

NORTH WALES v MONMOUTHSHIRE 1967 AND 2007

On Saturday, April 8, 1967, North Wales entertained Bridgend on their first visit to the area when a match was played on the Bangor ground, and it turned out to be a fast and exciting match, with Bridgend running out as worthy winners by 17 points to 9. The Bangor players in the side that day were Lorrie Rees, David Gray and T. W. Jones, the latter winning a special accolade for "some precise touch-finding".

The sensational result of the decade came a mere ten days later, when North Wales travelled to Newport to take on Monmouthshire in the Welsh Counties Championship Final. This game to decide the championship provided one of the biggest upsets in the Rugby Calendar. Monmouthshire were captained by David Watkins, that year's Welsh International XV Captain and they fielded five other internationals, including the hero of the England v. Wales match, Keith Jarrett. North Wales started with great determination, and eventually dominated all phases of the game.

NORTH WALES			MONMOUTHSHIRE		
(15)	J. KIDNER (Bangor University College)	Full Back	DEWI JONES (Newbridge)	(15)	
(14)	D. W. JONES (B.N.C. & Birkenhead Park)	Right Wing	LAURIE DANIELS (Pontypool)	(14)	
(13)	G. JONES (B.U.C. & London Welsh)	Right Centre	*GORDON BRITTON (Newport)	(13)	
(12)	S. TURNER (Bangor University College)	Left Centre	*KEITH JARRETT (Newport)	(12)	
(11)	A. KERSEY-BROWN (Llandudno & London W.)	Left Wing	*PETER REES (Newport)	(11)	
(10)	K. JONES (Chester College)	Out. Half	*DAVID WATKINS (Newport) Captain	(10)	
(9)	T. JONES (Bangor)	In. Half	TERRY EVANS (Newbridge)	(9)	
(1)	N. ASHWORTH (Colwyn Bay & Birkenh'd P.)	Prop.	*JOHN O'SHEA (Cardiff)	(1)	
(2)	D. MYCOCK (Colwyn Bay)	Hooker	ALAN TALBOT (Cross Keys)	(2)	
(3)	T. CROOK (Colwyn Bay & Birkenhead P.)	Prop.	MEL BEVAN (Tredegar)	(3)	
(4)	T. ROGERS (Old Birkonian) Captain	2nd	*BILL MORRIS (Newport)	(4)	
(5)	G. EVANS (B.U.C. & London Welsh)	2nd	MAURICE PANTER (Abertillery)	(5)	
(6)	D. GRAY (Bangor)	Blind	MALCOLM LEWIS (Abertillery)	(6)	
(8)	P. ROGERS (Old Birkonian)	Lock	JOHN JEFFREY (Newport)	(8)	
(7)	A. GRAY (Bangor & London Welsh)	Open	KEITH POOLE (Newport)	(7)	
Referee: Mr. G. Walters			* Internationals		

The forwards showed power and skill in scrums and line-outs, and the back row excelled in cover, defence and speed to the loose ball. This enabled them to deny possession to the experienced Monmouthshire threequarters. The North Wales backs showed outstanding speed and determination and the wing three-quarters. A Kersey Brown and D. W. Jones, were firm favourites with the large crowd. Whenever the first line of defence was broken, Tony Gray's great speed and experience enabled him to cut off the danger.

North Wales emerged as convincing winners by 24 points to 6. This result, it was claimed, had placed North Wales on the Welsh Rugby map, and would be a great encouragement to both senior and school players to keep up to a high standard. Bangor, as an area, was well represented by John Kidner and Stuart Turner, from the University College, Tom Jones, Tony Gray and David Gray from Bangor, and Kersey-Brown from Penmaenmawr. The latter player was a former pupil of Friars School. W. E. Lewis, another ex-Friars boy, was a reserve for the side. D. W. Jones, right wing threequarter, was a former student of Bangor Normal College. G. Jones, at right centre, and Geoff Evans, second row, were also both former members of the University College team.



The North Wales side that shook Monmouthshire in the Welsh Counties Cup, by winning the Final 24 points to 6 points, at Rodney Parade, Newport.

Standing: J. Bryn Davies (N.W.R.U. Hon. Sec.); T. Crook (Colwyn Bay); Kersey Brown (Llandudno and London Welsh); G. Evans (B.U.C. and London Welsh); Peter Rogers (Ruthin); J. Kidner (U.C.N.W.); N. Ashworth (Colwyn Bay); I. Rees (Bangor).

Seated: D. Gray (Bangor); T. Gray (Bangor & London Welsh); John Rogers (Ruthin and Old Birkonians); D. W. Jones (Birkenhead Park); G. L. Jones (U.C.N:W. and London Welsh).

Front Row: K. Jones (Chester College); T. W. H. Jones (Bangor); S. Turner (U.C.N.W.). D. Mycock (Colwyn Bay).

40 YEARS ON THEY CAME CLOSE AGAIN

16/03/2007

Late try robs North Wales of victory in South Wales (Monmouthshire 24 Gogledd Cymru 24) Welsh rugby legend praises team skill and commitment.

Gogledd Cymru made the long journey to Blackwood last Friday for their Welsh Counties Cup encounter with a very strong Monmouthshire side made up of almost entirely of National League Division 1 players

Coach Jon Aby's well drilled side went behind to an early try against their much bigger and physical opponents, but responded well to the early pressure with Arron Jones (MOLD) crashing over for a try following a good drive by the forwards. The GOGS played excellent open rugby with the experienced Rhys Hughes (RUTHIN) at scrum half providing good control and service to Mathew Parry (LLANGEFNI) who had an excellent game at fly half.

The enterprising rugby resulted in another good try by Jo Palmer (RUTHIN) following a strong run by Gareth Coy (LLANDUDNO). The hosts drew level with penalties and the game was evenly balanced at 13-13 at half time.,

The second half continued to be a closely contested affair. Parry and Kelvin Morris (CAERNARFON) slotting penalties to bring scores level at 19-19.

The mobile north wales pack well marshalled by captain Wil Bown (LLANGEFNI) who led by example throughout, were more than holding their own, tackling fiercely and providing good ball to the enterprising backs. Gogledd Cymru eventually broke the deadlock when a superb Mathew Parry cross kick was cleanly gathered by Huw Parry (RUTHIN) who outpaced the defence to score a well worked try.

With minutes left the hosts scored an unconverted try to level the score and despite great efforts by north wales to keep the ball alive to go for a winning score in the dying minutes they were denied by the final whistle. The final score 24-24.

After the match welsh rugby legend Bryn Meredith (who was this week admitted to the Wales Hall Of Fame) complimented the north walian's for their huge commitment and high skill levels which so nearly brought them victory.

C BLACKWOOD R.F.C 16/3/07.

MONMOUTHSHIRE R.F.C.

15 DARRYL CARTER	PONTYPOOL
14 GARETH HASSELL	PILL HARRIERS
13 GRANT HARTY	NANTYGLO
12 CRAIG LLOYD	PILL HARRIERS
11 WESLEY CUNLIFFE	NEWPORT SARACENS
10 DARREN PEARCE	PONTYPOOL
9 TYRONE MAHONEY	NEWPORT SAR (CAPT)
1 PAUL BATTY	PILL HARRIERS
2 CHRIS WILKINS	BRYNITHEL
3 DARREN MORGAN	NANTYGLO
4 STEVE COLES	NANTYGLO
5 WAYNE SIMS	NEWBRIDGE
6 CHRIS WILLIAMS	NEWPORT SARACENS
7 RYAN GRIFFITHS	CWMBRAN
8 MARK CHRISTOFFERSON	PILL HARRIERS

REPLACEMENTS

GARETH WILLIAMS	ABERGAVENNY
ROB SEVENOAKS	ABERGAVENNY
MARK JAMES	PILL HARRIERS
LEE MEREDITH	PONTYPOOL
MIKE PEARD	
GARETH ROBERTS	CWMBRAN
JULIAN POOLE	NEWBRIDGE
STUART TANDY	BLAINA
GARETH GROVES	CWMBRAN
GAVIN TEAGUE	CWMBRAN

NORTH WALES R.F.C.

15 GARETH COY	LLANDUDNO
14 HUW PARRY	RUTHIN
13 IWAN EDWARDS	DENBIGH
X 12 KELVIN MORRIS	CAERNARFON
11 STUART FELL-CROOK	RHYL
10 MATHEW PARRY	LLANGFNI
9 RHYS HUGHES	RUTHIN
1 RHODRI OWEN	LLANGFNI
2 LIAM GILL	MOLD
3 ARRON JONES	MOLD
4 LAURENCE SMITH	CAERNARFON
5 AARON JONES	BALA
6 IESTYN DAFYDD	LLANGFNI
7 JO PALMER	RUTHIN
8 WILLIAM BROWN	LLANGFNI

REPLACEMENTS

X HUW DAVIES	LLANGFNI
JOHN GILL	WREXHAM
CLWYD WILLIAMS	RUTHIN

REFEREE	PHIL HARRY	GILWERN
TOUCH JUDGE	MARK EMMETT	PONTYPOOL