

STRADEY PARK, LLANELLY

TUESDAY, MARCH 28th, 1950



The
Albert Jenkins Benefit Match

BLEDDYN WILLIAMS' XV.

v.

SOUTH WALES XV.

(SWANSEA, NEATH, ABERAVON & LLANELLY)

KICK-OFF 5-30 P.M.

Souvenir Programme

PRICE

SIXPENCE



ALBERT JENKINS

The great Llanelly centre-threequarter whose electrifying bursts, superb goal-kicks, making of openings for and care of his wing, modesty of bearing and immaculate appearance will always be gratefully remembered by his admirers.

Sportsmen's Tribute to Albert Jenkins

ONE OF THE GREAT PLAYERS OF ALL-TIME

The Llanelly Rugby Club Committee gladly take this opportunity of thanking all who have helped by their support to make today's game a success, the players for their sporting co-operation, the spectators for their attendance. So generous a response to the appeal is a fitting expression of gratitude to Albert Jenkins, who for the decade which followed the first world war made a unique contribution towards uplifting the prestige of Rugby in Llanelly and the Principality. In his time of sickness it will do him good to know that the pleasure he gave to followers of rugger has not been forgotten.

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EXCURSIONS TO PAST GAMES

Those who followed Albert Jenkins' career might not always agree upon his precise position in the firmament of rugby stars, but they are unanimous as to the justice of the claim that his place in the hall of fame alongside the giants of the past is assured.

First, his collection of Welsh "caps." He played for Wales on fourteen occasions: England, 1920-3; Scotland, 1920-1-3-8; Ireland, 1920-3-8; France, 1920-1-2-3; New Zealand, 1924; Captain against Ireland in 1928

While on statistics it might be mentioned that in the 1919-20 season Llanelly scored 435 points (against 129) of which Albert was responsible for 168.

First mention of our hero in connection with the Scarlets in the local Press appears in March, 1919. The paragraph records that for the Neath match on the following Saturday the team would include Albert Jenkins "the Seaside who has won great fame in France with the 38th Division."

What Jenkins was to mean to Llanelly may be gathered from this extract from the "Llanelly Mercury" of May 6, 1920: "The team became one of the finest in the Principality, if not the British Isles and their displays—and the gate-money—rose to a standard of consistent excellence. There is no doubt the clean, scientific play of the Scarlets gave a decided fillip to the game in Wales." The fact is, of course, that when Jenkins came home his brilliance set the seal upon an already fine side.

Whenever a bunch of enthusiasts reminisce of those days, someone is sure to recall the Leicester game at Stradey in January, 1921, in which the Scarlets beat the Tigers 13-3. It was a great victory, especially as, not long before, Llanelly lost at Leicester by 23 points. The game at Stradey was notable not so much for Llanelly's win as for a wonderful individual feat by Albert. The Tigers' threequarters were Willie Watts (a Llanelly native), Haslemere, Simpson and Lawrie. One report ran thus: "The Tigers showed opportunism and turned defence into attack. Lawrie gathered in the midst of a bunch of players and broke through, with Haslemere and Simpson in close attendance. A score seemed inevitable, but Jenkins, showing football brains of the highest order, travelled at great pace, waited for the transfer from Lawrie to Simpson and followed up the last man, Haslemere as he received from Simpson to bring him down a few yards from the line. The manner in which he outwitted the three men was football genius. He is without a peer at left centre."

BLEDDYN WILLIAMS' XV.

Colours—White.

Full-Back :

(1) F. TROTT, Cardiff and Wales.

Left Wing :

(2) R. BURN (Cardiff).

Left Centre : **LUFF MORGAN (CARDIFF)**
(3) ~~LEWIS JONES~~ (Devonport Services and Wales).

Right Centre : **PAUL ASH (CARDIFF)**
(4) ~~GLYN DAVIES~~ (Cambridge University and Wales).

Right Wing :

(5) T. COOK (Cardiff and Wales).

Outside-Half :

(6) ROY BURNETT (Newport).

Inside-Half :

(7) H. GREENSLADE (Bridgend).

Forwards :

(8) EMLYN DAVIES (Aberavon and Wales).

(9) JOHN PHILLIPS (Cardiff).

(10) GOWER JENKINS (Cardiff).

(11) W. E. TAMPLIN (Cardiff and Wales).

(12) S. JUDD (Cardiff).

(13) ALLAN FORWARD (Pontypool).

(14) ERIC FINNEY (Ebbw Vale).

(15) ROY CALE (Pontypool and Wales).

Touch-Judge :
Mr. BLEDDYN WILLIAMS.



Referee :
Mr. TREVOR JONES, W.R.U., Bridgend.

SOUTH WALES XV.

Colours—Scarlet.

Full-Back :

(1) VIVIAN EVANS (Neath).

Left Wing :

(2) JOHN EVANS (Aberavon).

Left Centre :

(3) LLEW JOHN (Aberavon).

Right Centre :

(4) Pilot Officer A. B. DANIELS (Swansea).

Right Wing :

(5) MEL GRIFFITHS (Llanelly).

Outside-Half :

(6) DEREK ILES (Llanelly).

Inside-Half :

(7) H. GREVILLE (Llanelly and Wales).

Forwards :

(8) DOUG JONES (Swansea).

(9) GRAHAM JEFFREYS (Swansea).

(10) COURTNEY MEREDITH (Neath).

(11) D. T. MEREDITH (Aberavon).

(12) LEN HARRIES (Neath).

(13) PETER STONE (Llanelly and Wales).

(14) DES JONES (Capt.) (Llanelly and Wales).

(15) W. D. JOHNSON (Swansea).

Touch-Judge :
Mr. IVOR JONES, W.R.U.

Scarlets Who Made History

The following month, February, 1921, came the chaotic match between Wales and Scotland at St. Helen's, which Scotland won by 1 converted goal, 1 penalty goal, 2 tries (14 pts.) to 2 drop goals (8 pts.). The barriers were stormed at the commencement and scenes of turbulence prevailed. The crowd swarmed on to the playing area and only with difficulty was the game started. The only consoling feature in a poor performance by Wales was the magnificence of Albert Jenkins. But for his inspired and tireless work on defence Wales would have been overrun. In attack he had no support and was driven to goalkicking as a desperate resort. So successful was he that he scored two dropped goals, both from wide angles, and long range, one of them from the touchline. Later he was hurt and the Scots got a final try. A Cardiff scribe wrote, "Heaven knows what would have happened but for Jenkins, he was simply magnificent."

Think back, again, to the visit of Cardiff at Stradey in January, 1924, of which we read, "I wonder how many centres in Wales could single-handed cause a dangerous movement in which the whole of the back division participated to break down and fizzle out? That was what Jenkins did against Cardiff, as he did earlier against Leicester. The Cardiff backs were stampeded to the touch lines."

In the same year (1924) the Scarlets scored 107 points to 8 in their four Christmas games. In January of '25 they captured Devonport Services' two-seasons ground record. Later this year, playing Newport in the first meeting of the two clubs since the rupture in 1909, Jenkins was the hero of the match, the critics exhausting their vocabularies in eulogies of his prowess against the clever Newport team.

A good example of Albert's match temperament is afforded by his achievement against Swansea. Llanely had won the previous three clashes of that season. This was the fourth and last. Swansea held the lead with a minute to go. Jenkins got a try to equalise and then converted it. As the ball crossed the bar the whistle blew for no-side.

Albert's magnificent physique stood him in good stead in November, 1924. On the 22nd he played for Wales against New Zealand and on the 25th assisted his club against the same formidable opposition. Porter, Nepia, the Brownlies and Company beat Wales 19-0 on the Saturday. The following Tuesday, at Stradey, they beat Llanely 8-3. All the scoring was done in the first half. Jenkins would have scored a penalty goal, making it 8-6 and given the Scarlets fresh inspiration, but the ball was touched in flight. Llanely's try was scored by the wing, Ernie Finch, who ran full tilt for the line and stopped dead, caught Nepia on the wrong foot and darted over to score a great try. Skipper Porter said Llanely gave the Tourists a harder fight than Wales.

Llanely, who defeated the Maoris in 1888, did so again in 1926. The following year when the Waratahs visited Stradey, it was written of Albert Jenkins "he was here, there and everywhere, tackling like a demon, and generally gave a flawless performance."

In the "Western Mail" of December 15, 1927, appeared an article headed "Llanely's Great Five Overshadow Cardiff." In it appeared the following: "Llanely's magnificent side seems built round Albert Jenkins, a great personality in the game of Rugby, who appeared to have a hand in every scoring movement and incidentally scored eleven points with goal kicks." About this time, too, W. W. Wakefield the famous England forward wrote in his book on Rugger, "Jenkins is the greatest centre of the day." At this time Jenkins was out of favour with the Welsh selectors, but in 1928 he was recalled and with five Llanely colleagues, figured prominently in a fine victory for Wales at Murrayfield. Another two Llanely men were on the reserve list. The foundation of the victory was



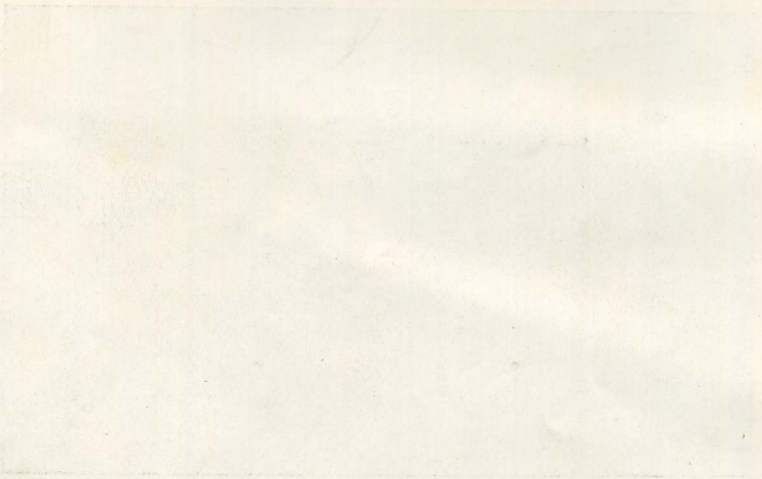
When Wales defeated Scotland at Murrayfield in 1928, the Welsh team included six Llanely players, Albert Jenkins, Ivor Jones, Dai John, Arthur John, Archie Skym and Iorwerth Jones. Against Ireland, Ernie Finch came in as reserve and brought Llanely's quota to seven.

laid by Jenkins. The ball went loose, Jenkins picked it up and put in an irresistible burst. Faced by that grand full-back, Drysdale, Jenkins swerved and then flung back his head with that characteristic gesture and went like a lion for the line, which he crossed with three Scotsmen hanging on to him. The arrival home of the Llanely men was a triumph—civic reception, bands playing, dense crowds; Llanely's idol had demonstrated he had not feet of clay. For the Irish match at Cardiff, the same Llanely six were chosen for Wales and the same two reserves, but owing to a selected player crying off a seventh Llanely man actually took the field.

If further evidence of Albert's greatness is required, here is a tribute from the "Western Mail," written in 1928: "Albert Jenkins talks of retiring. He has pulled countless matches out of the fire for his club. At his best he is a constructive player of the best type. How many times Albert Jenkins discomfited apparently winning opponents it would be interesting to know."

By arrangement with the Llanely and District Rugby Supporters Club the whole of the proceeds resulting from the sale of these souvenir programmes will be donated to the Albert Jenkins Fund.

"Mercury," Llanely.



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