



NORTHUMBERLAND –v- NEW ZEALAND



1905

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THE NEW ZEALANDERS AT NORTH SHIELDS

For the opening of its programme this season the Northumberland Rugby Union are fortunate in having so interesting and important a fixture as that with the New Zealand team, to be met at North Shields, on the ground of the Percy Park Club this afternoon. After the phenomenal success of the visitors in all parts of England, their appearance on Tyneside is being very eagerly looked forward to, and no doubt the attendance will approach a record for the county. Everywhere, in the press, in the train, in the club, and in the tram one finds the method of the New Zealand players discussed, and almost invariably to the detriment of English Rugby Football, though it is altogether forgotten that our teams sent across the seas from time to time have at the end of their tours almost invariably been in the proud position of winning almost all their dozen games. True, they have not scored with the frequency of the present New Zealand lot who never seem content to cease their efforts until the whistle goes. More, apparently, depends on the individual skill and energy not to mention the pace, of the visitors on their novel disposition of the players, and it would be interesting and instructive to see them arrayed against an English side with eight forwards, two half backs, and three threequarters. Indeed, except for the fundamental success, that of gaining possession at the pack, it might not matter so very much how the others were placed on the field so long as they maintain their unflinching backing up.

Play today is timed to commence at half past three o'clock. The North Eastern Railway Company are running a special service of trains both from Newcastle Central and in the return journey after the match. Mr Nicholls of Leicester will be the referee.

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NORTHUMBERLAND v NEW ZEALAND THE VISITORS' BIG WIN

An afternoon threatening at first, then very windy and wet, did not deter the enthusiasts from attending at Preston Avenue to witness the only of the New Zealand team on Tyneside. Early the signs of a big muster were visible, and when the hour of the kick off arrived a crowd variously estimated at ten to twelve thousand occupied the ground, amongst the representative company on the stand or unable to gain entrance thereto being Mr George Renwick MP, an old supporter of the rugby code, and a past president of the Percy Park Club.

After the "tall" scoring of the visitors, it was generally expected that Northumberland would be pretty fully occupied in defensive work and this turned out to be the case, especially with New Zealand having the strong wind at their backs in the first half. The visitors played their usual open game, and once started scoring, which was not until eleven minutes after the kick-off, they ran in tries with considerable frequency gaining before half-time a lead of two goals and four tries. There was more danger from Northumberland after the interval, and the visitors' line had several very narrow escapes as well as the goal, which Henderson just missed with a long drop from beyond the "25". On

the whole, the second half was more even, New Zealand only getting in three tries and no goal resulting. Though interfered with by the wind and the slippery ball, the visitors gave a fine display of open football and the cheers that greeted them on entering the field were renewed when they left the arena, handsome winners by two goals and seven tries to nil.

How the play ran the following table will quickly indicate:-

First Half

- 3.30 - H.Beckerson kicked off.
- 3.41 - Gillett scored: Glasgow failing at goal.
- 3.44 - Gillett failed with a penalty kick.
- 3.54 - Hunter dodged over: Cunningham converting.
- 3.56 - Glasgow scored: Booth failing at goal.
- 4.0 - Deans scored: Booth failing at goal.
- 4.3 - Hunter scored: Gillett failing at goal.
- 4.7 - Seeling scored: Cunningham converted.

Half-time:-

New Zealand.....2 goals 4 tries
Northumberland.....Nil

Second Half

- 4.14 - New Zealand re-started.
- 4.21 - Hunter scored: Cunningham failing at goal.
- 4.23 - New Zealand touched down from Simpson's kick.
- 4.24 - Hutchinson dropped unsuccessfully at goal.
- 4.42 - Hunter scored: Cunningham failing at goal.
- 4.50 - Harper scored: Glasgow failing at goal.

Result:-

New Zealand.....2 goals 7 tries
Northumberland.....Nil

THE GAME

The Colonials won the toss and elected to play towards the sea with a strong blustering wind behind them. Beckerson started, and the usual exchanges ended in Northumberland's failure. The visitors soon got away, the forwards dribbling smartly down. Northumberland seemed quite unable to hold their opponents. The wind spoiled the Colonials' handling game however, and the Northumbrians got an opportunity to collect themselves. Forward, the Northumbrians first showed to advantage. The seven packed well and were quick to break up when the leather came out. They were also fast and one particularly clever dribble carried the game to the centre where Smith ran into touch.

Gillett, the Colonial wing forward, was pulled up for offside but the kick availed Northumberland little and the leather was soon hovering dangerously near the home line. The defence set up was most pugnacious, however and the crowd very appreciative of it. At length, after ten minutes play, Gillett scrambled over near the corner, Glasgow failing to convert. Shortly after resuming, Gillett took a free kick near the centre for the Colonials but sent short and Maddison ran to the "25" and found touch. The marking of the home players was good and the slightest slip on the part of the Colonials meant the end of the effort. Maddison got offside, and this time, instead of taking a shot at goal the New Zealand captain caused the ball to be sent high into the air. The wind carried it along and the forwards were well up when it touched the ground again. There was no holding the forwards but they kicked too hard at the crucial moment and sent dead.

Immediately after the drop out, Hunter showed some clever wriggling and scored behind the posts. Cunningham kicked a goal. Simpson was cheered for a neat run and kick but the Colonials were soon

pressing again, Hunter scoring another try. Booth failed to convert. Once more Simpson put in some smart dribbling *illegible* from his own "25" to near half way, and bringing down Hunter who backed up.

For a brief space, Northumberland kept play at the centre but a long kick and follow up put the Colonials on the aggression again, Deans scoring their fourth try. Booth could not convert. Hunter was soon over again, Gillett sending wide. Northumberland used the touch well and worked well past the half way. Russell misjudged the flight of the ball, however after a long kick and although Hanson covered him well, he kicked into the arms of the charging Colonial forwards . They passed beautifully and Seeling scored easily, Cunningham converting. The interval arrived without any further scoring. Half-time:-

New Zealand.....2 goals 4 tries – 22 points
Northumberland.....Nil

Cunningham re-commenced and there being no return, Northumberland were also at once placed on the defensive. A mistake by Hunter let Northumberland away and the game was less one-sided than it had ever been. Simpson's tackling was very good. He held up the Colonial right repeatedly. Hunter dodged through with another try, Cunningham failing. Simpson kicked dead for Northumberland. From the drop-out Hutchinson tried a drop but sent short.

Northumberland now pressed but were gradually forced back and Hutchinson kicked into touch near mid-way. The home men were doing much better however, and when they got possession in the pack heeled out smartly. Booth was hampered and lost the Colonials a lot of ground. Back they went again, but Simpson marked and found touch near the goal line. Hard though they tried, however, Northumberland could not get over. There was a brief rush to the centre by the Colonials and then Northumberland again attacked. A brilliant piece of combination brought relief but Northumberland would not be denied. Maddison tried to place a goal from a penalty but sent too low. Again New Zealand pressed and Averill brought relief with a run over the half way. Ten minutes before the finish Hunter again got over, no goal resulting. Harper got another try. Glasgow failing with the kick. Result:-

New Zealand.....2 goals 7 tries – 31 points
Northumberland.....Nil

Teams:-

New Zealand: E.Booth (1) back; G.Smith (2), R.J.Deans (3) and E.Harper (4), three-quarter backs; J.Hunter (5), and W.J.Stead (6), five eighth backs; F.Roberts (7), half back; F.Glasgow (8), W.Glen (9), W.Cunningham (10), F.Newton (11), J.Corlett (12), J.O.Sullivan (13), C.Seeling (14), G.Gillett (15), forwards.

Northumberland: C.F.Stanger-Leathes (Northern) (15) back; J.E.Hutchinson (Durham City) (14), J.E.Scott (Percy Park) (13), J.Harrison (Rockcliff) (12), and T.Simpson (Rockcliff) (11), three-quarter backs; A.Averill (Rockcliff) (10), five-eighth back; W.Maddison (Percy Park) (9) and C.Russell (Percy Park) (8), half-backs; W.Steadman (Percy Park) (7), J.Kyle (Percy Park) (6), A.Kewney (Rockcliff) (5), W.G.Heppel (Northern) (4), A.Emmerson (Tynedale) (3), F.R.Cumberlidge (Northern) (2) and H.Beckerson (Percy Park) (1), forwards.

Referee: Mr F.Nicholls, Leicester