

## The Pachyderm Pack

sons of Rugby, that possession of the ball is the biggest advantage of the game. And, having devised the means of ensuring possession, they saw to it that their backs had plenty of the ball and were given every opportunity. There again they were fortunate, for, as every Rugby enthusiast in the Dominion knows, they had the talent in the back-line to see the job through—as proof of this, it is only necessary to point to the fact that of the 87 tries scored during the tour 52 were gained by members of the three-quarter line.

The Springboks at once gave a pointer to their calibre by beating Auckland in the opening match of the New Zealand tour by 19 points to five. At Hamilton, where they played a combined King Country-Waikato-Thames Valley fifteen, they encountered muddy going and were held to a 6-3 victory after the combined team had led at one stage by three to nil. Hard-pressed throughout, the tourists gained their six points in the last nine minutes of the game. Better conditions at New Plymouth enabled them to defeat Taranaki by 17 to three (though the trend of play was far more even than the scores indicated) and then Manawatu and Wellington were overwhelmed in turn, the scores being respectively 39-3 and 29-0.

Coming just before the first Test at Wellington, these two defeats sent a wave of Rugby pessimism surging throughout New Zealand—a feeling which was not relieved by the knowledge that not one of the All Black backs had previous international experience and that J. G. Rankin, hailed as an outstanding loose forward, had contracted influenza and could not play. The Springboks, on the other hand, were not without their worries. It began to rain the night before the Test and there was a steady drizzle on the morning of the game, while the full-back, G. Brand, was suffering from a muscle injury and had to be

replaced by Turner. Both Nel and M. M. Louw were dropped by the team's selection committee.

There was surprise and elation in New Zealand Rugby circles when the much-maligned All Black team smashed its way to a 13-7 victory after a hard, dour match. Despite the loss of R. H. Ward to replace D. G. Cobden after the latter, on the wing, had been injured, the forwards rose to the occasion in magnificent style and completely outplayed the heavier Springbok pack. In the back-line there were many flashes of brilliance by the mercurial J. A. Hooper, while J. L. Sullivan tied down L. Babrow, regarded as the most dangerous man in the opposing line, and the magnificent boot of D. Trevathan brought 10 invaluable points. The team as a whole played like a machine in the traditional pattern of New Zealand football, with the backs striving for openings down the middle and the forwards swarming up to carry on these thrusts. Only one try was scored on either side, but the All Blacks played winning football all the way.

Having beaten a combined Nelson-Marlborough-Golden Bay team at Blenheim by 22 to nil, the South Africans went on to Christchurch to smash Canterbury's fifty-years unbeaten record, winning by 23 to eight. West



Coast-Buller went down by 31 to 6, and South Canterbury by 43 to six before the time arrived for the second Test at Christchurch.

With Nel this time in command, South Africa took the field determined to scrum the All Black pack into the ground and it was obvious from the