SCOTTISH RUGBY TEAM COMPLETED.

ANOTHER VICTORY FOR FRANCE.

IRELAND BEATEN AT HOME.

FIRST DEFEAT FOR EDINBURGH ACADEMICALS.

A NOTEWORTHY event in Rugby on Saturday was the victory of France over Ireland at Belfast. It was a narrow win by the one score of the contest, and it gave the Frenchmen their second success of the season. They had previously beaten Scotland at Paris.

Once before only had France defeated two countries in the same season, and these countries were the same two as now.

It was superior speed which enabled France to win at Belfast.

H. Waddell (Glasgow Academicals) will occupy the vacant positinof at stand-off in the Scottish team to play Wales at Murrayfield on Saturday.

At home the result of the day was the defeat of the Edinburgh Academicals by Hawick. It was a stirring game, and the Border team deserved their success.

The Edinburgh forwards stood up well in a hard struggle with the Hawick eight, and gave their backs a good supply of the ball, but these backs could not force home more than one of their attacks.

It was the Academicals' first defeat of the season, and they and Hawick are now on level terms in the Championship series.

The Glasgow Academicals met the Watsonians at Edinburgh, and after a fairly even first half won comfortably. A feature of the game was the fine form shown by H. Waddell.

Stewart's College (F.P.) scored freely against the Edinburgh Wanderers, who were outplayed in the second half; and Heriot's (F.P.) had a good win over Edinburgh University, though their score made their victory appear to be a more decisive one than the play warranted.

Kelso scored often against the Royal High School (F.P.) side, who were visitors to the Border town. The Kelso team thus maintained their record of four goals.

In the first half they were much the better side.

Selkirk lost unexpectedly to Jedforest at Selkirk, and Gala went down at Melrose. Both were closely contested games. The Foresters won by two points and Melrose by one.

Despite a heavy handicap in injured players, the Glasgow High Schoolmen were victors over Dunfermline. They finished the game with twelve men and Dunfermline played with thirteen to fifteen all through the second half.

In the school championship series, Loretto defeated George Watson's College by a placed goal to a dropped goal.

H. WADDELL TO PLAY FOR SCOTLAND.

H. Waddell, Glasgow Academicals, is to fill the vacant place at stand-off half in the Scottish team to meet Wales at Edinburgh on Saturday. He has not played for Scotland since the English match of 1927.

ENGLAND AND IRELAND FIFTEENS.

The England team to meet Ireland in Dublin on Saturday, February 8, will be the same as defeated Wales at Cardiff:—

J. C. Askew (Cambridge University); A. L. Norris (Blackheath), F. W. S. Malir (Otley), M. Reason (Oxford University), and J. S. R. Reeve (Harlequins);

R. S. Spong (Old Millhillians) and W. H. Sobey (Old Millhillians);

J. G. Kendrew (Woodford), A. Batson (Otley), B. H. Black (Oxford University), J. S. Tucker (Bristol), J. W. Forrest (United Services), H. G. Porter (Waterloo), P. D. Howard (Oxford University), and W. E. Tucker (Blackheath).

The following fifteen have been selected to represent Ireland against England:—

F. W. Williamson (Dolphin);

J. C. Arigho (Lansdowne), M. F. Crowe (Lansdowne), E. O. D. Davy (Lansdowne), and G. T. Stephenson (London Hospital) (captain);

T. P. Murray (Wanderers) and M. Sugden (Wanderers);

G. R. Beamish (Leicester), J. D. Clinch (Wanderers), M. J. Dunne (Lansdowne), J. L. Farrell (Bective Rangers), C. J. Hanrahan (Dolphin), J. M'Vicker (Queen's University, Belfast), Noel Murphy (Cork Constitutional), C. T. Payne (North of Ireland).

There are three new caps—Williamson, Murphy, and Crowe. Other changes in the side beaten by France is that Davy and Murray have changed place and that Stephenson is to be tried at wing three-quarter.

W. W. WAKEFIELD TO CAPTAIN BRITISH TEAM.

W. W. Wakefield has decided that he will be able to make the trip to New Zealand and Australia with the British Rugby team this summer. He will captain the side.

FRANCE TRIUMPHANT.

VICTORY WON BY SPEED.

France has made a magnificent beginning to her international season. On the first day of this year Scotland was defeated in Paris, and on Saturday, even though not reproducing the fine form shown before their home supporters, the French team achieved a fine feat by defeating Ireland at Belfast by one converted goal to nothing. Recent rains had left the Belfast ground very soft on top, and, naturally, in these circumstances, the struggle was largely confined to the forwards. The crowd of 25,000 could hardly have been satisfied with the standard of play, though exciting incident was not lacking.

The Frenchmen were a long time settling down, and, even when the game was for advanced, their forward play resulted rather disappointingly. They exhibited little skill in scrummaging, and the devastating loose rushes which proved such a strong factor in the victory over Scotland were seldom seen. The opening exchanges were remarkably even, and not until 20 minutes had passed did a score appear imminent.

Speed was obviously in practically all departments won the game for France, when in the second half the Irish forwards began to hammer at their opponents' line. The French backs showed fast enough pace to frustrate any back movement, and when an opportunity offered to turn defence into attack it was really a repetition of Scotland's defeat in Paris, but with this difference, that it was not only for speed in running that Ireland was beaten.

Perhaps her greatest fault and weakness was the slow feeding of her forwards. The ball was trickled back to Sugden, and that, of course, affected adversely his participation with Davy. It is doubtful if Ireland could have won even if the new famous association of her half-backs had played together with their usual smoothness. The centres, too, were beaten for pace. G. V. Stephenson showed little of his former brilliance, and though Murray did nothing wrong, never throughout the game did he look like beating the French defence.

Pace, too, was the deciding factor on the wings. Arigho, usually a reliable scorer, was completely overhauled with almost absurd ease by Taillinitoux every time he got the ball. Gainty, on the other wing, was frankly outclassed. This victory gives France a reasonable chance of carrying off the international championship for the first time, and it was certainly well deserved. Though they were beaten in the first scrum, the French forwards never relaxed their efforts. They were excellent in the line-out and in the tour. Though prone to over-exuberance, with a little more discipline in scrummaging they have the ability to hold any pack save this season.

IRELAND'S FORWARDS DISAPPOINT.

Behind them are backs of pace and cleverness, though their ability to combine was not properly proved at Belfast. Ireland, on the other hand, will have less comforting reflections on the game. It is, for instance, doubtful if she has yet found a really worthy successor to W. E. Crawford. Hunt, the full-back tried, made a number of mistakes. He was, however, in no way to blame for the defeat. The other backs played as well as they were allowed to by an opposition whose superior pace always controlled the game.

Ireland's forwards hardly rose to the heights expected of them. They were good enough in the primary duty of scrummaging, and Payne and M'Vicker often showed up well in the loose, but the lack of pace and assurance in the back row was very evident, and may have cost Ireland the game.

Davy, running through, sent out a good pass to Stephenson, who sent Canly away. The winger, thus, however, returned an inside pass, which was intercepted. Shortly afterwards the home country had an excellent chance of taking the lead when Murray failed to kick a penalty goal from easy position. The Irish forwards, began to gain a distinct advantage, and a good combined movement enabled them to set up sustained pressure near the interval, although half-time arrived with the score about blank.

France commenced the second half as they had the first, with a strong attack, but were quickly sent back to their own twenty-five by the finest movement the game had produced. Payne led a great rush, and Davy kicked up in excellent fashion, but the situation was saved by a French back kicking over the goal line. From the resultant scrum, Baillette opened the way for Saintatan to put in a great run along the touchline, and score a try which Ambert converted, France thus holding a lead of five points five minutes after the interval. The try might have been averted, but for the Irish defence appearing to be caught out of position. Encouraged by that set-back, however, the Frenchmen showed marked improvement in their forward work. Bibere and Galfia were particularly prominent in some fine rushes. Relief came at last when Saintatan, far and away the best of the Irish three-quarters, with magnificent pace and brought down within five yards of the line.

The Irishmen were then making a great effort to get on terms. Their forwards crossed with the ball from the set scrums in the fast twenty minutes, but the feeding was slow, and the passing too mechanical to keep pace. There was nothing in endeavour, but failed to make subsidiary, February 8, will be the same as defeated Wales at Cardiff:—

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The Irishmen were then making a great effort to get on terms. Their forwards crossed with the ball from the set scrums in the fast twenty minutes, but the feeding was slow, and the passing too mechanical to keep pace. There was nothing in endeavour, but failed to make subsidiary. Towards the end of the game the French forwards were clearly too powerful for the opposing eight, and the Irish backs clearly lacked pace when scoring opportunities came.

LINEUP.—F. de Vere Hunt (the Army and Rosslyn Park); J. B. Gainty (Bordeaux), G. V. Stephenson (London Hospital), T. P. Murray (Wanderers), and J. C. Arigho (Lansdowne); E. O'D Davy (Lansdowne) and M. Sugden (Wanderers); G. R. Beamish (Leicester), C. Carroll (Bective Rangers), J. D. Clinch (Wanderers), M. J. Dunne (Lansdowne), J. L. Farrell (Bective Rangers), C. J. Hanrahan (Dolphin), J. M'Vicker (Queen's University), and C. T. Payne (North of Ireland).

FRANCE.—L. Piquemal (Tarbes); L. Samatan (U.S. Arenais), J. Baillette (U.S. Quillan), J. Verdier (Racing Club de France), and — Taillantoux (U.S. Serre (A.S. Biterrois), and P. Magnanon (A. Bayonnais); — Chez (Racing Club de France), — Thomas (C.S.A.M.), — Ambert (Stade Toulousain), — Canel, jun. (T.O.E.C.), J. Majerus (Stade Francais), A. Ribere (U.S. Quillan), J. Galfia (U.S. Quillan), and A. Biousse (Stade Toulousain).

Referee—Mr B. S. Cumberledge (England.)

FRENCH REJOICINGS.

PARIS, Sunday.—The French sporting Press is delighted at the victory of the French Rugby Team over Ireland at Belfast yesterday, which it well deserved, and the great cheer for the matches against Wales and England.

The *Auto* draws attention to the magnificent work of the French defence, which stopped every attempt of the Irishmen to break through. The Irish line was stronger than the Scottish, the forwards were fast, but the French thoroughly deserved their victory.

The *Petit de Paris* says that the manner in which the Irish fell away with the ball every time it came out of the scrum gave rise to the fear at one time that they would completely sweep through the Frenchmen. The paper singles out Hunt for the Irish back, for criticism. He is described as unequal and uncertain.

The *Figaro* sums up by saying that in spite of the heroic efforts of the Irish forwards, the French, by their vigorous defence and by their superior speed and liveliness, were the masters of the field.

SCOTTISH CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP.

	Matches.			Pts.
	P.	W.	L.	A.
Hawick	18	17	1	299 77
Edinburgh Acads.	17	11	1	231 60
Glasgow Acads	17	11	1	238 60
Glasgow University	17	7	2	68 39
Stewart's (F.P.)	17	7	1	232 78
Dunfermline	15	8	1	174 76
Stewart's College	16	13	4	260 133
Selkirk	16	13	3	165 74
Melrose	17	7	5	144 114
Heriot's (F.P.)	16	7	2	226 91
Jedforest	15	7	7	97 130
Kelso	17	6	8	117 165
Edinburgh University	21	2	9	70 198
Gala	16	2	9	112 159
Hillhead High School	14	2	9	84 31
Edinburgh Wanderers	15	2	10	2 93 191
Royal High (F.P.)	15	2	11	74 229
Royal High School	20	6	13	2 160 267
Melville	17	2	13	2 145 169
Edinburgh Institution	18	4	14	0 89 370

BORDER LEAGUE.

	P.	W.	L.	D.	A.	Pts.	Pts. Per
Hawick	8	8	0	0	156	20	8 100.00
Selkirk	8	6	2	0	127	35	6 75.00
Jedforest	9	6	2	0	43	59	2 33.33
Melrose	9	2	4	2	65	58	—2 —25.00
Gala	9	2	4	2	50	67	—2 —25.00
Kelso	9	1	5	0	56	38	—2 —50.00
Langholm	7	1	6	0	22	95	—5 —71.42

SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIP.

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	Points.
Fettes	4	3	1	0	4	0	6
Loretto	5	3	1	1	21	20	7
George Watson's	5	2	2	1	20	15	5
Merchiston Castle	5	2	2	1	20	15	5
Watson's College	5	0	2	3	14	18	3
Edinburgh Academicals	1	0	1	0	0	8	0

HAWICK BEAT EDINBURGH ACADEMICALS.

Hawick had a visit from the Edinburgh Academicals, and the 7000 spectators who gathered at Mansfield Park saw a great struggle. It would be a satisfaction to most of those present that the Hawick team were able to inflict on the Academicals their first Championship defeat of the season. About 600 travelled from Edinburgh by special train. Both teams were strongly represented, but R. Foster stood down from the Hawick side in view of the fact that he is to be playing in his first international against Ireland. Interest did not slacken from start to finish. For a time neither side was able to dominate the forwards, but all over the home pack proved the better of the two, and more than held their own. The home backs did not do so well as might have been expected at the time the forwards were in the lead, their passing and handling of the ball being too impressive, but in the second period, and especially towards the close, the Academicals backs gave a good display, it was too late, however, to be effective. By that time Hawick had got a comfortable lead, and had scored three tries against one. The Hawick backs were the better of the two, however, in the first half, and the "Teries" then added to their half-time score. In the first half the visitors made an early invasion. The visitors' backs were getting away from the ball and showed aggressive form, but A. Bowie got the ball from a scrum, and passed to A. C. Pinder, who could not get away, and H. H. Turcan, who played a fine game all through, picked up and kicked into touch near the home line. W. C. Prinsle was instrumental in taking play up field, and W. B. Wilson led the forwards well up the field, but C. P. S. Macpherson picked up and made a fine clearance. R. N. R. Storrie improved the home team's position, and after a spell of struggle, Pringle dropped a goal. F. Ranken, Turcan, and Macpherson made a move which put Hawick on the defensive, and while Clark seized the visitors' kept the upper hand, and Rankin narrowly missed getting a penalty goal, the ball just falling under the cross bar, and shortly afterwards the home team had to touch down. A result of passing by the Academicals' backs put Hawick again on the defensive, and Rankin missed another attempt at a penalty goal. J. Beattie led the home forwards up the field, and Bowie scored T. Gilligan to kick a goal. The visitors then invaded, and Rankin narrowly failed to drop a goal. After B. R. Tod had kicked well down the field, Turcan picked up, fed get a good try, which Rankin converted. In a fast and stubbornly contested second period, the home forwards showed better form for a time, but the visitors' defence was good, and when the home backs got the ball they were well tackled. Storrie was nearly over, but was brought down, and Pringle was next granted, and Rankin cleared to midfield. The home forwards came on again, and W. Muir scored, for Gilligan to kick another goal. The visitors' forwards and G. M. Crichton then put in some fine footwork, but Bowie came to the rescue, and the visitors had to touch down. Shortly after close the Academicals backs were going strong, notably Macpherson, who made some great efforts to save his side from defeat, but Hawick got more scoring, and Hawick won a good game by 3 goals and a dropped goal to a goal. The Academicals' backs got enough of the ball to have won the game, but they were not seen at their best, and many scoring opportunities were lost by faulty handling. It was late in the game before Macpherson came into prominence.

Picture on Page 12.

GOOD FORM BY H. WADDELL.

The severity of the defeat suffered by the Watsonians in their return game with Glasgow Academicals, at Myreside, Edinburgh, can be attributed partially to the ineptitude of the backs. The Academicals won by one goal and four tries to one goal and one dropped goal, have been considerably reduced had the Watsonian backs been able to avail themselves of a few of their many chances. The contrasting form of sides was very marked behind the scrum. The Academicals' backs, once they had settled down, revealed their characteristic dash and resource in attack, and there was always danger in their movements. J. B. Nelson and D. Bryce showed happy partnership at half-back, and the latter displayed a lot of his former attacking ability. Nelson, who was an adept at making openings. W. M. Simmers and R. C. Warren were in a quieter mood, but they had to be reckoned with, and J. E. Forrest was the best of the wing men.

Watsonian back division lacked penetration and finishing power. There was a decided improvement in stand-off, where T. D. Hay was too often in Glasgow Academicals' way, and did not get the factory link with the three-quarters. D. P. Lyall-Grant did some good work, notably in defence, but R. F. Kelly, although at times brilliant, through brilliantly, spoiled his efforts by his fumbling passing, and perhaps it was he who lost through that falling. The Watsonian forwards, after they had a thankless task, fought splendidly throughout, and, on the whole, had the advantage over the opposing eight. In the first half they carried the game well into the scrums, but the backs failed to turn their chances to account, and the superior opportunism of the Academicals enabled them to assume the lead at the interval. J. N. F. Blackater scored the visitors' first try from a scrum, and H. Waddell made the running for another by Forrest. Apart from occasional raids by the Watsonians, the visitors made good the advantage in the second half, and crossed their opponents' goal line on three occasions. Simmers, Wedderburn, and Forrest were the try getters, and the second, named's attempt was converted by Warren. The Watsonians lost score by their weak finishing on several occasions.

HERIOT OPPORTUNISM WINS.

The former pupils of George Heriot's School triumphed over the students of Edinburgh University at Craiglockhart, Edinburgh, by one placed goal, two penalty goals, and a try to a try. The Heriot's forwards had the University backs handled smartly in the first half, and more at times put the Goldenaxe line in jeopardy, but only once they succeed in getting through and score. L. Logan's service was not as good as usual, but the Heriot's backs made the most of the ball when at the base of the scrum. The home side had a chance to shine, as the Heriot's forwards seldom had the ball in the home three-quarters' hands. D. Anderson and G. R. S. Stewart were the most enterprising forwards, handled cleanly, and the winger's speed forced the Heriot's defence to keep a watchful eye on him. A. D. Brastch gave good service, but his speed was not in evidence, and too far up the field. On the other side, there were no outstanding performances amongst the backs. A. H. Brown began in promising fashion, and A. D. Bateman and Gow Rosan, but all three faded out as the game developed. On the home side, J. Anderson and G. R. S. Stewart were the most enterprising forwards