

IRELAND BEATS FRANCE.

Ireland took the field at Lansdowne Road for the stiffest match of the season against the champions, France. President O'Kelly greeted the teams and the big crowd were keyed up to expect a great match. Playing left to right in this picture Ireland kicked off. France came with the reputation of having the finest pack seen in the game for many years; but it takes a lot more than reputation to daunt an Irish fifteen playing in Dublin. The ball went to outside-half Mick English. He dropped a beautiful goal.

Three points down after only four minutes play the French couldn't believe what had happened to them, which has been the experience of many visiting teams visiting Lansdowne Road.

In the line outs the Irish forwards quickly saw they had nothing to fear. In the scrum the French held their own. Mantoulian tried to drop a goal but missed.

The right centre M.K. Flynn bamboozled the French defence, passed to Brophy. The left wing hared towards the line and scored a try; unconverted.

Ireland six, France nil at half time. After the change of ends the French were obviously determined to wipe out the deficit. But it was Ireland who scored first in the second half.

There was an infringement and referee Walters of Wales penalised France.

The Queen's University left centre David Hewitt kicked a great goal from far out.

Ireland now led nine points to nil. If France were going to pull the game out of the fire they had to act quickly. For the next twenty minutes Ireland were subjected to heavy pressure. Jean Dupuy went clean through the Irish defence and touched down in an excellent position.

Fullback Pierre Lacaze added the goal point.

Now only four points behind France were back in the game. Fortunately Noel Handerson was safe as a rock at full back. At the other end the French had their own defence tested.

Neither team scored again. At no side Ireland had beaten the champions and earned the congratulations of the Rugby world.