

PEOPLE WHO KNOW BEER HAVE BRAINS



BRAINS

THE BEER WITH A HANDLE TO ITS NAME

SA BITTER RD



Cardiff v. Pontypool

WEDNESDAY, 17th OCTOBER, 1984 KICK OFF 7.15 p.m.

I would imagine it has not escaped your attention that yet again we have a big game on a Wednesday night. It is one of several very important games during mid-week and without having to remind you, by this time next week the highlight of our season against Australia will be part of the club's history. Again it will be said that perhaps we should have arranged an easier run up to our big game but tonight's encounter had been all settled long before we even knew we would be playing The Aussies, never mind when, so we've just got to get on with it. Then again Wednesdays' seem to hold no uncertainties for The Pooler as they have already played and beaten the likes of Newport, Swansea and Gloucester in midweek encounters. We've also had our share, however, having accounted for

Bristol, Pontypridd and, last week, Bridgend during the mid-week.

Tonight's game see's the series extended to 143 games since our initial fixture on 1st January, 1908. The record of the previous 142 reads 92 wins to us, 35 to Pontypool with the remaining 15 ending up drawn. Our points aggregate totals 1646 to Pontypool's 1022. Of Poolers 35 wins only 9 of them have ever been achieved on our ground. A further research of their 9 wins in Cardiff shows that 4 of them have come in the last 6 games that have taken place on The Arms Park since season 1978-79. In fact, of the last 25 games played since 1973-74 we have won 11 to their 13 with the remaining 2 drawn. Of those 13 wins, 5 of them were on The Arms Park so their record in Cardiff is certainly better than most. Their most barren spell of victories came in the 33 games sequence between September 1936 to September 1957. Of those 33 games we won no fewer than 29; drew 3 and Poolers' sole victory came when they won 17-14 on their own patch in September, 1947. That oasis of a victory in a desert of defeats was more significant because it turned out to be only 1 of 2 defeats suffered that season, 1947-48, in what was one of our best ever seasons under the captaincy of the great Haydn Tanner.

What of the present however. Well, The Pooler come tonight as the only unbeaten side left in first class rugby in Wales having put together a string of 13 straight wins. They have carried on in the manner that they set during last season when they had to rewrite every record in the book. Their magnificent record of played 50; won 46; drew 2; lost 2, is quite an amazing achievement but if that was not enough their points tally of 1,607 saw them become the first club side in rugby history to crash through the 1600 points barrier. The only honour they missed out on was in the Schweppes Cup, when they went out on a technical knock out in the drawn quarter final game at Llanelli. But they won all else in a canter, The Welsh Championship, Anglo-Welsh Table and the Whitbread Merit Table were all theirs

by conclusive 20 point margins.

During their record season there were also some tremendous performances from individuals too; Peter Lewis, their goal kicking doctor who plays at full back, picked up no fewer than 472 points. This total has only ever been surpassed by another full back, Robin Williams who chalked up a mammoth 517 points in season 1974-75. Then the irresistable David Bishop notched up 256 points which included 39 tries — a post war record, and Chris Huish crossed for 25 tries

which is a club record for a forward.

And so the Pooler mean machine crashes on again this season but I would think that their great coach Ray Prosser has one date firmly entrenched in his mind, and that must be Wednesday November 12th this year. That is when Pooler come to grips agains with Australia and after their 37-6 hammering in November, 1981 Pross admitted that "They gave us a right thrashing". The Aussies hadn't been given a chance on that day after a poor start to the tour but it certainly came good on the day for them and Pooler finished up on one of their biggest ever home defeats. I can see Pross and the Pooler boys leaving no stone unturned in an effort to redress that disastrous result and no doubt he will be using tonights game as an important part to his build up in which he has rather more time than ourselves.

To Pontypool, then be you player, administrator or supporter, welcome again

to Cardiff Arms Park and we trust you enjoy your evening.

Well as I've already said, by this time next Wednesday we will know if our nap hand of victories over Australia will be extended to 6. Again, as I've said, we couldn't have had a tougher game only one week before the big day particularly so from an injury point of view. Gareth Davies could well be missing this evening and there are several other niggling injuries that will render us less than 100%. Then again we have rather an awkward away game at the weekend against Cambridge which happens to be a rather remote place to get to. This added to the fact that our last training session before the Aussie game will take place on Sunday, all in all, we are not having the best of situations in our pre-match build. Still, come the great day and Terry Holmes and his lads will be as determined as ever to keep that magnificent record against the men from the antipodes.

P.N.



KNOW THE LAWS

By J. E. MALCOLM THOMAS

FORWARD!

It is a familiar enough try. **Spectators love it**, since everybody knows that in Rugby Football the ball must be passed **back**, it must not be knocked **on**. It is fundamental to the handling game, curiously, that the only way to propel the ball **forward** legitimately is to use the foot!

But there are one or two points to clear up on this important subject.

What is meant by Forward?

The essence of a forward pass or knock-on is that the ball goes **direct** from **hand or arm** in the direction of your opponents end of the field, i.e., that it **starts off** in that direction. If you misfield a ball, for instance, and it drops away from you in the direction of your own goal line and **then** bounces forwards towards your opponents' goal line it is **not** a knock-on.

Question: What about wind? Would it be a forward pass if the ball started off

innocently enough and was then suddenly blown forward?

Answer: By no means. Wind does not count in Rugby Football. This affects kicking too, of course. One the ball has reached any place or line that matters (e.g. touch or the 22 metre line or the cross bar) it has reached it, no matter if the wind blows it back again immediately afterwards.

Question: But wind does count, surely, when it turns what would otherwise have

been a straight throw-in from touch, into a crooked one?

Answer: Yes, so it does. Sorry!

Question Is a little nudge forward a knock-on?

Answer: A fumbled pick-up, when the ball is scuffled forward along the ground before secured is a knock-on.

"Knock-ons that Aren't"

A forward pass is always a forward pass, but not all knock-ons count as knock-ons. It is **not** a knock-on, legally speaking:—

. If the ball is dislodged from your grasp in a tackle or after a fall.

b. If you knock the ball forward, when catching it (from a pass or a kick, say) or when picking it up, and can catch it again before it touches the ground or another player.

If you knock the ball forward when in the act of charging down an opponents' kick -

whether the ball hits the ground thereafter or no.

However, it is **quite illegal**, by the way, **to knock-on deliberately**. When, for instance, the ball is too far ahead of you to allow a clean interception, you must not take a forward swat at it in order to knock down an opponent's pass.

Rugby Quiz - No. 6

- 1. Graham Price is Pontypool's most capped player with 41. Who is next?
- 2. What is Pontypool's biggest ever win over Cardiff?
- 3. What is Cardiff's highest score against Pontypool?
- 4. In season 1947-48 Cardiff's best post war record, 2 games were lost. One was against Pontypool. Who was the other team?
- . How many times have Pontypool appeared in a Schweppes Cup Final?
 - Once when they beat Swansea, 18-6 in April, 1983.
 - Penarth, beat us away, 15-6, 16th March, 1948.
 - 37, in winning 37-10 at Cardiff, 28th October, 1972.
 - 52-0 at Pontypool Park, 28th April, 1981.
 - Bobby Windsor, 28.

Rugby Quiz No. 6 - Answers

CARDIFF v. AUSTRALIA

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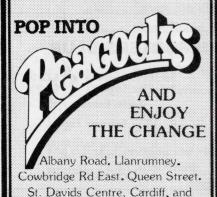
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12. A. DONOVAN

11. A. HADLEY

10. W. G. DAVIES
9. T. D. HOLMES (Captain)

1. J. WHITEFOOT

2. A. J. PHILLIPS

3. I. EIDMAN

4. K. EDWARDS

5. R. NORSTER

6. O. GOLDING

8. J. P. SCOTT 7. G. ROBERTS

16. D. BARRY

17. J. SOUTO

Full Back Right Wing Right Centre Left Centre

Left Wing Outside Half

Inside Half

Forwards



Replacements

Pontypool

P. LEWIS 15. G. DAVIES 14.

L. FAULKNER 13.

L. JONES 12.

B. TAYLOR 11.

M. GOLDSWORTHY 10.

D. BISHOP 9.

Staff JONES 1.

Steve JONES 2.

G. PRICE 3

J. PERKINS 4.

K. MOSELEY 5. M. BROWN 6.

E. BUTLER (Captain) 8.

C. HUISH 7.

A. PARRY 16.

P. JENKINS 17.



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QUIDNUNC'S COLUMN

The audience in the Spanish night club was for once silent during the cabaret speciality act. On stage was a young man giving a tremendous rendition of Michael Jackson and his Thriller video. Trouser legs rolled up to the knee, the member of the Welsh team touring Spain during the summer of 1983 received a tumultuous reception from both his colleagues and other visitors and tourists alike.

El Ringo had triumphed.

Ringo is, of course, Mark Ring, a man of many parts other than Micheal Jackson. He is, reports one of his teammates, jealous of his reputation for being able to come up with a brand new joke for each of the away games — "and he tells them well." And yet no one would call this relatively serious-minded civil servant the life and soul of the party.

"He is a lot of fun," says another player, "but in no way a rowdy person or a particular extrovert. What he is, though, is probably the fittest member of the club. Ringo has the mental strenth to train alone at Maindy Stadium (near his work place) during lunchtimes and during the evenings in summer."

During Welsh squad training, he is reliably reported to have won races varying between 400 and 2,000 metres — befitting someone who was good enough to take part in the Cardiff young athletes league. But Ringo is also almost a complete sporting all-rounder. He is one of the very few who have played both rugby and baseball at international level, he is a splendid cricketer and soccer player, and very useful at darts and snooker.

"I only wish," says one rueful member of the Cardiff seniors, "that this expertise showed itself in his selection of racehorses. He is quite pathetic. Ringo has a habit of collecting 50p from each member of the team for his latest stupid choice and we all fork out. They get nowhere. Never. I am still waiting for one of his winners."

One thing that Mark Ring did win was a coveted Welsh Cap — against England, in a drawn and undistinguished match at the National Ground in February 1983. The knockers were out in force that season, you may remember, and the unfortunate Ring, brought into the side almost certainly too early, received more than his fair share of criticism.

What is not generally known, and certainly the man himself does not bring up the subject very often if at all, is that he was concussed very early in the game, played on by instinct and to this day does not remember a great deal about it. Nor does he complain: Ringo does not lack confidence in himself and may well be back one of these days.

Certainly, he is one of those Cardiff players the all-conquering (until this evening anyhow) Pontypool will be watching with great care. Not that the men from Gwent will ever admit to being concerned about any particular individual.

When I sought out my favourite Pontypool fink to try to seek any particular flies in their liniment, he would acknowledge only certain doubts about Bob Lakin, insofar as he claimed that Bob was off-side for a least 99 per cent of any given game: I dismiss this as mere propaganda for any referee who may happen to be reading this evening's symposium. "Mind you," my fink ruminated, "there was once a fellow called Dixon who used to give us a spot of trouble."

I attempted to pursue the point, reflecting that any weakness admitted by Pross's front men might have current bearing: alas, no. It was only when I made inquiries about Pooler's likely line-up that the team began to take on human proportions and characteristics.

"Well, there'll be Lumpy Head and Pimple 'Ed, Aubrey, Perks and Boris," was the answer, "and Madman, Sheff and Bamber, Abey, the two – from West Wales, doctor, continued over page

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QUIDNUNC'S COLUMN continued

doctor and sheats."

I cannot guarantee to have the spelling correct and I leave it to you the reader to attempt to identify the players concerned as they take the field.

But any team with a Pimple 'Ed, a Sheff and a Bamber, quite apart from an Aubrey and a Boris, can only be human and therefore beatable. Mind you, I'm a little worried about those two so-and-so's from West Wales.

As usual, I digress: just as Pontypool claim not to fear any individual Cardiff player, so will Mark Ring not be lacking in confidence this evening, if he plays as expected as I write, that Pontypool can indeed be beaten.

He missed Saturday's victory at Northampton (which he may or may not have regretted in view of past incidents on this trip which I have no intention of going into) where, from all accounts, the crowd saw a second-half ideal Holmes exhibition.

But that will neither have reduced his fitness nor his determination. On one occasion Ringo played for Cardiff on the Saturday before a Welsh squad run-out on the Sunday afternoon. Nothing particular about that, you may say. But on the Sunday morning, in between times, he took part in an Olympic appeal run to raise cash. There's fitness.

It could just be, then, that if all goes well for Cardiff this evening, Mark Ring will be delighting audiences with further impersonations of Michael Jackson.

With 'Beat it' perhaps. . . .

Or, as happened recently, he and David Bishop may be seen in the company of a Gwent journalist, feeding him yet another scoop on how they are about to join Newport. If you believe that

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FIRST XV FIXTURES

| Sat. 1 East District H 54-6 Wed. 26 Pon Wed. 5 Glam. Wanderers H 34-6 Sat. 29 Cov Sat. 8 Neath A 12-13 1985 Wed. 12 Bristol A 30-26 1985 Sat. 15 Coventry H 17-0 Tues. 1 Crawler Wed. 19 Penarth H 64-3 Sat. 5at. 2 Aberavon A 23-19 Sat. 2 Aberavon A 28-15 Sat. 26 W.F Sat. 29 Garryowen A 13-6 FEBRUARY Sat. 26 W.F OCTOBER Sat. 6 Newport H 37-3 Sat. 9 Bris Sat. 6 Newport H 37-3 Sat. 9 Fri. 15 Sat. 9 Fri. 15 Sat. 9 <th>J. Cup 2nd Round end H</th> | J. Cup 2nd Round end H |
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ATHLETIC XV FIXTURES

| 1984 | | | Sat. | 15 | Garndiffaith | H |
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| SEPTEMBER | | | Sat. | 22 | Bridgend Sports | Α |
| Sat. 1 | Llanharan | A46-10 | Sat. | 29 | Coventry Extras | H |
| Wed. 5 | Glam. Wanderers II | A 22-25 | | | | |
| Sat. 8 | Bath United | H50-16 | 1985 | | | |
| Mon. 10 | Pontyclun | A 18-0 | JANU | ARY | | |
| Wed. 12 | Bristol United | H 25-9 | Sat. | 5 | Moseley United | Α |
| Sat. 15 | Coventry Extras | A 21-15 | Sat. | 12 | Llandaff | A |
| Mon. 17 | Barry | A15-6 | Sat. | 26 | Neath Athletic | Α |
| Wed. 19 | Caerleon | A 26-12 | ou. | | | |
| Wed. 26 | Pontypridd Athletic | H22-21 | FERR | UARY | | |
| Sat. 29 | Neath Athletic | H25-22 | Sat. | 2 | Ebbw Vale Athletic | Α |
| | | | Wed. | | Pontypridd Athletic | A |
| OCTOBER Wed. 3 | Cardiff HSOB | H 64-61 | Sat. | 9 | Bristol United | A |
| | | | Jai. | 3 | Bristor Officed | A |
| Sat. 6 | Newport | A | MARG | CH. | | |
| Wed. 10 | Pontypridd United | H 17-10 | Sat. | 2 | Bath United | Α |
| Sat. 13 | Abercarn | H 20-11 | Wed. | | Pontypool United | A |
| Wed. 17 | Pontypool Athletic | Α | | 9 | | Ĥ |
| Sat. 20 | Blackwood | H | Sat. | | Pontypool Athletic | Α |
| Wed. 30 | Newport Saracens | H | Fri. | 15 | Blackwood | |
| NOVEMBER | | | Wed. | | Abercynon | H |
| Sat. 3 | Leicester Extras | Α | Sat. | 23 | Newport United | H |
| | Ebbw Vale Athletic | Ĥ | Sat. | 30 | Bridgend Sports | Н |
| | | | | | | |
| Sat. 17 | St. Peters | A | APRII | | | Harata in a |
| DECEMBER | | | Sat. | 13 | Swansea Athletic | Α |
| Sat. 1 | Swansea Athletic | Н | Wed. | | Llangennech | Α |
| Sat. 8 | Caerleon | Н | Sat. | 20 | Talywain | Α |
| | | | | | | |

IT'S ELEMENTARY MY DEAR WATSON ... if factory clearance is a problem, consider the case solved when you contact ...





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