

Local

Wales V France Rugby

27th March 56

At Cardiff Arms Park, Wales kicked off against France - anxious to atone for that shock Triple Crown defeat in Dublin.

And with France hoping to gain their first-ever victory in Cardiff - and backing up that hope with an opening period of sustained pressure - the knowledgeable Welsh fans were hoping, too - for a great game.

But the fans were disappointed. For although the match had many exciting moments as play swung from end to end - there were few fine passing movements, in fact - too much kicking....and hoping.

Occasionally, Wales did mount a determined attack. And though the fans desperately wanted to see Ken Jones celebrate his 45rd Cap (~~an all-time record~~) with a spectacular score: he, too, was bogged down ~~in the~~ - trying to create his own openings.

The second half opened with France playing her best Rugby of the match. ~~After~~ ^{BOUQUET} After five minutes - a long kick ahead by ~~Paulin~~ ^{BOUQUET} caught the Welsh defenders on the wrong foot. And ~~Paulin~~ ^{BOUQUET} himself, followed up - to dive over in the corner.

France were three points up - and now, Wales were fighting desperately to preserve that proud home record. Not until nine minutes from No-side did they save the day - then Williams touched down - inches from the dead-ball line.

Owen made the conversion - for a five-three victory, and a share, at least, in the International Championship.