



[BY VIGILANT.]

Last Saturday's senior Cup matches were the semi-finals of the first round. Newton, Ponsonby, and Parnell defeated Suburbs, City, and North Shore respectively.

Newton and Suburbs met in front of the Stand, and the former team added another win to their list by 10 points to nil, after a keenly-contested game, in which there was little or nothing to choose between the teams until well into the latter half of the second spell, when condition told its tale—and Suburbs went to pieces.

Roberts was the best of the Newton rear division, playing an excellent game on the attack.

O. Freeman acquitted himself very well, though I prefer him on the wing.

Myrnot did all that was asked of him cleanly and smartly, and Hobson handled himself very well behind the pack.

The forwards worked well, and though beaten in the pack by Suburbs, they were more clever with their feet and hooked the ball more frequently.

Williamson was one of the hardest all-round grafters, and was ably seconded by Lewis, while "Nudger" Otway did good work in the pack.

Suburbs tried a new man in Otway at full back. He gives considerable promise, keeping his head and kicking well.

The trio of three-quarters—Sutherland, McPike, and Absolum—upheld their reputations, in fact the first named did yeoman service in this position, both as a defensive and an aggressive player. He kicked beautifully.

Cummings only played a moderate game, and, all things considered, I think the selectionists erred in throwing Bennett out on his one indifferent display, seeing his previous form had been really good.

Gage was in rare buckle, and made several clear openings for his side. His defence was perfect, and I fancy when all is said and done he is bound to go behind the pack for our rep. team.

Gillett, as heretofore, was the dandy of the Suburbs forwards, and stood out in all departments, while nothing could be finer than his line work. Goldsbury and Williams were also very noticeable.

Ponsonby beat City on the No. 2 ground by 13 points to nil, and, as mentioned in the other match, the game was of a much more evenly-contested character than the scores would lead the casual reader to believe. In fact City had very hard luck in not scoring on two or three occasions.

Webber was safe at full back for the winning side, and the three-quarters—Harrison, Biley, and Lendrum—left no room for complaint, other than that at times their passing was erratic, to say the least.



Photos by Sarony, Newton, Auckland.

SOME SPEDY AUCKLANDERS.

Wilson was always in the thick of the fight among the forwards, and was ably aided and abetted by Rule, Hemmingway, and Carder.

Donovan, at full-back for City, showed sound defence, and Siddell, Young, and Moros worked in unison and to good purpose, Corles being as clean as ever behind the scrum.

Gillett, Tyler, McMillan, Bates, and McKean were perhaps the pick of the forwards, though none of the others shirked their work.

Parnell had a day out at North Shore, running up the largest score (34 to 4) of the season in senior matches, against the marine suburb. The new blood has wonderfully strengthened the back division of the maroons, and they must henceforth take a power of beating in Cup matches.

Asher, the Tauranga lad, was the very best back on the field, and his play may be safely classed as brilliant. He did not show a weak spot.

Phelan was also as good as ever, nothing being more noticeable than his fine tackling.

Laws showed no signs of the erratic play with which he has been accused in some quarters.

A stronger and sounder set of club three-quarters could hardly be wished.

Murray and Handcock were the pick of a good all-round pack, with Gordon and Thomson close up.

Laing has lost none of his dash on the wing, and quite outshone Whitley.

In view of the amount of work with which they were taxed, the North Shore backs must be credited with sound defence, the only weak spot in this respect being Cardno, usually so safe. Nicholson and P. Gerrard stood out as the best pair, while Pitt did solid graft.

Dacre and Kett were the strongest forwards, though all played a hard game and showed better combination than in their last match.

The game of the day on Saturday next will be that between Newton and Parnell. Both sides have been giving a good account of themselves to date, and Newton may be depended on to fight hard to retain their unbeaten record, while Parnell, with their new men, will give them no end of difficulty to uphold the position.

The fourth round of the matches in connection with the Association Cup were played on Saturday, when the Rovers A and B teams respectively met United and Grafton at the Domain, while North Shore played the Y.M.C.A. and Grafton II. at Devonport. The chief interest was shown in the game between Rovers A and United, and a good assemblage of the public, including a sprinkling of the fair sex, attended at the Domain to witness "scientific" football. The game was fairly fast throughout and resulted in a draw of 3 goals each. The features of the game were the excellent combination of United front rank and the utter lack of unity in the same division of the opposing team. Individually the Rovers are a very fair lot, but collectively they have a good deal to learn. The forwards are good men, but they ought to be quick to grasp that individual brilliance is considerably discounted by absence of combination. Time after time on Saturday the Rovers should have scored, and they would have done so if more brain work had been used with the agility and speed which the forwards undoubtedly possess. As it was, they were beaten by the superior "head" play, in more senses than one, of the Heathers and Rice.

The Rovers back division is a strong one. Sawbridge worked like a Trojan and kicked with most effective judgment, while Russel's defence was sound and he was truly a "tower" of strength to his side.

Warner, in goal, stopped two or three of the "very warmest" during the afternoon, and has the makings of a safe custodian.

The play of the Heathers and Rice has been mentioned before, but I must say again that their skill in attack was brilliant in the extreme, and that they would worthily fill places in any "socket" team.

The United backs played a solid game, but Todd talks too much and questions every decision of the referee with "What's that for?"

Grafton routed over Rovers B to the tune of 9 goals to nil.



GEO. G. E. SPINLEY, CHAMPION SHOT OF AUCKLAND.



[BY A HUNTSMAN.]

THE HAWKE'S BAY HOUNDS.

[BY OUR NAPIER CORRESPONDENT.]

Mr T. H. Lowry's estate, Okawa, was the trysting ground of this pack on Saturday last, a great gathering of enthusiasts being in evidence to partake of the pleasures and excitement of the meet, in fact, constant attendants of the fixtures, ever that it was the biggest crowd that has ever turned out in Hawke's Bay. An excellent spread

was provided by Mr and Mrs Lowry, and the many good things provided being done ample justice to, the keen air seeming to have whetted the appetites of the followers. When all were ready to start on the business of the day, the pack and a great number of those intent on partaking of the sport were photographed, and they ought to make a very pleasing feature, as all were well equipped and splendidly mounted, and the hounds, twelve couples in number, never looked better. The first cast started a hare who made for the garden attached to the place when the hounds were whipped off and a try was made in some adjacent rushes where a great boer was put up who treated the hunters to a slashing run of over four miles, puss saving her life by taking advantage of some friendly undergrowth. During the bout one of the followers had the bad luck to strike it soft, getting into a bog, from which he and his mount, by the aid of several natives, was brought to light. The circumstances must have had a depressing effect upon him, however, for afterwards he was conspicuous by his absence. Two more hares were found in some patches of scrub, but they afforded no sport, getting rapidly away. The best run of the day, however, now took place, an extra fast strong puss getting put up in one of the paddocks near the homestead, leading her field at a great bat for over a couple of miles, when the hounds were at fault, but by vigorous application to their work, they sent her up again when she doubled back to where she had first been risen, the pack bowling her over at the finish. All hands were unanimous in their opinion that it was far and away the best spin of the season. The pace at which puss carried them along would not allow of any picking of places for easy fencing, and, therefore, a genuine display of jumping took place. Some ugly fences, plentifully sprinkled with barbed wire were met with on the journey, but only one follower came to grief, he getting a nasty fall, which knocked him about considerably. As a wind up to the day's outing a large number gathered at the homestead, where, over a parting glass of that "that over all the ills of life makes us victorious," many wishes for similar glorious runs were expressed. Those most noticeable amongst the throng were—Mrs G. L. Sunderland on Barlow, Mrs G. P. Donnelly on Tip Top, Miss Donnelly on Coppernob, Miss Jackson on Briar, Miss Groome on Waitiri, Miss A. St. Hill on David Garrick, Miss Ormond on Otaiari, Mr G. L. Sunderland (master) on Sift, Mr H. H. Jackson (huntsman) on Frisco, Mr E. A. Munson (whip) on Renai, Mr J. B. A'Deane on Novis, Mr T. Groome on Arkwright, Mr M. E. Groome on Moe, Mr L. Cottle on Puketoi, Mr H. Smith on Firefly, Mr H. A. Russel on Prescador, T. H. Lowry on Hinaki, Mr N. Hill on Erebus, Mr H. Abbott on Hercules, Mr B. Harley on Ariel Colt, Mr A. Hill on Miss Butercup, Mr Blythe on Richard, Mr C. Bennett on Dandy Dick, Mr S. Bennett on Ramu, Mr G. Elliott on Butter, Mr Kinross White on Wi Parata, Mr E. D. Wait on Carmo, Mr Sandtmann on Paddy, Mr H. Haesall on Goodlooks (black colt), Mr J. McNiven on Pilot Fish, Mr M. Nelson on Satanella, Mr Brewer on Cheque, Mr W. Edwards on Prairie Grass, Mr Gordon on Shamrock, Mr O'Neill on Spook, Mr Nat Noble on a good out of a brown horse, Mr G. Smith on Philistine, Mr G. Fuszard on Lighthouse, Mr T. Cleaver on Sherenden, Mr T. Villiers on Tomirangi, Mr McNamara on Repo, Mr Lane on Juggler.

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