



NORTHUMBERLAND –v- NEW ZEALAND



1924

JOURNAL 7.11.24

ALL BLACK'S VISIT

To-Morrow's arrangements For Game At Gosforth

After the gruelling time they have had in Ireland the New Zealanders will no doubt be anxious to get some rest before embarking upon the second half of their programme in which their most formidable opponents, Wales and England, are to be met. So far, the famous All Blacks have done splendidly, and though they were not seen at their best against Ireland, apart from defence, they have great hopes of keeping their unbeaten record intact before they meet the international champions at Twickenham in January of next year.

To-morrow they play their sixth and last match with a northern county side, and given fine weather a record crowd should be at Gosforth to greet the Tourists, who arrive in Newcastle this morning from Ireland, making the Station Hotel their headquarters. They will today be the guests of the Newcastle Rotary Club at lunch at the Old Assembly Rooms, Westgate Road, and afterwards visit the Heaton works of Messrs. C.A.Parsons and Co. Ltd. In the evening they go to the Theatre Royal to witness the performance of "The Mikado" by the D'Oyley Carte Company. On the morning of the match the New Zealand players will indulge in training.

AMPLE ACCOMMODATION

Adequate arrangements have been made for the comfort of prospective spectators at the Gosforth County ground which can be reached by car or tram. The Newcastle Tramways and the L. and N.E. Railway Company will supplement their usual service to Gosforth, and it is expected that the tram service will be the same as that provided for the England and North match two or three years ago. As to the ground itself, the gates will open at 1.30pm and ticket holders (all the tickets for available seats have been sold) are desired to be in their seats at 2.45pm at the latest. The number of seats is approximately 3,000 and the enclosures in front of the North and South stands are capable of accommodating 1,000 spectators, the admission price being two shillings inclusive.

The railings at the East and West ends of the enclosure have been brought close to the dead-ball line, and the ground has been sloped between these railings and the cycling track. Taking these and other alterations into consideration it is computed that 20,000 spectators outside the stands and enclosures can witness the match and have a full view of all the proceedings. Those paying for admission may be reminded that there are more pay boxes at the North gate than at that nearest to Gosforth, and those entering by the North gate may proceed to the West end of the ground by the roadway at the back of the new (North) stand.

PARKING OF CARS

Spectators arriving in motor-cars must alight on the North Road as only the car and the driver will be admitted at the motor gates. The charge for motor-cars is five shillings, and drivers should have the exact money in readiness to hand to the gateman on entering the ground. The police have

instructions that cars are to proceed straight towards the pavilion and to park "head-on". The motor gates will be closed at 2.30, or sooner if the available accommodation is occupied. There is, however, ample room for motor cars in the Gosforth Nomads' ground adjoining the County ground. A charge of three shillings will be made, and the gates will be kept open throughout the afternoon.

The souvenir programmes will be on sale only in the ground. The Coxlodge Prize Brass Band will play selections before the match commences and during the interval.

So far no changes have been notified in the Northumberland team, the members of which will wear white jerseys, instead of green, for this match, the New Zealanders having, of course, an all-black outfit with a silver fern embossed on the jersey. The Tourists' team will not be available until this evening, but the side to represent Northumberland is given below.

FULL BACK

G.N.WILKINSON (Gosforth Nomads)

THREE-QUARTER BACKS

† *W.WALLACE (Percy Park) (I), H.C.CATCHESIDE (captain) (centre) (Percy Park), L.T.H.TROTTER (Armstrong College) (centre), J.C.YEOMAN (Gosforth Nomads)

HALF-BACKS

L.CARTMEL (outside) (Gosforth Nomads), † *H.WHITLEY (inside) (Northern)

FORWARDS

*R.ARMSTRONG (Northern), W.R.S.ARKLESS (Northern), H.I.DAVIDSON (Rockcliff), M.R.LAMBERT (Percy Park), G.NICHOLSON (Tynedale), O.KAISER (Seghill), C.M.LISTER (Percy Park), J.PUNSHON (Gateshead Fell)

Referee: R.O.Jenkins (Durham Union)

Touch Judges: T.Simpson (Northumberland), S.S.Dean (New Zealand)

(I) International, * International Trials, † Member of British team in South Africa.

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The members of the New Zealand Rugby team had a very happy introduction to Newcastle yesterday, when they were the guests of the Rotary Club at luncheon at the Grand Assembly Rooms. With them were the officials of the Northumberland Rugby Union and several of the county players who are to take part in today's much anticipated game at Gosforth, the company numbering altogether about 200. It was the largest gathering indeed in the history of the Rotary Club, being thoroughly expressive of the general desire to give the visitors a real North country welcome.

The President of the Club, Mr H.E.Galloway, himself an old Northern and Northumberland County player, was in the chair, and on his right sat the captain of the "All Blacks" (Mr Jock Richardson) and on his left Mr H.C.Catcheside, the Northumberland captain. Mr S.S.Dean (the manager of the New Zealand team) and Mr H.O.Robinson, Mr Reuben Hodgson, Mr G.C.Robinson, Mr T.Simpson, Mr Stanger-Leathes, and Mr G.E.Spencer were among other well known figures in the Rugby world who were present for the occasion.

BONDS OF EMPIRE

In welcoming the visitors, the President observed that one of the distinctive features of Rotary was its versatility and adaptability to all sorts of occasions. This occasion was one which brought to the surface the lightest and brightest side of themselves. It was with light hearts and great pleasure that they welcomed to the club the magnificent body of athletes which New Zealand had sent over to us. Whether or not two blacks made a white, it certainly seemed, in the game they saw at Sunderland,

that it took two "Reds" to make one "All Black". (Laughter and applause). They were the finest set of men, physically, he had ever seen step on a football field. (Applause).

Mr S.S.Dean, responding, commented on the great cordiality with which Rotary Clubs had received the New Zealand team in various parts of the country. They had come to realise, he said, the meaning of the club's motto, "Service before Self". They had come to realise also the meaning of "Empire". Visits of sportsmen and other bodies, he believed, too helped to bring our wonderful Empire closer together. (Applause)

THE TEAM SPIRIT

With regard to football, if they could do something to help along the good old game they were well satisfied. In their play they had parity with Rotary in that they must have regard for "Service, not self". They must be subservient to discipline, must be unselfish, must work with the team spirit necessary to success. Much of their success was due to their combination.

Mr Deam added that they were a very happy party: they had not had a cross word amongst them since they left New Zealand. As to the game to-day, they hoped that the best team would win. (Laughter and applause). They knew that Northumberland had excellent wing three-quarters in Catcheside and Wallace. Of Catcheside, they knew long before they left New Zealand. He concluded by presenting the President of the Rotary Club with a souvenir in the form of a silver fern leaf – the "All Blacks" badge.

The New Zealanders then lined up and gave their famous "War Cry" with tremendous zest, following which Mr Kenneth White sang an amusing song in their praise in the Tyneside vernacular.

Lieut-Colonel Higginbottom proposed the health of the Northumberland team and the Northumberland Rugby Union, remarking, amid laughter, that there would never be a time when they would require greater health and strength than to-day. He added, however, that rugby football was never in sounder and more robust condition in the North of England than it was now, and incidentally paid tribute in this connection to the work and influence of such men as "Tot" Robinson, Tommy Simpson and Stanger-Leathes.

"A SHREWD SUSPICION"

Mr H.C.Catcheside, replying, said that, like the President, he hoped the better team would win to-day. He added: "I have shrewd suspicion they will." (Laughter). It was a great pleasure to have the opportunity of playing against such sterling fellows as the New Zealanders.

Mr "Tot" Robinson also responded. Remarking that the Rugby Union was a very conservative body, he asked that it should be remembered what a great struggle they had in 1896 and 1897 to free the game in this country from professionalism. He was sure the visit of the New Zealand team would do a power of good for rugby here.

On the motion of Mr H.O.Robinson, a hearty vote of thanks was passed to the Rotary Club for their hospitality. Later in the afternoon the "All Blacks" visited Parsons' works at Heaton and were shown over all departments and entertained to tea. Last night they found pleasure in the D'Oyley Carte Opera Company's performance of "The Mikado" at the Theatre Royal.

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ALL BLACKS ALMOST HELD Northumberland's Gallant Defenders

The All Blacks of 1924 will always retain lively recollections of their match with Northumberland at Gosforth, for whatever they may think of the other Northern Counties they cannot have feelings other than those of respect for the men who so gallantly kept them at bay with desperate tackling, delightful covering and splendid unselfishness. The New Zealanders won their sixteenth match by 27 points to 4, but they had to thank in great measure their extra stamina, training and staying power for what on paper would appear to be a fairly decisive victory.

During those 37 minutes in the first half when the All Blacks launched their attacks in vain the 16,000 spectators who watched the game must have felt very proud of their County representatives, tintured later by the regret that Northumberland were unable to emulate Ireland in boasting a clean sheet at the interval. Hart broke the spell but it was the only try he did score throughout the match, and that alone is sufficient testimony to Northumberland's gallant defence.

Of all the pleasing features none was so pronounced as the display of the home forwards, who completely falsified their two previous exhibitions of this season with their whole-hearted scrummaging, fine following up and brilliant footwork. In the latter phase they were the better combination, and if they did ultimately become inferior in securing possession they played their part gloriously well in the opening half. They were not really outplayed in the second period, but the All Black seven found their form as the game wore on, and we saw them in the end developing attacks amongst themselves in the loose in their customary style. At the line-out the visitors could not check that knock-back trick of Northumberland's for quite a while, whilst for once in a way they were not able to smother the half-back before the ball had been got away.

WONDERFUL WHITLEY

If there is one man deserving of praise above the others it is Whitley. The Northern player only once was caught in two minds when he tried to pass to Wallace near touch instead of kicking, but on every other occasion his foot found the ball and the ball found touch. Whether clear or tackled Whitley achieved his object and well might Mr Dean voice his admiration – at the dinner given in honour of the visitors in the evening – of the plucky and clever inside half-back who is surely destined to figure in a National side. Tackling of a high order was maintained on the home side all through and Whitley demonstrated that it is possible to bring a man down – even though he be never so big – if his ankle is gripped. I should think Whitley brought off more tackles than any other man on the field and, what is more to the point, he invariably checked the man he went for. Northumberland, as has been said in an earlier paragraph, got the ball from the tight scrums in the first half, but their backs could not develop a real attack, and it took them some time to realise that long and accurate kicks to touch gained more ground than passing. The New Zealand forwards were quick on the men behind, as the Northumberland centres found out in the course of time, but there were occasions when a slight hesitation and nervous gathering of the ball enabled the visitors to get up in time to smother a possible attack. Whatever failings the home backs might have had in attack were quite outweighed by what they usually brought off in defence. *[Illegible]* and at times bewildering *[Illegible]* they tackled.....*[several lines illegible]*

.....themselves, and they take good care to take full advantage of those of which their opponents are guilty. They did this against Northumberland, and thereby secured three tries: but, on the other hand, they saw some of their brilliantly executed movements – which really deserved a score – spoiled by some circumstance or another. The ball, which was light at first, and then became greasy,

rather handicapped the respective back divisions, but there were times when the All Blacks were guilty of bad handling, especially in the first half.

DANGEROUS BACKS

They had a weak spot, and it was at centre three-quarter, Brown is not quite of the same class as the majority of the tourists, and he did not fit into the scheme of things as nicely as Svenson or Lucas would have done. Cooke, too, started rather poorly, but later showed that he is the most dangerous back the All Blacks have, for he initiated most of the attacks and was always in a position to take a pass. The latter remark may be applied to the majority of the players when the team had really got going, and there were very few occasions in the last 20 minutes when the ball was not rid of to advantage in face of a determined tackle.

Nepia, as was the case at Carlisle, once or twice found it was impossible to kick a lengthy ball, thanks to the attention of a Northumbrian but he only once allowed the ball to beat him, that being in the first half, when from a quick punt it went between his feet. Hart was the better wing, but even he found Wallace a difficult customer to shake off, whilst the combined attentions of Catcheside, Cartmel, and Wilkinson often forced him to literally walk into touch. That was because the Northumberland backs were so quickly across the field, and one saw how a cross-kick can be neutralised when the backing up is determined. Many tries have come the way of the All Blacks from a lofty kick by Cooke, Hart, and Nepia, but on Saturday sure fielding and swiftness of foot prevented such happening.

Steel's effectiveness appears to have been rather reduced by injury, for although he caused a lot of trouble to the home defence there was not the same dash and straightness of running about his attack as characterised Hart's play. Steel certainly got a try, and a good one, but he went the longest way round for it, and only got there by a foot or so. In the first half John Yeoman several times flung himself at Steel's feet and this had the effect of making the New Zealander hesitate to go through himself on later occasions.

Cooke was the man who made the openings and though McGregor missed a scoring chance he vied with his five-eighth partner in sure handling and deceptive running. Parker's usefulness was at times limited, but towards the end he began to open out, yet he was not so dangerous as Mill, even if the latter found it not a paying policy to work the blind side. Once he nearly brought it off when Parker screened him, but after that he was tackled – generally with a sharp pull round the neck – when he tried it again. Of the New Zealand forwards it must be said they tackled hard, kicked well, and used their height in the second half line-outs to advantage, but their footwork was not nearly so good as Northumberland's.

Richardson, Donald, West and Brownlee were generally in the forefront of the attacks which came from the front line [*five?*], and when they found that the opposition would not stand on ceremony in going for the man they kept the ball moving. Occasionally a New Zealander got through by keeping the ball close but in the majority of cases attempts to beat "the lot" met with their due reward. Everyone on the tourists' side went down to the ball, and if they mishandled they did not neglect to fall down with the ball in front of them.

IMPROVED FORWARDS

It would be unfair to dwell upon the mistakes which cost Northumberland three tries, for if a man did make a mistake the good things which he accomplished were in the majority. Kaiser was as good as any of the forwards, whilst Arkless dribbled the ball in very clever style. Armstrong and Lambert

never spared themselves, and, indeed the whole eight put all they knew into their work, whilst their collective rushes and backing-up offered a mark contrast to their showing against Cumberland.

Cartmel at times kicked a very long and high ball to touch, and he saved some dangerous situations in the forward rushes whilst Trotter tackled hard and low every time. Catcheside did more defensive work than in any other game, and his watchfulness had not a little to do with the comparative quietness of Steel. Generally the home captain kicked a lengthy ball, and his dropped goal was of the type that he specialises in. Yeoman must have tackled the opposing wing till he was tired, whilst his attempts to dribble and evade an unyielding defence were characteristic of the man. Wallace had practically no chance to show his value in attack, but in defence he always went after his man and generally hustled him into touch. Wilkinson was the daring full-back, and on the two occasions he swept the ball away from the advancing All Blacks and ran 30 yards or so before finding touch on the other "25" he received wonderful ovations. His tackling was direct and low, whilst he rarely misfielded the many difficult punts directed at the home line. Truly, the better the opposition the better Northumberland played, and on Saturday's showing the best county side in the North is not far removed from the Rover Tyne.

THE SCORES

In a match so full of incident, it would be impossible to give a detailed account, and therefore reference will be confined to the chief points. Many first-half attacks were launched on the Northumberland line, but only one was successful, Hart going over from Parker's pass. Nepia could not goal, but he easily converted immediately after the interval when Cooke followed up a loose ball from the scrum that looked to be going dead, and touched down. Then Catcheside came within an ace of scoring a try, but in a few minutes he had dropped his goal. Afterwards the All Blacks had most of the attack – nearly all of it, in fact – and in the last quarter of an hour put on 19 points, the result of superior stamina and the wearing-down process. Desperate tackling could not stop Mill from twice crossing the line, whilst Richardson, Steel, and Brown also got through, although Richardson scored from what was obviously a forward pass. Mill kicked a couple of goals, and Nepia missed by inches with a magnificent effort from a bad place. Catcheside also came near with a drop goal from a penalty. Result:

NEW ZEALAND.....3 goals 4 tries (27pts)

NORTHUMBERLAND.....1 dropped goal (4pts)

Teams – Northumberland: G.N.Wilkinson; W.Wallace. H.C.Catcheside (capt), L.T.H.Trotter, J.C.Yeoman; L.Cartmel, H.Whitley: R.Armstrong, W.R.S.Arkless, O.Kaiser. H.I.Davidson, G.Nicholson, J.Punshon, R.M.Lambert, C.M.Lister.

New Zealand: G.Nepia; A.H.Hart, H.Brown, J.Steel; A.E.Cooke, N.P.McGregor; J.Mill; J.H.Parker; J.Richardson (capt), R.R.Maters, Q.Donald, B.V.McCleary, L.Cupples,A.H.West, C.Brownlee.

Referee: R.O.Jenkins (Durham).

JOURNAL 10.10.24

Lord Mayor's New Zealand Guests MANY TRIBUTES TO RUGBY GAME

Many prominent officials in the Rugby football world on Tyneside, in addition to a number of civic dignitaries were together with the teams who took part in the Northumberland and New Zealand match entertained by the Lord Mayor of Newcastle (Councillor Stephen Hughes) to dinner in Tilley's Restaurant on Saturday evening when the admiration of Tyneside.....[missing].....

.....sportsmen for the All Blacks was voiced by various speakers.

The Lord Mayor, who was accompanied by the Lady Mayoress (Miss Easton), had the support of the Sheriff (Councillor A.W.Lambert) and Mrs Lambert, the Deputy Lord Mayor (Dr R.W.Simpson) and Mrs Simpson, the Hon.F.M.R.Fisher, Alderman W.Cail (a past President of the English Rugby Union) and Mrs Cail, Mr H.O.Robinson (President of the Northumberland Union) and Mrs Robinson, Mr S.S.Dean (manager of the New Zealand team), Mr Robert Henzell (a past President of the English Union), Major John Graham, Mr. H.Welford, County Councillor Robert White, Mr. A.Brodrick Thompson, Mr. J.Brunton, Mr. A.Emmerson, Mr. G.C.Robinson (hon. Treasurer, Northumberland R.U.), Mr R.Hodgson (hon.secretary, Northumberland R.U.), Mr. J.L.Miller, Mr C.F.Stanger-Leathes, Mr. T.Simpson, Mr. G.E.Spencer, Mr. J.R.Roberts, and others.

The Lord Mayor welcomed the New Zealanders on behalf of the City and eulogised the Rugby football game as the best in the development of a sportsman. The principal toast of the evening, "The New Zealand Rugby Football Union," was then submitted by the Sheriff, who coupled it with the name of Mr Dean, and said that the All Blacks were a fine type of men of whom the Empire was proud. They would, he felt sure, be convinced that they had not met a finer body of sportsmen than the Rugby footballers on Tyneside.

The Hon. F.M.B.Fisher, whom the Lord Mayor called upon before Mr. Dean, said that as a fellow New Zealander he was gratified at the performances of the Tourists whom, he hoped, would take back with them the kindly greetings which the Lord Mayor of Newcastle had extended to them.

Mr Dean dealt upon the sporting character of the game played that afternoon and spoke in eulogistic terms of the display given by the Northumberland players, making particular reference to the goal dropped by Mr Carson Catcheside and to Mr H.Whitley's fine form.

Mr J.R.Roberts gave "the Great Game," to which Mr R.Henzell responded, and to "Canny Newcassel," submitted by Mr A.B.Thompson, the Lord Mayor replied.

An enjoyable programme of music was contributed by the Sheriff, Mrs A.W.Lambert, Mr Maurice Pearce, Mr William Hendry, Mr Frank Charlton, and Mr W.A.Crosse's Orchestra.