALL

Invalids better

From J. B. G. THOMAS
DURBAN, Tuesday.

ON the eve of the British Isles Rugby Union tourists' match with Central Universities there is better news of their invalids.

Courtenay Meredith, suffering from a sprained wrist, will be fit for the second Test while Reg Higgins, of England, is not as badly injured as first thought.

He is responding to treatment and will be able to play again during the tour. His loss would be considerable but now the specialists are much more hopeful.

Big burly Irishman Tom Reid is responding to treatment and both Arthur Smith and Trevor Lloyd will be available to play on Saturday if selected.

WESTERN MAIL 10/8/55

'LIONS' RELAX

Universities Match To-morrow

From VIVIAN JENKINS
South Wales Echo Special Correspondent
DURBAN, Tuesday.

REG Higgins, Lancashire and England wing forward who had to leave the field with a knee injury just after half-time in Saturday's R.U. Test between the British Isles and South Africa in Johannesburg, will rejoin the rest of the touring party at Capetown on Thursday.

He had stayed behind in Johannesburg for treatment while the team went down to Durban for the match against Central Universities to-morrow.

Meanwhile the players are relaxing after their strenuous efforts in the Test and making full use of the facilities of this beautiful city. Though this is "midwinter," the temperature is nearly always in the 70's owing to the city's situation on the Indian Ocean, and the beaches are crammed with holidaymakers in deck chairs.

Players See Film

Bathing is in full swing, and nearly all the members of the team have been in for several "dips."

Another relaxation has been to watch a film of the Test match at one of the local cinemas and live again the glories of the great tries by Cliff Morgan and Jeff Butterfield, not to mention the agony of the last unsuccessful kick at goal by Van der Scheyff.

The film is being shown to England and, I understand, will be shown in cinemas and on TV later in the week.

This afternoon the team will go for a sea trip around the bay in a launch and later watch a Zulu war dance in a native location.

The match against Central Universities is not to be taken too lightly as eight members of the opposition have represented senior provincial sides. The team is picked from three universities—Orange Free State, Natal and Rhodes (Grahamstown).

Hadyn Morris Back

The best-known player is right-wing Michel Antelme, who played in the Springbok final trial 10 days ago. He is of French parentage and came with his parents to Durban from Madagascar.

Marking him will be Haydn Morris, of Cardiff, and it will be interesting to see how the Welshman fares after a layoff for a few weeks. So far on the tour he has shown plenty of speed, but he is rather on the light side to cope with fierce tackling on the hard grounds of this country. Maybe this match will give him an opportunity to re-establish himself.

Roe, the Irish hooker, is being tried out as prop, as Billy Williams and Courtenay Meredith are being tested and Elliott, of Scotland, has not fully recovered from his pleurisy attack.

SOUTH WALES ECHO 9/8/55

Now Haydn Morris On Lions' Injured List

From VIVIAN JENKINS,
"South Wales Echo" Special Correspondent
DURBAN, Wednesday.

HAYDN Morris, Cardiff and Wales left wing, was added to the long list of British rugby tourist casualties in South Africa when he twisted an ankle in the closing stages of the match against Central Universities here to-day.

This was particularly unfortunate, because up till then he had been playing his best game of the tour, and had scored two brilliant tries.

One came when he rounded off a passing movement with a dash for the left-hand corner; the other was the result of a clever piece of combination with Clem Thomas, who showed in this match that he is now coming back to best form after his long lay-off following an appendix operation.



R. C. C. THOMAS

Thomas caught the ball and put in a kick ahead from his own 25 then followed up quickly to regain possession.

By now he was very close to the left touchline and hedging in Morris, but the wing came inside to take a beautifully-timed inside pass from Thomas and cut in diagonally to score under the posts after a run of 30 yards.

An Anti-Climax

Late in the second half he was tackled awkwardly by one of the Universities' forwards when trying to clear near his own line and had to leave the field with an ankle injury.

Morris has not enjoyed the best of luck on the tour and it was a great pity that he should receive this set-back just when he seemed to be recovering his old confidence.

The Lions recorded their 12th win in 14 matches but gave a lack-lustre display which was no

doubt due to an anti-climax after excitements of the great Test win on Saturday.

The forwards were sluggish until the second half and a high wind and difficult sun made for many handling mistakes.

John Williams, at scrum half, scored a most spectacular try when he ran clean through the opposition from 30 yards, but service from the scrum was still extremely erratic and Baker, at fly half, was consequently forced to kick much more than usual.

On this form Jeeps is again likely to be scrum half in the second Test at Cape Town a week on Saturday. Bryn Meredith, too, yet another try, this time coming up in the middle of a passing movement like a centre three-quarter and dashing over from 15 yards in the best Jeff Butterfield manner.

Gareth Griffiths had an undistinguished match, but the three-quarter line as a whole suffered from initial troubles at scrum half.

At full-back Cameron had a most disappointing day and was continually in trouble against the rolling ball from a series of kicks ahead by the Universities fly half, Smith.

Discontent

The Universities team did well to hold the Lions to a 21-14 margin, and the forwards in particular gave excellent displays.

South African selector Mr. Bill Zeller watched the match and must have been impressed with flank forward De Wilzen, who may come into the reckoning to displace Basie Van Wyk in the second Test.

De Wilzen played for the Orange Free State senior provincial team against the tourists at Kroonstad, but on that occasion his team was beaten 31-3, and he was submerged in the general rout.

There is much discontent in Durban that no Test match has been allotted to the city.

The two at Johannesburg and Pretoria are in Transvaal while the other couple at Cape Town and Port Elizabeth have been allocated to Cape Province.

This is regarded as unfair, and it is hoped that both Durban and Orange Free State will secure Test matches in future.

SOUTH WALES ECHO 11/8/55

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Morris injured
Cameron at full-back was often
sight out of position and Haydn
Morris, until he was injured, was
the best of the three-quarter line,
which rarely moved with pre-
cision.

Morris twisted an ankle late in
the second half when he looked
like gaining a place in the Test
side with his speedy and elusive
running. Baker had a difficult
job coming with an erratic service
from Williams and Best.

With Meredith in the pack were
Greenwood, McLeod and Clem
Thomas.
Twenty thousand spectators saw
the match in brilliant sunshine,
but a high wind blew diagonally
across the ground.
After the Lions had besieged
the students' line for twelve min-
utes, Baker made half an opening
and handed on to Quinn, who sent
Morris racing over in the corner.
Cameron kicked a good goal.



HAYDN MORRIS

UNIVERSITIES FORCED LIONS TO FIGHT HARD

(From J. B. G. THOMAS, special to The News)
DURBAN, Thursday.

THE LIONS had to fight hard to defeat a lively Central Universities side here yesterday and although they won by three goals and two tries (21 points) to one goal, one penalty and two tries (14 points) the Universities were always in the match. The Lions fielded a strong side which included five of Saturday's Test heroes, but found the speed and enthusiasm of the young players more than a handful.

Although the Lions won the majority of set scrums through Bryn Meredith winning 12 tight heads, best use was not made of this service because John Williams at scrum-half was again erratic.

He ran well in the loose and broke strongly from the scrum but his passing out was wild and Baker had an unpleasant time dealing with his service.

This reduced the efficiency of the back division which did not play with its traditional rhythm and Haydn Morris alone of the Lions' backs showed test form.

TWISTED ANKLE

Morris ran well for his two tries and was prominent in defence until he left the field with a twisted ankle near the end of the match.

It will be unfortunate if the injury prevents him challenging for a test place.

Cameron had an unhappy day at fullback for the astute kicking by the varsities and a difficult wind frequently caught him out of position in defence.

Griffiths and Quinn lacked finish at centre and Sykes kept turning infield rather than making for the corner flag.

LIONS' PACK

In the Lions' pack Bryn Meredith again did well and was ably supported by Greenwood, Thomas and McLeod but the eight did not show the speed and purpose in the loose as in previous matches.

Varsities tried very hard and showed remarkable cohesion, being a better side than the Northern Universities which were overwhelmed at Ellis Park.

I liked Ferreira at full-back and all the three-quarters tackled well despite the fact that Antelme was not fast enough to hold the gazelle-like Morris.

STEADY FLY-HALF

Smith was steady at outside-half and made an excellent break late in the second half to produce the final score.

In the pack where J. de Wilzen was outstanding Jennings, Laing and Van Zyl worked hard.

Comparing him with other flankers seen this season, De Wilzen impressed in this match. He was quick on the ball and man

and got two tries in good style. The Springboks could do worse than give him a chance in the next Test.

THE SCORING

The biggest midweek rugby crowd ever in Durban enjoyed themselves and there is no doubt that the ground will be full when Natal is played at Kingsmead in September.

The Lions took the lead after 12 minutes when Baker made half an opening and the speedy Morris completed the movement for Cameron to kick a good goal.

Then the students fought back and when De Wilzen charged down a clearing kick by J. Williams he regathered to dive over smartly in the corner for a try.

Then Griffiths failed to gather a difficult pass in his own 25 and De Wilzen was up again to gather and dive over. This time Laing converted with a lovely kick.

RETAIATED

The Lions retaliated with a run across field by Morris which saw Cameron support and pass inside for Williams to cross and Cameron to convert.

In the second half the Lions went further ahead when they heeled quickly in the loose and Bryn Meredith was up to cross half way out on the right, but Cameron could not convert.

From the restart the Lions attacked after Michie had gathered and the ball was worked out to the left, where Thomas sent it back inside for Morris to race over and Cameron to convert.

Morris then left the field injured and the varsities attacked strongly. They scored a penalty through Smith with a straight 40-yard kick and then a corner try through Van Zyl before the close.

PRETORIA NEWS
11/8/55
S.A.



Mr. Carl Basson who has been appointed referee for the match between the British Isles team and Northern Transvaal at Loftus Versfeld on August 27.

Lions' hard fight to beat students

From J. B. G. Thomas

British Isles, 21pts.; Central Universities, 14pts.
DURBAN, Wednesday.

THE British Isles Rugby tourists had to fight hard for victory here to-day against Central Universities, who showed plenty of life and enthusiasm in a match made uncertain by a strong wind and a lively ball.

The Lions won by three goals and two tries to a goal, a penalty and two tries, but at one stage in the first half the students led by eight points to five.

Often upset by the speed of the students the Lions gave infrequent glimpses of their best form.

They are not at their best in midweek, and this match found them well below the magnificent form which won them Saturday's Test.

Mastery in scrummages

The forwards got a good share of the ball in the set scrums where Bryn Meredith out-booked his young opponent and won 12 tight heads.

In the lineouts, however, the Varsities did well to hold their own and were slightly better in the loose where the young flanker, J. Dewlsen, had a fine match. He scored two tries and challenged for a place in the next Springbok Test side. He was well supported by Aing. J. Wessells and C. Jennings.

The Lions were handicapped by the rather wild form of J. Williams (scrum-half), which enabled the Varsities' loose forwards to start swift counter-attacks.

Smith at outside-half was steady and Ferreira a sound full-back; all the three-quarters looked hard.

The students struck back when De Wilzen charged down a clearing kick from the scrum by J. Williams and gathered to score in the left corner. Ferreira just failed to convert.

Inspired by six score the young and lively students attacked strongly with well-placed short punts and speedy following-up and took the lead when Griffiths failed to gather a pass for De Wilzen to kick on, gather, and dive over for a try which Laing converted.

The students pressed the Lions hard until Morris started a scoring movement by running across from the left wing to the right and sending Cameron off up the touchline.

When challenged, the full-back transferred inside to J. Williams who dashed over and behind. Cameron converted and regained the lead for the Lions before the interval.

The students attacked early in the second half and Griffiths "debagged" Erasmus when effecting a tackle. Then Williams gathered from a scrum and went diagonally to the blind side before straightening up and racing over in the corner for an unconverted try.

The Lions often had all they could do to keep their line intact against the wind and on several occasions the Varsities were nearly over.

40-yard goal

This led to a series of powerful Lion attacks and Bryn Meredith scored a try after a supporting movement started from a loose maul. Cameron failed with the kick but the Lions attacked from the restart and Clem Thomas and Williams sent Morris off on a long run which ended between the posts. Cameron converted.

Morris hurt an ankle and left the field before the Varsities reduced the lead with a 40-yard penalty goal by Smith.

They scored again when Smith broke through and fed the ball back to the forwards for Vanzyi to score an unconverted try just before the end.

British Isles team: Cameron; Sykes; Griffiths; Quinn; Morris; Baker; J. Williams; Ros; Meredith; McLeod; Michie; Thompson; Greenwood; Robins; Clem Thomas.

WESTERN MAIL
11/8/55

'LIONS' TO PLAY IN SCOTLAND

From J. B. G. THOMAS

CAPE TOWN, Thursday. A NEW date has been suggested for the Welsh 75th anniversary match between Wales and the Lions—October 22 at Cardiff. The touring party's secretary has sent a cable to Mr. Brice Jenkins, acting secretary of the Welsh Rugby Union, suggesting the new date as most convenient if the Union and the Cardiff club agree. Scottish followers can look forward to a treat on October 15 when Angus Cameron will take a Lions team to play Glasgow. It should be the biggest Rugby attraction in the city since the war, and Lions will field their strongest side. The Lions may also play a match in Ireland.

"BEST MODERN RUGBY WRITER"

THE *Western Mail* gives a more comprehensive coverage of the British Rugby team's tour of South Africa than any other paper. Follow J. B. G. Thomas's descriptions of the "Lions" activities in South Africa. They are written by the man whom the 1955 South African Rugby Annual describes as "perhaps the best of all modern writers on the game."

The tourists arrived here to-day in pouring rain from Durban after a flight of more than 400 miles. The aeroplane was delayed at Port Elizabeth for engine inspection, and while repairs were carried out, the selection committee picked the team to play Boland at Wellington, some 40 miles north of here, on Saturday.

It is a strong side and includes 11 of the team which defeated South Africa in the first Test. The choice of Griffiths on the wing is interesting, as this back division may be played in the second Test here on August 20. The team will be: Cameron; O'Reilly, Butterfield, Davies, Griffiths; Morgan, Jeeps; McLeod, B. V. Meredith, W. O. Williams, Thompson, R. H. Williams, Wilson, Robins and Clem Thomas.

WESTERN MAIL
12/5/55

PAUL IRWIN, Reporting the Lions 11-0 Win, Says...

Boland Forwards in 24-Minute Attack

-BUT DESPERATE DEFENCE HELD OUT

WELLINGTON, Saturday.—So the British Lions have done it again. And this time they gained their thirteenth win in 15 games—including the first Test—by taking their chances to beat Boland by 11 points (goal, two tries) to nothing before a 20,000 record Wellington crowd to-day.

Eight points ahead of half-time through tries by Tony O'Reilly and Phil Davies—the first converted by Angus Cameron—the Lions had to fight desperately to maintain their advantage in a gruelling 24-minute spell after the interval.

During that period the black-jerseyed Boland forwards, revelling in their work on the rainsoaked and muddy ground, applied persistent pressure.

Indeed, the Lions were nailed down to defence—and desperate defence at that.

Boland, whose forwards are famous in South African Rugby history, lived up to reputation.

Rugged, strong, and seemingly tireless in those punishing 24 minutes, they must have scored but for the manner in which the Lions, especially, the forwards and the quick thinking Cliff Morgan, got around on defence.

Grand Performers

Somehow there would be a red jersey "dropping out of the clouds" to hold up the Boland pack splendidly led by Chris Koch, the Springbok front-row forward and with grand performers in the burly Piet Kriel and the 240lb. Piet van der Merwe.

Injuries Are Not Serious

WELLINGTON, Saturday.—Dicky Jeeps, the British Isles scrum-half, had two stitches put in a cut on his forehead after the match against Boland. Cliff Morgan, the fly-half, hurt his right ankle and played with a bandage over his boot in the second half. But both will be fit for the second Test at Newlands on Saturday.

With Sarel Alberts, the Boland fly-half persistently plugging the line and Kriel, Willem Koch and Van der Merwe giving the home team an advantage in the line-outs, the Lions simply could not move from their own half.

But in the last resort the extra touch of fitness which is possessed by a touring team gradually relieved the pressure.

Thus in the 28th minute "Tug" Wilson, playing one of his best games thus far, took his chance to go over for an unconverted try after Rees Williams handed out from a loose scrum and Cliff Morgan did the leading up work.

Had Boland possessed the power of the Lions outside the scrum they must have scored in that gruelling second half.

As it was the Lions once again were out and away superior and sever more so in the first half.

It was then that Jeff Butterfield and Phil Davies, getting a brilliant service from Cliff Morgan, laid the foundations of victory.

Morgan, Butterfield and Davies were the chain in the attack leading to red-headed Tony O'Reilly's try of the tour in the 31st minute.

And it was the magical Morgan, scudding over the top of the muddy turf, who took Butterfield's pass. After the ball went loose from the gallant Dicky Jeeps's high punt following a mark and then gave out for Davies to score a typical try near to half-time.

Davies thrust all his weight into the last few yards, swinging around to shake off a despairing tackle for a great try.

The Morgan-Jeeps partnership slogged away with plenty of "saving" in the second-half.

Jeeps gets better every match—and in this one he played through much of the second-half with a gash in his forehead after he went down gallantly to the feet of Boland's forwards.

Clem Thomas, the Welsh flanker and "Tug" Wilson, both battling for the one forward vacancy left in the Test team by the knee injury to Reg Higgins, showed up well.

And Wilson crowned his display by a second-half try that was full of determination as he shook off a tackle and dived for the line.

All the Lions forwards stood manfully to the battle of the packs and Robin Thompson, the captain, was seen in the thick of things with Rees Williams and Billy Williams.

For Boland the pack excelled itself, but there was no directing genius outside the scrum, though Marius Nigrini can look back on a splendid full-back performance.

RUGBY FOOTBALL

LIONS NEW WELSH DATE MEANS BIG FIXTURE CLASH

WESTERN MAIL REPORTER

IF the Welsh Rugby Union's Anniversary Committee accept the new date of Saturday, October 22, offered by the British Rugby Union touring team in South Africa for the Welsh XV. v. Lions match at Cardiff, it will clash with the Wales v. England soccer international at Ninian Park, Cardiff.

Though up until last evening, Mr. Brice Jenkins, acting secretary of the W.R.U., had not received the cablegram reported to have been dispatched from South Africa with the offer of the new date, it is anticipated that the W.R.U. will raise no objection.

Of course, the fixture will not be an official one, under the jurisdiction of the Four Home Unions' Tours' Committee. It will be played only on a voluntary basis by the touring party at the invitation of the W.R.U.

More suitable

The Cardiff club, whose first team are playing Cambridge University away from the Arms Park on that day, are expected to give their permission. In fact, the new date will be more suitable than the originally proposed Saturday, October 15. On that day Swansea and Cardiff play their club match at St. Helen's, and the calls of the 75th anniversary match would take players from both teams, as well as have an adverse effect on the attendance.

Everything now points to a joint Rugby and Soccer football crowd well in excess of 100,000 at

Cardiff on October 22.

Welshmen are disappointed that the Lions will figure in a match at Glasgow the previous week, and consider that in view of the importance of the Welsh anniversary celebrations, priority should have been given to the Arms Park match.

Disappointment

It is reported that the Lions will field their strongest side for the Glasgow match, and in Wales it is feared that the touring team will not be fully representative for the Cardiff match, seven days later.

Another disappointment is the news that the B.B.C. are "extremely unlikely" to show further excerpts from the television film flown back to this country after the first Test against South Africa in Johannesburg. The film, containing highlights of the whole game, was cut to show the principal scoring incidents and given a brief showing on Television Newsreel earlier this week.

WESTERN MAIL
13/5/55

Go to Bury
SUNDAY TIMES
16/8/55

LIONS SHOW POWER IN DEFENCE

Springboks make five changes

BOLAND, 0-0-0; BRITISH ISLES, 1-2-11

From J. B. G. THOMAS

CAPE TOWN, Sunday.
The British Isles Rugby Union tourists were engaged in a hard tussle with the Boland side at Wellington, 40 miles from here, yesterday, and although they won by a goal and two tries (11 pts.) to nil, the score does not reflect the true course of the match.

For quite three-quarters of the play the Boland forwards were on the defensive as the heavier Boland forwards pounded away with tremendous vigour and on many occasions it appeared as if they would score and possibly win the match. They did not do so because the Lions put up a magnificent defence and made full use of the chances which came their way in attack to reveal that under severe pressure they were particularly steady.

Greatest praise in defence should go to the half-backs, Cliff Morgan and Dickie Jeeps, who performed amazingly well in difficult conditions. Cameron, though making many good saves, was not quite as sound as in other matches but his team-mates were always at hand to cover him.

At three-quarter W. P. C. Davies was again the strong man of the line with his powerful bursts which got him one try and engineered another. O'Reilly had many more chances than Griffiths but the latter was sound in defence. It will be interesting to see whether he can replace Pedlow in the Test XV.

MUCH IMPROVED

Lions' forwards conceded much weight, and on the heavy ground could not break out in the loose, but all eight tackled well and Wilson and Clem Thomas worked particularly hard as spoilers and foragers.

Lions did not take the lead until after half-an-hour's play and then Davies made a fine run before sending O'Reilly diving over for a try.

It was the Irish wing's 13th try of the tour, which Cameron converted beautifully from the touchline. It appears as if O'Reilly will pass Ken Jones's record of 17 tries scored during the 1930 tour of New Zealand.

Before the interval Davies scored a try following a powerful run on receiving the ball from the loose.

WESTERN MAIL
15/8/55

CAPE TOWN, Sunday.

SOUTH AFRICA'S team to meet the British Isles in the second Rugby Union international here on August 28 is: R. Dryburgh; K. von Vollenhoven, D. Sinclair, W. Rosenberg, T. Briars, C. Ulyate, T. Gentles; C. Koch, A. Van der Merwe, J. Bekker, S. Fry (captain); J. du Rand, J. Classens, D. Ackermann, D. Retief.

The five newcomers in the team are Dryburgh, Rosenberg, Van der Merwe, Bekker, and Ackermann. Only Bekker has been capped before.

The selectors have maintained their policy of attack and thus they hope to beat Lions at their own style of play (writes J. B. G. Thomas). Dryburgh is sounder than Van der Schuyff though not such a lengthy kicker, and Rosenberg is purely an attacking centre.

Vollenhoven has gone out to the wing which may prove his best position.

The halves are retained although Gentles will have to improve his service. The forwards have been strengthened with two new front row men and a younger flanker in place of Van Wyk, and I expect them to give Lions a hard time in front, particularly if the going is heavy.

After defending for most of the second half Lions broke away and combined play saw Wilson dive over for a try.

Both Morgan and Jeeps were injured during the match and Jeeps had two stitches inserted in an ear. Both he and Morgan are expected to be fit for the Test.

Lions' team was: Cameron; O'Reilly, Davies, Butterfield, Griffiths; Morgan, Jeeps, McLeod, B. V. Meredith, W. O. Williams, Thompson, R. H. Williams, Wilson, Robins, Wilson.

Brewis and Du Toit to meet tourists

PRETORIA, Saturday.

Seven internationals are included in the Northern Transvaal team to play the British Isles here on August 27. They are Van Vollenhoven, D. Bekker, Brewis, Du Toit, J. Bekker, Du Rand and Retief.

Van Vollenhoven, Retief and Du Rand played against the British Isles in the first Test last week, and the famous Springbok half-back combination of Brewis and Du Toit will again be in action —Reuter.

SOUTH AFRICA'S SEVEN CHANGES FOR SECOND TEST

Bold Move By Selectors In Effort To Stem 'Lions'

From VIVIAN JENKINS

"South Wales Echo" Special Correspondent

CAPE TOWN, Sunday.

SOUTH AFRICA'S rugby selectors are going through an altogether new experience. They hardly know where to turn in their efforts to produce a team capable of stemming the tide of the British Isles victories here.

For the second Test match at Newlands, Cape Town, on Saturday they have made seven changes—two positional changes from the team beaten 23-22 in the first Test on August 6 in Johannesburg.

Full-back Van Der Schuyff, who missed the dramatic kick at goal in the last minute, wing three-quarter Swart and forwards Du Plooy, Kroon and Van Wyk drop out. Their places are filled by Dryburgh of Western Province, Rosenberg (Transvaal), Bekker (Northern Transvaal), Van Der Merwe (Boland) and Ackermann (Western Province).

Rosenberg comes in as centre for Van Vollenhoven, who moves out to the right wing with Briars crossing over to the left.

What is surprising is that the selectors apparently have not abandoned their idea of playing the Lions at their own handling game.

Less Solidity

What changes there are behind the scrum strengthen the team as an attacking unit, but in defence there is even less solidity than there was before.

Rosenberg, tall, slim and dark-haired, is a fast and elusive runner with the ball in his hands, but in defence too frail to bring off really forceful tackles.

Brewis and Butterfield will not be slow to exploit the gaps if they are given enough of the ball.

Gentles and Ulyate are retained at half-back and this is as big a surprise to those who, like myself, expected to see a kicking fly half like Reins of Transvaal brought in.

The choice of Bekker in the front rank was generally anticipated as Du Plooy failed to master Swansea's Billy Williams at Ellis Park.

Morgan Brilliant

Those who saw the 1951-52 Springboks in Britain will remember Bekker as an exceptionally powerful prop, who should add to the scrummaging strength of the South African pack.

Ackermann, who takes Basie van Wyk's place, is a younger and faster player, but personally I am glad to see Van Wyk out of it.

He was always a potential great, and even if he failed to catch Cliff Morgan twice in the first Test I do not hold that against him too much.

RUSSIANS MAY PLAY HERE

The Wolverhampton Wanderers party arrived at London Airport yesterday at the end of their trip to Moscow, where they were beaten 3-0 by Spartak and 3-2 by Dynamo.

Their manager, Mr. Stan Cullis, said that either or both of these teams might return to Wolves' visit in November.

The party's reserved seats on a train to Wolverhampton had to be cancelled, due to a hold-up in the Customs hall. Each of the players was carrying a brand new camera, the gift of Soviet football officials, and it was only after a long discussion between Mr. Cullis and Customs officials that they were able to leave without paying duty on the cameras.

Morgan is playing so brilliantly out here that I doubt if anyone in the world could stop him when he really decides to go for an opening.

All in all the Springbok selectors have decided to take the bold course and pick all attacking players so that the crowd will see a really good game of rugby.

They are to be congratulated because they are going right in the face of popular opinion here, which wanted to see a safety-first team chosen with a view to winning at all costs.

As it is the stage is set for another magnificent contest.

Thirteenth Victory

Against Boland on Saturday at Wellington, 45 miles from Cape Town, Lions registered their 13th win of the tour by a goal and two tries (11 points) to nil.

The full record now is: Played 15, won 13, lost 2, points for 303, points against 139.

Boland had far better of the game territorially as their powerful pack penned the Lions in their own 25 for the greater part of the game.

Mud after heavy rain and a greasy ball suited the home team, who had no backs worth naming and most of the game was spent in a wrestling match between the forwards.

Main interest was in the play of visiting flank forwards Clem Thomas and "Tug" Wilson, and Gareth Griffiths on the left wing.

Either Thomas or Wilson must take the place of the injured Higgins in the next Test and Griffiths may come in for Pedlow, of Ireland.

To-morrow's Game

He is one of the most conscientious players in the party and a fanatic when it comes to training.

To-morrow there is a match against Western Universities, a combination of Cape Town University and Stellenbosch.

They are said to be one of the most attractive teams in the country, but Lions are likely to field virtually a second team because of Saturday's Test.

It seems a crazy piece of programme planning to arrange a match for this week so near to the Test.

The same happened when the Wallabies were here in 1953 and the Universities hammered them by more than 20 points, but the full Wallaby team went on to beat South Africa on the Saturday, so don't be surprised—or disheartened—if Lions go down to-morrow.

No Test for Haydn Morris

From J. B. G. THOMAS

CAPE TOWN, Friday.
TWO serious blows to the British Lions were contained in the news to-day that left wing Haydn Morris and Liverpool forward Reg Higgins will be out of the game for some time.

Morris was in line for the left wing place but is injured, an ankle at Durban towards the end of the match on Wednesday and has been walking with the aid of a stick since.

To-day he was X-rayed at hospital here by Dr. Louis Babrow, former Springbok and Barbarian, who states he has internal hemorrhage in the ankle joint. Higgins will remain in Johannesburg Sanatorium and probably undergo an operation on his knee early next week.

It is a great blow to the British team for Higgins is an outstanding back-row man and was a certainty for all the Test matches. The selectors may play either Clem Thomas or Wilson on the blind-side instead of Higgins, or move Robins to the blind-side and play Reid in the middle of the pack at No. 8 if he is fit.

Boost

On the other hand South Africans will welcome the return of the brilliant Springbok three-quarter Paul Johnstone, who arrived back from Britain to-day. He will be required to boost the speed and ability of the Springbok three-quarter line and although he would make no statement on his availability I am sure that Dr. Danie Craven will be after

him to play for South Africa before the end of the present Test series.

To-morrow, the Lions travel 40 miles to play Boland at Wellington. Two of the rugged local side used to play for Western Province—Chum Ochse and Piet Van Der Merwe—but they have now moved to Boland district where they are teachers.

Referee coaching

Morning papers carried a picture of to-morrow's referee, Chris Ackermann, coaching the Boland side.

This is most unusual practice and although Lions will make no objection such conduct would be frowned upon in the British Isles.

Ackermann is a qualified coach as well as referee but it was an unusual course for him to adopt although his reputation is above reproach. Again he is a strong candidate for one of the remaining Tests as referee.

WESTERN MAIL
13/8/55

Trevor Lloyd's Good Display For 'Lions'

From VIVIAN JENKINS,
"South Wales Echo" Special Correspondent

TREVOR Lloyd, the tough little Maesteg and Wales scrum half, has not had the best of luck on the British Isles Rugby Union tour of South Africa.

Either injury or the necessity of giving the other two scrum halves on tour, John Williams and Dickie Jeeps, practice for important matches. Lloyd had only played three games up to today's match v. Combined Western Province Universities.

Picked for the fourth time, he could well have been excused for being nervous about his possible performance in view of lack of match practice.

Instead he gave a very good display and had as much to do as anybody with the tourists' win by a goal, three tries and two penalty goals (20pts.) to a goal, three tries and one penalty goal (17pts.).

Fierce Exchanges

At times the forward exchanges were particularly fierce, but Lloyd never flinched from going down on the ball, and, in addition, gave out an accurate service to fly half Baker of England.

This return to form should do Lloyd a lot of good, and it is to be hoped that from now on he gets more games. It is difficult when three scrum halves are in the team and I have always thought this a luxury. There are not enough games to go around and it would have been better to bring only two scrum halves with one standing by at home vaccinated, inoculated, and ready to fly out at a moment's notice.

Western Province Universities have a reputation for playing the fiercest type of attacking football in South Africa, and they lived up to it, throwing the ball about in carefree fashion and indulging in a minimum of kicking.

The result was a really entertaining game which "Lions" did well to win because they were fielding virtually a second XV in view of the second Test against South Africa on this same ground this coming Saturday.

It gave an opportunity for several players who had not the best of luck on the tour to show what they could do and they made the most of it.

Little Between Them

In the pack Clem Thomas and "Tug" Wilson battled hard for a right to the flank forward place in the Test team vice injured Higgins.

It is a toss-up between them because while Thomas covered a vast amount of ground both in attack and defence, Wilson scored a brilliant try under the posts which brought "Lions" back into the game when they were 17 points to 12 down in the second half with 20 minutes to go.

Yet another complication was that Tom Reid, the Irish forward, who has been out with a pulled

THREE CHANGES FOR R.U. TEST

The British Isles Rugby Union team to meet South Africa in the second international here on Saturday shows three changes, one positional, from that which won 23-22 in the memorable game at Johannesburg. Gareth Griffiths, down out to reinforce the party last month, is preferred to A. C. Pedlow, of Ireland, on the left wing. The changes at forward were forced upon the selectors by the injury Higgins received in the first Test.

The British XV will be: A. Cameron (Scotland); G. Griffiths (Wales); W. P. C. Davies (England); J. E. Butterfield (England); A. J. O'Reilly (Ireland); C. L. Morgan (Wales); R. E. G. Jeeps (Northampton); W. O. Williams (Wales); E. V. Meredith (Wales); R. J. Robins (Wales); R. H. Williams (Wales); R. H. Thompson (Ireland) (capt.); J. T. Greenwood (Scotland); T. E. Reid (Ireland).

muscle, chose the occasion to demonstrate that he is far from a spent force. Not only is his weight—16st. 3lb.—invaluable in the scrums, but in the line-outs he is one of the best forwards the tourists have.

It was he who got the winning try when the score was 17 points all by taking the ball cleanly in a line-out two yards from the Universities' line and hurling himself over despite frantic efforts to hold him back.

Versatile Gareth

Gareth Griffiths showed his versatility by playing an extremely useful game at full-back in place of Cameron, who withdrew at the last minute. He was very quick in getting across to high and rolling kicks and showed what an asset speed can be in the position.

An extraordinary thing about the tourists' record to date is that although they have now scored 323 points in 16 matches the figures do not include a single dropped goal.

Meanwhile, there is no doubt that it is an extremely bad piece of programme planning to have a match of such interest and importance, or for that matter any match at all, during the week of a Test match.

Whoever is responsible for planning future tours should make a point of seeing that it does not happen again.

SOUTH WALES ECHO

17/8/55

New 'Lions' Date Clashes With Soccer

By MERVYN THOMAS

THE Welsh Rugby Union have accepted a new date—October 22—for their 75th anniversary match between a Welsh XV and the British Lions at Cardiff Arms Park.

Thus, as feared, the worst has happened as far as lovers of both rugby and soccer are concerned, since that same Saturday Wales meet England at Ninian Park in the first British championship soccer international of 1955-56.

True, both games will be all-ticket affairs and will attract capacity crowds.

But fans who hoped to see both matches are disappointed to hear that the W.R.U. yesterday cabled the Lions in South Africa accepting October 22 instead of, as originally proposed, October 15.

Terrific Congestion

The clash will mean terrific congestion in Cardiff and a big job for the City's police force.

Aware of all this, the W.R.U. must have reached their decision with reluctance.

In view of the significance of this historic celebration Wales should have first choice of dates for matches with the British touring side—not Scotland, who want to play them on October 15.

Probably the tourists will have first call on the 11 Welsh members of their party. With this there is no quarrel. Wales can field an experimental side, and the game should provide an early pointer to the shape of the "Big Five's" series.

SOUTH WALES ECHO

16/8/55

Wales v. Lions on October 22

THE Welsh Rugby Union have cabled the British Rugby Union touring team in South Africa accepting Saturday, October 22, subject to permission from the Cardiff club, for the 75th anniversary match between a Welsh XV and the Lions.

Yesterday Mr. Brice Jenkins, acting secretary of the W.R.U., received the cable from Mr. D. E. Davies, hon. secretary of the touring party, sent from Cape Town, suggesting the date as more suitable to the Lions than the original date of October 15. Confirmation that October 22 will prove satisfactory to the tourists means that it will not clash with the attractive Swansea v. Cardiff club match at St. Helen's.

True, it will take place the same day as the Wales v. England Soccer match at Ninian Park,

Ahead of schedule

WORK on the improvement to the South Stand at Cardiff Arms Park is 10 days ahead of schedule, reports Welsh Rugby Union acting secretary, Mr. Brice Jenkins.

At this rate of progress there should be no hitch in the plan for an official opening at the Wales v. Scotland match on Saturday, February 4, 1956.

Cardiff, but neither attendance is expected to be affected by the clash.

It is anticipated that permission will be readily granted by the Cardiff club for the match to be played on that date at the Arms Park. Cardiff's first team are due to play Cambridge University, away, on October 22.

The W.R.U. are preparing a special commemorative badge to be worn by the Welsh XV, in the celebration match, and it may be that the national side will appear in white instead of the usual scarlet jerseys in order that the tourists may appear in their British Isles colours.

DECLINED TO PLAY

It is expected that the tourists will have first call on the Welsh members of their party which would give them six of last season's championship winning pack from which to choose.

When the Lions played Cardiff in 1951, nearly all the tourists came to Cardiff, and such players as Ken Jones, Rees Stephens, and Roy John declined selection so that the Welsh Rugby enthusiasts could see the non-Welsh members of the touring party in action.

The anniversary committee of Messrs. W. R. Thomas (chairman), T. H. Vile, K. M. Harris, D. G. Williams, Judge Rowe, Harding, David Jones and B. H. Jenkins will shortly begin planning for the big match.

GARETH AT FULL BACK

From J. B. G. THOMAS

CAPE TOWN, Monday. THE British Isles Rugby Union tourists face a stern test here to-morrow at Newlands, where they meet a powerful Western Province Universities side composed of players from Cape Town and Stellenbosch Universities.

As the match is only five days before Saturday's important Test, Lions have included as few Test probabilities as possible.

The team for to-morrow is: Griffiths; Sykes, Quinn, Pedlow, Smith; Baker, Lloyd; McLeod, Roe, C. C. Meredith, Elliott, Michie, Wilson, Reid, and Clem Thomas.

Arthur Smith, of Scotland, makes a welcome reappearance after being injured in the first match at Potchefstroom, while Courtenay Meredith has a run out following his wrist injury.

NO RISK

There was a last-minute change in the originally selected team when Angus Cameron withdrew and was replaced by Gareth Griffiths, of Wales, at full-back.

This is the first occasion for Griffiths to appear at full-back since arriving in South Africa.

Manager Jack Siggins stated that there was nothing wrong with Cameron, but that he had been withdrawn to avoid any risk of injury in view of Saturday's Test match.

Lloyd and Reid also re-appear after breaks caused by injuries, while the playing of Pedlow at centre in this match suggests that Griffiths will appear on the wing in the Test side.

Combined Universities have a wonderful record against touring teams since the war. In 1949 they lost 11 points to nine against the All Blacks and in 1953 defeated the Wallabies by 24 points to five.

£50 FOR TICKET

It is anticipated that the British Test side will be announced on Wednesday.

It is likely to be: Cameron; O'Reilly, Davies, Butterfield, Griffiths; Morgan, Jeeps; W. O. Williams, B. V. Meredith, C. C. Meredith, Thompson, R. H. Williams, Thomas or Wilson, Robins and Greenwood.

Tickets are fetching enormous prices in the black market, and farmers from inland are prepared to pay £50 a ticket.

WESTERN MAIL 16/8/55

NO FURTHER 'LIONS' PLAY FOR HIGGINS

From VIVIAN JENKINS,

"South Wales Echo" Special Correspondent

CAPE TOWN, Tuesday.

REG Higgins, the Lancashire and England wing forward, will not take any further active part in the British rugby tour of South Africa, which still has over six weeks to go.

He was operated on in Johannesburg yesterday for the knee injury which caused his retirement half way through the first Test, which the British Isles won by 23pts. to 22.

The loss of Higgins is a severe blow to the tourists, as he has been one of the team's outstanding forwards and capable of taking on the biggest and strongest Springboks at their own game.

Meanwhile it is a compensation that Clem Thomas, the Welsh wing forward, who was out of the game for several weeks owing to an appendix operation, is now playing again and rapidly coming back to his best form.

SOUTH WALES ECHO

16/8/55

LIONS WELL-WHIPPED TEST No. 2

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G.M. in Col
IZABE
VITTORI

Springboks Turn Tables —And How!

The British Isles R.U. touring team was well and truly trounced by South Africa in the second of the Test series at Cape Town to-day by 25 points to nine, to make it one game each in the "rubber."

The 3pts. each score at half-time flattered the Lions in view of bad misses by the South Africans, who, however, looked winners all the way soon after the resumption.

A record crowd of 50,000 packed into the Newlands ground, which has been the home of South African rugby since 1890. The previous largest attendance for an international at Cape Town was 36,000 in 1949 for the first Test against New Zealand.

The South African back line was the first to move into the attack, but nothing came of their efforts and play remained in the field during the opening minutes. Gradually, however, the Springboks worked their way into the British "25" where they were awarded a penalty near the touch-line.

Dryburgh, the full-back, one of the newcomers to the team, was just wide with his kick at goal.

Soon afterwards Reid, the Lions lock forward, who had been brought into the side because of an injury to Higgins in the first Test was hurt in a tackle.

The referee awarded a penalty as a result of this incident but Cameron failed badly with his attempt to land a goal.

South Africa again had a chance of scoring from a penalty from the Lions 25, but Dryburgh's drop at goal from a difficult angle went wide.

The first real break by the British backs came when Davies ran strongly into the Springbok "25" but Butterfield, who carried on the move, saw his final pass to Griffiths knocked on.

The British Isles went ahead after 18 minutes when South Africa were penalised for scrumming infringement on their own line and CAMERON put over an easy penalty.

The Lions' front row forward Billy Williams was the next to receive attention for an injury, but he was able to carry on.

South Africa fought back strongly and again carried play deep into the British half, but once more they threw away a chance when Dryburgh missed his third attempt to convert a penalty goal.

Minutes later Claassen failed with a difficult penalty kick from 45 yards.

GREAT TRY
At this stage South Africa held a solid territorial advantage, and in the 36th minute their fast-running wing Van Vollenhoven scored a great try.

Sinclair, picking up in the loose, cross-kicked and Van Vollenhoven snatched the ball from under the noses of three defenders.

He then raced 30 yards, beat off a challenge by Cameron and scored near the corner flag. Dryburgh was unable to convert.

Half—South Africa 0 1 3
British Isles *1 0 3
* Penalty

Soon after the resumption the British backs broke away and a score seemed certain, but O'Reilly knocked on with the line in front of him.

SECOND ONE

Two minutes later Van Vollenhoven scored a second try for South Africa. Ulyate "grub" kicked through towards the British line. Sinclair gained possession and sent the wing over. Dryburgh again failed to convert.

The Lions responded with a brilliant handling movement in which Morgan was the dominant figure as he swung from one side of the field to the other, but the final pass to Griffiths was forward.

Still, it was not long before South Africa scored again, and once more it was the irrepressible VAN VOLLENHOVEN who got the try.

Gentles broke on the blind side of the scrummage near the half-way line and handed on to Van Vollenhoven.

SWEPT PAST

He, in turn, quickly rounded O'Reilly, outpaced Reid and finally swept past Cameron in his dash to the line. He grounded near the posts but Ulyate failed with the simple conversion.

Sinclair broke away on the half-way line and drew the defence before sending ROSENBERG over in the corner. Dryburgh was wide with his attempt to convert.

THREE MINUTES LATER

Three minutes later they scored again when Rosenberg obtained the ball from the loose and sent over DRYBURGH, who had shown good judgment in coming up to join the movement.

This time Dryburgh made no mistake with the conversion.

By this time the Lions looked a well-beaten team. South Africa did nearly all the attacking and it came as no real surprise when Ulyate picked up the ball after Griffiths had been tackled and gave BRIERS the scoring pass. Claassen found the distance of the conversion kick too much for him.

LIONS GET LAST

The Lions were rewarded when Morgan went round the blind side and Butterfield, supporting the break, took an inside pass and dived over. Cameron made a poor attempt to convert.

South Africa promptly responded by scoring almost directly from the kick-off. Ackermann booted the ball through and followed up so well that he was able to fall on it close to the cornerflag. Dryburgh converted with a splendid kick.

To their credit the British team fought back, and they at least had the satisfaction of obtaining the last score.

Butterfield suddenly picked up a bad pass by a South African player in mid-field and made the running before giving to Greenwood.

The Scottish forward quickly transferred to BRYN MEREDITH who forced his way over in the corner for a try which Cameron just failed to convert.

Final—South Africa 2 5 25
British Isles *1 2 9
* Penalty goal.

LIONS MATCH BROADCAST

Western Mail Reporter
THE second half of the Rugby match between South Africa and the British Lions tomorrow will be broadcast by the B.B.C.

At 3.30 there will be a summing-up of the play in the first half and then a running commentary on the rest of the game.

As yet the name of the commentator has not been announced.

The decision to broadcast the match will give satisfaction to Rugby followers in Wales who were critical of the absence of a

commentary on the last match.

On inquiry at the B.B.C., Cardiff, it was told that the decision had been taken in London and that the broadcast would be heard by all the Home Services with the exception of the Midlands.

It would appear that the B.B.C. are now recognising that they seriously underestimated the interest which the visit of the British Lions to South Africa has aroused in Rugby circles throughout the country, particularly in Wales.

Pointer to world champions

From J. B. G. THOMAS

CAPE TOWN, Thursday.
SATURDAY promises to be one of the great days in the history of Rugby Union football, for all four major countries are engaged in international contests for the first time ever on the same day.

At Wellington, in New Zealand, the All Blacks meet the Wallabies in the first Test, and here at the Newlands ground the Springboks meet the British Isles in the second Test of their series.

So we should have a pointer to the leading Rugby playing country.

What a pity the winners of the two series cannot meet next winter to decide the unofficial world championship!

FUTURE TOURS

However, the Springboks will meet the Wallabies and All Blacks in 1956, and the Wallabies will tour the British Isles in 1957, and thus there will be ample opportunity in the next few years to assess the leaders of world Rugby.

Here at Cape Town excitement grows as Saturday draws near.

and both sides have been busy in their own way preparing for the battle.

The Springboks had light training this afternoon but Lions confined their activities to a team talk this morning at their hotel headquarters.

Danie Craven, speaking at the Cape Town Publicity Club here to-day, stated that speed was the secret of the Lions' success and he admitted that he had been wrong all along the line in his predictions on the Lions tour.

Earlier in the tour he had told me Lions would lose to the major provinces and also the Tests, but now he appears to be convinced that open play appears to pay—even in Tests.


£60 FOR TICKET
Lions are now a household word in South Africa and next week at Pretoria they will meet the Governor-General, Dr. E. G. Jansen.

To-day manager Jack Siggins laid a wreath on the grave of South Africa's greatest sports administrator, the late A. J. Pienaar.

If they can win the second Test Lions will have proved themselves as one of the greatest sides ever to visit the land, and the power of their attraction is proved by the price of black market tickets here to-day.

It has now reached the staggering figure of £60 a ticket, which is an all-time record in any country.

LIONS
v.
S. AFRICA



A full account of the Second Test Match will be given by

J. B. G. THOMAS
In **MONDAY'S**
WESTERN MAIL

WESTERN MAIL
19/8/55

FOOTBALL ECHO
26/8/55



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