

The Prince Alfred College Chronicle

Lofty Disdain: An account of the Royal Match intercollegiate Football, Wednesday, 10 July,

1901.

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The Royal Match.

Our annual football match, the first intercollegiate contest which has been witnessed by Royalty, was played on Wednesday, July 10th, before one of the largest crowds which has ever assembled on the Adelaide Oval. Fond parents, critical though loyal elder brothers, excited sisters, ardent supporters, friends, and sight-seers, were all mingled together in an enormous crowd more than 12,000 strong. Indeed, several of the weaker sex became almost hysterical in the support of their doughty champions who were doing battle in the arena below. It was at the request of our popular Governor, Lord Tennyson, who has always taken great interest in the two Colleges, that the match was played during the Royal visit, and we were only too ready to share the honour of entertaining our august visitors.

All the arrangements were perfect and were carried out without a hitch, save for the wave of disappointment that came over us when the Royal carriage arrived without the Duke, who like any ordinary mortal had been suffering from toothache and was under the doctor's orders. We could not help thinking of the line "All human things are subject to decay," from which law even a ducal tooth is not exempt. However, our disappointment was soon forgotten in the gracious presence of his consort. Deafening cheers and wild wavings of flags greeted the Duchess as she passed the pavilions packed with riotous Reds and Blues. The Cadets drawn up as guard of honour looked as if they could scarce forbear to cheer, but their set faces proclaimed the power of military discipline, and they bore themselves bravely.

When the Royal carriage stopped in front of the Governor's box, which was gorgeously arrayed, the reception committee were introduced by the Governor, and with admiration tinged with envy we watched the bows and curtsies that Royalty alone can call forth. We were represented on this committee by the Rev. T. Piper, our president, and Mrs. Piper, and Mr. and Mrs. Bayly. Then came the presentation to each member of the two teams of a

silver token attached to the school colours and bearing the inscription "Royal Match, Igor "the gift of Mr. Muirhead. The lucky recipients, as they bowed more or less gracefully before their future Queen and took their token from her hand, must have felt like heroes being invested with the rewards of valour; certainly no V.C. will be more treasured. The Duchess was then conducted to the Royal box, where she was presented with a basket of flowers by the diminutive duces of the First Form of each college.

During the afternoon Clem Hill amongst others was presented, and the Duchess showed her well known tact by asking for the colours of the two schools. These were promptly supplied by the Sports Masters, who under the circumstances must have been proud to "strike their colours." The "crowning mercy," the piece de resistance, of the afternoon, however, was the Royal request, or, should we say, command, that an extra week's holiday should be granted, to which all but worried parents set the seal of approbation with a mighty cheer. For the first half of the match, even the most obstinate Blue-and-White supporter must acknowledge that Princes played the best game. Their combined play, kicking, and passing were far in advance of their opponents' efforts, and the scores did not exaggerate their superiority. However, such cannot be said of the third quarter, in which the Saints almost ran away from the Princes. Their marking, kicking, and general play was far superior to that which they displayed in the early stages of the game, and had they kept up in the last quarter this sure yet brilliant game, the final scores might not have looked so favourable to the Reds.

THE PLAY.

From the bounce the Princes at once took charge, and carried the ball rapidly into the Saints' territory, where a minor was scored. On the kick-off Campbell collared and dashed off, but the ball was returned again and the Princes added another behind. The Reds kept up the attack, and their first goal quickly followed, through the agency of Rounsevell. After the bounce the Saints centred, and some lively play ensued. The ball was carried to the river end through good play by Hooper, Homburg, and PRINCE 'ALFRED COLLEGE CHRONICLE 463 Drew, and the last named had a shot from about 50 yards which, to the great delight of the Princes, went spinning between the posts. The Reds continued their aggressive tactics, and in spite of good work by Campbell, Gwynne, and Muirhead, kept the ball well among their forwards. Drew put in some more splendid play, and forwarded to a fellow-red within easy shooting distance, but a behind was the only result. Princes were still attacking, with L. Cowan, Homburg, and Moffat well to the fore, when the bell rang, leaving the scores-P.A.C.-2 goals 5 behinds. S,P.S.C.Nil.

After the bounce the Saints began better, Campbell especially being prominent. They could not, however, withstand their opponents' determined onslaught. Throssell, who was playing a splendid game half-back, with Catchlove, Moore, and Cowan were prominent for the Reds, while Flood and G wynne were striving hard to pull their team together. Drew had a shot, which went wide, and directly afterwards Rooney standing right in front of the posts caused the two flags to be raised amidst a perfect babel of yells, trumpets, and even a few stray screams. The Saints, however, were by ,no means beaten. Fine play by Campbell gave Edwards the opportunity of opening the score for the Saints with a minor. Throssell put in some good work for the Reds, but Eley relieved, and an excellent chance was spoiled by

him. Fast work by Princes on the wing (Wight) got the leather down the Cathedral end, where notwithstanding a fine effort by Flood, Princes secured their fourth and last goal through the agency of Drew. Then the Saints had another go, but Throssell, Doudy, and Goode kept them out. The "prolate sphere" was rushed rapidly up and down the ground, and Drew had another shot, which failed. The Reds missed two easy shots in succession, and the Blues worked the ball well forward, but their attacks failed again. Campbell was again prominent, and was the means of scoring the first goal for his team. A scrimmage in front gave him his opportunity, and amidst yell upon yell from Blue supporters he brought up the two flags. The Reds, nothing daunted by this alarming success, once more resumed the attack, Drew accounting for a minor Just before half time was called.

P.A.C.-4 goals 7 behinds. S.P.S.C.r goal 3 behinds. After a long interval, during which the Duchess of Cornwall and York presented the players with medals as a souvenir of the Royal Match, the ball was set going again by Mr. Dean. The Saints got to work at once, and Throssell, Doudy, and Stapley were kept busy. Flood accounted for a brilliant run which placed Sewell in a position to score, and six points were added to the Saints' tally. Saints were now working well together, and inspired perhaps by so close a contact with Royally, perhaps by the thought that if victory was to be theirs they must come within reach of their opponents' score now or never, they began to run all round the Reds. Doudy, Goode, and Throssell were kept busy, but they could not keep the Blues out, and two behinds were registered in quick succession. Edwards with a good shot put up their third goal amidst increasing excitement.

After the bounce Princes once more asserted themselves, and out of a desperate scrimmage Drew obtained a free well in front, but he failed to score. Saints again came to the attack, Gwynne, Sewell, and Campbell being well to the fore. Doudy for the Reds relieved several times in a brilliant fashion; Hooper, Catchlove, and Goode had a finger in the pie, and Georgie's bag of tricks was in constant requirement. Wight and Campbell worked hard, while Throssell, with lofty disdain for the umpire, constantly found it necessary to embrace one or more too energetic Blue forwards. In spite of all this, Saints were not to be denied, and Sewell with a capital snap-shot equalised the scores in goals. The Blues were going strong when the bell announced three-quarter time, when the board showed- P.A.C.-4 goals 9 behinds. S.P.S.C.-4 goals 5 behinds. The fourth quarter commenced amidst intense excitement. When the ball was thrown down the Princes rapidly got to work, Cowan at centre being specially prominent. He sent the ball forward, where Moffat put in some splendid work. The ball hovered round the Saints' citadel for some time, while our forwards wasted golden opportunities. Indeed they seemed determined to kick the sphere anywhere but between the posts. The Cowans, Drew, and Moffatt were working hard for the Reds, Saints came with a desperate effort, Gwynne, Campbell, and Muirhead fighting hard, but they failed to score.

After somewhat desperate play the Reds forced the ball down to the Cathedral end, and before either side scored again time was called, leaving Princes winners by 7 points. P.A.C.-4 goals 12 behinds. S.P.S.C.-4 goals 5 behinds. Doudy and Throssell proved a pair of splendid backs, the former being remarkably brilliant, while the latter was sure and lirni as a rock. They were well backed up by Hooper and Goode. In the centre Cowan and Wight were brilliant and safe, the former forwarding the ball time after time with long punts. Of the

forwards Drew, Moffat, and D. Cowan did most work. Moore, Catchlove, and I Ioniburg played a sterling game throughout. Goals were kicked by Drew (2), Rooney, and Rounsevell. Saints were best represented by Campbell (i), Gwynne, Flood, Muirhead, Edwards (r), and Sewell (2).