



[BY VIGILANT.]

**AUCKLAND v. OHINEMURI.**

**A Poor Show by the Reps.**

Last week I expressed the hope that a match would be arranged for last Saturday, so that the representatives might have the advantage of playing together in a game. If I could have foreseen Saturday's play I would not have given utterance to that hope, for the exposition of football given by the chosen players of Auckland was terribly off. I suppose the exhibition did not count for much in the eyes of the players who deeply disappointed the spectators by their tame display. Against the Ohinemuri men—notwithstanding they were a fine body of grafters—the Auckland reps ought to have run up a big score. But they did nothing of the kind. They won the game certainly, but the win was not of the sort to encourage people with the idea that our men would have a successful time on their southern trip. The reps. won, and for that much thanks. Had the Ohinemuri backs possessed a little more knowledge of the game I believe there would have been some more crowing in the Thames Peninsula. We have been spared that, so we must put down the exhibition as due to careful tactics in order to prevent accidents. The rep. forwards should have simply run over the opposing vanguard, they really did it now and then, but the spasmodic efforts quickly snuffed out, and the pack returned to the go-as-you-please style of play. Just for a few brief moments in the second spell the team woke up to the danger they were in, and put a little dash and vim into the game. However, the Ohinemuri men were not to be walked over, and finding the work too hard, perhaps, the Aucklanders ungracefully returned to the old order of things. The form was not representative by any means, but, doubtless, when "going for the beans" on Saturday we shall hear of a far better exhibition. And we shall want to. The Ohinemuri forwards were a sterling lot, and they worked very well against their more experienced and weightier opponents. Coote, at half back, put in a big amount of useful work both in kicking and defence. He stopped the rushes gallantly and when his forwards gave him the ball he was quick in getting it away. Rockley was also very useful in defence. He marked Phelan very effectively, and spoilt the latter's openings time after time. George Gillett, the full-back of the rep. team, played centre three-quarter for Ohinemuri, and a rattling fine game he played. He was the mainstay of the team, and in kicking, running, and tackling he was alike excellent. He had every opportunity given him of showing his defensive powers and he proved himself capable and sure. Bradley and Landy, the wing three-quarters, also played with plenty of dash, while McLean at full back did his work cleanly and without any fuss. He was generally all there in collaring his man and some of his kicking was excellent. The forwards were all very keen on the ball, but, of course, were not such a brilliant pack as the Aucklanders undoubtedly are. Nevertheless they played a vigorous and sterling game. The rep. forwards played quite below the standard expected of them but doing the few minutes referred to above. Generally, they lacked dash and seemed disinclined to make the game willing. Murray was conspicuous as he always is, while Laing and Wilson on the wings were quite alive and kicking. "Jock" McGregor was at certain times the same old "Jock," but at others he was hard to recognise as the man who played such a brilliant game for the Thames. Young, at half, showed no falling off on his best form, though now and then his kicking was all awry. Phelan—well Phelan must have been "feelin'" a bit sick at leaving the Wairoa belles, for he displayed nothing like his true form, albeit Rockley looked after him very closely on the nearside. Absolum ought never to have played on Saturday. He was not fit, and he played against the doctor's orders. He looked to be badly hurt after the impact with Bradley, but under the care of Dr. Erson he quickly recovered. McPike played a good game, as did Harrison, but there was not quite the passing one expected from the openings made. Pillenger, who came on the field when Absolum retired, did all serenely, and Dick McGregor, at full back, was safe and sound. It was no fault of his that Bradley scored for Ohinemuri, for Harrison, instead of leaving the ball to McGregor, tried to be too soon, and failed, kicking the ball right into Bradley's hands. Absolum scored the first try for Auckland, and but for his usual weakness of making for the touch-line instead of the enemy's line direct, he would have scored more. Harrison also scored, through the help of McPike. Murray's place-kicking was good, though he was not successful in gaining a goal. Twice he hit the post, and the third try was not very far away. Six to three in favor of Auckland was the final score in a game that reflected more credit on the losers than the winners.

**THE AUCKLAND TOUR.**

**FIXTURES.**

- September 2.—Otago.
- September 7.—Canterbury.
- September 9.—Wellington.
- September 14.—Taranaki.

The Auckland reps. left for the South by the Rototiti on Tuesday. The team travels under the joint management of Messrs F. Murray and J. Gillett, and consists of the following:—Full-back, G. Gillett; three-quarters, Absolum, McPike, Harrison, McGregor, and Pillenger;

five-eight, Phelan; half-back, Young; wings, Laing and Wilson; forwards, Irvine, Gillett, Scott, C. McGregor, Cunningham, Murray, Gallagher, Wilson (City), and Tyler.

At Parawai on Thursday teams representing the Auckland and Thames Unions played a drawn match neither side scoring.

At Fardon Park, Napier, on Thursday, the Hawke's Bay reps met and defeated the Manawatu fifteen by 37 points to nil.

At a meeting of the managing committee of the New Zealand Rugby Union, held in Wellington on Thursday night, a letter was read from W. McKenzie (a well-known ex-representative player), stating that a friend of his was anxious to know the conditions which would be required to send a football team to tour Great Britain under the auspices of the New Zealand Union. His friend proposed that a team, which should consist of twenty men, should leave the colony at the end of next season, and be absent for eight months, that it should be selected by the promoter and two gentlemen nominated by the New Zealand Union, that as the expense of the tour would be £3000, the promoter should receive eight per cent. on the amount he expended, and one-fifth of the net proceeds, and that the team should also play in New Zealand and New South Wales. It was decided to send a copy of Mr McKenzie's letter to each of the unions, with a request that the unions should express their opinions on the proposal.

The junior team selected to represent Hawke's Bay against the Wairarapa juniors, at Fardon next Saturday, is as follows:—Full-back, B.

Gerrard scored two tries, both of which were converted.

Canterbury beat Nelson on Saturday by 17 points to nil.

On Saturday the Wairarapa reps. defeated the Manawatu fifteen by 17 to 3.



**THE NEW ZEALAND CHAMPIONSHIP**

The following is the account of the final tie for the Championship of New Zealand:—

Duncan won the honor, and drove short of the ditch, the ball splashing in the water that lay on the flat, and rolling on to a good lie. Perston's drive was shorter, and slightly sliced, the ball dropping into occasional water, from which it was lifted and dropped without a penalty stroke. Duncan made a splendid brassy second, which fell into a ditch far up the field, and Perston, with a poor second and third, found the same ditch, and fozzling his approach, got into the same ditch a second time. Duncan thus won the hole easily, going down in 6, which, against the wind, with the penalty stroke for the ditch, was a good performance. At the second hole Duncan drove out of line down the wind into

by bad putting, and the hole was halved. Perston should have certainly have won both these holes, which, had he done so, would have put him one up at this stage of the game. At the seventh hole the players had the wind behind them, and the rain had practically ceased. The spectators prepared for an exhibition of long driving, and they were not disappointed, for Duncan, putting every ounce into his stroke, almost drove the green. Perston also got in a good drive, but did not get quite the same length. The hole was halved. At the sheepyards Duncan drove into the ditch to the left of the green with his iron, and Perston went short to the right, but recovered with a fine approach. Duncan also approached prettily, but the penalty stroke of the ditch made him one more than his opponent. The hole seemed a certainty for Perston, but again he failed to gauge the strength of the green, and the hole was halved. Duncan considerably overdid the ninth hole, which is 179yds from the tee, and Perston with a fine drive, got level with the green. Perston, with his second, was 2yds from the hole, and Duncan lying farther away, over-ran the hole 6yds, and Perston again putting badly only halved, instead of winning the hole, Duncan for the third time generously not requiring his opponent to put down his last short putt. Driving to "the crater," the finest hole on any links in New Zealand, Duncan drove a long ball, allowing a little for the cross wind, but the hit was apparently a little sliced, for the ball did not come in. Perston did not clear the hill, but lay well on a grassy slope, near a yawning bunker. His second was short, which gave Duncan the advantage, and the latter won the hole, Perston returning his generosity in the matter of not asking him to put down a short putt. Duncan was now 2 up. At the eleventh hole Duncan drove a fine ball over the fence and the adjacent hummock, but Perston made a poor shot, short of the fence. With his iron he went to the right of the green, and Duncan went just over it with his second. Perston made a fine short approach, and Duncan also got on the green with his third. Once more Perston threw away his chance, and by bad putting let his opponent win, thus giving him a lead of 3 up. Duncan's drive to the summit was a splendid shot, the ball going straight as a die and striking the top hillock, making an indentation in the soft earth, and rolling back about 3ft. On a dry day such a drive would have had a run that would have taken it almost up to the green. Perston took the ground with his drive and did not get much distance, and his second, though long, was too much to the right of the line. This put him at a disadvantage, and he lost the hole, giving Duncan a lead of 4 up. From the summit Duncan, with a fine drive, got over the hummocks, and Perston did likewise, but fozzled his second. Duncan's approach with his second was a very pretty one, and was deservedly applauded. Perston also (with his third) made a pretty approach. There was water lying on the green, but Duncan, with his putting cleck, ran over and lay dead, winning the hole in 4, Perston's putt for a half, as usual, going past the hole. Perston did not hole out; 5 up and 5 to play. Duncan drove a long ball past the fourteenth hole to the right, and Perston made a splendid low drive, which landed near the green, and was applauded by the spectators. Duncan was not up with his approach, but Perston played a very pretty approach, which ran up dead, and called forth renewed applause. Duncan got his third nicely on the green and was down in 4. Perston missed his putt, and so the hole was halved, and the championship won by Duncan, 5 up and 4 to play.

The return match between Napier and Whare-rangi was played at Waiohiki on Saturday, and resulted in a win for Napier by 24 to 4. A ladies' match between sides picked by Miss Donnelly and Mrs K. Tareha was won by the latter. Local golfers are now busily getting into form for the tournament, which is to commence at Waiohiki on September. Large entries are expected from this province, prominent amongst whom will be Mr S. H. Gollan—Napier correspondent.

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MR OLIVER BAINBRIDGE, M.A.

Franklin; three-quarters, F. Russell, D. Nicholson, G. Martin; five-eights, G. Baird, T. Jago; half, P. King; forwards, McCarthy, Mullaney, Falvey, Gardiner, Graham, Tyne, Cunningham; emergencies, Horne, Minett (forwards), Eddy (back). The senior representatives left for Wellington on Tuesday, and played at that place on the following day. The only alteration in the original selection is that Bisell (five eight) was unable to get away, and his place is taken by J. O'Connell. Baker accompanied the team as extra forward.—Napier correspondent.

On Saturday the Otago and Taranaki teams met at Dunedin, and after an interesting game the contest resulted in a draw, each side registering a try. In the second spell a very serious accident occurred to Armit, the crack three-quarter back. It is feared that there is injury to the spine.

Taranaki plays Canterbury at Christchurch on Saturday.

The Thames School of Mines team played the Auckland University, at Potter's Paddock, on Saturday, when a thoroughly enjoyable game ended in a draw. The University team was presented with a beautiful banner, which had been made by Mrs Segar and a number of other ladies interested in the University.

At Devonport on Saturday the North Shore Rowing Club played the Auckland Rowing Club, when the Shore won by 10 points to nil. Peter

rough country, and Perston, after a good drive, got close to the green with an equally good second. Duncan had to play two more on to the green, and Perston going out in 4 won the hole—all square. Both players made good drives against the wind from the third tee, but Perston's second was slightly topped, while Duncan got in a long brassy shot. Perston approached too far, and his putting being somewhat weak, he played two more on the green, and gave up the hole. Both drives from the fourth tee were good, Perston's being the better of the two. Duncan's second, played with his iron, went right on to the green. Perston's second was also a good one, but slightly off the green, in the rougher grass. Both went short of the green with their third. They lay dead with their fourth, and then agreed to halve. The fifth hole saw Perston, after a fair drive and a very pretty approach, on the green, Duncan approaching over the green on to a sandy patch on the covered drain that runs past the hole. His putt was also too strong, and playing the odd Duncan went over again. Perston, however, did likewise. This was a let off for Duncan, for Perston should have won the hole if he had been putting in anything like his true form. Playing down to the Kaikoura hole, both players made good drives, and Perston, with his brassy, from a crummy lie, sent a beautiful, long, low, skimming shot up to the green, which drew forth the applause of the spectators. Duncan's second was a poor shot, and on the green Perston had again all the advantage, but threw it away