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Transcribed by Malc King

## SOUTH AFRICANS' TOUR

### SPRINGBOKS AT KINGSHOLM

#### TWELFTH MATCH – V GLOUCESTERSHIRE

#### WONDERFUL DISPLAY BY THE COLONIALS

#### HOME COUNTY OUTCLASSED AND WELL BEATEN

#### SUPERIOR SPEED WINS THE DAY

The all-important event in Gloucester to-day was the visit of the unbeaten Springboks to Kingsholm to oppose the chosen representatives of Gloucestershire. Throughout the county, and a wide area outside, the match aroused tremendous interest, and every preparation was made for a record crowd. Though the South Africans have not created the same sensation as the famous All Blacks, they have played wonderfully good football, and the fact that the tourists came to Gloucester with a record of eleven successive victories stamps them as a combination worthy to contest for supremacy with the International teams of the Mother Country. It was thought by some that the Colonials would meet their Waterloo in Wales, but in the recent matches with Newport and Glamorgan the Springboks made a great impression, and successfully maintained their unbeaten certificate. Those who have closely followed the doings of the visitors since their opening match against the East Midlands are probably fully conversant of their achievements, but it will not be out of place here to append the team's record to date:

Played 11, Won 11, Lost 0, Drawn 0

		For			Against		
		G	T	P	G	T	P
Sept 27 v East Midlands	W	5	4	37	0	0	0
Sept 29 v Mid Counties	W	5	2	29	0	0	0
Oct 3 v Kent	W	3	2	21	0	0	0
Oct 6 v Durham	W	4	1	22	1	0	4
Oct 10 v Northumberland	W	4	8	44	0	0	0
Oct 13 v Yorkshire	W	4	6	34	0	0	0
Oct 17 v Devon	W	4	2	22	1	1	6
Oct 20 v Somerset	W	2	2	14	0	0	0
Oct 24 v Middlesex	W	1	2	9	0	0	0
Oct 27 v Newport	W	1	1	8	0	0	0
Oct 31 v Glamorgan	W	0	2	6	0	1	3
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		33	32	246	2	2	13

The New Zealanders did not meet the East Midlands, Kent or Yorkshire, but they defeated all the other teams met by the Springboks as follows: Midland Counties, 21

points to 5; Durham, 16 points to 13; Northumberland 31 points to nil; Devon, 55 points to 4; Somerset, 23 points to nil; Newport, 6 points to 3; Glamorgan 9 points to nil. In those eight games the aggregate scoring of the rival touring teams was:

New Zealand 195 points Opponents 15

South Africans 154 points Opponents 9

From the above it will be gathered there is not a great deal to choose between the Springboks and All Blacks as a scoring combination.

With the exception of Oxford and Cambridge Universities the South Africans do not meet any English club fifteens, and this accounted for to-day's fixture being the only one played in Gloucestershire during the tour. In the last few games the scoring abilities of the Springboks have diminished, and against Glamorgan last Wednesday the margin between the rival teams was only three points. The Welsh county certainly placed a powerful fifteen in the field – almost of International strength – and that test was probably the severest the tourists will be put to prior to meeting the International sides of England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales.

The South Africans did not arrive in the City from Cardiff until Friday. They are a large party – over 30 – and during their stay in Gloucester the team's headquarters are at the Bell Hotel. The team to oppose Gloucestershire was not selected until yesterday. There were 6 alterations from the side which defeated Glamorgan, the men standing down including P Roos (captain), A Stegmann, the brilliant three-quarter, and D Morkel, the champion goal-kicker. The absence of Stegmann was regretted locally, for everyone was anxious to see the player who made himself famous in the matches at Newport and Cardiff. The side, however, contained several fine players, of whom Marsberg (full-back), Krige, Hirsch, and Loubser (three-quarters) were expected to be centres of attraction.

In the Gloucestershire team, H M Butterworth (Oxford University) early declined his place owing to inability to get leave from his captain, and "Whacker" Smith (Gloucester) came in as first reserve wing three-quarter. It was hoped this would be the only change, but on Saturday morning an intimation was received from M Neale (Bristol) that he would be unable to play, and F Niblett, the Cinderford half-back, was injured in the match with Lydney on Thursday, and was doubtful about turning out. T Wild (Lydney) succeeded to the vacancy at centre caused by the defection of Neale, and A Goddard (Cheltenham) was notified to be in attendance in the event of Niblett standing down.

The arrangements for the match were left in the hands of Messrs S W Bingle and W H Worth (the Gloucester club officials). The ground arrangements followed on the lines of those adopted at the New Zealand match, and accommodation was provided for some 12,000 to 14,000 spectators. An extra stand was erected inside the enclosure, and there were some 1,200 reserved seats, all of which were booked up a week ago.

Fortunately for the success of the fixture the weather was gloriously fine, and the conditions generally were perfect. In order to avoid any crushing at the turnstiles the gates were opened at 12 o'clock, and at this early hour there were a hundred or so enthusiasts waiting to gain admission to the ground. From this point there was a steady flow of visitors, but at 1.30 the rush increased, and at 2 o'clock, an hour before the game was announced to start, the enclosure was well filled. Still there was ample

room for thousands more, but the vacant positions were rapidly filled up. During the long wait the spectators were entertained to a lively selection of music by Mr F Rowland's military band. It was announced that Niblett would be able to play for Gloucestershire after all, so that there were only two changes from the original selection. At the last moment the South Africans played W Miller for Burdett forward. As the time drew near for the kick-off the ground presented an animated appearance, and at 2.30 every available space appeared occupied, but still the spectators poured into the field.

Punctually to time the Springboks, led by Carolin, filed on to the field to the accompaniment of a great round of cheering. A further outburst greeted the Gloucestershire men, who were captained by J L Mathias (Bristol). The players lost no time in getting into position, the teams being as follows:-

GLOUCESTERSHIRE	Positions	SOUTH AFRICANS
	<b>BACKS</b>	
A Wood (Gloucester)		A F Marsberg
	<b>THREE-QUARTER BACKS</b>	
*A Hudson (Gloucester)		J Le Roux
W Hyam (Devon Albion)		J G Hirsch
T Wild (Lydney)		J Krige
*C Smith (Gloucester)		J A Loubser
	<b>HALF-BACKS</b>	
J Stephens (Gloucester)		H Carolin
F Niblett (Cinderford)		F J Dobbins
	<b>FORWARDS</b>	
W Holder (Gloucester)		W A Burger
G Matthews (Gloucester)		H Daneel
*J D Bedell-Sivright (Cheltenham)		W C Martheze
J Watkins (Cinderford)		W S Morkel
*J L Mathias (Bristol)		H Reid
T Webb (Bristol)		D Mare
T J Richards (Bristol)		W Miller
W Bale (Bristol)		D Brink

\* Internationals

Referee: Mr F W Marsh (South Shields)

## THE GAME

The South Africans won the toss, and the home captain was deputed to start from the Worcester Street goal. It was seen that Smith had Wild for a partner on the right, Hyam and Hudson being associated on the left. The kick-off went to touch, and there was another start. This time the ball went to Carolin, and an exchange of kicks followed. At the first scrum Gloucestershire were penalised, but the Colonials gained little ground by the resultant kick. The home forwards rushed the first scrum, but Dobbins cleverly sent to touch. Play hovered near the centre until Niblett sent out to Stephens, but the ball went astray. Wood and Hudson subsequently had kicks charged down, and the South Africans looked dangerous. Hudson, however, recovered nicely,

and with a grand punt found touch at midfield. The Colonials got away with a lovely bout of passing, and Loubser sailed away in grand style. Wood only partially checked the dashing right wing, but “Whacker” Smith got across, and brought off a superb tackle. The visitors immediately got the ball out again, and following some clever exchanges Le Roux early ran in and scored behind the posts. Mare failed at the easy place. Gloucestershire dropped out, and play hovered in the home 25. Hudson, with a useful kick, gained a nice slice of ground; and then ensued an exchange of kicks ending in Wood finding touch at the centre. The home custodian was at fault a little later, but Watkins recovered in good style. The visitors gained headway with a couple of free kicks, but Wood regained with a beautiful touch-finder a minute later. The Gloucestershire forwards put in a useful rush, but they were beaten back, and Krige fed Loubser nicely, only to see Hudson effect a smothering tackle. Ensuing play was all in favour of the South Africans, but a couple of bouts of passing went astray. Dobbin beat Niblett and Stephens cleverly from a scrum, and dribbled through, but Wood saved in daring fashion. Heeling smartly from subsequent scrums the Springboks severely tested the home defence, but they failed to get through. From a mark by Krige, Carolin made a grand attempt at goal from near the centre, the ball just going wide. Following the drop-out the South Africans attacked strongly, and a lovely series of exchanges resulted in Le Roux beating Smith and crossing the line. Hudson came across and collared him, but failed to stop the try. Carolin’s kick for goal was a fine one, but it just missed. Gloucester restarted, and Hudson and Watkins were prominent for good work. The Colonials, however, were soon on the aggressive again, and Loubser was only pulled down in the nick of time by Wood. Wild, with a capital punt, sent to Marsberg, who was forced to touch at the centre. From this point the Springboks indulged in a brilliant bout of passing, and Loubser, the last to receive, ran over with the third try, the Gloucestershire men being left standing. Carolin landed a goal, and at the end of 25 minutes’ play the South Africans had a lead of 11 points. Resuming, the Gloucestershire backs tried passing, but the handling was too slow and was easily stopped. Once Hyam secured and punted down to Marsberg, who got in a fine return. The Colonial forwards were doing all the heeling just now, and Dobbin, at the scrum, initiated some beautiful movements. On the one wing Loubser was grandly tackled by Wood, and “Whacker” Smith stopped Le Roux when he looked all over a scorer. Gloucestershire worked hard, and aided by Niblett reached more favourable quarters. With a good rush the home forwards sent down to Marsberg, who got in a nice kick to touch. The Colonials soon changed the venue, but Wood stopped them at the centre with a fine touch-kick. Here Matthews dribbled cleverly, but Mathias got off-side and got his side penalised. In some loose play Stephens picked up and sent out a wide pass to Hudson, who ran and punted. Marsberg, However, fielded in perfect style, and put in a tremendous return to touch. The game was fast, and the Gloucestershire forwards shone in a splendid rush. For interfering with an opponent Sivright was penalised, and by the kick the Colonials reached the home half. Working strongly in the loose, Gloucestershire got away, and a kick to Marsberg was charged down by Mathias, but the home man failed to take advantage. The South Africans shone in a passing bout, but they were stopped, and then Hudson put in a grand punt to Marsberg, and following up prevented a reply. Ensuing play was very exciting, and Watkins was loudly cheered for a fine punt, which went to touch a few yards from the Colonials’ line. The visitors worked out, and the game was at the centre when the interval was called.

#### HALF-TIME SCORE

South Africans.....1 goal, 2 tries  
Gloucestershire.....Nil

After a longer wait than usual for the Interval Carolin resumed for the South Africans with a big kick, which Wood returned to touch just outside the 25 flag. The visitors secured from the throw-out and started passing, but Le Roux punted over the line and forced a minor. Krige received from the drop-out and ran across the ground, but the passing was stopped. From a kick Hudson marked, and his punt was well followed up by Matthews and Wild, who got the ball but were unable to get away. Some clever running by the visitors' backs looked likely to penetrate the defence, but the tackling was good. Krige, however, tricked one or two men cleverly and with a dash was all but over. The Colonials were now giving the ball plenty of air, and they indulged in some clever handling, but could not quite clear the opposition. Eventually Dobbin punted over the line, and Wood touched down. On the drop-out Gloucestershire worked to midfield, where Matthews, Watkins and Holder were conspicuous for some dashing forward work. A flying kick by Watkins went to Marsberg, who put in a big punt to Wood, and following up charged over the home custodian. Gloucestershire worked out of danger, and from a passing movement Hudson punted down. Marsberg, however, got the ball and found touch with a good kick. Ensuing play was fairly even, and at midfield. A rush by the home forwards looked promising, but Loubser cleared an opponent cleverly and kicked to touch. The South Africans worked out some dozen yards with a dashing forward burst, and then Krige cut out a lovely opening for Le Roux, after being checked by Wood, but the latter knocked on. Wood was injured in this last tackle, and had to receive attention. He was, however, able to resume after a two or three minutes' delay. Gloucestershire were early penalised on the restart, and Carolin punted high for his forwards to get under, but Bale saved. Hudson later picked up cleverly, in the open when the South Africans looked likely to clear, and later Matthews and Mathias dribbled cleverly, but their efforts were neutralised by a neat run by Krige. Just outside the 25 line the South African halves were at fault, but Carolin recovered marvellously, and running round the scrum dropped a lovely goal with his left foot. Resuming, the Springboks were soon under weigh again, and following a lovely round of passing Le Roux notched a very fine try, which Carolin converted. Soon after the restart the Springboks got in some more fine passing, but Le Roux was bored to touch. Here Niblett got the ball out to Stephens, but Wild passed too slow. Later Hudson and Loubser went for the ball near touch, and coming in contact with the touch-judge all three came down together, to the amusement of the spectators. In the next few minutes the Gloucestershire forwards distinguished themselves, and Matthews and Sivright dribbled over the line, forcing a minor. After the drop-out the South Africans took up the running again, and but for some superb tackling would have greatly added to their score. Hirsch, after one grand effort, was pounced upon by Smith and Wild on the line, and a try saved. The South Africans kept up the attack in spirited fashion, and Gloucestershire had a very hot time. Loubser was stopped on the right wing when he looked all over a scorer, and then a delay ensued owing to a Gloucester player being knocked out. Continuing, Wood assisted Gloucestershire to reach the half-way with a timely punt to touch, and afterwards Marsberg, in diving for the ball, missed it, and left an open field. The Gloucestershire men, however, had not sufficient pace to take advantage of the opening. Just before the end the visitors intercepted a pass and Krige, getting possession inside his own half, ran clean home with a try behind the posts. The place-kick by Carolin failed.

## RESULT

Africans.....3 goals (1d), 3 tries (23 points)  
Gloucestershire.....Nil

## REMARKS

The South Africans continue on their victorious career. To-day against Gloucestershire they gave a truly delightful display, and they were every bit the 23 points the superior team. Gloucestershire played pluckily, and occasionally they flattered their friends, but it was all too apparent that as a combination the home county were completely outclassed. This was more especially evidenced outside the scrum, where the wonderful speed, cleverness and combination of the Springboks proved altogether too much for Gloucestershire.

The home forwards made a creditable show against their powerful rivals, and in the loose some good work was accomplished. Here Matthews, Mathias and Watkins were always prominent, and the former was not far removed from being the best forward on the side. Holder did splendidly in the tight and lines-out, and Sivright was conspicuous for outside work. In the scrums the County did not make a great display, and they were practically beaten all though in gaining possession. The Colonials had a formidable pack doing duty, and in all phases of play they worked admirably. Brink was great in the lines-out, and a dashing trio always to the fore were Martheze, Mare and Daneel.

Holding the advantage forward, the Colonials were able to give their backs plenty of work, and at the scrum Dobbin and Carolin worked in thorough harmony. Both showed wonderful resource, and their passes were always well and accurately judged. Niblett and Stephens, on the home side, were altogether overshadowed by the Colonials, and neither player was seen to any special advantage. There was the same immense superiority at three-quarter. As a line the Gloucestershire men were not in it, and Hudson alone distinguished himself. The Gloucesterians can take credit for a really fine display, for although he scarcely got a chance in attack, his defence and general play was everything that could be desired. "Whacker" Smith put in some deadly tackles, but he was beaten more than once by the speed of the opposition. In the centre Hyam and Wild were weak and uncertain, though the latter did some good stopping at times. The South Africans' quartette were brilliant in everything they did. The centres – Krige and Hirsch – both played a lovely game, and on the wings Le Roux and Loubser are players of the highest class. The visitors handled the ball with a precision equal to the best Welsh standard, and it was remarkable what few mistakes were made. All the men possess wonderful speed, and it is to this fact the Colonials are able to beat their opponents.

At full-back Wood made several mistakes, but his tackling generally was sound, and he saved one or two apparently certain tries. The local man's kicking was not consistent, but he did not lose much taking the game through. Marsberg did not have a great deal to do, and consequently he was not seen to so much advantage as at Cardiff on Wednesday. Still, one or two things he did gave the spectators an indication of his ability.

It was a pleasantly fought game, and though there were several men knocked out in the course of the game these were pure accidents as far as could be seen. The exhibition of the Colonials delighted the huge crowd of spectators, and they were heartily cheered on leaving the field.

## NOTES AND COMMENTS

By "ONLOOKER"

Since the ever-to-be-remembered visit of the famous New Zealand combination no event in the football world has caused so much interest and excitement in Rugby football circles in Gloucestershire as the visit of the South Africans. There was every indication that the match, the only one to be played by the Colonials in the county would draw a huge gate, the first sign of this being given over a week ago, when it was announced that all the reserved seats had been taken. There was a big rush for tickets of all sorts during the three or four days immediately prior to the match, and favoured with fine weather of the best the ground rapidly filled up. The gates were opened three hours before the advertised time for the kick-off, and half an hour before the game started very few vacant places were to be seen, and the ropes were lined seven or eight deep all round the field of operations, the bank at the Dean's Walk end also being packed to the utmost of its capacity. Practically everybody who is anybody in the local football world were included in those present, the match proving a veritable re-union for men whose names were household words a decade ago. The votaries of the summer pastime were also in evidence.

The arrangements for showing the vast crowd in were in the capable hands of Messrs W H Worth, treasurer of the City Club, and S W Bingle, secretary, and with a large band of assistants everything was carried out most satisfactorily. The arrival of the South African spare men was duly noticed by the crowd who then settled down to the serious business of the day, eagerly awaiting the appearance of the teams from the changing rooms.

Punctually to time Carolin led the visitors forth, and they were greeted with a rousing cheer, which was repeated in a few seconds when the County came out. A perfect babel of voices preceded Mathias' kick, which started the fateful battle. A great shout signalled the County's success in carrying the second scrum, and Hudson, on clearing from the Colonials' rush, was loudly applauded, but the boot was quickly on the other leg, and Le Roux opened the Colonials' account behind the posts. He was practically unmarked. Mare took the easy shot, but the ball struck the cross-bar. In the course of play Carolin took a shot for goal from within a yard of the centre and a grand kick only went a yard wide. The crowd followed the points of the game very keenly. The Colonials' passing was magnificent, and their pace simply terrific, Lobser going away absolutely on his own when he scored. In the opinion of a great many, the passing was equal to the All Blacks' display on the same ground. Gloucestershire made a great fight of it after the third score, and with one brief interval the game ranged at the centre, or in the Colonials' half. On two or three occasions the County forwards got the best of the lines out, and carried the game well into the Colonials' quarters, but the defence was grand. Marsberg dashes in in the most fearless manner, and only once up

to half-time did he mull, and that was when the ball was punted high and bounced away from him.

Early in the second half the Colonials attacked and a high punt from Dobbin looked dangerous, but Wood dashed in and managed to touch down – a near thing. Gloucestershire flattered their supporters once by a fine dash into the visitors' 25, but Marsberg was there as usual, and with a huge kick sent the game back. In a dangerous open movement Krige and Le Roux got very near, but Wood effected a fine tackle. He was hurt, and the first delay of the match for injuries ensued. Wood, however, recovered in a few moments and resumed. A dropped goal and a converted try quickly followed, but the County were not downhearted, and a fine forward rush forced the Colonials to concede a minor, the first for the County in the match. An amusing incident occurred on the touch-line. Loubser tackled Hudson on the line, and in the fall Hudson clutched at P Le Roux, the touch judge, and all three rolled over together. The game was still fast and exciting, and although the County had 20 points against them and the Colonials were in their quarter nearly all the time, they did not lose heart and defended pluckily. Then came Krige's try – a real beauty. The pace he developed at the end of a game which had certainly not been of a kid-glove order was a veritable marvel.

The accounts of previous matches had led the spectators to expect great things from the "Bokken". And they were in no wise disappointed. It was a game fit for the gods. There was not the "slimness" of the All Blacks, perhaps, but it was the real old Rugby game played in the old style by a set of the finest exponents of the game anyone could wish to see. The brilliancy of the backs' movements and their magnificent pace made the County men look quite out of it at times; but let credit be given where credit is due, and it must be said that though badly beaten the home defenders were in no way disgraced. The visitors are immensely strong – they are conscious of their strength, and certainly give no quarter. When a man's collared by the Colonials there is no mistake about it – down they go, "planted deep". The visitors get rid of the ball in marvellous fashion, and it is no exaggeration to say that it takes "three to one to hold them". One great mistake the County men made was that they repeatedly tried to collar too high, which against men of such speed and strength, proved generally futile. The game was truly a great one, and must ever live as a brilliant event in local football history, and one calculated to do the Rugby code a great deal of good, not only here in Gloucestershire, but everywhere where the Springbokken play. In the excitement of the play the visitors use the Dutch language freely, and it speaks wonders for their combination that at a hastily ejaculated command from their captain, even in the heat of the battle, they can at once adopt the tactics as instructed. This was especially so when the Colonials had to receive the ball from a drop-out, penalty or other kick. The man in command gave the word, and on that word depended whether the ball was to be kicked back or whether a passing movement was to be initiated. So rapidly were these changes in tactics effected on some occasions that the whole thing had been done and the movement made before the County men had time to "tumble" to it. The home forwards were slow in getting up as compared with the Colonials. The visitors' lines-out, too, were something out of the ordinary, and more often than not the men were spread out considerably more than half the distance across the ground. Their kicking, too, was something to see and marvel at, but the home men can congratulate themselves that even with a disorganised team – as a County team always is – they



were able to make such a show against the undoubtedly great combination of the visitors.

For such a hard, bashing game there were comparatively few stoppages. After the match the ground was safely cleared, and great praise is due to those responsible for the day's arrangements and the local police for the efficiency with which the undertaking was carried through.

#### ENTERTAINING THE TEAMS

After the match the rival teams and officials were entertained to dinner by the County Football Union at the Bell Hotel. The company numbered about 60. Mr J H Tratt (President of the Union) occupied the chair, and proposed the toast of "Our Guests".

#### THE GATE RECEIPTS

The gate receipts amounted to £690, or £120 more than for the New Zealand match. This is a record for any game at Kingsholm, with the exception of the International of 1900, when the total was over £900.

#### SOUTH AFRICANS' FIXTURE LIST

The South Africans remain in Gloucester until Monday afternoon. During the week they play Oxford and Cambridge University teams, and then go to Scotland.

#### PROSIT SOUTH AFRICA !

For every bond and every tie  
That binds within a mighty whole  
The lands that lie 'neath every sky,  
The Empire stretching pole to pole,  
For every brother and ally  
Give thanks, and hearty welcome cry

To those from "Africa's sunny strand,"  
Who now in friendly sport contest  
The elder sons of Motherland.  
If they should win then "give them best,"  
Or if to you the game should go,  
Do honour to a gallant foe.

For every sea and every land  
Where flies the ensign of the free,  
Where Britain hold her proud command,  
And where her sons made history.  
Give thanks and drink this loyal toast:

“Britain, and those who love her most.”

TICUS.

During the afternoon Mr J R Poole secured a cinematograph photo of the game in progress, which will be shown next week at the Gloucester Palace of Varieties on the bioscope.