

made the best run of the day, and succeeded in getting over the line, but lost a try through being collared by the A forwards in attempting to get behind the posts. For lifting the feet in a scrum, the B's 25, the latter incurred a penalty kick. Stone made a splendid attempt at goal, the majority of spectators considering that the ball went over the cross bar. Uninteresting play followed the kick out, and half time was sounded a few minutes later without alteration in the scores.

Stone kicked off in the second spell for the A team, and a poor return by one of the B backs enabled the former to almost take the ball over the line, but Masefield to the rescue with a fine kick. The forwards returned and the ball went out in the B's 25. From the throw in, the B vanguard started a fine rush which carried the leather to the A's 25, where Stone was sent into touch. The throw in ended with the B backs to get on some nice passing, and after repeated efforts, McGill succeeded in registering B's third try.

A goal resulted—A 3, B 11. Another splendid run on the part of the B backs nearly ended in a score, but Stone, Murray, and Rhodes replied with a fine piece of dribbling, and transferred the play to the B 25, where Breen, picking up smartly and dodging the B backs, crossed the line between the posts. The kick at goal was again a failure—A 6, B 11.

For the next few minutes there was nothing but scrums and line work, the greater strength of the B forwards gradually working the play down the line until play was in dangerous proximity to the A goal line. From some loose play which took place here, Speight dashed over the line and registered B's fourth try. Edmonds failed to convert—B 14 A 6. The kick out resulted in A's being again called on to defend, Donald, Braund, and Breen putting in some fine work. The B team was, however, now playing a fine game, the attempts of the A backs to relieve their side being frustrated by the fine kicking of Masefield, who kept gaining a few yards on each return. During the last few minutes of the game the A forwards determined effort to clear their backs succeeded in carrying the ball to the centre flag, but Masefield again presented an obstacle, and sent the ball into touch in the opposing 25. From the throw in, the ball was passed out to Rishworth, who again crossed the line and ran round behind the posts. Edmonds had no difficulty in converting—B 19, A 6. From this until the end of the game the play was exceedingly fast, but no scores took place, and the contest ended as before mentioned.

Although I was prepared to witness a great struggle for supremacy between the two teams and even a win for the B team by a few points, I was nevertheless greatly surprised at the severe and pronounced defeat inflicted upon our probable "rep" team. In my notes of last week I drew attention to what I considered the fallacy of playing three half-backs, and it was the advantage which the B division possessed in playing only two halves and having an extra forward which made their chance of giving the A team a keen struggle appear to my mind rather probable. Saturday's game, however, cannot be regarded as an even contest, for leaving the points of 19 to 6 out of the question, the game was one-sided from start to finish, and in favour of the B team in every department of the game.

The probable team was certainly minus the services of several good men, and this fact should not be forgotten when reviewing the contest, but even had the absentees taken part in the game I do not for a moment consider that the result would have been in favour of the A division. Elliot would have strengthened the backs, but would Oliphant have strengthened the forwards? I for one consider that he would not. Nor am I inconsistent in expressing this opinion and at the same time maintaining that Oliphant is a player well worth a place in any team. Had Oliphant been present on Saturday the A vanguard would have been robbed of a forward. Fred Murray, who is a first-class scrumager, took Oliphant's place, and had the latter been present he would of course have played on the wing and left six forwards to work in the scrum. As it was, they had seven workers in the scrum and then had no possible chance against the opposing nine forwards.

I could not help remarking on Saturday that the B vanguard obtained a very great advantage by unfair play. On almost every occasion on which the ball was placed in the scrum by a B player it was deliberately given to his own for-

wards. This enabled them to let it out quickly to their backs, and while, as I say, it was an advantage to them, it would not have been an equal advantage to the A forwards had one of their players "pointed" in the same way. And for this reason. The very moment the B forwards found that their opponents had possession of the ball they could easily have pushed the A forwards off their feet before the latter had time to heel out.

Two practice matches have now taken place, and the team has been subjected to several alterations. But with what beneficial result it is difficult to find. In each practice it has been demonstrated in an undeniable manner that six or even seven forwards cannot play nine, yet the committee refuses to be guided by facts, and it will be seen from the team chosen for Saturday next that the scrum again consists of six men, not all of whom by the way are accustomed to scrum work. So far as deriving any advantage from the practices is concerned, it must be considered that two Saturdays have been absolutely wasted.

Kissling at fullback for the A team was not altogether a success. He was not responsible for allowing the other team to score, but his play was of a rather indifferent kind, and his kicking was by no means brilliant. On Saturday's form Kissling could never get a place in the reps as a fullback.

Roberts got few chances to distinguish himself. On two occasions, however, he made good runs, and should have scored. Roberts got right behind the line after evading five or six men, but allowed himself to be collared before grounding the ball. He did not appear to take much interest in the game on Saturday.

At centre three-quarter Breen played a sterling game, and put in a lot of defensive work. His tackling and punting was really good, but his passes were too high, and one was intercepted by an opposing player. Breen made a good run and scored.

McPhail is a better man than many thought, but is not class enough for a "rep" team. He possesses a good turn of speed which he used to advantage when he scored, and will no doubt improve as the season progresses.

Bullock, who played in Elliott's place, got off some nice pieces of play, but holds on to the ball too long. He missed several chances on Saturday.

McDonald was not as good as on the previous Saturday. His play was almost confined to defence, which makes a great difference.

Braund made the most of every opportunity, which he had to make for himself. His forwards failed to give him the ball, but he got off several "passes" from stopping forward rushes, and also by picking up smartly from loose open play.

Ike Mills was not so brilliant as on the previous Saturday, and caused Edmonds little or no trouble. His following up was, however, a source of annoyance to the opposing backs.

Anderson has a habit of standing back a few yards and making a run and jump at the ball when thrown in from the line. This is all very well when it comes off, which by the way is about only once in a season. It would be far better for Anderson to stand quietly on his mark, and if he did secure the ball to at once pass it to his backs. He appeared to graft in the scrum and did some good work in the open.

Rhodes was the pick of the A forwards, and played a clinking good game. His following up was a treat to witness, and he led many of the rushes. The player throwing in the ball should not forget Rhodes on the line.

Fred Murray was not in the best of condition, and was inclined to tire towards the close of the game.

C. Speight and C. Stone were handicapped through being centre forwards. They were unable to secure the ball in the scrum for the reason previously mentioned. Each, however, did his fair share of work, and put in some good line work.

Valentine was none too good at handling the ball, and would have scored once had he picked up cleanly.

Heffernan was not conspicuous for anything brilliant.

Masefield played a great game at fullback. With one exception when he missed Roberts his game was the best fullback game of the season. His fine kicking proved a great help to his side, and brought forth rounds of applause.

McGill again played a first-class game, and deserves his place in the team for Saturday next. He is a fine scoring man, which feature should be absolutely essential in every rep. three-quarter. He is,

moreover, strong in defence, and possesses splendid pace.

Flynn played centre three-quarter in Warnock's place, and shaped remarkably well. With more experience he will become as good as the best of them, and should gain his cap next year.

Rishworth again proved what a good man he is. He crossed the line twice in capital style, but has a bad habit of passing forward. But for the latter fault he plays a sound game.

Edmonds and Ronayne also put in a lot of work. The former got off a lot of passing, but does not appear to make the most of his chances. He has not yet learned to pass at the right moment, but plays a good game at tackling, kicking, and stopping rushes. Ronayne's game was marked with great dash, but he should not run into the thick of the forwards.

Of the B forwards I liked best the play of Hallamore and Gittos. Hallamore was constantly on the ball and made no mistakes. Gittos performed his work as centre forward in a creditable manner. He was also clever on the line and started numerous rushes.

Of the remaining forwards Brady, Moore and Speight appeared to do most towards the success of the team.

At a meeting of the Selection Committee on Monday last the following team was chosen to play against Franklin on Saturday:—Fullback, R. Masefield, three-quarters, T. Roberts, H. G. Kissling, D. McGill; halves, W. Elliott, F. Edmonds, G. Ronayne; forwards, E. Anderson, H. Donald, R. Hallamore, P. Heffernan, P. Mills, R. Oliphant, W. Rhodes, and C. Speight.

The team to represent Franklyn is as follows:—Fullback, C. M'Cough; three-quarters, P. Condon, J. Crauston, J. Rolston; halves, S. Shaw, H. Hogan; forwards, J. Luke, W. Luke, Hyde, Hogan, Cornthwaite, T. Graham, Brownlee, J. M'Kean, G. M'Kean; emergency backs, D. Roulston, P. Findlay; emergency forwards, T. M'Chrystal, P. Munro.

It will be noticed that considerable alterations have been made in the Auckland team since last Saturday. Masefield takes the place of Kissling at fullback, and the latter is put in Breen's position at centre three-quarter. McGill is placed in Peace's position at wing three-quarter. Of the half backs Edmonds and Ronayne, who were originally chosen and then put out of the team for Braund and McDonald are again given places as centre and wing half respectively. In the forward division Stone and Valentine are put out to find room for Hallamore and Donald.

The following districts are represented in the selection:—Parnell 6, Newton 4, Ponsonby 1, Grafton 2, Suburbs 1, and City 1.

Considering that the players not in the team at present will not be afforded any further opportunity of proving their claims to places in the team, since the remaining Saturdays prior to the match against Taranaki are taken up with contests against Franklyn and Tauranga, it may be fairly assumed that the above team will be that which will battle against Taranaki. Against Franklyn and Tauranga Auckland should certainly win, and win easily, and if she cannot—then I pity her chances in the remaining fixtures for the season. This being so, it is more than probable that the only alteration which will take place for our first Interprovincial match will be the inclusion of Jervis, whose arm will no doubt by that time be all right.

In the event of Taranaki being represented by as powerful a combination as that which visited in Auckland in 1892 I certainly think that our boys will require to be at their very best to avert defeat. The team which plays on Saturday next is far from being a strong combination, and the fact of its meeting a team with no more experience than that of the Franklin boys, is a matter over which the Auckland Rugby Union should rejoice. Were our opponents on Saturday either Wellington, South Canterbury, New South Wales or Taranaki, my selection would be the visiting team. By the date of the first Interprovincial match the team will, however, have had several games together, which will doubtless enable it to acquire a little of the combination which it at present so much lacks.

Since the final selection it has been a question of considerable difficulty with many footballers to discover for what possible reason certain men have been thrown out of the team and others put in. The A team being beaten so badly, of course necessitated some alteration in our reps, but it is manifestly evident that the committee has effected the alterations

without even regard to ordinary common sense. In support of my assertion I offer the following facts: In the first practice match the two centre forwards for the A team were Hallamore and Stone. Apparently under the belief that Hallamore was unfit for the position the committee on the following Saturday placed Hallamore in the B team, and he wisely played in the back row of forwards. Stone is then partnered as centre forward by C. Speight, and the pair are opposed by H. Speight and Gittos, who perform their duties in a capital style and secure the ball on every occasion. The committee, evidently under the opinion that Stone was to blame for the A forwards being beaten, wisely exclude him from the team, which is perfectly correct, for a centre forward who under fair circumstances cannot get possession of the ball has no right in the team. Now any three school boys who have just arrived at the age of reason (let alone a body of old experienced players entrusted with the selection of a provincial team) would at once recognise that it was logical to fill Stone's position by either H. Speight or Gittos, whose proved superiority caused Stone's exclusion from the team. The committee, however, fail to see this, and make their action still more ridiculous and inconsistent by selecting Hallamore, with whose play on the previous Saturday they were dissatisfied. I do not wish it to be understood that I oppose Hallamore's inclusion in the team. Personally, I consider him a really good man, who is well worth a place, and I have all along advocated his claims to a cap; but strange as it may seem, it is the inconsistency rather than the sound judgment of the committee which secures for the province so good a man. Hallamore's case has converted into a strong conviction an impression which I always entertained, viz., that if a forward wishes to win his cap the best way calculated to defeat his object is to play centre-forward in a practice match, a position in which he cannot shine and is little seen.

The match between Ponsonby II. and North Shore II. proved a very interesting "go," resulting in a victory for the former by 6 points to 3. The match was played on No. 2 ground at Potter's in the presence of a large number of spectators, many of whom journeyed over from the Shore. The game itself was a fast, interesting and exciting contest, and following immediately after the splendid game on the previous Saturday between Ponsonby II. and Grafton II., caused many to believe that our juniors play equally as good football as the senior teams. The Shore boys played with great dash, and got on many passing and dribbling forward rushes which nearly ended in scores. The passing of the Ponsonby backs was, however, too consistent, and enabled their side to register two tries. For the winners Heaps and Graham each crossed the line, while Walker kicked a fine goal for Shore from a penalty kick. I was very much taken with the fine play of Heaps, who made many good runs. This young fellow has the makings of a great player, and he was the recipient of frequent applause for his kicking and running. This last win makes the first junior championship almost a certainty for Ponsonby.

In the remaining junior contests Grafton v. Newton and Suburbs v. City, the former in each case won by default.

In the second junior division the only match played was that between Newton and Grafton B. The former put a strong team in the field, which came as a surprise to the Newtonites. Newton, however, won after a close game by 3 points to nil. Mills scored a try for the winners. Parnell beat Ponsonby by default.

The match between Grafton A and City also fell through.

I notice by Sydney files to hand that the New South Wales team has started practice in view of their coming visit to New Zealand. Their style of play is two wing forwards and two half backs.

I have been shown (writes "Half-back" in the Sydney Referee) two private letters from Dunedin residents, who complain that the N.S.W.R.F. Union are, by their not accepting the invitation of the Otago (N.Z.) Union to play their provincial team, endeavouring to coerce that Union into joining the New Zealand Union. I might point out, in referring to this subject, that the N.S.W. Union being the guests of the N.Z. Union, and travelling on its initiative, can only play at such places as they should arrange them to visit, and that should the Otago Union desire to test the strength of the visiting team, they would have to approach the N.Z. Union to that effect.

Ted O'Hare's offer to take charge of