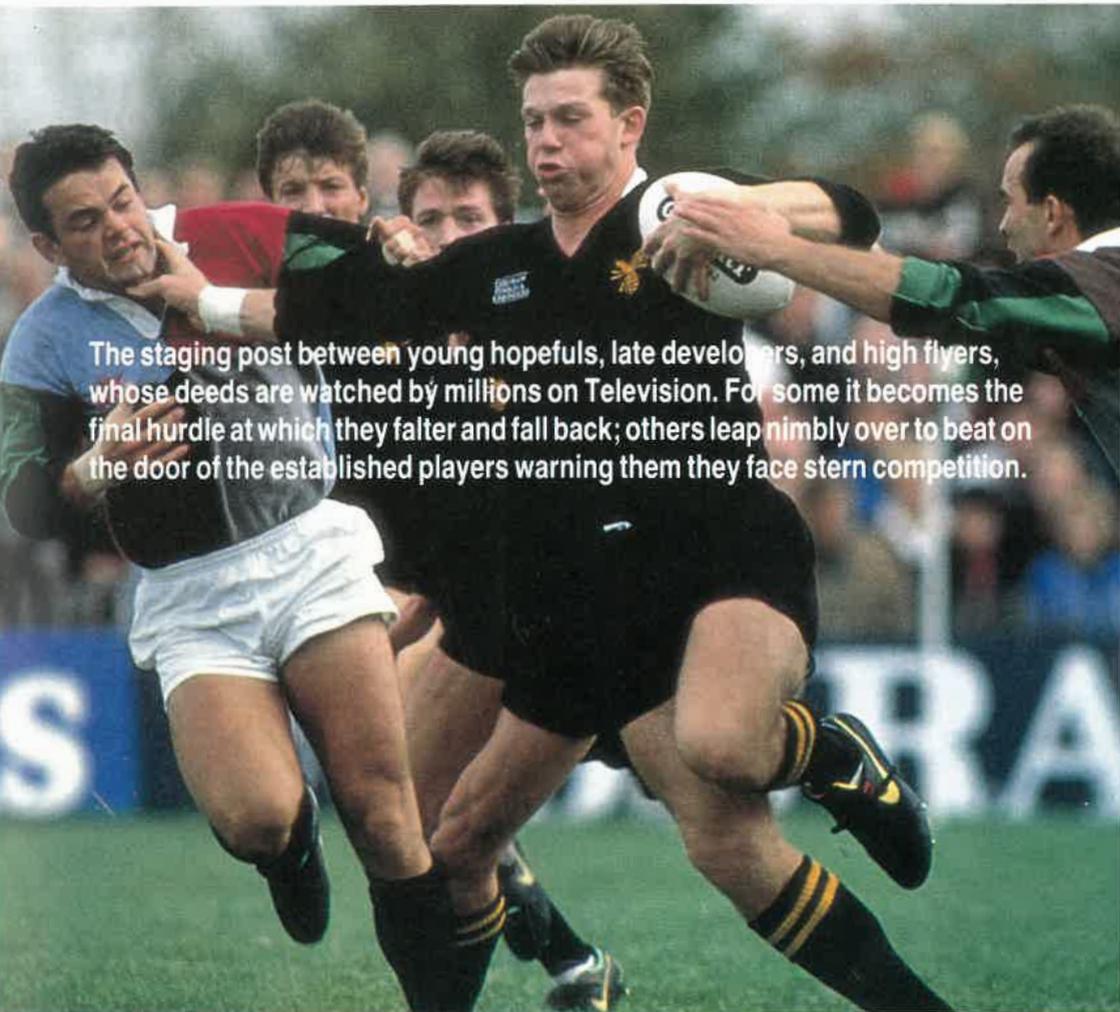




ENGLAND B

The staging post between young hopefuls, late developers, and high flyers, whose deeds are watched by millions on Television. For some it becomes the final hurdle at which they falter and fall back; others leap nimbly over to beat on the door of the established players warning them they face stern competition.



Experience n second tear

By David Hands

England B 18
Soviet Union 10

Just as their student colleagues did on their visit to Scotland last season, the Soviet Union saved their best for last. Had they played (or been allowed to play) as well earlier in their tour as they did in the second half of Saturday's game against England B at Franklins Gardens, Northampton, they would have returned home on Sunday with a much more credible record than drawn one, lost four.

England's B XV — nominally the most experienced fielded at this level as seven players had appeared in full internationals — may have under-rated their opponents because of their dismal record. They may even have thought that, turning round 18-0 up, the match was as good as won. They certainly under-estimated Soviet pride in performance, which allowed the visitors to dominate the second half and won the plaudits of the massed Northampton faithful.

By the close England's scrum was in retreat, their lineout struggling to stay in touch, and they were scurrying around desperately plugging holes punched by the visiting back row (where Tikhonov lived up to his reputation) and front row, especially by Molchanov, the tight-head prop, whose try was rapturously received. The Soviet tight forwards looked to be emulating the French tactical approach, only at times they did it better.

It was a desperate disappointment that England could construct nothing better, even in muddy conditions and a destructive wind. Their two tries, both scored by Clough who, with Skinner, rose above the generally mundane English play, derived from Soviet possession, and Pears's two pen-

Pears keeps the record straight

From David Hands

France B 15
England B 15

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interval but it was -- raid.

Otherwise, the Soviets dominated, Frantuzov spraying the ball around and looking for all the world like all those little but lithe scrum halves who are a constant feature of French teams.

If their hands had not let them down at critical moments the gap might have decreased still further. As it was Molchanov

It is no small matter to have come from France at the week-end unbeaten in three internationals at different levels: the senior side's win matched in conviction the 32-4 success in the student international in Verdun on Friday evening, while on Saturday England came from behind to draw the B international at the Jean Bouin Stadium in Paris by five penalty goals to a goal and three penalties.

That may sound a somewhat unattractive scoreline but the high winds (which turned the two indoor tennis courts at the end of the stadium into outdoor ones during the final quarter and snapped a goalpost shortly after the game ended) were all against constructive rugby. It was no mean feat, either, to hold what was on paper a powerful French XV and the frustrating part was that the match might have been won if the conditions had been harnessed somewhat better.

By half-time the omens were good because England, having faced the gale, were only 9-6 down and were enjoying the best of the lineout exchanges, thanks mainly to O'Leary's strong all-round game. But they could not get the better of the French defence, or the whistle of Bertie Smith, the Irish official who let little develop on a day when sympathetic refereeing was required.

There were, though, important plus marks gained by players such as Leonard, who is developing well at loose-head prop and as a contributor about the field, and Taylor, the flanker.

The first half was a constant exchange of penalties: Velo, the leading points scorer in French domestic rugby last season, kicked three of five attempts and Pears two from three. His third penalty levelled matters and it was a pity that Morris, who made a couple of openings, could not find his support.

Lhermet completed a period of intense French pressure with the only try of the game, though judgement of his potential for a first cap must be reserved on this showing. The French backs were just beginning to look dangerous when the tempest broke again, destroying anything resembling a handling move and leaving Pears to knock two well-judged penalties down its flight to give England a deserved share of the spoils.

SCORERS: France B: Try: Lhermet. Conversion: Velo. Penalties: Velo (3). England B: Penalties: Pears (5). FRANCE B: F Velo (Grenoble); B Lacombe (Agen), E Bonneval (Toulouse), B Labat (Tarbes), P Montas (Biarritz); P Rouge-Thomas (Toulouse, rep: J-M Leacure, Narbonne), J Milhas (Auch); P Capdevielle (Tarbes), D Bouet (Dax), F Meyer (Montferrand), T Maest (Toulouse), H Morin (Toulouse), J-M Cadieu (Toulouse), J-M Lhermet (Montferrand), A Cigagna (Toulouse, captain). ENGLAND B: A Buzza (Wasps); J Fallon (Richmond), B Berley (Wakefield), J Buckton (Saracens), N Heslop (Orrell); D Pears (Harlequins), D Morris (Liverpool St Helens); J Leonard (Saracens), N Hitchen (Orrell), A Mullins (Harlequins), P Taylor (Rosslyn Park), D Baldwin (Sale), S O'Leary (Wasps), D Pegler (Wasps, captain), T Rooper (Northampton). Referee: B Smith (Ireland).



Spanish Tour to England, 1991

The Rugby came to Spain in 1921. Baldiri Aleu, a young Catalonian boy who had studied veterinary science in Toulouse, France, brought the oval ball game to Spanish Territory.

In June of that year, the french teams of Perpignan and Narbonne played against each other in Barcelona, in order to raise some money for the frenchmen who were disabled in the First World War.

From that date onwards, Aleu and his friends decided to form a club to play this wonderful game. So, the first Spanish Rugby Club, the Unio Esportiva Santboiana was founded. In the following year this team won the first official competition of the game.

In 1923 the Spanish Rugby Football Union was founded, the first President was, of course, Baldiri Aleu. From thence on it became possible to take part in International competitions and so, on 1st March 1927, the Spanish Rugby Team played their first International match versus France.

From those initial steps to the present time, the Spanish Team has taken part in a total of 168 official matches. They have played against almost every one of the worlds top teams and have toured the five continents. Spain has hosted in-coming tours and has made outgoing during which they have played Argentina, England, Wales, Ireland, France, Scotland, Zimbabwe, New Zealand and Australia.

The Spanish Rugby Federation has 250 clubs, in which there are about 15000 players. The Division of Honour, is the top category in which there are twelve teams. Below this category we have the First National Championship which is played between two groups of ten teams. At a lower level there is the Regional Championship which takes place in 15 areas around the Country. There are also National Club Competitions for the Schoolboys, Colts, Juniors and other categories.

Continued page 4.



ENGLAND

at Gloucester on Sun

K.O. 3

Referee: G. Sir

ENGLAND B

White Jerseys, White Shorts

- 15 **JOHN LILEY** (Leicester)
- 14 **IAN HUNTER** (Northampton)
- 13 **PHILIP DE GLANVILLE** (Bath/Oxford Univ)
- 12 **DAMIAN HOPLEY** (Wasps)
- 11 **ADEDEYO ADEBEYO** (Bath)
- 10 **DAVID PEARS** (Harlequins)
- 9 **RUPERT MOON** (Llanelli)
- 1 **VICTOR UBOGU** (Bath)
- 2 **GRAHAM DAWE** (Bath)
- 3 **GARY PEARCE** (Northampton)* Captain*
- 4 **NIGEL REDMAN** (Bath)
- 5 **SIMON DEAR** (Rosslyn Park)
- 6 **DEAN RYAN** (Wasps)
- 7 **NEIL BACK** (Leicester)
- 8 **BEN CLARKE** (Saracens)

Replacements

- 16 **Gavin Thompson** (Harlequins)
- 17 **Martin Strett** (Orrell)
- 18 **Aadel Kardooni** (Leicester)
- 19 **Gary Holmes** (Wasps)
- 20 **Tim Rodber** (Northampton)
- 21 **Kevin Dunn** (Gloucester)

- FULL
- THREE QU
- RIGHT
- CEN
- CEN
- LEFT
- HALF E
- STAND
- SCRUM
- FORW

Touch
M.J. Bayless Glou
 Touch
A.M.W. Reay Glo

Every attempt is made to
 information available. Changes

B v SPAIN

Day 20th January, 1991

1.00p.m.

Diamonds (WRU)



SPAIN

Red Jerseys, Blue Shirts

BACK

QUARTERS

WING

TRE

TRE

WING

BACKS

KICK-OFF

1st HALF

WARDS

OP

KER

OP

CK

CK

KER

KER

8

Judge

Gloucester – Gloucester

Judge

Gloucester – Bristol

- 15 **FRANCISCO PUERTAS** (Canoe)
- 14 **GABRIEL RIVERO** (Begles)
- 13 **SALVADOR TORRES** (Santboiana)
- 12 **JON AZKARGORTA** (Getxo)
- 11 **DANIEL SAENZ** (Arquitectura)
- 10 **JORGE MORENO** (Arquitectura)
- 9 **JAVIER DIAZ** (Getxo)
- 1 **JULIO ALVAREZ** (El Salvador) * Captain*
- 2 **JAVIER AGUIAR** (Liceo Frances)
- 3 **ASIER ALTUNA** (Bayona)
- 4 **FRANCISCO MENDEZ** (Cisneros)
- 5 **EMILIO ILLAREGUI** (San Juan Luz)
- 6 **ALBERTO MALO** (Santboiana)
- 7 **JAIME GUTIERREZ** (Arquitectura)
- 8 **JOAQUIN RODRIGUEX** (Arquitectura)

Replacements

Carlos Camarero (Horthez)

Jon Etxebarria (Getxo)

Gorka Urrutia (Getxo)

Jonadad Diez (Getxo)

Miguel Sanchez (Ciencias Sevilla)

Juan Mazariegos (El Salvador)

Jose Candau (El Salvador)

to print the most accurate
will be announced before kick-off.

In the last few years, Spain has participated in many of the important and prestigious Rugby Seven Tournaments, including Hong Kong and Sydney.

Since 1954, Spain has participated in the FIRA Championships, and is at present in FIRA's top category, which it reached after defeating Portugal on 29th October 1990.

The Spanish Team arrival in England is part of an intense International programme which began last October in Italy. Whilst in Italy Spain played in the European qualifying rounds for the 2nd Rugby World Cup, and achieved third place after Italy and Rumania. Following their match against Portugal, Spain received visits from the Australian Emerging Wallabies and Scotland.



Pegler is poised for England B

By David Hands
Rugby Correspondent

When David Pegler leads out
B team against the
team against the
Gar-

behind them come young men
like Back, of Nottingham.
Nevertheless, December has
been a good month for Pegler,
and victory against the Soviets,
who are without a win from
their five-match visit to Eng-
land, was an excellent
start to the weeks

withdrawal with a back in
Blackmore, of Bristol.
Richard Best, the B
offers little comfort
Soviets when he anticip
charges creating selectio
lems for the senior side.
to these players to clos
which has undoubtedly
and Mike Te
role r

Best comes off worst

DICK BEST'S hopes of continuing from where he left off with Harlequins, London and the national Under-21 rugby union side were shattered last night at Headingley by the Fijians as Best's first match in charge of the England B team resulted in a far from satisfactory defeat.

Bristol reckon that Paul Hull cannot kick, which is why they prefer to play him in the centre. England, though, had picked him at stand-off for the simple reason that they did not want the ball hoofed in the air and Hull duly obliged.

But the London-born youngster with the go-faster haircut could not resist a drop at goal in the eighth minute. It was from close range and it missed, so perhaps Bristol had a point in one respect.

Hull, though, is mighty sharp on his feet and has a fast pair of hands. This soon became evident after England had taken the sensible option and used their big forwards to drive deep into the Fijian half. There, Hull, fizzed the ball about.

The trouble was everyone around him kept dropping it and the Fijians showed just how dan-

By BARRIE FAIRALL

England B.....	12
Fiji.....	20

gerous they can be on the counter-attack by rattling away downfield. They all but scored, too, through Alifereti Dere and England breathed collective sigh of relief.

Composure and caution was now called for and England had an excellent chance to go ahead via the conventional route, but Steve Pilgrim's penalty attempt from 30 yards rebounded off a post.

To cap that, Fiji opened their account when Noa Nadruku hacked on a loose ball around his 22 and gave chase with Tomasi Lovo for company. Lovo bundled Tony Underwood off the ball and into touch and Nadruku scored.

That was in the 38th minute, but England led at the break through nothing more exciting than a penalty try for a deliberate knock-on, which Pilgrim converted.

So for the time being England may have felt they were in the driving seat, though a good many Yorkshiremen in the crowd were voicing different opinions and

even calling for a proper stand-off — which was tough on Hull.

England eased 9-4 ahead with a penalty from Pilgrim three minutes into the second half and then the Fijian fireworks really began.

First the tourists swept upfield with some devastating running for Nadruku to dive over triumphantly for his second try, which Mesake Seavula converted with a fine kick.

That was after 20 minutes of the half and worse was to follow from England's point of view 10 minutes later when another sweeping assault resulted in a try for Lovo.

Finally, with two minutes remaining, the Fijians broke out again and England's defence disintegrated leaving the path open for Isikeli Waqavatu to touch down.

England B: Try penalty try; Penalties Pilgrim 2; Conversion Pilgrim. Fiji: Tries Nadruku 2, Lovo, Waqavatu; Conversions Seavula 2.

ENGLAND B: S Pilgrim (Wasps); A Underwood (Leicester), S Irving (Headingley), F Clough (Wasps), E Davis (Harlequins); P Hull (Bristol), D Morris (Liverpool St Helens); J Leonard (Saracens), K Dunn (Gloucester), J Probyn (Wasps), R Kimmins (Orrell), S O'Leary (Wasps), P Tayler (Rosslyn Park), D Thresher (Harlequins), D Pegler (Wasps, capt).

Fiji: M Natullagilagi (Suva); I Waqavatu (Suva), T Lovo (Suva), L Erenavula (Nadroga), N Nadruku (Nadroga), S Koroduadua (Suva), M Seavula (Nadroga); M Taga (Suva), S Naivilawasa (Suva), I Naituku (Rewa), I Savia (Suva), M Rasari (Suva), A Dere (Suva), E Teleni (Suva, capt), N Matirewa (Suva).

Referee: R Clark (Scotland).

1990-1991

ENGLAND B MATCHES

Friday 2nd November

v Namibia at Leicester F.C. K.O. 7.15pm

Sunday 4th November

v Australia Emerging Players K.O. 3pm

Sunday 20th January

v Spain at Gloucester R.F.C. K.O. 3pm

Wednesday 13th February

v Italy B at Waterloo K.O. 2.15pm

Friday 1st March

v Ireland in Dublin K.O. 2.30pm

Friday 15th March

v France B at Bristol K.O. 7.30pm