

NEW ZEALAND MAORI RUGBY FOOTBALL REPRESENTATIVES Versus South Africa — At Wellington, 28th August 1965

Back Row: S.M. Going Second Row: W.J. Nathan W.P. Barclay Sitting: (Selector)

P.S. Ransley R.E. Rangi

J.L. Collins J.H. Marriner W.J. Potae W.A. Rogers

G.J. Waterreus P.J. Myers L.P. Haddon H.J. Maniapoto K. Crawford M. Maniapoto L.G. Cook H.J. Paiaka J.T. Porima

(Vice Captain)

In Front:

(Manager)

W.R. Wordley W.P. Sparks (Captain) (Manager)

M.A. Herewini K. Davis (Liaison Officer)

B.A. Cressy

A.M. Loughlin

(Frank Thompson, Crown Studios, Cuba Street, Wellington)

which, we feared at first, was going to cost him his life, he would have been a first choice for the Kiwi Army team captained by Charlie Saxton which toured through the British Isles, France and Germany before it played a few matches at home in New Zealand, all in 1945-46.

As a first choice, Mick would have outranked Bob Scott and Herbie Cook. two pakena who were chosen for the side and each of whom Scott in New Zealand and Cook in Rugby League in England, later became celebrated, Scott to the point where he was regarded as a genius of the game, fit to compare with Nepia.

I suggest, as a possibility, as a starting-point for a good, strong arguments, that if Mick Kenny had been allowed to play through his career without physical impairment, he might have turned out to be good enough to challenge Nepia as El Supremo among Maori fullbacks.

all-time

But, putting aside this notion, which probably sounds fanciful anyway, one soon becomes involved in all sorts of difficulties in trying to sort out a Maori all-time XV. How, for example, do you separate Sid Going of North Auckland and Jimmy Mill of the great Hawkes Bay Ranfurly Shield teams of the 1920s? Sid was a wonderful player. He was a genius in his own style. That style was not easy to follow.

One of his North Auckland captains, a pakaha, said: "What can you say about Sid? I would arrange with the team that, having won the ball, we would run it. That's to say, Sid would start a passing-rush among the backs and, as and where we could, we forwards would join in. Well, we would win the ball. Whereupon Sid would immediately hoist it over the top of the forwards and chase after it like a bat out of hell. Or else I would tell the team;

'Right, we'll win this ball. Then we'll drive it. Sid nipping around the flanks to put the ball back among us so that we could charge as a group into a try to split the opposition.' OK, we'd win the ball. Whereupon, I'd stand up and see that Sid had set the backs going in a run. He used to fool us. Maybe that's why he so often fooled the opposition".

Mill was much more the servant of his team's tactics; which, getting on for 60 years ago, were a great deal simpler than they are now, when all sorts of schemes are being cooked up as attacking, tactical moves. Jimmy, who'd been sprint champion at Nelson College and who was very fast over the ground, was a subtler man than Sid. His great individual ploy was a try around the blindside when the Bay scrummed close to the opponent's goalline. He used it seldom — Charlie Saxton was also outstanding in this kind of dangerous, rewarding play. But when Jimmy did decide to go, you could lay half-crowns on