

## LOUIS-PASTOR WORLD TITLE BOUT

### Selecting The First XV The Wing Three-quarters

**L**ONG years ago, when current events were dated not by crises and calendars, but by the influenza epidemic and The Exhibition, New Zealanders marked down an event which was for years, and still may be, the peg on which local history was hung.

It is even probable that for many of us back in the 'twenties the Great War was only some vague event which happened before the Springboks played in Dunedin—before Jack Steele scored his try.

His run down the touchline seems now to be distanced from the present almost by centuries. Radio was an unheard-of luxury. The special trains which carried us to see the match were revolutionary. The newspapers told us about it all in their own good time and did not worry us with special editions. Telephones were something to be used cautiously, and only under dire need.

Or so it seems now.

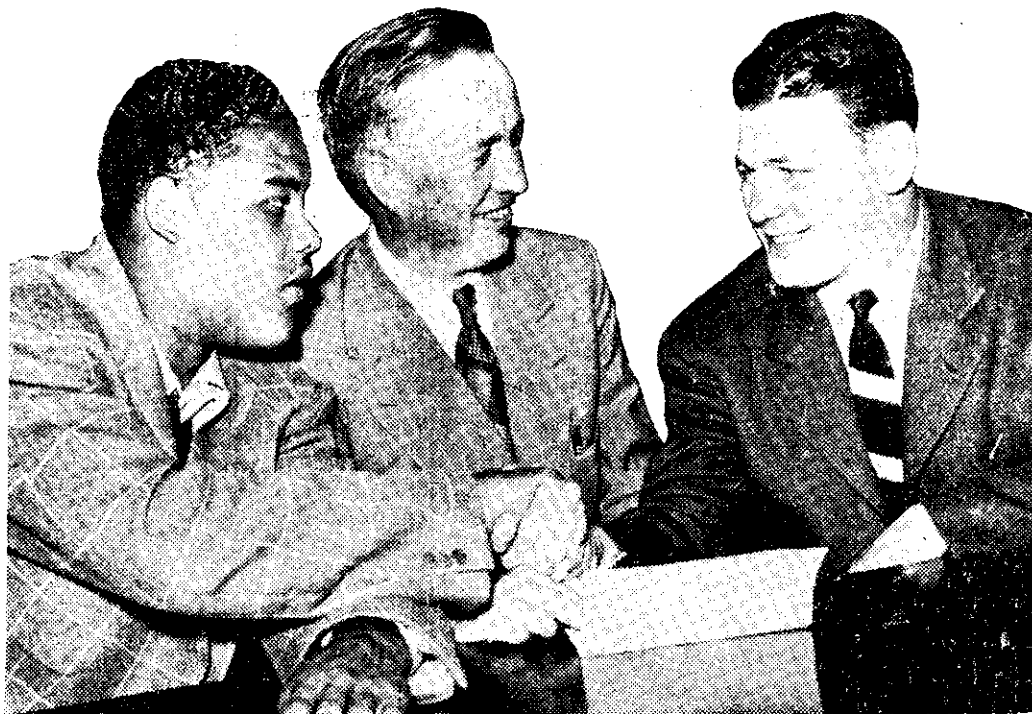
Yet somehow we heard about Jack Steele, not very long after he had touched down. We have been hearing about him ever since, and we were not surprised when Mark Nicholls placed him in the first two of the best wing three-quarters in the world.

Nicholls continued his selection of a World Rugby fifteen in the second talk from 2YD last Saturday.

#### The Essentials

In a discussion of the essentials of wing three-quarter play, he emphasised speed and courage as being most important. A wing, he said, should never give away possession. It was his duty, when he received the ball, to make for the line with all his energy. Only when he was absolutely certain that it would be advantageous should he kick. In preference he should go down with the ball when tackled and retain the ground won at all costs.

W. C. Zeller (Natal) was the first South African mentioned. Nicholls recalled his three wonderful tries against Otago in 1921, when he was mainly responsible for winning



**LOUIS, HETTICHE, PASTOR:** Joe Louis, world heavy-weight boxing champion, shakes hands with Bob Pastor, New York, after signing for the championship bout to be fought in Briggs Stadium, Detroit, on September 20. John J. Hettche, Michigan Boxing Commissioner (on Louis's left) looks on smiling. The fight will go twenty rounds if Pastor can keep out of Louis's way with the same celerity that marked his ten-round match against the champion in Madison Square Garden. The referee gave that match to Louis, evidently for persistent chasing. Notice the friendly look in the Louis eye.

"one of the hardest and roughest matches I have seen."

Van Heerden, Henry Morkel, Jack Slater, and D. O. Williams were other Springboks included in the list. Slater was "fast, courageous and clever." Nicholls spoke particularly of Slater's play in the first test of 1928. This test was enough, he claimed, to show Slater's ability, although injuries prevented his playing in the later matches.

In England, in 1924, Nicholls saw the fastest wing three-quarter he has ever seen—Gibbs. But that was all there was to Gibbs's play. Twice he ran round the All Black defence and each time he gave away possession by kicking when he reached Nepia. Steele was suffering from injuries at the time, and Parker had to be sent out to help him stop "England's flying machine." Hamilton-Wicks scored a spectacular try from the other wing position when England hooked with Cooke on the blind side and the English backs overlapping. Nicholls liked the play in the same year of Harry Stephenson for Ireland; and of Johnny Wallace, the Australian, for Oxford University.

Of the All Black wings, he particularly mentioned P. W. Storey, Gus Hart and George Hart, Bill Elvey, Harry Svenson, and Jack Steele.

Storey he remembered best for his play for the All Blacks against Wellington after the 1920 tour.

#### Slippery Bill

Gus Hart was a prolific scorer in spite of weighing only 9 stone 10 pounds when he played in 1924. George Hart, "another speed merchant," was rated

by Nicholls as the outstanding player in his position from 1930-36.

Bill Elvey was remembered for his wonderful side-step: "The best and most resolute defenders were at their wits-end to stop him. And if he was brought down he had to be held down, or he was up and off again."

Harry Svenson was a "footballer from the hair of his head to the soles of his feet."

And Jack Steele: "One of the greatest wing three-quarters in the last 20 years—a fend like the kick of a mule—a capable scorer from anywhere on the field—a powerful punt."

Nicholls took us next to France, to inspect the play of Jauréguy, "a great player, a great theorist, and a great captain. He did more for French Rugby than any other player. By producing him French Rugby justified itself."

Jauréguy led his team to victory against England, against Scotland, against Ireland, and against Wales.

Nicholls also mentioned Besson-Dupont, one of the very few wings ever to pass Nepia.

"But I only want two for my team," he concluded regretfully, "and in selecting them I run the risk of doing a grave injustice to many others."

So he selected:

**STEELE  
JAUREGUY**

For full-back, in his first talk, he had selected:  
**NEPIA**