



NORTHUMBERLAND & DURHAM –v- NEW ZEALAND



1935

JOURNAL 8.10.35

ALL BLACKS IN GOSFORTH TEAM CHOSEN FOR TOMORROW'S MATCH ALL SPECTATORS UNDER COVER

Northumberland and Durham Rugby Union officials greeted the New Zealand Rugby tourists on their arrival in Newcastle yesterday afternoon from Liverpool, where they had been staying for their match with Cheshire and Lancashire, in defeating whom they gained their sixth victory.

An All Blacks team will appear at Gosforth tomorrow after an interval of 11 years [*Illegible*] their fixture with a joint Counties team has aroused so much interest that all the seats, stand and ringside, have now been sold at the County Ground. There is, however, considerable other accommodation, all under cover, the total holding capacity being estimated at 25,000.

During their stay in Newcastle the New Zealanders are making the Royal Station Hotel their headquarters. They will be there until Thursday, when they leave for Peebles Hydro, in preparation for their match with South of Scotland at Hawick on Saturday.

This morning the players will have light training at the County Ground. The interval to the match tomorrow afternoon will be spent quietly. After the match players of both teams, officials of the Northumberland and Durham Unions, and others will be the guests of Brigadier-General Sir J.F.Laycock, K.C.M.G. D.S.O., patron of the Northumberland Rugby Union, at dinner at Tilley's Assembly Rooms. A dance is to follow.

Facilities have been offered to the tourists by theatre and cinema proprietors in the town, and the Northumberland Golf Club have made the team honorary members of the Gosforth Park course during their stay.

Naturally, everyone wants to know who will constitute the All Blacks XV to-morrow.

Mr V.R.Meredith, manager of the party, who is also Crown Prosecutor of Auckland and an old player, stated in conversation with a *Newcastle Journal* representative last night that W.E.Hadley, the hooker, injured in the opening match, is still unable to play, and J.R.Page, "star" five eighth, likewise has not recovered, while the later casualties, D.Dalton and A.Mahoney, will also be off for a while, and others have minor injuries.

There are 29 All Blacks, however, all here, and Mr. Meredith had no difficulty in announcing his team which is given here with the Counties XV:-

NEW ZEALANDERS

Full back: D.Soloman.

Three-quarter backs: H.E.Brown, C.J.Oliver (captain), N.J.Ball.

Five-eighths: T.H.C.Caughey, J.L.Griffiths.

Half-back: M.M.N.Corner.

Forwards: C.Pepper, A.Lambourne, J.Hore, H.F.McLean, W.R.Collins, R.M.McKenzie, S.Reid, J.G.Wynyard.

NORTHUMBERLAND AND DURHAM

Full back: E.R.Blench.

Three-quarter backs: A.C.Harrison, G.H.Bailey, T.B.Bland, J.C.Oldroyd.

Half-backs: J.H.McLaren, C.P.B.Goldson.

Forwards: W.Smith, J.C.Suddes, J.T.Roddham, A.H.Spence, E.Paulin, F.Nicholson, A.McLaren (captain), J.McD.Hodgson.

Referee: Mr C.H.Gadney (London Referees' Society). Kick-off at 3.15.

There are seven changes in the All Blacks from the team playing at Birkenhead Park. G.Griffiths, the full back, is rested after seven games, and Soloman, a Samoan, who was at full back part of the match with Swansea, will fill that position at Gosforth. Oliver, the captain for to-morrow, is the "star" centre of the team. He has played for New Zealand both at Rugby and cricket and was over here in 1927. Brown, who has latterly come in, and Bell, on the side at Bradford, complete the three-quarter line.

Caughey came to England as a centre, but has developed into a very clever five-eighth. He is quick into his stride and combines particularly well with Corner, an elusive scrum half, who has played a good deal in international football.

The front row of the pack looks formidable and Lambourne has been successful in his hooking lately. J.E.Manchester, the captain and a very fine forward, is not playing, but Collins is one of the best in the game to-day, and Reid, the only Maori in the party, will command attention with his all round ability and physique.

RARE OPPORTUNITY

Since the All Blacks played at Bradford they have improved nearly 100 per cent in the estimation of an England Selector, who has seen several of their matches, and they have certainly become more of a team without losing their individualism.

Those who saw the All Blacks and Waratahs at Gosforth, and the Springboks at Roker Park, will be keen to compare the present players with the tourists who took part in those matches. They will see a tall, heavy set of forwards, good with hands and first rate in backing up. The backs have been restricted because of ball lack in some matches, but they are quick to snap up chances and take advantage of any weakness down the middle.

Favourable weather and a spectacular game will well repay all those who have worked to make this match a success. An opportunity of seeing a first-class Rugby touring team is rare in the North East – and this one should not be missed.

JOURNAL 9.10.35

ALL BLACKS AT GOSFORTH TODAY PROSPECT OF OPEN PLAY WITH COUNTIES XV GUIDANCE FOR SPECTATORS

Here in the North East (writes "Hotspur") opportunities for seeing first class Rugby are few and the visit of the All Blacks to Gosforth this afternoon has attracted a lot of attention. No doubt a Saturday date would have been better, but the last two Tourist matches at the County Ground, were on a

Saturday and other counties had got to have their week-end turn. It has been suggested that all Combined Counties matches should have taken place on a Saturday, but that was not practicable.

Despite the fact that it is a mid-week game, however, the desire to see the 1935 All Blacks is so keen that all the seats – stands and ringside – were sold by Monday morning this week. Actually more seats could have been sold, had they been available, but as it is nearly 3,000 tickets have been disposed of – nearly 2,000 at 5s each.

The Gosforth ground, in addition to offering more seating accommodation than many others, is unique because all spectators are under cover.

The official capacity estimate is 25,000, and while it is hardly likely that such a big crowd will assemble, this shows that there is ample provision for standing spectators who will not be inconvenienced in case of rain, as they would be elsewhere.

It is especially desired that ticket holders be in their seats by 3 o'clock – kick-off is at 3.15. Red ticket holders enter by the south entrance and yellow ticket holders by the new north entrance. The plan published in Tuesday's *Newcastle Journal* showed perfectly how and where to get in. Shilling spectators can stand behind the goals and round to the "25" lines on both sides. There is an extra shilling charge for entrance to the paddocks in front of the stands.

There is a car-park on the ground and also in the adjoining Gosforth RFC ground. Parking will be undertaken by the khaki clad A.A. , and the Association is also erecting direction signs in the vicinity of Newcastle to assist visitors. The tramcar service from Newcastle to Gosforth will be considerably augmented.

The pitch has been well looked after, and cutting and rolling have made the surface in better condition than for some time in a match of importance.

YESTERDAY'S TRAINING

The All Blacks sampled it yesterday when they put in training, comprising [*illegible*] kicking, punting, passing on the run and scrummage practice. J.E.Manchester, the captain, who is not playing to-day, showed somewhat unusual pace for a big-made forward, and H.F.McLean's goal-kicking efforts suggested that he is soon to be tried out in that direction. G.Gilbert, the full-back resting after seven games, is the "official" goal-kicker.

Though not at full strength, the New Zealanders field a side to-day capable of hard and entertaining football, which is what the public want.

Naturally it is hoped that Northumberland and Durham will give a good display against opponents who have big advantages in physique, training, playing facilities and team work, but first consideration is play worth going to see.

The Counties XV seems to be made for attack with quick forwards and a three-quarter line of individually clever players, and if they get a fair share of the ball, the scoring will not be all on the one side.

The All Blacks are not playing their strongest wings.....

Several lines illegible.....

It was a different matter when they were not getting the ball but recently the scrummaging has been tightened up and with the return of the No.1 hooker, they will increase their scores which so far are behind the previous New Zealand Tourists.

POWERFUL PACK

Personalities in the forwards are Pepper, Collins, McLean and Kent. The last-named, the only Maori in the party, has a splendid physique. Most of the Tourists have height and weight in their favour for that matter – the pack weight average is 14st, height 6ft – and though it may not be fully applied in 3-4-1 pack formation it is of much value in line-out, loose mauls, and generally for wearing down.

The choice of the Northumberland and Durham team has given rise to criticism, but all the players have had international, national, university, or county experience. The forwards should be quick in the open and will probably make ground with foot-work. A good deal depends upon how the new half-back pairing fares. There is dribbling ability in the back division, and if the wing men get a chance they will show that there are good class outsiders in the North-East.

Here is the complete record of the present tourists. To date, they have played before more than 161,000.

RECORD TO DATE

Illegible

JOURNAL 10.10.35

**ALL BLACKS ONLY WIN BY FOUR POINTS
WELL HELD AT GOSFORTH
BEST DISPLAY BY A JOINT XV AGAINST TOURISTS**

By HOTSPUR

Northumberland and Durham 7, All Blacks 10.

Northumberland and Durham put up such a great game against the All Blacks at Gosforth yesterday that the issue was in doubt to the final whilst. Only by a dropped goal margin were the New Zealanders successful – 1 dropped goal, 2 tries against 2 tries – and territorially they were not the superior side.

The Counties Selectors especially would be pleased with the performance of a team whose make-up had been much criticised – and the spectators convinced that the 1835 All Blacks are below the standard of the same side playing on the ground 11 years ago.

Northumberland and Durham are only the second team to score two tries against the Tourists in seven games, the other being Swansea, and apart from the Welshmen's, it is the best performance on points difference. Certainly no combined XV has done so well.

Though the scoring honours went to the All Blacks, the best of the four tries was scored by a Northumberland player, J.C.Olyroyd, to cap the most spectacular movement in the game.

The unexpected resistance put up by the Counties XV, fairly roused the big crowd in the last 20 minutes, when there was a chance of victory being snatched with only four points dividing the teams, and it needed desperate efforts to keep out the home side, whose forwards were on top against heavier, but tiring, opponents.

It seemed that the extra poundage of the All Blacks' big men became a handicap.

They have put on weight since coming over here, and lost speed in the process, and it this match at least were made to look cumbersome by comparison with their smaller, but nippier, opponents.

From a spectacular viewpoint the All Blacks were disappointing. They relied too much on kicking to gain them position, for while this was necessary in a way,, so sound was the home tackling, they did little constructive when they did get into the Counties' "25".

Superior in kicking, less liable to drop passes, and good in covering and marking touch, they showed little unusual in the way of tactics and, most significant, were none too certain in some of their tackling.

This is not the New Zealanders best XV, I know, but they will need to have a vastly better one to hold the international teams they are to meet between November 23 and January 4.

Northumberland and Durham were not too sure of themselves at the start, and when the All Blacks snapped a try at the end of 15 minutes it was thought that this was a taste of what was to follow. But even when they got a dropped goal, which generally has an effect on the opposition morale, the New Zealanders did not become dominant, and a great try for the home side before the interval gave a new aspect to the game.

The second half favoured the Counties territorially, and after the New Zealanders had made it 10-3, with another snatched try, the play was carried to the visitors' quarters. They were forced to concentrate on keeping their line intact, but could not prevent the Counties scoring again. In the end they were glad to get away with a win.

The Counties' forwards played a hard, compact game. The front row stood up well and the pushing power was so well applied that Nicholson could be spared to mark the extra back between the New Zealand pack and three-quarter line.

MARKING AND TACKLING

The All Blacks had room behind, however, from the second row shield, but against this were the close marking and hard tackling of the Counties' backs, who covered each other so well that the full back had not much to do in the way of tackling.

The half-backs stood out in stopping work with Goldson particularly good and Ian Maclaren saving well while Bailey's tackling could not be bettered.

For a team that had not played together before the Counties' spotting and stopping were exceptionally good.

Though Ian Maclaren is not a stand-off, and chiefly did well as an individualist, several passes going astray between the halves, there were more attempts on the Counties' part to make play via their backs and with quicker middle work the All Blacks might have been in serious trouble.

Whenever the ball got yo Oldroyd or Harrison with a chance they made progress, and with surer handling in supporting work more would have come of Harrison's clever left wing efforts in the second half.

Still, the Counties put up a fine show, and there is no point in particularising, especially in the forwards, who tackled and stayed the game so well. Except one might say that Hodgson made good use of his 15 stone odd, and Smith is likely to go farther.

The England selectors present would also be interested in the way Harrison stood up to the heavy opposition.

Making due allowance for the fact that he had a fair amount of room at times, Solomon, the Samoan full back, caught and kicked finely. Like the other New Zealanders he got a good deal of height on his touch kicks but "carried" a nice distance. Oliver and Caughey both kicked well, but were not so thrustful as expected, and little was seen of Oliver's tricky running. A compliment, of course, to the opposition. The forwards were not allowed to get away with their close passing, and in scrummaging were slightly out-hooked in the first half and more so after the interval. They seemed to feel the lack of Manchester's influence. The Tourists' skipper was on the touch line.

There were 12 penalties in the match, seven to the home counties, but few in a favourable position. The All Blacks utilised the high, hanging punt with two or three, and these were troublesome.

THE SCORES

A better pass to Oldroyd might have led to an early home score. When the All Blacks took the lead they started the movement by catching a short penalty. Oliver made ground with a tricky run, gained a corner touch with a punt over, and Ball, left wing, working the gap in catching a short throw, flung himself over for a try, too wide out for Brown to convert.

Ten minutes later a hanging heel by the All Blacks in the home "25" caused the opposition to go back in case they were caught offside and when the ball was sent out to Griffiths, the five-eighth had time to drop a goal with the left foot.

Great tackling stopped the All Blacks increasing their score via cut throughs, and then the Counties seemed to have made an opening until Smith, trying to change the direction of attack, was held up. The ball was got over to the left, however, and then passing to the other flank, with Ian MacLaren quick in feeding the centres, gave Oldroyd a chance to slip one tackle and hand off the full back.....*remainder illegible*.....

.....the Counties well deserved the try scored by Ian MacLaren on the right. Nicholson had got the ball out to him from a loose heel after Goldson had been held up in a dash for the line. Hodgson's long kick from touch was just under the bar.

Though a strenuously fought game there were no stoppages for injuries.

The attendance was in the region of 12,000.

Northumberland and Durham: E.R.Blench (Tynedale); A.C.Harrison (Hartlepool Rovers), G.H.Bailey (Old Novocastrians), T.B.Bland (Tynedale), J.C.Oldroyd (Northern); I.H.MacLaren (Durham City), C.P.Goldson (Northern); W.Smith (Ryton), J.C.Suddes (Tynedale), J.T.Roddham (Gateshead Fell),

A.H.Spence (Sunderland), E.Paulin (Old Novocastrians), F.Nicholson (Durham City), A.McLaren (Durham City) (captain), J.McD.Hodgson (Northern and Leicester).

New Zealanders: D.Solomon; H.B.Brown, C.J.Oliver (captain), N.J.Ball; T.H.C.Caughey, J.L.Griffiths; M.M.N.Corner; C.Pepper, M.Lambourn, J.Hore, H.F.McLean, W.Collins, R.M.McKenzie, S.Reid, J.G.Wynyard.

Referee: Mr C.H.Gadney (London Referees' Society)

ALL BLACKS RECORD TO DATE

Beat Devon and Cornwall	35-6
Beat Midland Counties	9-3
Beat Yorkshire and Cumberland	14-3
Beat Abertillery and Cross Keys	31-6
Lost to Swansea	3-11
Beat Gloucestershire and Somerset	23-3
Beat Lancashire and Cheshire	21-3
Beat Northumberland and Durham	10-6

Scored 13 goals, 3 dropped goals, 3 penalty goals, 19 tries against 2 goals, 5 penalty goals, 7 tries.

Both the 1905 and 1924 All Blacks won their first eight games, scoring 301 points against 4 and 191 against 16 respectively.