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For example, Newport lost only seven matches between and More than any other in the history of the game, that incredible match, the only fixture lost by the All Blacks, helped to turn rugby union into a game of global interest. Those early years in the 20th century were filled with Welsh victories and world class players. There were Grand Slams in , and , Triple Crowns in , , , and and those victories over New Zealand in and Australia in Welsh rugby had arrived as a major force in the world game. The Great War came in and rugby was suspended for four seasons. During the twenties, Wales seemed to mirror the industrial recession. Of the 42 matches played, only 17 were won and three drawn. The depression resulted in around half-a-million people leaving Wales to find work elsewhere. Along with them went a host of Welsh rugby internationals to northern England. Rugby League benefited enormously with 37 players defecting during the 20s alone. Between and , Wales were whitewashed by the other rugby nations and only beat France during that period. The Welsh team grew along with the economy during the thirties although a further 27 players defected to league. Wales won the Championship for the first time in nine years in after two tries from Jack Morley against Ireland in Belfast. In January , Wales recorded their first win over England at the new home of English rugby, Twickenham after 23 years of trying. Wales also recorded its second win over the All Blacks 13 - 2 when they visited the Arms Park in Jim Lang the Welsh NO. Reid NZ , J. Manchester NZ , T. Watkins W , A. Mohoney NZ , J. Lang W , D. Dalton NZ , A. Rees W and W. Hadley NZ The season started on 1 September, but was suspended two days later with the declaration of War against Germany. Club matches resumed in September , with capped matches returning in It ended in a defeat, but Scotland, France and Ireland were defeated thereafter. Hadyn Tanner was captain in 12 of the 13 games played during the decade. Wales wore white shorts for the first time on 15th January, in a game against England at Cardiff Arms Park having previously worn black. The Fifties brought Welsh rugby right back to the forefront of the world game with Grand Slams in and , under the captaincy of John Gwilliam, and a third win over New Zealand in Cardiff in The Grand Slam of , crowned with a win over France in Cardiff, ended a 39 year honours drought. Gareth Edwards made his debut against France in Paris on 1 April and in , he became the youngest ever Welsh captain at 20 years old. The Triple Crown paved the way for the Grand Slam, which was won by a team widely regarded as the greatest side ever to wear the Welsh jersey. Had the game in Ireland in not been cancelled, that otherwise undefeated campaign could have ended with another Grand Slam. Nine of the ten matches against England were won, eight of the ten against the Scots and the Irish claimed only one win and a draw in nine outings. France were the only side to rival the Welsh, winning three and drawing one of their ten games. They progressed into the quarter final stages, meeting pool runners-up and home nation rival England. The first quarter-final saw an ever dominant New Zealand side take on Scotland. They proved too strong for the Scots and won in Christchurch, sending the first of the British teams home. France, who had drawn the only non IRFB member in the quarter finals, Fiji, dashed the hopes of the minnows with a victory at Eden Park, ensuring that the last stages of the competition would be filled with only board-member nations. Co-hosts Australia staged the remaining two quarter-finals; the home side were winners over Ireland, keeping the two host nations in the tournament. Wales, despite entering their match as the underdogs, beat England in a truly dismal performance by the old enemy. In a truly one-sided affair, the New Zealanders decimated Wales in unstoppable style. Wales then saw the emergence of Jonathan Davies as a world force and a Triple Crown in The All Blacks won with only a small margin, , highlighting the way of things to come for a strengthened England side far more confident than the side witnessed four years previously. Three days later Wales made their first appearance of the competition against tournament newcomers Western Samoa. Wales had returned from a tour to Australia in July ; they had lost to the Wallabies. Wales were a team in disarray. Still complacent from their third place glory of the inaugural competition in , Wales encountered outsiders Western Samoa at the Cardiff Arms Park. The match

is still regarded as one of the biggest upsets in Rugby World Cup history, and is one in which the spirit of Rugby World Cup is encapsulated. With brutal tackling, strong attacking play and steely determination, the minnows triumphed over one of the whales of the game with a victory. One of the visions for the Rugby World Cup was to widen the game to developing rugby nations; to encompass a wider rugby community. Pool 3 had become a nightmarish place for the Welsh. With the daunting prospects of Argentina and favourites Australia looming ahead, the Wales camp knew that only two wins would secure a place in the last eight, and also knew that this was highly implausible. Having grasped a win against the Argentineans, in a match fraught with nerves and error-strewn play, Wales entered their match with the Australians facing a greater task than scaling Ayres Rock. As to be expected, Wales fell. The Australians completed their second win over a Welsh side in a year, sending the Welsh out of the tournament and, humiliatingly, into the team qualifying process for RWC Wales, the only Five Nations country to have to do so, qualified after one-sided, high-scoring games against Portugal and Spain before entering a second qualification phase. Wales won a closer match with Romania, thanks to a superb try from Ieuan Evans, and a victory over Italy in Cardiff put them into the supposedly easier Pool C. Pool C threw up the most striking result from the pool stages. New Zealand, albeit a second-string team, dominated Japan in a rout. This remains the highest score and biggest winning margin in the history of the Rugby World Cup. Inevitably, Japan had an early exit and the All Blacks made the quarter-finals, as did Ireland, who put Wales out of the competition. In another disappointing championship for Wales, despite a trouncing of Japan, this was the second successive Rugby World Cup in which Wales made a premature departure. As host nation in four years time the Welsh did not have the anxiety of qualifying to worry about; all apprehension could be instead reserved for the state of Welsh rugby. Neil Jenkins became the first international player to break the 1,000 points barrier and the biggest transformation of the decade was that of the old Cardiff Arms Park into the Millennium Stadium in time to host the Rugby World Cup. It was home to international teams since 1999, housing more than 62,000 fans in its pomp. After years of hosting international rugby, the spiritual home of Welsh rugby, the Arms Park, was torn down, turned around and recreated into one of the most magnificent rugby venues in the world, offering each of its 74,000 customers a seat. The Stadium has already established itself as an icon of the modern Wales. Its image has been used as a symbol of a new and vibrant, entrepreneurial and confident Nation. The importance of the Stadium to the economic, social, sporting and cultural development of Cardiff and Wales is significant. No other building in Wales contributes more to the economic benefit of the Nation; no other attraction comes close to matching the 1. Although Wales had some wins in 2000, it has to be said, mainly against lesser opposition. Although ranked second in Pool D Wales, on a run of unpredictable performances and having lost to Italy nine months previously in the opener of the Six Nations, looked unlikely to have a triumphant tournament. Wales finished second in Pool D after a superb display in the pool stage. In their first Pool match against Canada, Wales were twice reduced to fourteen men. Although the Canadians looked strong in periods of the game, Wales gained five tries and secured a bonus point in doing so. This impressive, though not explosive, start to the campaign boosted morale within the Welsh camp. Tongan pressure was evident from the start during a game in which Welsh indiscipline and sloppy play dominated. Gareth Cooper gained a fortunate try before the half hour mark but further disappointing play from Wales gifted Pierre Hola a touchdown. Slipshod kicking ensued but the substitution of Martyn Williams saw him score a drop goal, taking the score to 10 in favour of the Welsh. A try from Tongan captain Benhur Kivalu reduced the deficit but Williams darted over the line soon after. Tonga scored another try 3 minutes before the whistle which reduced the final score to 17-10. Wales, lucky to have attained the win, had almost certainly knocked Tonga out of the pool stages. Although the wet conditions made play a little uneasy, rain - not an uncommon feature in Wales - could not be blamed for the lacklustre performance. Wales next met Italy who dominated the first-half territory and scored first from a penalty. Mark Jones went over the line for the opening try soon after and two minutes from half-time Ceri Sweeney broke, supported by Williams and Iestyn Harris, sending Sonny Parker over for a try. With the score at the interval at 10-10, the Azzuri resumed strongly and closed the gap to 5 points. Wales looked dangerous on the attack and a third try came from Dafydd Jones. As Harris converted the Welsh had an unassailable lead. Though pressure was retained by both sides in this fraught match, no further scoring followed. Wales had secured a quarter-final place before

entering their final Pool D match against New Zealand. Wales, with a depleted side through injury, met one of the strongest All Black combinations that Kiwi coach John Mitchell could have fielded. Rokocoko added a second and two further tries scored by New Zealand saw them with a comfortable lead, with bonus point secured, at the half hour mark. However, Wales fought back with passion. Williams tore through the New Zealand defence again and Colin Charvis touched down just before the break - Wales trailed only. In this brave Welsh comeback their lead was stretched to in the second half but Wales would score no more in the match. Two 5 pointers, a penalty and a converted try saw the New Zealanders conclude the victory. With the final score , the bravery, vigour and exhilaration that interspersed Welsh play somewhat overshadowed this.

Chapter 2 : Wales national rugby union team - Wikipedia

Welsh rugby magazine back issues welsh rugby history, welsh rugby ran from january to summer of originally published as 'ruger sport' the magazine changed it's name in the mid s to welsh rugby.

The game was introduced to Wales at Lampeter College in the mid-nineteenth century using the Rugby School rules. It had been Mullock who had selected the Welsh team to play in that first, fateful international at Blackheath against an England side that had been playing internationally for a full decade and that had lost only twice in their 17 Tests to that time. It was like lambs to the slaughter. Led by the Australian-born, Cambridge University undergraduate James Bevan, Wales were humiliated as England won by seven goals, one dropped goal and six tries to nil - or by current scoring values. Thankfully, no points were awarded for goals or tries at that stage. More than any other in the history of the game, that incredible match, the only fixture lost by the All Blacks, helped to turn rugby union into a game of global interest. Those early years in the 20th century were filled with Welsh victories and world class players. There were Grand Slams in , and , Triple Crowns in , , , and and those victories over New Zealand in and Australia in Welsh rugby had arrived as a major force in the world game. The Twenties and Thirties were harder times with less noticeable achievements. The Fifties brought Welsh rugby right back to the forefront of the world game with Grand Slams in and , under the captaincy of John Gwilliam, and a third win over New Zealand in Cardiff in The Grand Slam of , crowned with a win over France in Cardiff, ended a 39 year honours drought. The Triple Crown paved the way for the Grand Slam, which was won by a team widely regarded as the greatest side ever to wear the Welsh jersey. Had the game in Ireland in not been cancelled, that otherwise undefeated campaign could have ended with another Grand Slam. Neil Jenkins became the first international player to break the 1,000 points barrier and the biggest transformation of the decade was that of the old Cardiff Arms Park into the Millennium Stadium in time to host the Rugby World Cup. After years of hosting international rugby, the spiritual home of Welsh rugby, the Arms Park, was torn down, turned around and recreated into the most magnificent rugby venue in the world. Home to Welsh teams since 1999, housing more than 62,000 fans in its pomp, the Arms Park became the Millennium Stadium, offering each of its 74,000 customers a seat. The Stadium has already established itself as an icon of the modern Wales. Its image has been used as a symbol of a new and vibrant, entrepreneurial and confident Nation. The importance of the Stadium to the economic, social, sporting and cultural development of Cardiff and Wales is significant. No other building in Wales contributes more to the economic benefit of the Nation; no other attraction comes close to matching the 1. In the modern era, the WRU as a business blends the traditional with the modern; with over years of rugby tradition and heritage behind us. The benefits of the restructure of professional rugby have reaped huge rewards since with three Six Nations Grand Slams, in , and , and a fourth championship title in Further successes at age grade level, led by Wales Under 20 reaching the World Junior Championships final in , have ensured a conveyor belt of talent has been delivered to the Regions and senior Welsh squad and the Wales Sevens side, as one of the core teams on the IRB World Sevens circuit, continue to provide great exposure for burgeoning young talent on a global stage. The sights and sounds of the , and Grand Slams will never be forgotten, and the scenes at the end of the record breaking victory over England that made it back-to-back Six Nations titles for the first time 34 years in , proved once again that nothing excites and unites a nation in equal measure than Welsh rugby played at its best. Welsh rugby has a glittering past, an exciting present and a wonderful future.

Chapter 3 : The 50 best rugby players of the professional era - Wales Online

Illustrated History of Welsh Rugby Hardcover - September 15, by John Brinley George Thomas (Author) Be the first to review this item. See all formats and.

This formation – with seven backs and eight forwards, instead of six backs and nine forwards – revolutionised the sport and was eventually adopted almost universally at international and club level. The referee ruled a scrum to Wales and the score did not change; Wales winning 3–0. Wales were favourites to win the match, [16] but instead South Africa dominated in the forwards and eventually won 11–0. It would be nearly forty years before they achieved a Grand Slam again. An industrial recession struck the principality, and hurt South Wales in particular. Welsh international results in the s mirrored the performance of the economy: However, even France managed to defeat Wales that decade; achieving their first victory over Wales in . That year, for the first time since the First World War, Wales retained the same side for two consecutive Tests when they faced England and Scotland. Although Wales suffered their first home defeat to France in , [30] they won their first Five Nations Grand Slam since in . Ewart Davies declared that "it was evident from the experience of the South African Tour that a much more positive attitude to the game was required in Wales. Players must be prepared to learn, and indeed re-learn, to the absolute point of mastery, the basic principles of Rugby Union football". Of the six matches, Wales won three, drew two and lost one. Wales dominated Northern Hemisphere rugby between and , and attained an incredible winning record, losing only seven times during that period. Those Lions became the only to win a series over the All Blacks. Although the Five Nations was a five way tie in , the Welsh did defeat Australia 24–0 in Cardiff. Just like the first in , they only used 16 players over their four matches. Haden later admitted that he and Frank Oliver had pre-agreed this tactic should the All Blacks find themselves in difficulties. That is a load of rubbish". Australia went on to win their first Home Nations Grand Slam. Regional teams were introduced as a tier above the traditional club-based structures in , and the five then four regional sides became the top level of domestic professional rugby in the principality.

Chapter 4 : The 50 greatest rugby players of the professional era - Wales Online

Illustrated History of Welsh Rugby. Number of Pages We all like the idea of saving a bit of cash, so when we found out how many good quality used products are out there - we just had to let you know!

History of rugby union Rugby School in Rugby, Warwickshire , with a rugby football pitch in the foreground The origin of rugby football is reputed to be an incident during a game of English school football at Rugby School in , when William Webb Ellis is said to have picked up the ball and run with it. Rugby football stems from the form of game played at Rugby School, which former pupils then introduced to their university. Old Rugbeian Albert Pell , a student at Cambridge , is credited with having formed the first "football" team. Scotland won the game Two important overseas tours took place in During the early history of rugby union, a time before commercial air travel, teams from different continents rarely met. The first two notable tours both took place in the British Isles team touring New Zealand and Australia, [23] followed by the New Zealand team touring Europe. New Zealand in , followed by South Africa in and Australia in All three teams brought new styles of play, fitness levels and tactics, [28] and were far more successful than critics had expected. After Morgan began singing, the crowd joined in: No international rugby games and union-sponsored club matches were played during the First World War, but competitions continued through service teams such as the New Zealand Army team. The first World Cup Sevens tournament was held at Murrayfield in Rugby Sevens was introduced into the Commonwealth Games in and has been added to the Olympic Games of As a result of the expansion to four teams, the tournament was renamed The Rugby Championship. Rugby union positions A standard rugby union team formation illustrating each of the positions and their respective numbers. Each team starts the match with 15 players on the field and seven or eight substitutes. The role of the two props is to support the hooker during scrums, to provide support for the jumpers during line-outs and to provide strength and power in rucks and mauls. The third position in the front row is the hooker. The hooker is a key position in attacking and defensive play and is responsible for winning the ball in the scrum. Hookers normally throw the ball in at line-outs. Locks are usually the tallest players in the team, and specialize as line-out jumpers. Locks also have an important role in the scrum, binding directly behind the three front row players and providing forward drive. The two flanker positions called the blindside flanker and openside flanker, are the final row in the scrum. They are usually the most mobile forwards in the game. The role of the number 8 in the scrum is to control the ball after it has been heeled back from the front of the pack and the position provides a link between the forwards and backs during attacking phases. They are generally smaller, faster and more agile than the forwards. The scrum-half is the link between the forwards and the backs. The centres will attempt to tackle attacking players; whilst in attack, they should employ speed and strength to breach opposition defences. Their primary function is to finish off moves and score tries. They often field opposition kicks and are usually the last line of defence should an opponent break through the back line.

Chapter 5 : Rugby Relics - Rugby Memorabilia

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Early history[edit] Although the club state that their formation date is , there is no written proof to substantiate the claim. The club was definitely in existence in the later 19th century, with Cardiff playing a team called Peglers Pontypool during the season [3] and a Pontypool club were one of six teams that created the South Wales Cup competition that same season. In the club reformed, launching at a public meeting at the Pontypool Town Hall. The club was derived from a combination of three local clubs, Pontypool Thursdays, Pontypool Saturdays and Pontymoel. All three were capped for the Wales team, representing their country over the period During the early s Pontypool was one of several major Welsh clubs to suffer from the emergence of professional rugby in England. In the season Pontypool RFC began with only seven players available to them on their roster as players moved to clubs that paid a wage to play. Post war years[edit] A combined Pontypool and Newbridge hoops verses South Africa The Springboks on 18 October In December a combined Pontypool, Talywain and Blaenavon side played against the Australian national team at Pontypool Park as part of a post-war rebuilding tour. The game ended An away match at Pontypool was a daunting experience for even the strongest sides during this period. Their best ever season was probably , when they won 35 matches out of 36, scoring points and conceding only points. They also played as a unit for the British and Irish Lions in several midweek matches, though never in a British Lions test match. Modern game[edit] Pontypool Park in Pontypool were relegated from the Welsh Division 1 at the end of the season. Aberavon then faced a two-legged play-off with Caerphilly, who had been relegated from the Premier Division. The controversial play-off system was scrapped after this season. As the club was attempting to mount a serious title challenge, an under-strength Pontypool team was fielded. Pontypool did well in the first half, going into half time only 9 points adrift The second half saw the 5, strong crowd witness some superb Fijian play and the tourists ran out easy winners by In May , the same scenario as the previous season occurred with both Pontypool and Aberavon locked in a two horse race for the title. Pontypool defeated Aberavon outscoring the Wizards 5 tries to nil and were crowned Welsh National League Division One Champions for season Pontypool were promoted to the Premier Division in However, due to the restructuring of Welsh rugby, this league would become secondary to the new Celtic League. Pontypool became a feeder club for the Newport Gwent Dragons regional team. Therefore, Tonmawr were not invited to contest the single promotion place against Pontypool RFC in a play off game. It was announced that four clubs, Pontypool, Tonmawr , Bridgend and Camarthen had not achieved the required criteria to be included into the new league. However, pressure from Ospreys and Scarlets backers led to the league being extended to 12 teams with Bridgend and Camarthen included. However, their fortunes improved towards the end of the season, winning six of their last seven games. Pontypool ended the season in 12th place, above the two relegation places.

Chapter 6 : Rugby Football History

Welsh rugby had arrived as a major force in the world game. The Twenties and Thirties were harder times with less noticeable achievements. There was, however, a first win at the new home of English rugby, Twickenham, in after 23 years of trying and a second win over the mighty 'All Blacks' in Cardiff in ,

This is the story of the tragedy that has affected his life and the remarkable thing he chose to do next. It is an ordinary house that has an extraordinary story to tell. We went to see him in his day job, found out about his new life and got to the truth about the most controversial smile in Welsh rugby history. Getty Images In some ways, you could argue Wilkinson has been the epitome of the professional era. He has set new standards in terms of dedication and an almost obsessive pursuit of perfection. In fact, only Dan Carter has scored more in Test rugby, with Wilkinson having garnered 1, during his 97 caps for England and the Lions. His finest hour, of course, came in , when he slotted the drop goal that won the World Cup. The fact he landed it with his weaker right foot speaks volumes for his hours and hours of diligent practice. Bowed out on a high, earning two more trophies with Toulon. One of a select band of players to have won two World Cups, skipping Australia to glory in Cardiff in Captained the Wallabies 55 times during his cap Test career, establishing himself as one of the most respected figures in the game. He was also very much a one of a kind as a player. An agile, athletic second row lineout ace, he was also a top-class place-kicker, who landed 65 Test shots at goal. A real ambassador for the game and a great player. Having burst onto the scene in exciting fashion, he spent two years in the Test wilderness amid concerns over his size. But having grabbed his chance at the World Cup, he worked diligently to complement his God-given ability by working on his physique, emerging as the greatest Welsh player of his generation. Named world player of the year in , he ended up with 60 Test tries, leaving him fourth on the all-time list behind behind Daisuke Ohata, David Campese and Bryan Habana. He was The Great Entertainer. Read More Shane Williams reveals the two most talented Wales players he ever played with 7. The Kiwi knew talent when he saw it. After emerging as one of the young stars of the World Cup, Horan returned from a horrendous knee injury to be player of the tournament eight years later as he lifted the Webb Ellis trophy for a second time. Possessed pace, balance, great ball skills and courage, with his attacking prowess, formidable defence and play-making ability marking him out as one of the finest centres the game of rugby has ever seen. Scored 40 Test tries at a rate of one every other game. That one man, of course, is their talismanic skipper Sergio Parisse. Big and strong, he has the size to make holes in any defence, but also has hands to die for and the subtlety to execute passes out of the back of his hand as though he were a fly-half. Add to that an astute brain for the game and an absolute refusal to bend the knee and you have pretty much the complete rugby player. You only have to watch the legendary Living With Lions video from the South African tour of to understand just how highly he was rated by the opposition and what a threat he was seen as. Aggressive and fearless, he was arguably the finest running scrum-half the game has ever seen, scoring 38 tries in 89 Tests, a remarkable tally for a No 9. Despite standing 6ft 1ins tall, he was able to find and penetrate the tiniest gaps in opposing defences. An inspirational force as a player, he has inspired people once again in recent years with his fight against motor neurone disease. Sadly lost his brave battle against the disease in February PA Wire Has one man ever done more to popularise the game of rugby than Jonah? When he burst onto the scene at the World Cup, it was like a meteor landing from outer space. We had never seen anything like him before and his incredible feats grabbed the attention of folk who had never previously been interested in the sport. The physical impact Lomu had on the World Cup was beyond the effect of any other player in the history of the game. He scored seven tries in , including four in an unforgettable one-man demolition job of England in the semi. Lomu went one better in to finish with a record 15 tournament tries, before going on to show his dignity with his brave fight against debilitating kidney disease. One of a kind and the impression he left on so many lives was vividly illustrated by the reaction to his death in November His Test caps, including eight for the Lions, place him second on the all-time list behind Richie McCaw. Holds the Six Nations record for most tries with 26 and was chosen Player of the Tournament in the , and , leading Ireland to one Grand Slam and three Triple Crowns. Getty Images Dan the man. The

greatest back of the professional era, his record speaks for itself. Way out in front as the leading points scorer in international rugby history, with 1, points from his caps. A prolific goal-kicker, a wonderful silky runner and a masterful controller, he possesses the lot and has been a genuine match-winner at the highest level. The maestro made his Test debut against Wales in Hamilton in , playing at inside centre and giving a sign of what was to come by scoring 20 points. He averaged almost 15 points a Test, the highest of any player in history who has scored more than points. One of his greatest performances came in the second Test against the Lions in , when he outshone Wilkinson in their fly-half battle to lead New Zealand to an emphatic triumph in Wellington. He scored two tries, five penalties, and four conversions and ended the match with 33 points, easily eclipsing the previous record of There was to be injury-enforced World Cup frustration in and , but he ended his Test career on the perfect note as he produced a Man of the Match display in the final to guide the All Blacks to glory. After a spell playing in France for Racing 92, now plying his trade in Japan. Getty Images Who else? You only have to look at the 49 names below Richie McCaw on this list to recognise what a legend the Kiwi flanker has proved over the last 15 years. His stats are quite remarkable. He earned a world-record caps for the All Blacks, winning of those games and captaining his country times. He wanted to be good at everything. Unflinchingly brave, he has remained a quite outstanding exponent at the breakdown throughout the career, while also possessing the athleticism and footballing ability to serve as the classic link man and the ball carrying dynamism to consistently break the line. He had the lot. Add to that his leadership and you have the perfect package. Lifting the World Cup in his backyard was a fitting tribute to one of the greatest ever All Blacks, but he went on to secure true legendary status as he continued for four more years, breaking record after record and uniquely hoisting the Webb Ellis trophy for a second time. It was to be a perfect ending not just to his international career but also his playing career, as he confirmed his retirement from the game immediately afterwards. Richie McCaw - the single most influential player to play the game of rugby in the professional era and a deserved number one. Like us on Facebook.

Chapter 7 : Welsh Rugby Union - BBC Sport

After years of hosting international rugby, the spiritual home of Welsh rugby, the Arms Park, was torn down, turned around and recreated into one of the most magnificent rugby venues in the world, offering each of its 74, customers a seat.

The official dinner photo for the post-match dinner after Bill Clement had won his first cap. The photograph by Rawood photography is in a large presentation folder 19" x 11" 48cm x 28cm. England v Wales 18th January The official dinner menu card for the post match dinner at the Mayfair Hotel, W1. The menu card has been signed by 12 attendees of the dinner. England went on to win the Triple Crown later that season with victories over Ireland and Scotland. Scotland v Wales touch flag, traditionally touch flags have been presented to leading officials of the competing teams at the post match dinner. This is recognised as the first match of the second golden era and saw the London Welsh pairing of Mervyn Davies and JPR Williams winning their first caps. Welsh squad poster - Grand Slam season squad poster, size 38cm x 30cm, the illustrated poster is similar to the one in the collection. Friday 19th September - " Score not a fair reflection of game as combined side played extremely well were fast and fit - good handlers - demon tacklers Canada rugby tour of British isles presentation tankard. A 12cm one pint tankard. This tankard would have been brought over with the team for presenting to the hosting teams. Rugby Football Union Centenary limited edition one of Spode plate in presentation case. The plate is 11" 28cm in diameter. Rugby Football Union Centenary limited edition one of 50 Spode bowl in presentation case. The bowl is 10" 25cm in diameter. Israel Rugby union linen pennant. Lesotho bottle opener in the shape of a rugby ball, unusual item. A limited edition no of pair of Welsh Rugby Union Centenary whisky tumblers in a presentation box. Waunarlwydd RFC Jubilee - ornamental dragon 5" 12cm across. A set of 4 Scottish Rugby union centenary finger bowls contained in two boxes. Llantwit Major RFC plaque, some light surface damage to the top portion. Tonga RFU tour of Wales - an official wooden presentation plaque, hand sculptured from the Tongan tour of Wales in Burry Port RFC hand painted decorative slate with small hook to reverse. Welsh Rugby Union centenary half pint tankard. The tankard has a Welsh Rugby Union centenary crest, the photograph does not really do this item justice, the crest is nice and clear, the metal handle is rubbed but overall the tankard is.

This is a list of international rugby union players who died serving in armed forces during the First World War. Most of these came from the British Commonwealth, but a number of French international rugby players were also killed.

The 50 greatest rugby players of the modern era Get rugby updates directly to your inbox [Subscribe](#) Thank you for subscribing We have more newsletters [Show me](#) See our [privacy notice](#) Could not subscribe, try again later Invalid Email So, as Richie McCaw, hangs up his boots, where does he rank in terms of the greatest players of the professional era? Find out as rugby correspondent Simon Thomas assesses the contenders in the wake of the Rugby World Cup and counts down from 50 to 1. Man of the Match time and again for club and country. A footballing openside, this popular and highly respected centurion went on three Lions tours. Will Genia AUS One of those players who, at his peak, could win a game single-handedly, either with his own sniping breaks or by putting others into space. A real pocket dynamo scrum-half. Julian Savea NZ Image: One of the most effective ball-carrying No 8s in the world, he was like a one-man pack for Wales at times. Tana Umaga NZ A great reader of the game, the Hurricanes centre was the focal point of the New Zealand back-line for years and a hugely successful skipper, winning 19 out of 21 games at the helm. Confirmed status as a world class scrum-half with the Lions and won Wasps the Heineken Cup. Two Lions tours, but his finest hour was lifting the World Cup with England in Rounded off his career with three European Cup wins with Toulon. At 6ft 4ins and 18st 13lbs, the Otago powerhouse was a man mountain in the All Blacks pack ahead of a lucrative move to Europe. World player of year in Jean de Villiers SA A hard-running centre who has also shown himself able to do all the pretty stuff. The king of the interception, he scored 27 Test tries and proved a fine leader of his country. On his way to Leicester. The scrum cornerstone of three Grand Slam winning teams and the Test tight-head on two Lions tours. Conrad Smith NZ Nicknamed The Snake because of his ability to slither through the smallest of gaps and strike with a sudden burst of speed. Brought fluidity to the All Blacks midfield with his intelligent passing and vision. Scott Gibbs WAL Responsible for one of the great moments in Welsh rugby history, with his Wembley try against England in , and a seminal Lions image with his dumping of Os du Randt two years earlier. A wrecking ball centre. Justin Marshall NZ Some players talk the talk, some walk the walk. Justin Marshall could do both. Backed up his chirping by running the show for the All Blacks in an cap Test career ahead of a high-profile spell with the Ospreys. Doug Howlett NZ A star sprinter as a schoolboy, once clocked a personal best of Used his speed to great effect in his rugby career, scoring a record 49 tries for the All Blacks. A wing with a high work rate and strong defence. Huw Evans Picture Agency Has revolutionised the role of the loose-head prop. Like an extra back rower with his ability over the ball and his defensive work-rate. The medal haul for club and country says it all. Cardiff Blues prop Gethin Jenkins on Harlequins, turning 35 and why he had to buy his own birthday cake Matt Giteau AUS Blessed with enormous natural ability, has been able to turn his hand to scrum-half, fly-half and centre. A lethal runner from full-back or wing, he was a nightmare to mark in one-on-one situations. Had a knack of scoring memorable tries on the big stage. An absolute pest and nuisance at the breakdown, made a living out of slowing down or stealing opposition ball. Still going strong with Wasps. Did all the unseen, grafting work and just got on with his job in unassuming fashion, putting his body on the line. Able to excel right across the back row, he was a pivotal figure on two Lions trips and an England World Cup winner. Christian Cullen NZ Just about the most exciting player in the world game for a few years in the late s. Nicknamed the Paekakariki Express, he had a remarkable strike rate, scoring 46 tries in just 58 Tests for New Zealand, with his elusive running and pace from full-back ripping sides apart. Schalk Burger SA Image: Came back from injury and life-threatening illness to enjoy an immense international swansong at the recent World Cup. Huw Evans Picture Agency Went from being a schoolboy chorister to one of the most formidable physical presences in the game of rugby. Had it all in his prime - pace, power, aggression, pride and a steely mind-set. A Lions series winner, a World Cup winner and a trophy magnet with Wasps. John Smit SA One of the great captains of the professional era. Led South Africa a record 83 times in Tests, guiding them to victory at the World Cup, a series triumph over the Lions in and two Tri-Nations titles. A teak hard performer in his own right, mainly at

hooker, but also at prop. A master tactician, with a great kicking game, he was the lynchpin of the South African team that won the World Cup and defeated the Lions. Then came back from injury to excell once again at the global tournament, breaking Welsh hearts. David Pocock Australia A worthy successor to Richie McCaw as the most influential player in world rugby, either at 7 or 8. There is simply no-one better in the game over the ball. He is just perfectly built for the role and when he locks himself onto a tackled player, there is no moving him. A fascinating character off the field too. Zinzan Brooke NZ A dynamic ball carrier, this Kiwi No 8 also had better kicking and handling skills than some fly-halves. Heaped the ultimate indignity on England in the World Cup semi-final, landing an audacious drop goal from 40 metres after they had already been demolished by four-try Jonah Lomu. A three-times Lions who captained the tour of South Africa in Victor Matfield SA Dubbed the best centre in South Africa for his love of running with the ball in midfield, this ultra athletic second row has also been a supreme lineout technician. Man of the Match in the World Cup final, he came out of retirement to serve the Springboks once more after a three year break. Born in Zambia, this complete scrum-half won a whopping caps. Holds the unique distinction of having captained the Lions on two tours, including the triumphant trip to South Africa, while he will always be remembered as the man presented with the World Cup, which England won in Sydney. As well as being an inspirational leader, the Leicester lock was also a formidable player in his own right. A rock like presence in the tight, whose rugby motto was if in doubt, go forward. Getty Images In some ways, you could argue Wilkinson has been the epitome of the professional era. He has set new standards in terms of dedication and an almost obsessive pursuit of perfection. In fact, only Dan Carter has scored more in Test rugby, with Wilkinson having garnered 1, during his 97 caps for England and the Lions. His finest hour, of course, came in , when he slotted the drop goal that won the World Cup. The fact he landed it with his weaker right foot speaks volumes for his hours and hours of diligent practice. Bowed out on a high, earning two more trophies with Toulon. One of a select band of players to have won two World Cups, skippering Australia to glory in Cardiff in Captained the Wallabies 55 times during his cap Test career, establishing himself as one of the most respected figures in the game. He was also very much a one of a kind as a player. An agile, athletic second row lineout ace, he was also a top-class place-kicker, who landed 65 Test shots at goal. A real ambassador for the game and a great player. Having burst onto the scene in exciting fashion, he spent two years in the Test wilderness amid concerns over his size. But having grabbed his chance at the World Cup, he worked diligently to complement his God-given ability by working on his physique, emerging as the greatest Welsh player of his generation. Named world player of the year in , he ended up with 60 Test tries, leaving him fourth on the all-time list behind behind Daisuke Ohata, David Campese and Bryan Habana. He was The Great Entertainer. The Kiwi knew talent when he saw it. After emerging as one of the young stars of the World Cup, Horan returned from a horrendous knee injury to be player of the tournament eight years later as he lifted the Webb Ellis trophy for a second time. Possessed pace, balance, great ball skills and courage, with his attacking prowess, formidable defence and play-making ability marking him out as one of the finest centres the game of rugby has ever seen. Scored 40 Test tries at a rate of one every other game. That one man, of course, is their talismanic skipper Sergio Parisse. The Argentinian-born No 8 has been a key figure for the Azzurri since making an eye-catching debut as an year-old against New Zealand in Big and strong, he has the size to make holes in any defence, but also has hands to die for and the subtlety to execute passes out of the back of his hand as though he were a fly-half. Add to that an astute brain for the game and an absolute refusal to bend the knee and you have pretty much the complete rugby player. You only have to watch the legendary Living With Lions video from the South African tour of to understand just how highly he was rated by the opposition and what a threat he was seen as. Aggressive and fearless, he was arguably the finest running scrum-half the game has ever seen, scoring 38 tries in 89 Tests, a remarkable tally for a No 9. Despite standing 6ft 1ins tall, he was able to find and penetrate the tiniest gaps in opposing defences. An inspirational force as a player, he has inspired people once again in recent years with his fight against motor neurone disease. PA Wire Has one man ever done more to popularise the game of rugby than Jonah? When he burst onto the scene at the World Cup, it was like a meteor landing from outer space. We had never seen anything like him before and his incredible feats grabbed the attention of folk who had never previously been interested in the sport. The physical impact Lomu had on

the World Cup was beyond the effect of any other player in the history of the game. He scored seven tries in , including four in an unforgettable one-man demolition job of England in the semi. Lomu went one better in to finish with a record 15 tournament tries, before going on to show his dignity with his brave fight against debilitating kidney disease. One of a kind and the impression he left on so many lives was vividly illustrated by the reaction to his death earlier this week. Rest in peace big man.

Chapter 9 : Rugby history - a great selection of rugby books

Wales Rugby League is the national governing body for rugby league football in Wales.. In The Welsh Northern Rugby Football Union was formed in Wrexham, but the English Northern Rugby Football Union refused it affiliation as they wanted the body located in the south of Wales and the Welsh body soon folded.

History Origins Different forms of football have existed for centuries. For more on the development of football sports, see football. In Britain , football games may have been played as early as the time of Roman occupation in the 1st century bce. During the 14th and 15th centuries ce, Shrove Tuesday football matches became annual traditions in local communities , and many of these games continued well into the 19th century. These localized versions of folk football a violent sport distinctive for its large teams and lack of rules gradually found favour within the English public independent schools, where they were modified and adapted into one of two forms: Game playing, particularly football, was encouraged at Rugby School by influential headmaster Thomas Arnold 1742 , and many boys educated at this time were instrumental in the expansion of the game. Rugby football soon became one of the most significant sports in the promotion of English and, later, British imperial manliness. The cult of manliness that resulted centred on the public schools and the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, where boys were sent to learn how to become young gentlemen. Graduates of these public schools and of Oxford and Cambridge formed the first football clubs, which led to the institutionalization of rugby. Once they had left school, many young men wanted to continue playing the game of their youth, and the early annual matches between alumni and current senior students were not enough to satisfy these players. Football clubs were formed in the mid 19th century, with one of the very first rugby clubs appearing at Blackheath in 1841. Rugby enthusiasm also spread rapidly to Ireland and Scotland, with a club founded at the University of Dublin in 1842 and the formation by the Old Boys of Edinburgh of the Edinburgh Academicals Rugby Football Club in 1845. In the tradition of club matches began in England with Blackheath playing Richmond. Representatives of several leading football clubs met in 1845 to try to devise a common set of rules for football. Ultimately, rugby was left outside the FA. Despite the initial reluctance to abandon hacking, rugby clubs began to abolish the practice during the late 1840s. Blackheath banned it in 1845, and Richmond supported a similar prohibition in 1846. Thus, in 1846 members of leading rugby clubs met to form the Rugby Football Union RFU , which became the governing body for the sport. As a result of its continued adherence to the practice, Rugby School did not join the RFU until 1862. The growth of the game Rugby rapidly spread from its elitist origins in England, Scotland, and Ireland to middle- and working-class men in the north of England and in Wales and to the British colonies in South Africa, Australia, and New Zealand. It also spread to North America , where it was transformed into a new style of football. Northern Hemisphere Unlike association football soccer , which embraced player payments and league play in the 1880s, the RFU staunchly resisted professionalism, cup competitions, and leagues, though international rugby between England and Scotland began immediately. As soon as the six Scottish clubs heard of the formation of the RFU, they issued a challenge to it for a match to be held in Scotland on March 27, 1871. The match was played in front of 4,000 spectators, with each side scoring a try, though only Scotland could convert the try with a goal see below Play of the game. Ireland began playing England in 1872 and Scotland in 1873. Northern England and the split In the north of England, rugby was organized somewhat differently from in the south. Teams became the focus of civic pride, and league and cup competitions quickly arose in Yorkshire. The game spread throughout Yorkshire to Cumbria and parts of Lancashire, and many working-class men were playing by the mid-1870s. Matters came to a head at an general meeting of the RFU, where the legalization of broken time payments was soundly defeated by southern clubs, which controlled a majority of the votes. The majority of northern clubs joined the Northern Union, but it failed in efforts to expand its influence farther afield within Britain. Many early players had some experience of the game in the north of England and took their interest with them to Wales. By the early 1880s rugby had become a vital part of working-class culture in south Wales, which distinguished the game there from its upper-class association in other parts of the British Isles. Wales had high levels of immigration in the late 19th century, and rugby emerged at this time as a focal point of a new modern Welsh nationalism. Wales won its

first title in Unlike England, a more competitive system arose in Wales, with a South Wales Challenge Cup being contested between and and an unofficial league system appearing by the s. As the only team to defeat the powerful New Zealand team on its first tour of the British Isles, in , Wales cemented its place as a dominant rugby power. Rugby remained central to modern Welsh identity, particularly in the period between the mids and the early s, when players such as Gareth Edwards , Barry John, Phil Bennett, Gerald Davies, J. Williams, and others kept Wales at the top of Northern Hemisphere rugby. During the s many coal mines were closed, which led to the deterioration of mining valley communities that had been the cradle of Welsh rugby for a century. Since that time Wales has struggled to regain its position as a leading rugby nation. France Rugby union football spread more slowly outside the British Empire , though it was played in France as early as There were 20 or more French clubs by , mostly in and around Paris. Soon the game diffused to southwestern cities such as Bordeaux, Lyon, and Perpignon, where it became the most popular team sport. French attitudes toward professionalism were much more relaxed than in the British Isles, which led the Home Nations unions to sever relations with France in , though they were restored in Like rugby union, the league game in France is largely confined to the southern part of the country. During World War II , rugby league play was outlawed in France by the Vichy government, but the sport made a comeback in the postwar era. Italy In the s rugby also gained a foothold in Italy, particularly in the northwestern part of the country. The Italian Rugby Federation was founded in In the s clubs supported by large companies began to organize payment of players in their club competition, and leading international players such as Naas Botha of South Africa, David Campese of Australia, and John Kirwin of New Zealand played rugby union in Italy. Italian rugby advanced significantly by the s, and in Italy joined the Five Nations competition, which was then renamed Six Nations. Rugby rules were soon modified in the United States and later in Canada, however, to create the distinct codes of gridiron football played in North America. Although gridiron football had largely supplanted both association football and rugby in the United States by late in the 19th century, rugby enjoyed a revival from on the Pacific Coast after gridiron football was banned there in the aftermath of a public furor over violence and player deaths and injuries. Rugby remained popular there after the gridiron sport was restored to its preeminent position. West Coast players largely made up the national rugby teams that won at the and Olympic Games , after which rugby was dropped as an Olympic sport. Rugby also retained a foothold in British Columbia in Canada. Into the 21st century a large proportion of players on the U. Southern Hemisphere It was in the Southern Hemisphere that rugby assumed new levels of cultural meaning and innovation. In New Zealand and South Africa, the sport became an integral part of national identity and at times a flash point for social and political issues. Australia In Australia the game was closely associated with the eastern coastal region. Only five clubs played in Sydney at that time, but by , 79 clubs existed, with a senior and four junior competitions. By the s matches between teams representing New South Wales and New Zealand began, as rugby in Australia remained largely confined to the big east coast cities of Sydney and Brisbane. The national Australian Rugby Union was not formed until In other parts of Australia, Australian rules football had already established itself as the dominant sport. The issue of payment to players appeared in Australia by the early s, centring in particular on compensation for injured footballers. At the same time, a professional team of New Zealand rugby players, known as the All Golds, prepared to travel to England to play against Northern Union clubs. In a rugby league competition began in Sydney with working-class clubs leaving rugby union to play by the new rules. The first Australian rugby league players toured Britain in 1899, followed by another tour of Britain in 1902, thus establishing international links between Northern and Southern Hemisphere breakaway groups. The main centres of rugby league in Australia are Sydney and Brisbane, though it is widely played in cities and towns throughout the country and has a larger following than has rugby union. However, rugby spread slowly owing to problems of distance and sparse population, and while regional unions appeared throughout the country by the mids, a national union, the New Zealand Rugby Football Union NZRFU , was not founded until A team made up mostly of Maori players toured Britain, winning 49 of its 74 matches, including many matches against clubs in the north of England that largely consisted of working-class players and that had become the best club teams in the country. In the Ranfurly Shield was presented by Earl Ranfurly, the governor of New Zealand, to serve as a trophy for a challenge

competition between provincial rugby teams. In New Zealand played a truly national Australian team for the first time. South Africa A form of rugby football was played in South Africa in , and the game was first played in Cape Town in The expanding population that followed the Kimberley diamond discovery spread the game into that region 86 , and rugby was being played in the Johannesburg and Pretoria areas by South Africa too has leagues for clubs and a national competition between provincial teams for the Currie Cup, first given in by Sir Donald Currie. Black South Africans were excluded from playing in the whites-only rugby competitions run by the South African Rugby Board and were forced to play in separate competitions over the course of the 20th century. Pivotal to the success of South African rugby, as well as to its continued segregation, was the controversial Danie Craven , a legendary player who also served as coach of the national team and president of the Rugby Board. As a core cultural activity of white South Africans, rugby became the target of protests by black South Africans and international antiapartheid protesters, who called for boycotts of both South Africa and its national rugby team. Significant protests first emerged in New Zealand in 60 when the NZRFU did not select Maori players for the tour of South Africa in order to comply with apartheid restrictions. In response to disquiet among black Commonwealth countries, the New Zealand government canceled a planned tour by South Africa, in order to save the Commonwealth Games in Christchurch. The most-dramatic events surrounding rugby occurred in during the South African tour of New Zealand. The second match of the tour was canceled when protesters occupied the field. During the s, however, South Africa became progressively isolated as the sports boycott took effect. Notably, it was excluded from the first two Rugby World Cups in and The dismantling of apartheid began in , and South Africa was again accepted by the international sports community. The country hosted the rugby union World Cup in and won the championship with a nearly all-white team, which, with the open support of then president Nelson Mandela , unified the country in a brief moment of transracial national identification. Other countries where rugby has developed to a high level include Argentina and the Pacific Island nations of Samoa, Fiji, and Tonga. Rugby was introduced to Argentina in the s, and by the turn of the 20th century four clubs based in Buenos Aires had formed the River Plate Rugby Football Union. The Argentine national team, known as the Pumas, has a reputation for being particularly physical in the scrum. Although rugby did not reach the Pacific Island countries of Samoa and Tonga until the s, it had been played in Fiji since the s. All three countries continue to focus on their individual national teams, but in the early 21st century they also began to play together periodically as a single team representing the Pacific Islands. The modern era In the latter part of the 20th century, both rugby union and rugby league were affected by the growing influence of commercialism and television. The development and success of World Cup competitions was a particular spur to the enormous growth of rugby football in the decades leading into the 21st century. Rugby union thus embarked upon a road toward professionalism and new levels of commercialism that eventually led to the full professionalization of the sport in The World Cup, held in the United Kingdom, Ireland, and France and won by Australia, had confirmed its place as a major international sporting festival. By the chairman of the Rugby World Cup could claim that the event was the fourth largest international televised sporting event as the tournament reached an estimated countries and 2. In rugby league, television became crucial to the wider promotion of the game. In the State of Origin competition between New South Wales and Queensland began, and it soon became one of the most-watched sporting events in Australia. In England this model was followed through the creation of the Wars of the Roses series between Yorkshire and Lancashire.