



NEW ZEALAND MAORI RUGBY FOOTBALL REPRESENTATIVES, 1950

Back Row:	M.B. Couch	R. Douglas	M.R. Love (Hon. Secretary M.A.B.)	I. Hooper	T.D. Kipa		
Second Row:	L.W. Hohaia	W.H. Taylor	J. Ratima	S.K. McLaughlin	S. Heperi	N.P. Cherrington	
Sitting:	J.H. Marriner	M.N. Paewai (Vice Captain)	D.S.B. Heather (Manager)	A.W. Blake (Captain)	T.A. French (Assistant Manager and Coach)	W. Waaka	P. Erceg
In Front:	A.J. Douglas	T. Goldsmith	K. Matthews	P. Smith			

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McCarthy's is an interesting theory. It is, I think, tenable — no impressionable person who saw the leading Maori players of the 1920s ever forgot the experience.

Fijians unbeaten

Between 1926 and the outbreak of war in 1939, one Maori team toured to Australia (in 1935), others either toured in New Zealand or played individual matches against the All Blacks, the British of 1930 and Australian teams and made the first acquaintance with Fiji. This last-mentioned experience was a tour in 1938. It was a battle royal in each of the three tests. The first test was drawn, 3-3, the second was won by Fiji by 11 to 5 and in the third the Maoris got home by 6 to 3. This was a formidable achievement by the Fijians.

Next year, they became the first un-

beaten team ever to tour through New Zealand. They won seven matches and drew the other and were pretty decisively the better of the Maoris in the test at Hamilton. Fiji won by 14 to 4; and, interestingly, were captained by George Cakobau while Penaia Ganilua played on the flank of the scrum. Ratu Sir George Cakobau has been Governor-General of Fiji for a number of years and is the highest ranking of all Fijian chiefs. Ratu Penaia has been a senior Minister in the Fijian Government of Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara as well as president of the Giji Fiji Rugby Union.

The Maoris who toured Australia in 1935 had on the whole an excellent record, beating New South Wales two out of three, sharing two matches with Queensland and ending with a record of nine won out of 11 played. Back home, the team lost to Wellington, 9 to

11 and beat Auckland, 14 to 10 — notable performances, both, because the provinces were both strong. Nepia, by now an "old" man 30 years, was a staggering success in Australia and fine players included Jack Hemi, a utility back with a huge kick, Charlie Smith and Wally Phillips, who were outstanding wings, Tommy Chase, a nifty five-eighths, and Hawea Mataira, who was later to become an All Black.

Performances in the period from 1927 to 1939 were, on the whole good; but, in truth, Maori Rugby had slightly gone off the boil. For much of this period, New Zealand was gripped by a savage depression. It was not easy for young men, whatever their race, to concentrate upon sport when so much of their life was spent in hardship.

Another factor was the decline in the general standard of New Zealand Rugby which followed the visit of the