

FOOTBALL.

Beautiful weather favoured the continuation of the district cup competition of the Auckland Rugby Union on Saturday. The prospect of an exhibition game of American football by sailors from the Baltimore attracted a good attendance at Alexandra Park, while the local games also proved rather more interesting than usual.

The chief attraction was the match between City and Devonport on No. 1 ground, and the supporters of the latter were full of hope that their men had improved so much as to have a good chance of defeating the all-conquering City fifteen. This was not to be, however, City winning by the good margin of 20 points to nil. The City men were soon out for a score, and a passing run by Magee, Smith and Gladding gave the latter an opening, and he dashed over, but Nicholson's kick failed. Shore attacked strongly, and there were some rapid exchanges. Eventually Nicholson got the ball from a line-out, and he got over the Shore line, but Magee's kick just failed.

After half time the game livened up, City making a series of fierce onslaughts on their opponents' line, almost scoring on more than one occasion. Ultimately Smith, by fast following up, got the ball and registered a good try, but Magee again failed with his kick. Again and again City attacked, faulty passing losing them chances. However, an opportunity came to Magee, which he was prompt to take advantage of, and he scored near the corner, but did not convert. From a free kick at the 25 Neighbour had a shot at the City goal, but missed; then Smith put in a fine run, being stopped near the line. A moment later Seeling took the leather across, but Magee's kick was faulty. The final City score was the outcome of a pretty piece of concerted play by Smith, Little and W. Tyler, the latter getting over. Magee at last kicked a goal, and then time was called.

Parnell and Ponsonby tried conclusions, an even game going in favour of the latter team by 8 points to nil. All the scoring was done by Francis, who scored a try in the first half, which he converted, adding a penalty goal in the second spell. The game was rather fast and interesting throughout, but both sides missed opportunities of scoring.

The once formidable Newton team appear to have gone to pieces, and on Saturday suffered defeat at the hands of Grafton by 6 points to nil. Grafton, however, put in the field a much stronger team than usual, some of their old champions coming to their rescue. Beale scored in the first half, but Huddleston failed to convert, while in the second spell Eaton kicked a goal from a mark by Renwick.

Parnell II. beat Ponsonby II. by 11 points to 3.

City II. and North Shore II. played a draw with 3 points each.

Newton II. rather easily defeated Grafton II. by 14 points to nil.

Playing in the secondary schools' matches Sacred Heart defeated King's College Old Boys by 6 points to nil (a try and a goal). University had a win over Southern Colleges, scoring 21 points to nil. Grammar

School met Prince Albert College and won, after a very close match, by a goal from a mark (three points) to nil. King's College II. defeated Grammar School II. by a try (three points) to nil.

Owing to the constant defeats of his old team, Grafton, "Scobie" McKenzie was induced to don a jersey again on Saturday. He got a nasty fall early in the game and went full-back for a while. Although short of condition, he at times showed all his old brilliancy.

Kiernan was another man who turned out for Grafton, playing a good game, despite lack of training.

None of the public schools' matches took place on Saturday on account of the death of the Premier.

The Canterbury and Otago Unions postponed all matches on Saturday as a mark of respect to the memory of the late Premier.

The City senior team has obtained permission from the Auckland Rugby Union to play a series of matches in Sydney.

The Cambridge Rugby Union has arranged the following list of matches for the season:—June 23: A and B teams match. Saturday, June 30: Rep. match, Te Awamutu v. Cambridge, to be played at Te Awamutu. Saturday, July 7: Cambridge West v. Maungatautari; play at Maungatautari. Wednesday, July 11: City Juniors v. Maungatautari Juniors; at Maungatautari. Wednesday, July 18: City v. West, at Cambridge. Saturday, July 28: Maungatautari v. City, at Cambridge.

Playing under Association rules Ponsonby defeated Tabernacle by 4 goals to 2.

North Shore beat Thistle by 2 goals to nil.

Olympic and Ivanhoe played a draw, each side scoring 3 points.

Ponsonby beat North Shore by 1 goal to nil.

Tabernacle II. failed to muster a team against W.Y.M.I. B team.

W.Y.M.I. A team beat City by 2 goals to nil.

Playing under Australian rules Eden defeated Austral by 6 goals 14 behinds to 5 goals 8 behinds. The game was very evenly contested throughout.

The senior team to visit Waihi next Saturday to play a match under Australian rules, will be chosen from the following players, who have given their names as available for the trip:—Eden: E. George, W. O'Connor, J. O'Connor, H. Callan, W. Davies, Kilduff. Imperials: C. Stevens, G. Glenister, J. McPherson, Stevenson, Edwards, W. Spence, E. Goodfellow. Austral: Abfalter, Wadsworth, Moss, Stewart, Wells, Ryan, egarty.

The following is the junior team to play against the Waihi juniors:—B. Bernie, A. Bettis, H. Bettis, T. Cole, G. Cotton, Fogarty, H. F. Forster, C. Harrison, D. Kell, T. Mason, F. Monk, D. McKay, C. Olsen, H. Rutherford, F. Rutherford, R. Sloman, G. Thwaites, D. Witer.

Friend, when a cold invades the nose, And damp the daily hanky grows, When racking coughs distract the breast, And rob you of your nightly rest, And shooting pains in chest and joint To pulmonary troubles point— What can once more good health ensure? Why, simply Woods' Great Peppermint Cure.

HOCKEY.

(By "Onlooker.")

Auckland A beat United by two goals to nil. The game was very even right through.

University seniors beat Auckland B by one goal to nil. University had all the best of the game, and bad luck was the cause of the small score.

St. George A played United juniors, the former winning by three points to nil.

University juniors had an easy win from St. George's B by nine points to nil.

University seniors versus Auckland B was one of the keenest games I have seen this season. The Varsity men played a magnificent game, and although Auckland made several desperate attempts to score, the Varsity saved each time.

St. George's A did not play such a good game as usual last Saturday, and bad shooting lost them several goals. P. Steele is decidedly the strongest player St. George's have, and he made some splendid strokes, both in the first and second spells.

Auckland B are very much inclined to offside play. Several times on Saturday the referee had cause to pull up the Auckland forwards for this offence.

University juniors meet St. George's A on Saturday. This should prove a very hard tussle, as each has played well the whole season.

McClure and Speight, the University senior fullbacks, played splendidly against the big Auckland fellows. In fact, the whole University team could give the other senior clubs wrinkles as to combined play.

The Hockey Association hold their euchre party and dance on July 6 in the new Royal Albert Hall. All clubs are taking a very keen interest in this function, and it is to be hoped that a good profit is made towards sending the rep. team South.

Syd. Sellers is a very safe back playing for College Rifles A.

H. Laird, of St. George's B, plays a really good game, but this team lacks combination, and forwards and backs seem to all play of a heap.

Why do Auckland place those stupid canvas guards over the goals? It seems almost impossible for the referee to see when the ball crosses the line if there is a bit of a tussle, besides, they must throw a shadow over the line and make it difficult for the goal-keeper to see a swift ball come in.

L.C.R. received a bye from Te Huia.

Kopana B beat L.C.R. juniors by 11 goals to nil.

Kopana met Moana at Onehunga, and after a close game the former won by two goals to one. Misses Dobbie and Taylor scored for Kopana.

Moana beat Te Huia by four points to nil.

Kopana A juniors met L.C.R. juniors at Epsom, and after a good game Kopana came out victorious.

By the Talune, arriving from the South to-day, will arrive a team of lady hockey players from the Gisborne Club. They are as follows:—Forwards, Misses Wacksmann, B. Goffe, Sherratt (2); centre, Miss E. Cussen; halves, Misses E. Matthews, Sherratt, and Reynolds; backs, Misses M. Wallis, N. Woodbine, Johnson; goalkeeper, Miss J. Jones; emergency, Miss L. Matthews. The team will be captained by Miss W. Reynolds and Miss B. Goffe will carry out the duties as secretary. They will play Kopana on Friday and Moana on Saturday.

College Rifles A beat Auckland juniors on Saturday by 5 to nil.

ATHLETICS.

The cause of athletics is not in too good a way just now in the colony, and it is beginning to look as though the enemy is not all on the outside of the walls. It is generally understood that the "Canterbury Times" is controlled by a gentleman who holds a high office in the Athletic Association. If this is the case the paper's constant leaning towards the N.Z. Athletic Union, or professional element, as against the Amateur Association is simply inexplicable. The following is from the pen of "Sprinter," who writes the column devoted to athletics in the Southern paper:—"Far more profitable than 'slanging' the New Zealand Athletic Union would it be for the various centres to spend the winter months devising some plan for making next season's gatherings appeal to the public more strongly than has been the case hitherto. Last season after the Pioneer Club, on a perfect day, carried out a sports meeting at Lancaster Park to less than 200 spectators, I drew attention to the necessity for some radical change in the programmes. It was evident that the public didn't care two straws whether the Pioneer Club held one meeting a year or five; whether they were 'evening meetings,' 'Saturday afternoons,' or full-blown holiday fixtures; whether the entries were large or small the man in the street wouldn't walk across the pavement to see the 'show.' The position was so clear that it couldn't be misunderstood, and I wrote then as plainly as pen could put words to paper that our athletic programmes must be revised. Yet what has been done? Our amateur sports promoters blunder along on the old-fashioned, stereotyped lines, praying for a 'revival of interest in amateurism,' and too blind to see that their utter lack of imagination and enterprise is at the bottom of the trouble. Messrs. Maryatt, Paape, Pollock and Co. talk glibly of fight as against the new cash body. Are they going to win a fight against the New Zealand Athletic Union by submitting to the general public—which must in the end decide the issue—a programme that the said general public has already declared most emphatically, whilst the bodies affiliated to the Union put forth a schedule of events that by its variety attracts all sections of the community? The state of affairs existing in Christchurch is reflected to a greater or less extent in other parts of the colony. In Auckland amateurism is practically defunct, and in Dunedin the championship meeting, carried out on a perfect day, only attracted about 3000 people. Wellington has shown an improvement in the last two seasons, but even there the results are not so satisfactory as they should be. One year I was at the Oamaru Caledonian Society's annual two days' gathering when the receipts from all sources totalled close on £1000: this in a town with less than 5000 of a population. It is by thinking hard over such an achievement and emulating it that amateur enthusiasts will be far better employed than by squabbling over a sentimental objection to a diplomatic move by the N.Z.A.A. Council."

"Sprinter" concludes his remarks with some rather personal remarks concerning the well-known Sydney writer "Prodigal," who is accused of knowing nothing, muddling, and various other crimes, because he in season and out of season has voiced the claims of pure amateurism. The Sydney scribe is so eminently fitted to take care of himself in any contest with "Sprinter" that he can safely be left to do it, but what is more important to us here is that it begins to look as though one of the very men who should be the mainstay of amateur sport in this colony is, to say the least of it, getting very faint-hearted in the cause. I should like to hear what Mr. Pollock will have to say on the question.

George Blake has returned to Australia (says the "Town and Country Journal.") He was leading in the Marathon race, of 26 miles, for nearly two-thirds of the way, when he was attacked by cramp in the leg. He continued, however, and finished eighth. The fact that the race was run on a hard bed militated against his chances. The arrangements at Athens were nothing like so good as at athletic meetings in Australia.

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