

DEC 1953

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ALL BLACKS V. WALES.

The All Blacks kick-off against Wales at Cardiff Arms Park, straight into a dazzling sun that won't help them much in this rugby classic. Now for some of the stuff that 56,000 people have come to see - brisk, bustling attacking by the New Zealanders, and stubborn, do-or-die defence by the Welshmen.

Soon the pattern of play changes as the Welshmen make a run for the All Blacks line. Judd pounces onto the loose ball, and he touches down for Wales!

Gwyn Rowlands converts to make it five-nil. Bob Scott leads the All Blacks back on an attack, but it's no easy task to break through one of the most resolute defences Wales has ever put up. It's a tough match all right with no quarter asked or given. But now an infringement gives the All Blacks a chance of scoring. Jarden takes the penalty -

Back come the All Blacks, fighting every inch of the way to level the score. The Welshmen see trouble coming their way as Clarke gets the ball, and bursts through the defence to touch down for New Zealand! But that's not all, Jarden puts it over the bar for another couple of points. That makes it 8-5 in the visitor's favour at half time. Things look bad for Wales, but here they go again -

Recently critics have had a lot of say about rough play on the rugby field, but they haven't much to complain about today. Though now, an All Blacks infringes the rules, and Wales get another chance. Rowlands takes the penalty and the scores are level. 8 points each.

Despite the stories of the mighty All Blacks pack, the Welshmen seem to be holding them well. Welsh smiles soon vanish as Griffiths had to leave the field with a dislocated shoulder. But they can't keep him away for long. He's soon back in action, helping out as the All Blacks attack with everything they've got.

Wales swing play round again. They're getting their second wind now.

Rowlands gets it, but Elsom is there to baulk him. Clem Thomas races in to pick up.

Thomas punts it across the field where Ken Jones is ready and waiting.

Jones has it safe and sound and over he goes - a perfect touch down that gives Wales a solid lead in the last few minutes of the match.

Rowlands takes the conversion, two more points for Wales. There's no further score so Wales have done it by 13 points to 8. But there's one more battle to be fought - for the ball. John wins it but hands it over to Scott, the All Blacks full-back. A sporting gesture to end a great day of sport.

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