

60/99WALES V. SPRINGBOKS.

The Springboks kicked off at Cardiff Arms Park with almost a gale behind them. Wales won the toss but Terry Davies decided to face the wind first half. As if the gale weren't enough there was a deluge, and the mud was unspeakable. Conditions were the worst Cardiff has ever known in an International. Yet the Springboks met them magnificently, determined to keep their unbeaten record of the Tour so far. Early on, stand-off half Keith Oxlee missed with a penalty kick. Luckily for Wales his place kicking was poor on other occasions too. But what a great team those Springboks are. They had to be to hold the Welsh attacks. Oxford Blue last season, D.P. Evans, got short shift when he tried to get through on the right.

At the other end, Springbok right-centre Kirkpatrick fared no better.

Twenty minutes gone; still no score but again Wales were penalised; the position so easy that even Oxlee on a bad day couldn't miss.

The Tourists were good value for their three points lead. When the first half was nearly over they made a tremendous effort to increase it. But Terry Davies and then the Left Wing, Bebb stopped the attack.

Half time; Springboks three, Wales nil. But now the Welsh had that gale at their backs and it required all the famed South African strength and skill to hold the lead.

What an epic battle both sides of forwards made of it. Near the end now. Light bed, mud terrible. The referee said he couldn't tell one pack from another. There was no more scoring; neither team crossed the line. Wales were wonderful, but on merit the Springboks won their first International of the Tour.