

WONDER GOAL INSPIRES DARK BLUES

Better side in a bitter struggle

DENNIS ROBINSON'S wonderful penalty goal from 54 yards, within 30 seconds of the kick-off and a shattering display on the part of the Oxford pack scattered all our preconceived notions of the winds and left the Varsity Rugby match at Twickenham a draw of six points each, writes Gerard Walter.

Oxford, given no chance by the forecasters and current form, kept alive tradition by very nearly winning a tremendously dour struggle. As it was, they were unfortunate in many respects not to score more than the try and the penalty goal which offset the two penalty goals which Peter Davies's immaculate foot landed for Cambridge.

This is only the twelfth occasion since their first meeting in 1871 that the Universities have drawn, and the first time since 1935.

There will be those, no doubt, who will argue that if Jim Roberts had not fumbled late in the second half when all he had to do was to seize the ball and fall with it Cambridge would have won.

Others may claim that luck alone kept their line inviolate when Alec Ramsay and his magnificent cohorts were driving deep into the Light Blues' territory and battering against their defence for periods which kept the onlookers in fervent prayer and joyous exhortation, according to one's shade of blue.

For my part, I think justice was done. And after so fine and, be it admitted, at times bitter, tussle, no one surely will grudge any one of the 30 players his due share of the honours.

Great pluck

That is not to disguise the fact that, on the day, Oxford were the better side. They twice took the lead—Paul Johnstone going over to put them in the lead by 6-3 at the interval.

Apart from a truly brilliant run by Dennis Silk, which fizzled out owing to lack of support, the Cambridge three-quarters never showed the forcefulness and enterprise of Oxford.

An injury to Harry Morgan, the Light Blue stand-off, who returned to the fray with his head bandaged, cannot be offered in extenuation for Cambridge. He was off only a few minutes and came back with his usefulness unimpaired.

Oxford found the inspiration for a great exhibition of pluck and resource. In a pack who played themselves to a standstill I mention Alan Boyce, because he stood out even among heroes.

Cambridge never recovered from the blow of that penalty goal by Robinson. Tim Pearson, chosen for the first England trial at Nottingham, was never allowed any real scope, and the three-quarters were astonishingly slow and erratic in their handling compared with Oxford.

Not vicious

Perhaps the fact that the initiative was so rudely and unexpectedly snatched from them in the opening minute explains the Cambridge inability to reproduce the form which had won them eight victories in 13 games during the season.

That, of course, is the Varsity match.

Two final points. Oxford's idea of getting Allaway, of the pack, to take every throw-in seems to have possibilities. Referee Peter Cooper had to speak to one or two Oxford men following Morgan's injury from Allaway's boot, but, although some of the crowd boomed I thought the exchanges always stopped short of viciousness. But, my goodness, there were plenty of knocks in a dour struggle that had never a dull moment.

That kick looked terrific on TV

By RUPERT CHERRY

TELEVIEWERS, some of whom do not often watch Rugby, tell me that Robinson's penalty goal looked phenomenal.

It was an excellent kick but many goals are scored from over 50 yards during a season. I saw Stan Walter kick goals from 50 and 54 yards and Harry Jones land one from 60 yards all in the same match.

THE MEN WHO MADE IT A DRAW

OXFORD: D Robinson (Hilton, S.A., and Trinity); P Johnstone (Hilton, S.A., and St. John's), H Birrell (St. Andrew's, S.A., and Lincoln), T Fallon (Belmont Abbey and Worcester), J Baggaley (Qn. Eliz. G.S., Wakefield, and Keble); R Winn (Dauntsey's and Exeter); L McLachlan (Plumtree and Trinity); J Steel (St. Andrews, N.Z., and New Coll.); R Allaway (Durban H.S., S.A. and University Coll.); J Fellows-Smith (Durban H.S., S.A., and Brasenose); A Boyce (Knigswood, S.A. and St. Edmund Hall); L Bryer (Gray Coll., S.A., and University Coll.); E Fergusson (Rugby and Oriel); A Ramsay (Mill Hill and Brasenose); D Wood (Luton G.S. and St. Edmund Hall).

CAMBRIDGE: P Davies (Llandoverly and Trinity Hall); H Griffiths (Llandoverly and Christ's); K Dalgleish (Fettes and St. Catharine's); D Silk (Christ's Hosp. and Sidney Sussex); J Roberts (Mill Hill and Christ's); H Morgan (Wycliffe and St. John's); T Pearson (Oundle and Clare); M Massey (Oundle and St. John's); R Macewen (Bristol and St. Catharine's); D Massey (King's Macclesfield, and Christ's); P Wheeler (Rugby and Magdalene); J Asquith (Purley and Pembroke); I Beer (Whitgift and St. Catharine's); J Clements (Cranleigh and Trinity Hall); P Ryan (Harrow and Caius).

Mr. Stagg

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