

OUT-DOOR SPORTS.

FOOTBALL.

The Auckland schoolboy representatives under the management of the Schools' Executive, journeyed to Waikato on Saturday to play a team chosen from the Goldfields centres. There seems to have been some misunderstanding as to the weight limit, the local boys being decidedly big compared with the town lads. A keen contest, however, resulted with honours in Goldfield's favour in the first half. But in the second spell the Aucklanders played with great dash, and were decidedly unlucky in not scoring on several occasions. The match resulted in a win for Goldfields by 7 to 3. For the winners Johnson scored a try, and McGeehan potted a fine goal, while Handcock kicked a penalty for Auckland. Thanks to the generosity of the Auckland Rugby Union the team had a most enjoyable trip.

A Win for Thames.

The return match, Auckland v. Thames, was played at Thames on Saturday in fine weather. About 200 excursionists arrived from Auckland by the p.s. Wakarusa shortly before the match, and the up-country trains brought in a large number of visitors. There was a large attendance at Parawai ground, which was in good order. Hall was unable to accompany the Auckland team, and his place was filled by Williams.

Thames won by 11 points to nil. The better team won! On that point there are no two opinions. After the first spell Auckland never looked like a winning team. Thames played the forward game, and it is high praise for them indeed to state that they outplayed Auckland in this department. The first spell was evenly contested. Auckland frequently got the ball from the scrum, but the Thames wingers were on to the backs before they could do anything with it. Both sides appeared to advantage in the loose, and while Auckland excelled on the line-out, Thames forwards generally put more life into their play. It was thought that the condition of the homeosters would not hold out, but they lasted well, and the dreaded second spell debacle, which happens to most teams which oppose an Auckland pack did not make its appearance. The Auckland men certainly did not appear at their best, but it is doubtful if under more favourable circumstances they would have won. They played with a strong sun in their eyes in the first spell, a disadvantage under which Thames did not have to labour, for, during the interval, rain set in, and continued to the end, making the atmosphere overcast. Then it seems that the referee's decisions frequently gave annoyance, the goal which Francis is alleged to have kicked, and which was disallowed, being a noticeable instance. This undoubtedly affected the play of the men, but, of course, cannot be held out as an excuse for defeat. Thames won on their merits. The incident which led up to Maguire (Grafton) and I. Smith (Thames) being ordered off the field could not be seen from the touch-line.

Of the Thames forwards, H. Hayward stood out prominently. The remainder ably supported their leader, and of an even, hard-working lot, Crawford, Griffin, and McDuff were about the best. The two wingers, F. Hayward and McCollum, gave the Auckland backs a deal of trouble, and coped very successfully with the ubiquitous Gillett, who was a marked man. Hayward's smart following-up was a feature of his play. Francis and Herring stood out among the Auckland forwards for the solidity of their play. The Auckland backs were disappointing. Twiname gave his forwards a lot of unnecessary work by faulty fiddling, and in the second half he was sent back to full-back on this account. Renwick gave a fine exhibition of knee-kicking, and Wilson's pace got his side out of many threatening situations. The five-eighths, Gray and Baker, were closely watched, but, even so, did not play well. However, Baker's aptitude in kicking up from the ruck and kicking to touch was a redeeming feature in his play. Webb played a sound defensive game. Snowling, five-eighths, for Thames, played a useful game, and was about the best of

the local lads. Smith, a junior, who gave a poor display at full-back in the first match, made up for that failure by playing a good game at centre-three-quarters. He is regarded on the Thames as a coming player, who will make a mark for himself. Kingham and Kitching, on the wings, were fair, and Newdick was safe at fullback.

Auckland Juniors defeat Taranaki

At Alexandra Park, Auckland, on Saturday, the sole interest of those loyal to amateurism was in the match between the junior representatives of Taranaki and Auckland. To say that the football public disgraced itself badly describes the lamentable position. Whatever the grievances against the Auckland Union, on the principle that two wrongs do not make a right, there is no excuse for the meagre, the disheartening attendance which turned out.

The teams were as follows:—

TARANAKI.

Full-back, J. Ryan.
Three-quarters, Koru, J. Stohr, and Lova.

Five-eighths, Stannering and Pearce.
Forwards: Taylor (wing), Helier and Maslin (front row), McDonald (lock), Winters, McCallum, Robinson, and McGivern.

AUCKLAND.

Fullback, O'Brien.
Three-quarters: Sargeant, Smith, Cross
Five-eighths: Wyward, O'Brien.
Half: Dick.
Wing-forward, Derran.
Forwards: Baker, Fricker, McKianon, Callaghan, Grundy, Shaw, Hayward.

An interesting game ended in favour of Auckland by 14 points to 5.

The Northern Union Game.

The first match played in Auckland under Northern Union rules took place on Saturday at Victoria Park, when a thirteen representative of Wellington met the local team, and suffered defeat by 16 points to 14. The weather was fine, and there was an attendance of about 7000 spectators, who were rewarded with a fast and exciting game, which was won by Auckland, 16 points to 14 points.

"What do you think of it?" was the question to be heard on every hand, and the reply was, "A great game, and sure to take the place of Rugby." Although this opinion was generally expressed, there were numbers who were still strong in their allegiance to the old game, but it cannot be said that from a spectacular point of view, the Northern Union game is far ahead of Rugby, and throughout the whole ninety minutes spectators are kept on the qui-vive of excitement, so fast does the ball travel from one end of the ground to the other. At one minute one side would be attacking hotly, when a slight mistake would let the other side in, and in a twinkling play would be at the other end of the ground, and interest is thus sustained until the bell rings for the final cessation of play. In the match, so keen was the interest in the game, that practically the whole of the large attendance waited until the bell rang. Taking a fair and impartial view of the question, there is no doubt that it is considerably faster than the Rugby game, and from a spectator's point of view, considerably more exciting. Another strong point in favour of the Northern game is that the risk of accident is considerably minimised, and, although the pace at which they are compelled to play is more distressing to the players, they do not feel the soreness, they do after a hard Rugby match.

The game was very evenly contested, both sides attacking in turn, while the manner in which the attack was turned into defence was an eye-opener of the individual players. Rowe was easily the best of the Auckland backs, and his display was first-class, and a big improvement on anything he has yet shown in Auckland. In the forwards, Mackreth and McDonald were the pick.

For Wellington, Kelly in the back and Spencer in the forwards, were seen to most advantage.

Taranaki v. Auckland.

Mr. D. G. Baker has chosen the following team to represent Auckland against Taranaki at Alexandra Park on Saturday next, the 29th inst.:

Fullback: A. Renwick.
Three-quarters: F. Wilson, G. Murray, J. Johnson.
Five-eighths: G. Bate, R. Magee.
Half: F. Morse.
Wing-forward: G. Gillett.
Forwards: F. Herring, J. McGuire, A. Francis, W. Cunningham (lock), G. Nicholson, C. Seeling, H. Hayward.
Emergencies: Coote, Maguire (Grafton).

The team will meet at the City shed for training on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, while as many as can manage it are requested to attend Victoria Park during the day.

Auckland B. v. Northern Waikato.

Auckland B. went to Dargaville last Saturday and met the Northern Waikato fifteen, the game ended in a win for Waikato by three points to nil.

Whangarei Football.

At Rugby football on Saturday at Kensington Park, the game, Hikurangi v. North Ward, Juniors, was won by North Ward by 27 to nil. Hikurangi played four men short.

Thames Results.

Thames juniors beat Thames Old Boys by 25 points to nil.
Rovers defeated a team of Auckland juniors by six points to three.

Waikato Matches.

Ideal weather prevailed for football on Saturday, and the attendance was perhaps the largest of the season for the Cup fixture.

Great interest was taken in the final cup fixture between Waitete and Mataura, and those present were treated to a good exhibition of the winter game, Mataura winning by 16 to 3.

The game was more even than the score would indicate. Power's kicking aided no less than 10 points to Mataura's score.

Wellington v. Manawatu.

There was glorious weather for the Wanganui-Wellington match, and a good attendance of spectators. H. Tilley refereed. The game resulted in a rather easy win for Wellington by 25 to 13, which could easily have been larger, for they were far and away cleverer than the locals, who played without spirit or vim.

Professional Football.

There is every likelihood of Northern Union football being played in South Canterbury next season. Several prominent footballers who head the movement state that sufficient support will be forthcoming to start three senior teams. It is proposed to pay teams on tour for loss of time, and assist clubs in erecting training sheds, and to pay part of the expenses of junior teams travelling. Already £100 has been promised to set the game on a footing.

New Zealanders in Australia.

Victoria beat the New Zealand footballers at the Australian carnival by 171 points to 40.

Heavy rain previous to the match interfered with the attendance and made the ground wet and slippery.

The Victorians showed a much better knowledge of the game than the New Zealanders, and from the outset the visitors were outclassed.

At the end of the first quarter the scores were: Victoria 10 goals 8 behinds, New Zealand 2 behinds.

Each separate quarter the visitors were left farther in the rear. As in the previous quarter, the New Zealanders played a better game in the second half than in the first, but the result was a foregone conclusion after the first few minutes.

Improvements to the Rugby Game.

Another meeting to consider the question of Rugby reform was held last week at Christchurch, when the following alterations in the Rugby game were discussed, scrutinized and approved: (1) All goals to count two points, except potted goals (three points). (2) The ball, when kicked direct into touch (except from a penalty) to be brought back to the place where it was kicked from, and there scrummaged. (3) All line-outs to be abolished. (4) When a kicker is taking his kick (from a mark, try, penalty, force down, or kick off), the opposing side shall not be allowed to charge or in any way interfere with the kicker. (5) All players must keep behind their back row of forwards when the ball is being scrummaged. (6) Following a force down, the side forced must kick out from where the ball crossed the goal line, opposing players to stand ten yards from the goal line. (7) Where possible, all injured players must be removed immediately from the field of play. (8) The referee to place the ball in the scrum in all cases.

It was resolved, after further discussion, that the delegates bring the proposals before their clubs at the earliest possible opportunity, and that another meeting of those present be held with a view to further action being taken. The chairman said that if the Canterbury Rugby Union could not get satisfaction from the New Zealand Union, they could go past the governing body to the sister unions.

British Footballers in Australia.

The British footballers visited Newcastle on Aug. 19, and defeated the representative of the Newcastle branch of the N.S.W. Rugby Union by 32 points to nil.

ASSOCIATION.

Pousooby v. Corinthians A.—This match, contested on the Domain, provided an exciting tussle. A rush by H. and J. Webster at the commencement of the game resulted in the latter ending the net for Pousooby. A few minutes later W. Ruckle kicked down to Haddock, who passed to J. Webster, to H. Webster, the latter doubling the figures. Just before the spell ended Pousooby secured a third goal. On resuming play, Pousooby speedily accounted for a fourth, the Corinthians, living up, making their first and only goal shortly afterwards. Before time was called, Pousooby, having the control of the game, netted two more goals, the match ending: Pousooby, 6; Corinthians A, 1.

North Shore (second) v. W.Y.M.I. (first).—North Shore won by 4 goals to 2.
Gordon (second) v. North Shore (second).—North Shore emerged victorious, after a good game, by 8 goals to nil.
Tabernacle Old Boys v. Tabernacle.—The Old Boys won by 5 goals to 3.

SAILING.

Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron.

The Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron held a smoke concert in the club-rooms last week, when there was a large attendance, the commodore (Mr. J. L. R. Bloomfield) presiding. The prizes won during the past season were presented. A musical programme was contributed by Messrs. A. Taylor, H. Phillipson, and J. Ashworth, while Messrs. J. B. Graham and Bonetta gave recitations. Light refreshments were served, and everything possible was done to make the gathering enjoyable, an ambition that was fully realised, the entertainment being voted one of the most successful in the annals of the squadron.

CRICKET.

English Cricket.

In the match between Lancashire and Leicestershire, J. T. Tyldesley, the Lancashire cricketer, scored 243 runs.

Phenomenal scoring has been recorded in county cricket lately.

Twenty-nine centuries have been scored in eight days.

Surrey, 632 for eight wickets, of which Marshall made 107, beat Kent by an innings and 318 runs.

Essex made 573 for nine wickets against Northampton, McGeahy scoring 230.

Middlesex totalled 534 for eight wickets against Notts, Tarrant scoring 245, not out.

Lancashire took their total against Leicestershire to 508, of which J. F. Tyldesley scored 243.

Alan Marshall, the ex-Queensferry bowler for Surrey against Essex, took five wickets for 28 runs.