



NORTHUMBERLAND v SOUTH AFRICA



1936

JOURNAL 10.10.1906

THE SOUTH AFRICANS IN NEWCASTLE TO-DAY'S MATCH AGAINST NORTHUMBERLAND

Yesterday forenoon the South African team arrived in Newcastle, and were welcomed by Mr R.Hensell, Mr G.C.Robinson, Mr John Thompson, Mr T.Simpson, Mr J.A.Williamson, the Reverend A.S.Wardroper, Mr George Beattie, Mr Fred Sutcliffe, Mr W.H.Boardman, Mr J.Cameron (of Newcastle United) and several Rugby local players. There was a large crowd in the Central Station. The team looked strong and fit, and expressed themselves pleased with the reception, and they looked forwardly keenly to the game at St James' Park. The teams for to-day's match (kick-off at 4 o'clock) are as follows:-

Northumberland: Stanger-Leathes (Northern), back; T.Simpson (Rockcliff), N.Mather (Percy Park), E.W.Hall (Northern), J.Hutchinson (Durham City), three-quarter backs; B.R.Lunn (Gosforth Nomads) and M.M.Snowball (Tynedale), half-backs; R.Turner (Rockcliff), G.R.Cumberlege, W.M.Dodds and J.H.Ritson (Northern), R.Beckerson (Percy Park), F.G.Spencer (Tynedale), R.H.Kirkup (Gosforth Nomads), and J.S.Emmerson (Tynedale), forwards.

South Africans: A.Burmeister (1), back; J le Roux (7), J.G.Hirsh (10), J.D.Krige (3), and J.Loubser (6), three-quarter backs; J.Dobbin (12) and D.O.Jackson (13), half-backs; P.Roos (captain) (15), A.J.Daniel (19), A.F.Burdett (28), W.A.Miller (27), W.O.Berger (16), P.A. le Roux (20), D.J.Brink (21) and H.G.Reid (26), forwards.

The South African team has changes in every department from that which opposed Durham, many members of the party who stood down on Saturday being called upon for this game. After the match Northumberland Rugby Union will entertain the teams to tea at the Grand Hotel, and at night the players will visit the second house of the Pavilion Theatre. On Thursday, by kind permission of Sir W.G.Armstrong, Whitworth and Co., and Messrs. Swan and Hunter, the South Africans will visit Elswick Works in the morning and Wallsend Shipyard in the afternoon, the party being under the direction of Mr R.Henzell. The South Africans have also received invitations from the management of the Empire and Palace Theatres.

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THE SOUTH AFRICAN RUGBY TEAM IN NEWCASTLE HOLLOW VICTORY OVER NORTHUMBERLAND, A BIG GATE AND A BIG SCORE

Heavy rain all night, lasting until long past day-break yesterday, did not augur well for the game at St James' Park, where Northumberland were to oppose the all-conquering South African Rugby football team. The forenoon, however, saw a great improvement, and after a few sunny hours the weather was warm and pleasant as the time for the game drew near. This was the first Rugby Union match on the magnificent enclosure at St James' Park, and the attendance, numbering, we are credibly informed, over 12,000 must constitute a record for Northumberland. It is to be said that the crowd, especially that very numerous part of it that, for the first time, occupied places on the covered

stand, were delighted with the ground and its accommodation, although few were so ingenuous as the young lady who naively "wondered why Northern did not make a nice field like that". Notwithstanding the heavy rain for over twelve hours, the arena was in capital trim, playing easily, but not being heavy. Thus, with an entire absence of wind, everything favoured a fast game, and there were some who, knowing the prowess of the South Africans, and not believing what they were told by those who were better informed, looked for a close match, with the prospect, if not the certainty, of Simpson scoring. Alas, for those roscate hopes; a few minutes after the start, and a very few, the issue was in the safe keeping of the South Africans, and they piled Pelon on Ossa to such a merry tune that in the long run they had gained the victory by four goals and eight tries to nil. This is a crushing defeat, exceeding that of the New Zealand team over Northumberland at North Shields a year ago. In fact, after the Northumbrians first gallant effort in the opening movements of play they never seriously looked like scoring, though it might have resulted from the chance breaks away that the home team made towards the very end. That these were rather lucky than consistent the subsequent play went to prove, and, as in the last minute of the game of the South Africans against Durham, the Colonials scored a try and added a goal.

The visitors played very free and accurate football. Their passing was admirable, and if not quite so frequent as the "All Blacks" went in for, it was more reliable. The half-backs initiated more passing runs than the pair against Durham did, and the three-quarters were better throughout, Hirsh and Krige playing in faultless style. Indeed the latter gave an exhibition that was not less than brilliant. The wings, too, were ready for anything, J le Roux getting through a tremendous amount of grand work in the happiest fashion. It was a great deal that was required of Burmeister at back, but his kicking and fielding deserve praise. The forwards, though they might have packed better, and will have to do so when they go into South Wales, exercised their power and pace to great account, some of their handling of the ball, four and five abreast, being in the best method of the old Yorkshire days. After all, their big score, involving the crossing of the home line twelve times, reminds me of the remark of the Irishman watching the river's irresistible flow over the Niagara Falls. Said a companion, "Isn't it wonderful!" "Not at all," said Pat, "what's to stop it?" Northumberland did not do very much to stop the South Africans in their baffling runs. True, T.Simpson was unsparing in his work, and Hutchinson and Mather, in descending degrees, put up a good defence, while Stanger-Leathes, till he tired of it, went successfully for his man over and over again; but as a whole the team showed little knowledge of the arts of defence and less of attack.

It was not a reassuring game for Northumberland, and it is difficult to see where the county strength is to come from this season, though the game with Cumberland a week on Saturday may show. There is, however, the dismal satisfaction of knowing that where Northumberland failed they have not failed alone, for the South Africans have now run up in successive matches 37 points to nil, 29 to nil, 21 to nil, 22 to 4 (Durham's dropped goal), and 44 to nil. And there will be others. Is it too much to hope that British players may learn something from these games, for the visitors this time have no secret formation and method! They play our own game and do it thoroughly.

P le Roux started play, a short return to touch being made. From the first scrummage Snowball came away with a splendid dribble, and after passing by the visitors, in which Simpson raced across the field and collared J le Roux, Northumberland with clever forward play got well into the Colonials 25. From a long kick, Simpson was tackled before he could get in a return, and though Stanger-Leathes stopped the Africans rushing up the field with a clever mark, Hirsh, striding away, rushed through a crowd of opposition but could not pass Stanger-Leathes. Back to the centre line the Northumberland forwards worked play, but here the ball was sent nicely along to J le Roux who, after a magnificent run, was brought down near the line by Stanger-Leathes. He succeeded in getting in his pass but a knock-on in subsequent handling robbed the Colonials of a score.

A free-kick to Northumberland brought relief to the centre, where a mark by Hutchinson was well returned to touch. In a fine passing movement, Krige, when opposed to Stanger-Leathes, passed forward. Immediately afterwards, however, the ball came along to Loubser, who, with the game eleven minutes old, raced round just out of the reach of Simpson and Stanger-Lleathes and scored in the corner. Jackson made a fine but unsuccessful attempt at goal.

After fine tackling by Simpson and Stanger-Leathes had stopped a quick movement culminating in another try, there came a magnificent rush by Northumberland that will not be readily forgotten by those who witnessed it. It started at one line and did not finish until the other line had been reached. In it chief part was played by Dodds, and after Lunn and Hall had had possession, Kirkup received close to the line, but was thrown into touch. Northumberland did not hold the position long, the South Africans being soon at the other end, and though fine tackling stopped a couple of movements J le Roux dashed over and touched down inside the posts. Jackson easily kicked the goal, and the South Africans now led by eight points.

The game was then only twenty minutes old, and with the line twice crossed, a tall score by the Colonials seemed a foregone conclusion now. Within a few minutes, from play close to the line, the ball was rushed over, and Brink touched down, Jackson's shot at goal striking one of the posts and rebounding back. Despite fearless tackling, this eleven point lead was quickly raised to fourteen, J le Roux wriggling past Stanger-Leathes on the line and scoring a try, which Jackson failed to make into a goal. At half-time the Colonials had thus scored a goal and three tries to nothing.

Within a minute of play being re-started, Hirsh dashed cleverly away, and when opposed by Stanger-Leathes he gave to P le Roux to easily cross the line. Jackson failed at goal from a not very difficult place. Immediately afterwards Brink had crossed the line in the corner, and the kick at goal being unsuccessful, the score was now twenty points.

Next, after a long run by Krige, Hirsh touched down right behind the posts, but from this easy place no goal accrued. Krige, Hirsh and Loubser, with a fine running passing movement, which Simpson, with a rare turn of pace just failed to stop ending in a score, resulted in Loubser crossing in the corner, and on this occasion a fine goal being kicked by Jackson the record was raised to 28 points.

In the play that followed, tries were scored by Jackson, J le Roux, who took what seemed an almost impossible pass, Kriger and Loubser, two of which Jackson made into goals, one from close to the touch line, the score of the Colonials being raised to 44 points. Twice in the closing stages the Northumbrians gained good positions, and Snowball got the ball cleverly away, but on each occasion Lunn's pass out was smartly intercepted. Nearing the finish a free kick was given to Northumberland, and Stanger-Leathes attempted a place kick at goal from a difficult angle, but made a very weal effort. With darkness fast setting in, the game closed with the following record score gained by the Colonials in the fifth match of the tour:-

South Africans.....4 goals, 8 tries – 44 points

Northumberland.....nothing

Teams:- Northumberland: Stanger-Leathes (Northern), back; T.Simpson (Rockcliff), N.Mather (Percy Park), E.W.Hall (Northern), J.Hutchinson (Durham City), three-quarter backs; B.R.Lunn (Gosforth Nomads) and M.M.Snowball (Tynedale), half-backs; R.Turner (Rockcliff), G.R.Cumberlege, W.M.Dodds and J.H.Ritson (Northern), R.Beckerson (Percy Park), F.G.Spencer (Tynedale), R.H.Kirkup (Gosforth Nomads), and J.S.Emmerson (Tynedale), forwards.

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RECORD TO DATE

South Africa.....	37	East Midlands.....	0
South Africa.....	29	Midland Counties.....	0
South Africa.....	21	Kent.....	0
South Africa.....	22	Durham.....	4
South Africa.....	44	Northumberland.....	0