



Llandovery RFC Team Records 1987-89 ww03

Courtesy Wyn Williams

Back in top flight



PICTURED left are the victorious Llandovery side after they had beaten Burry Port 22-7 to bounce back into Section A of the West Wales Rugby Union just a year after being relegated.

The difference between the two teams was Llandovery's powerful scrummaging and their first two tries both came from five yard scrums.

Eifion Hughes and Ian Jones were the scorers after they had been fed by No. 8 Nigel Clarke.

A splendid move involving Chris Davies, Eifion Hughes and Geraint Williams resulted in a try for wing Tim Williams, and the fourth try fell to Carwyn Williams following a heel against the head. Carwyn also converted three times.

Burry Port's points came via a Steve Ruddall penalty and a late try from scrum half Anthony Rees.

ndoverly and

Rusty Llandovery sent tumbling

Mumbles 10, Llandovery 3

LACK of match practice over the last three weeks left Llandovery struggling for the last quarter of the match and Mumbles were able to take control and secure their place in the next round of the cup.

It was a game that Llandovery could have won — they did everything but cross the Mumbles line towards the end of the first half when they trailed 6-3 — but on balance the home side just about deserved the victory.

For once Llandovery were second best in the lineouts where

former Glamorgan Wanderers man John Davies excelled for Mumbles and with such a steady supply of possession fly half Phil Gravelle was able to keep Llandovery pinned back with some accurate punts.

Llandovery went ahead when Carwyn Williams kicked a penalty

but Mumbles took a first half lead courtesy of a Richard Greenwood try converted by Gravelle. Greenwood charged down a drop-out to score an opportunist try.

The visitors looked well placed with the wind at their backs in the second half, but despite the efforts of Nigel Clarke up front they failed to take advantage.

They lost Chris Davies through injury and simply ran out of steam in the last 20 minutes.

The clinching try came when Mumbles scrum half Simon Evans made a blindside break and David Longdon went over in the corner.

Llandovery can now concentrate on making a bid for the championship title. A point at Hendy on Saturday will give them the Section B crown and put them into the play-offs, the draw for which was made yesterday (Wednesday).



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Courtesy Wyn Williams

Llandovery and Amman take Section titles

Loughor 7, Llandovery 10

VICTORY for Llandovery brought them the Section B title on Saturday, but for Loughor their season could be turning sour right at the death.

Just a few weeks ago Loughor looked well set for promotion, but a string of defeats has pushed them into the danger zone, and if they lose at Carmarthen in their final game of the campaign they could well be relegated just a year after coming up from Section C.

But Saturday's game could have gone either way — thanks to some excellent tactical kicking from Frazer Lloyd and a series of long touch finders from full back Kevin Lewis Loughor were in contention right up until the final whistle.

EXCELLENT

Llandovery dominated the line-outs courtesy of some excellent jumping from Wyn Williams, but the Loughor pack were always quick to pounce on any untidy possession, and No. 8 Steve Howells and flanker Roy Clarke were constantly in the thick of the action.

Llandovery took the lead early on when Carwyn Williams slotted two penalties, the first from fully 40 metres, and although Loughor had their chances, Gareth Banfield was unable to match the accuracy of Williams.

Loughor, however came back strongly towards the end of the first half and following a scrum

close to the Llandovery line outside half Frazer Lloyd made a break on the blindside to score a fine try. Unfortunately for Loughor the conversion attempt bounced back of the upright.

Right on half time Llandovery scored one of their best tries of the season. The move began well inside their own half, and after a series of probing runs and some neat inter-passing Wyn Williams broke through several tackles to score.

PENALTY

So Llandovery lead 10-4 at the turn-round but minutes after the restart Loughor had reduced the deficit to three points with a second penalty.

The home side then pressed for much of the second half but lacked the spark to break down a solid Llandovery defence. The visitors' scrummaging remained steady and hooker Wyn Morgan took several strikes against the head to ease the pressure.

Llandovery now have a real chance of reaching the championship final at Stradey Park in April. In the semi-final they will meet the winners of Section D (Amman Utd.) versus Section E clash (Tonna or Bynea).



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Courtesy Wyn Williams



Action man... two-try hero Simon Rogers heads for the line.
Pictures: Ralph Carpenter.

Carmarthen Athletic 15, Llandovery 0
NEEDING to win against the champions to survive in Section B of the West Wales League next year, the Athletic produced their best performance of the season before a partisan home crowd.

The Reds could not have wished for a better start as they immediately pressurised the Llandovery line forcing a five metre scrum.

A cohesive forward drive against a heavier visiting eight enabled scrum half Simon Rogers to touch down for the push over try. Robbie Jones added the extra points with an angled conversion into the strong wind.

Richard Lewis's pack continued to dominate throughout the half with Keith Jones and Anthony Bassett winning impressive line-out ball, for half backs Rogers and Mike Owens to kick down the touchline.

Another attempt at a push-over try resulted in a Llandovery player infringing and Robbie Jones kicked the

penalty for a comfortable nine point interval lead.

In the second half the expected Llandovery onslaught was countered by crunching tackling from centres Carwyn Harries and Robbie Jones, and good covering by wingers Jonathan Lewis and Rhodri Lewis.

Full back Anthony Maynard had another solid game.

Strikes

Michael Morris took six strikes against the head in the scrums with the help of props Rick Stone and Richard Lewis, whilst the back row of Meredydd Davies, Malcolm Morse and number eight Malcolm Lennard was outstanding.

The game was made safe with another push-over try, this time on a Llandovery put-in, and the scorer was once again Simon Rogers.

Another magnificent touchline conversion by Jones wrapped up a good afternoon's work for his team.

LLANGENNECH are the convincing 22-10 defeat of

Llandovery found the Llangennech threequarters in outstanding form, Mark Doran, Iwan Hunt and Alwyn Bowen all scoring tries, and the reliable boot of Dyffrig Clement converting two and kicking two penalties. Llandovery's points came from two Carwyn Williams penalties and a Wyn Williams try.



Well protected... Athletic flanker Anthony Bassett (arm outstretched) is covered by his team-mates as he slips the ball back from a lineout.

Aiming for cup

THIS weekend the local rugby players can target were the shock team



Llandovery RFC Team Records 1987-89 WW03

Courtesy Wyn Williams

Champions falter

Carmarthen Ath. 15 Llandovery 0

LLANDOVERY's league programme ended on a disappointing note against a Carmarthen Athletic team who played

with a far greater determination and were full value for a win which sees them remain in section 'B'. With a very much makeshift

front row, Llandovery failed to compete in all phases of forward play. They went behind after ten minutes when scrum half Simon

Rogers was able to dive over for a pushover try which Robbie James converted.

James was to increase the lead just before half time with a penalty.

The Carmarthen pack continued to play with rigorous determination, and midway through the second half extended their lead to fifteen points when scrum half Rogers scored what was a virtual carbon copy of his first half effort.

The Athletic are now seemingly on the crest of wave, and approach their semi-final confrontation with Bonymaen with increasing confidence.

Llandovery 15 Bynea 0

SECTION B champions Llandovery made sure of their place in the West Wales Championship Final on Monday night when they overcame section E winners Bynea at Cef-neithin.

Bynea had hoped to continue where they left off in last week's preliminary semi-final victory over Amman Utd, but Llandovery, despite being without key men Carwyn Williams, Tim Williams and Dai Thomas did just enough to squeeze home.

Bynea had the best player on the field, David Richards but all too often he lacked support.

DISAPPOINTING

All in all however it was a disappointing semi-final with Llandovery quite content to do the bare minimum — the second half in particular deteriorated into a slow, uninspiring forward grind.

The only excitement of note came in 12 minutes when Llandovery scored an excellent opening try.

Elfy Jenkins, Llandovery's best player on the night picked up a loose ball from a line out, Alun Thomas made a lightning break through the Bynea cover and Huw Thomas was able to take the scoring pass.

Geraint Williams, handed the kicking duties in the absence of the injured Carwyn Williams made no mistake with the conversion.

PENETRATION

Bynea contested well up front with Dai Mathias and Peter Thomas showing strongly, but apart from David Richards they didn't have the penetration behind the scrum.

Llandovery's second try fell to Nigel Clarke following a short line out close to the Bynea line, converted by Williams, and Williams then wrapped it up with a penalty.

Stradey bound



• LLANDOVERY, pictured after the 15-0 victory over Bynea on Monday night which carried them through to the West Wales Championship Final at Stradey Park.



Llandovery RFC Team Records 1987-89 ww03

Courtesy Wyn Williams

May 1, 1987

Llandovery are just champion!

By Ian Davies

NOT EVEN the premature departure of key fly-half Carwyn Williams with a first half injury could prevent Llandovery from winning the West Wales RU (Welsh Brewers championship title for the first time.

They beat Section A kings Vardre 12-7 in an evenly contested Final at Stradey Park, Llanelli.

With the teams locked at 4-4 with eight minutes to go the final looked to be heading for extra time, but Llandovery No.8 Nigel Clarke had other ideas. The outstanding Clarke broke away from a five yard scrum to send scrum-half Eifion Hughes over for a well worked try.

Although Vardre hit back almost immediately with a huge 50 yard penalty goal from Welsh Schools senior squad fly-half Jamie Richards, Llandovery wrapped up the

title with a third try from lock Wyn Williams after being fed by deputy fly-half Alan Morgan.

Corner try

Llandovery scored first with a corner try by flanker Elfin Jenkins, only for Vardre to level matters with a similar effort from prop Malcolm Perkins.

It can't be denied that Vardre were unfortunate to see flanker Martin Probert drop the ball with the line at his mercy and on the couple of occasions fly-half Richards hit the post with dropped goal attempts from 45 yards out.

But despite these close shaves, I thought Llandovery just about deserved the glory at the end of 80 rousing minutes.

Fourteen points from the boot of full-back Eurig Morgan put Tumble on the road to an 18-10 win over Pontyberem in

the final of the Amman Valley and District RU Youth Cup at Cae Carwyn James, Cefneithin.

A penalty goal by Morgan was the only score of the opening half, and Tumble stretched their lead soon after the break with a fine try from fly-half Wayne Richards. Morgan converted.

Morgan added two penalty goals to make it 15-0, before Pontyberem struck back with an Eifion Lewis unconverted try.

Any thoughts of a comeback were dashed when Morgan kicked his fourth penalty goal, but Bont fought to the end and were rewarded with a second try from right wing Lewis. Scrum-half Richard Hardy converted.

It means that Tumble have completed an unique treble, with the firsts, seconds and youth winning the respective League Cup competitions.



Llandovery 12 Vardre 7

LLANDOVERY capped a highly successful season, when last Wednesday at Stradey Park they lifted the Welsh Brewers West Wales Rugby Union Championship Shield for the first time in the club's history.

Second row Dai Thomas and Phil Davies dominated the line out throughout, giving their side much valuable possession. But it was in the loose, with wing forward Elfin Jenkins outstanding, where Llandovery displayed greater commitment and tenacity than the Section A champions, where the vital difference between the two sides lay.

Playing with the elements in the first half, Llandovery applied most of the early pressure, though the Vardre eight were looking ominously powerful in the scrums.

It was Llandovery who drew first blood, when Elfin Jenkins crossed in the corner, supporting No. 8 Nigel Clarke breaking from a scrum.

But Vardre came back strongly before half time to level the scores with a try by prop Mal Perkins, following some close interpassing amongst the forwards.

The second half proved to be a nail-biting affair for both sets of fans, and the result remained in doubt until the end.

Vardre can count themselves unfortunate that young outside half Jamie Richards twice hit the post with drop goals attempts.

A knock-on near the posts led to Llandovery's second try, when No. 8 Clarke again set it up, this time for scrum half Eifion Hughes.

Although Vardre fought their way back with a Jamie Richards penalty, Llandovery sealed the game when powerful second row Wyn Williams crashed over the line following a strong surge.



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Courtesy Wyn Williams



Above: The victorious Llandovery team celebrate their Stradey Park success. Right: Flanker Elfyn Jenkins, to the delight of the Llandovery contingent puts his side in front. Below: Scrum half Eifion Hughes scores try number two as his team-mates celebrate.

Llandovery taste glory

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and Tumble's Lewis
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another Williams

Champions Llandovery!



Llandovery skipper Geraint Williams holds the West Wales Championship Shield aloft after his side had beaten Vardre in the play-off final at Stradey by 12 points to 7.





Llandovery RFC Team Records 1987-89 ww03

Courtesy Wyn Williams

Champs fail

**YSTRADGYNLAIS 16
LLANDOVERY 3**

LLANDOVERY, last season's Welsh Brewers West Wales Rugby League champions found themselves trailing by three points to nil after twenty minutes of their game at Ystradgynlais.

The visitors were guilty of missing four very kickable penalties one 25 yard effort from Phil Davies, and they fell behind when home centre Alan Parsons put over a long angled kick.

On the stroke of half-time Ystradgynlais increased their lead

when wing Lyn Thomas crashed over for an unconverted try in the corner.

In injury-time, Llandovery reduced the deficit as outside-half Carwyn Williams fired over a 30 yard penalty.

Ystradgynlais led at half-time by a very useful 7-3, with wind advantage switching to their favour after the break.

Indeed, Ystradgynlais continued to dominate as the match wore on and underlined their superiority on the way with a further try from Kevin Davies, converted by Gary Jones, who also kicked a penalty.

LLANGENNECH are the early undisputed leaders in Section A after their convincing 22-10 defeat of last year's West Wales Champions, Llandovery.

Llandovery found the Llangennech threequarters in outstanding form, Mark Doran, Iwan Hunt and Alwyn Bowen all scoring tries, and the reliable boot of Dyffrig Clement converting two and kicking two penalties. Llandovery's points came from two Carwyn Williams penalties and a Wyn Williams try.

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Courtesy Wyn Williams

Aiming for cup glory!

THIS weekend the local rugby players can forget their usual problems regarding vital championship points and concentrate on cup glory once again as they get involved in the annual Schweppes WRU competition.

The immediate goal is to win the first two rounds so that once again they can get to grips with the big clubs when they come into play in the third round.

The exploits of such clubs as Penclawdd, Seven Sisters, Llandovery and Ystradgynlais are well chronicled in the short history of the Schweppes Cup competition and this year will again undoubtedly produce a giant killing act and the local clubs can be guaranteed to give good account of themselves.

With the Amman Valley clubs, Amman Utd, Ammanford, Brynaman and Cwmgoris all having ground advantage, there is no reason whatsoever why they should not all succeed and move into the second round. Similarly, Llandybie, on their own patch should prove too strong for Heol-y-Cyw.

Penygroes will carry the WWRU banner to far flung North Wales where they will do well to lower the colours of the invariably fit students of Bangor University, while near-neighbours Hendy and Pontarddulais, both travel along the M4 corridor to Cardiff to play the neighbouring clubs of Llandaff and Llandaff North respectively. Seven seasons ago, Penclawdd

were the shock team of the season as they sank Newport's cup efforts and under the guiding influence of new coach Terry Snell they could well be too strong for visiting Porthcawl. Llandovery are another local club who have produced giant killing acts during the last few seasons, but this time they have to travel to Tumble, who are themselves no mean cup-fighters.

Perhaps it is rather unfortunate that two local sides should meet each other at this early stage of the competition but the clash at Mynydd Mawr Park should be one of the best matches of the first round.

Seven Sisters and Vardre should prove far too strong for visitors Blaengarw and Builth Wells while Llangennech, brimming with confidence after recent successes against Maesteg and New Dock Stars should account for the challenge of the students of Cardiff University.

A few seasons ago, Ystradgynlais came within a whisker of capturing the scalp of the famous Scarlets, but this time they travel to meet an "Unknown" challenge from Newport HSOB. Glais, Gowerton and Cwmllynfell also have to travel and will do well to avoid defeat at the hands of Taffs Well, Tonyrefail and Ystrad Rhondda respectively.

A few weeks ago, Lampeter Town and Trimsaran joined section F of the West Wales League and they now have the opportunity of testing their mettle against section C and D opponents — Gorseinon and Llandello. These two matches should prove to be intriguing affairs.



• Tumble centre Eurig Morgan breaks clear against Llandovery with Wayne Richards and Mark Lewis up in support.

(Photo: Alan Richards)



Llandovery RFC Team Records 1987-89 ww03

Courtesy Wyn Williams

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Tumble floored

**Tumble 12
Llandovery 17**
LLANDOVERY
TURNED the early-season form book upside down on Saturday, visiting Tumble in the first round of the Schweppes Welsh Cup and returning with a memorable 17-12 success.

With two early-season defeats already behind them, Llandov-

ery moved quickly into the lead against a Tumble side that has won both their opening Championship fixtures.

After just two minutes play, Llandovery won a scrum on half-way, and from a resulting penalty, fly-half Carwyn Williams was able to open the scoring with a towering kick. Tumble were forced to wait until the 28th minute to open their account, full-back Wynford Lewis putting over a penalty to level things up, but Llandovery continued to press, and when Alan Thomas put Tumble's Lewis under some stern pressure, fellow centre Huw Thomas was able to cross for the game's first try.

Llandovery continued to battle strongly to hold Tumble's traditional scrummaging strength at bay, and with Ian Jones and Wyn Williams dominating the line-outs, they began to set up a flow of quality possession.

Before the break Llandovery's Williams and Tumble's Lewis swapped further penalties, and the visitors led 10-6 at half-time.

Directly upon the resumption however, another Williams penalty and an individual try by hooker Wyn Morgan put Llandovery into a formidable 17-6 lead.

Tumble though were far from ready to concede defeat, and with skipper and scrum-half Arwel Davies summoning his back row increasingly into life, Llandovery were forced into some stern defence, in which they were largely very successful.

Only when second row man Brian Hughes burst over for a try converted by Lewis did the visitors defence crack, but their supporters then had to endure twelve long minutes of injury time before being able to herald their well-merited victory.



• Llandovery flanker Elfy Jenkins sprints clear during his side's shock 17-12 Schweppes Welsh Cup win at Tumble on Saturday.



Llandovery RFC Team Records 1987-89 ww03

Courtesy Wyn Williams

Back down to earth

LLANDOVERY CAME back down to earth after their inspired Cup victory over Tumble the previous week as they travelled to Bryn-coch and lost 9-3.

In a hard but always clean game, Llandovery played into the wind in the first half and trailed at the break 9-0.

Bryncoch established and kept their superiority at forward, and were in the main sharper to the loose ball as well as dominating the line-outs and scrums.

Section A

Llandovery did reduce the deficit early in the second half with a Carwyn Williams penalty, but Bryncoch remained solid in defence, and there was no further score.

At last!

WELSH BREWERS CHAMPIONS Llandovery finally recorded their first Section A points of the season on Saturday as they defeated Dunvant 10-9.

An early Richard Vaughan penalty gave Dunvant a quick advantage, but by the interval, Llandovery had edged in front by way of an unconverted Elfin Jenkins try.

Carwyn Williams put the home side further ahead after the break with a penalty and a drop goal, but Dunvant hit back strongly with a try from Malcolm Jones, converted by full-back Vaughan.

Dunvant continued to press, and could well have snatched the game in the dying seconds when a Vaughan penalty attempt came back off an upright.

Llandovery though held on for a very welcome first League win. Section Champions Vardre however slumped to a 22-9 defeat on their visit to Bryncoch.

The home side sealed their success with tries from Phil Jones and Paul Morgan, along with dropped goals from Paul Jones and Nigel Williams, while Mike Davies added a conversion and two penalty goals. Vardre had little answer on the day.

Llangennech go back into second place after winning 12-10 at Seven Sisters despite having scrum-half Kevin George sent off after just fifteen minutes. Dyfrig Clement hit an early Llangennech penalty before Gwyn Thomas levelled with the penalty awarded after George had been dismissed.

Section A

Llangennech had been in command for the opening exchanges, with George looking a class player on his return from Aberavon, but after he'd gone, a forward dog-

fight developed, with the depleted Llangennech pack more than holding their own.

Wing forward Nigel Phillips crossed for Llangennech following some fine mauling from the seven-man pack, and a touchline conversion from Clement made the interval score 9-3.

Seven Sisters came back strongly from the break, pinning Llangennech back, and going in front through a penalty and a corner try from a scrum. Just two minutes from time however, a Clement penalty ensured Llangennech of the points, and condemned Seven Sisters to their third consecutive home defeat.

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Back in business

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Llandovery took an early hold,

Back in business

REARRANGED SCHWEPES CUP games meant that the weekend's Section A programme was reduced to just three matches, one seeing Llandovery confirm their steady return to form with an impressive 20-8 win away at New Dock Stars.

Llandovery took an early hold, left-wing David Giles, a convert from Carmarthenshire League soccer side Llandovery Town running in for two fine first-half tries. David Hunter replied with a try for the home side, and Llandovery led 8-4 at the break.

Section A

Llandovery continued to dominate from the re-start, Giles taking his try tally to three, while Phil Davies kicked a penalty and conversion, and Carwyn Williams a penalty.

New Dock scored one further try through Phil Morgan, but Llandovery ran out comfortable winners.

Llangennech's recent dip continued as they went down 17-7 at Dunvant.

Llangennech in fact led 7-6 at half time, scoring an early try after good line-out work and passing between the backs.

Dyfrig Clement added a penalty, while Keith Eaton kicked two penalties for Dunvant. In the second period though, Dunvant, fresh from their famous victory over Swansea the previous week ran away with things and emerged victorious.



Push-over gives minnows no chance

NOVEMBER 23, 1987

By JOHN BILLOT

Newport 41 pts, Llandovery 6

PERHAPS ONE day the push-over try will be outlawed like the flying wedge. It is not so much that the push-over is dangerous to life or limb, but it is about as creative as an incinerator.

Furthermore, it will always give the heavier packs of most of the major clubs an enormous advantage against the minnows of the Schweppes Cup. Newport exemplified this in overpowering Llandovery at Rodney Parade in the third round.

Certainly there is a real danger that someone one day could suffer very serious injury when front rows collapse and the momentum of the drive rolls on over them. Not all scrums are collapsed deliberately as the reluctantly retreating pack attempt to resist the pressure.

There is no doubt that spectators enjoy a scrum drive as much as the driving forwards. But we also enjoyed the fierce aggression of the flying wedge.

As a variation to the subtle skills of the elusive runner or the charge of the physically strong attacker on the burst, the scrum drive has it moments, to be sure; and Newport are among the teams who have employed it extensively over the years.

They used it to destroy Llandovery and now Bedwas can expect to experience it in the next round. Scrum half Tony Coombs pounced for two of his three tries from irresistible shove power as Roger Powell's pack took complete command.

David Waters, as ever, was a source of regular lineout possession while his scrummaging and open drive is never less than selflessly directed. Flying Glenn George, excellent No 8 Paul Roberts and purposeful props Frank Hillman and Rhys Morgan all contrived to exert total supremacy.

Llandovery's Wyn Williams refused to recognise that Newport's pack were in command. Maybe he has seen service with the Foreign Legion because 'March or Die' appeared to be his motto and midway through the second half this second row stalwart went on a lone, long charge-about that really rocked the home defence.

TOP CUP TEAMS ARE TOPPLED

TWO OF last season's semi-finalists were knocked out in Saturday's second round of the Welsh Brewers Cup. Fleur-de-Lys lost at home 16-6 to Panteg while Newbridge United went out 13-10 at Whitchurch. Markham defeated former cup-holders Caerleon 13-10.

No 8 Nigel Clarke surged across from a close-up lineout for the visitors' only try and Carwyn Williams added the goal points. Scrum half Randall Jones was a tireless tackler and coverer while wing forwards Chris Davies and Elfyn Jenkins never relaxed their harrying.

David Pitt caused the Llandovery defence considerable concern with his midfield energy while full back Jonathan Callard produced one burst of bewildering dodging and swerving that had us thinking nostalgically of some such marvellous moments by Roy Burnett of yesteryear.

Alas, the golden days of Newport's brilliant back divisions are long gone and until they return we must expect the forward steamroller to see them through as the caretakers of a once-great team.

Coombs (3), Chris Manley (2), Roger Powell, Jonathan Callard, Guy Putland and Marc Batten scored the nine tries and Callard converted one and put over a penalty goal. But goal-kicking is another lost art at Rodney Parade these days — so they won't want any legislation curbing their push-over power.



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Courtesy Wyn Williams



● Moment of glory. Llandovery No 8 Nigel Clarke (above) drives over for his team's only try at Newport. Jonathan Callard (below) swoops for one of Newport's nine tries. Pictures by staff photographer Clive Lewis.



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Llandovery RFC Team Records 1987-89 ww03

Courtesy Wyn Williams

LEADERS TUMBLE tightened their grip still further at the head of the table, their 28-16 victory giving them a season's double over Dunvant.

Tumble began strongly as ever and built themselves a comfortable interval advantage.

Mike Davies opened the scoring with a try converted by full-back Wynford Lewis, and there were further first-half touchdowns for the Section A favourites from Arwel Davies and Peter Watts.

Full-back Hugh Davies struck two penalties for Dunvant to make the interval score 16-6 in Tumble's favour, but the home side sealed their victory after the break with a drop goal from outside half Wayne Richards, and Lewis sustained his kicking accuracy to complete a personal points tally of 13.

Dunvant's Neil Bowden crossed for a late try with Davies adding two penalties.

Llangennech remain second in the table following their comprehensive 26-3 disposal of Llandovery.

Section A

Llangennech got their attacking effort into gear early in the game, and were rewarded with tries from Ieuan Howells, Dyfrig Clement and Lee Williams, while Mark Doran added to his try by also kicking two penalties and two conversions.

Bottom-of-the-table Llandovery had little answer to Llangennech's all-round power and co-ordination, and were restricted to a lone Carwyn Williams penalty.

Ystradgynlais showed little reaction to their Welsh Cup defeat by Cardiff the previous week as they eased to a 14-0 victory over Kidwelly.

They were 10-0 in front at the break, Carwyn Hopkins, brother of Kevin crossing for a try, as did ex-Neath scrum-half Gareth Jones. Outside-half David Love kicked a conversion and sealed the win with a try of his own in the second period.

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• Llangennech's new left winger Lee Williams outstrips the Llandovery defence during Saturday's game.



• Llandovery's Eifion Hughes swings the ball away to start an attack against Llangennech on Saturday.

STRUGGLING Llandovery eased their plight at the foot of the table with a welcome and much-needed 19-6 defeat of Bryncoch.

Llandovery did however make a slow start, and found themselves trailing 6-4 at the break.

Bryncoch seized the initiative with a converted try, and Llandovery's only score before turning round was a try by Hugh Thomas.

In the second half however, they gradually began to piece their game together, Wyn Morgan cross-

sing for a try, as did Carwyn Williams, who also added two conversions.

Carwyn's brother Geraint was not to be outdone, landing a drop goal to underline his side's second half revival and claim the points.

Llandovery now move off the bottom of the table to be replaced there by Kidwelly.

Ystradgynlais pushed themselves into third place with a well-earned 15-10 victory at New Dock Stars.

Ystradgynlais' strong early pressure brought quick rewards in

the shape of a drop goal from outside-half David Love.



Comeback cheer

KIDWELLY 13 LLANDOVERY 16

LLANDOVERY staged a rousing comeback in their relegation duel with Kidwelly on Saturday to snatch victory in the second half and keep alive their hopes of avoiding the drop from Section A.

Kidwelly, with just three wins to their credit all season made the more promising start to the game, and with just ten minutes play having elapsed were already 10-0 in the lead.

The first score came after a scrum five in the opening seconds, flanker Nigel Williams crashing through the Llandovery cover to touch down.

Soon after, a fine switch by scrum-half Charlie Jacob sent captain Peter Williams over for a try, successfully converted by Julian Edwards.

Having built up such a commanding advantage so quickly then, Kidwelly attempted to kill off their fellow-strugglers with further waves of strong attack towards the Llandovery line.

The visitors held firm from any further break however, and were finally able to reduce the arrears when full-back Carwyn Williams sent over a straightforward penalty.

Kidwelly remained 10-3 in front until the half-hour however, when Williams took the opportunity to peg them back still further with a smartly-taken drop goal.

With Llandovery now at last really beginning to flow, Kidwelly were relieved to see their captain Williams extend their lead with a dropped goal, but there was little respite, as Llandovery stormed back to within a point of their hosts at the interval, Carwyn Williams dropping a goal, and converting a good try by Eurig Evans.

The second half proved to be a far tighter affair, Kidwelly seeming content to protect their slim

advantage against strong Llandovery raids, but the visitors weren't to be denied, and capped their stirring revival with a fine Nigel Clark try from a line out, clinching a victory that propels them up from ninth to sixth place in the Section A table.



Tumble travel to Bryncoch knowing that seven points from their last five matches will earn them a fourth West Wales RU (Welsh Brewers) Championship Section A title in five years.

It isn't plain sailing by any means, and it's important they kick-off the run-in with maximum points tomorrow.

The Magpies walloped the opposition 26-7 at Parc Y Mynydd Mawr earlier in the season, and recorded the double over them last winter.

I don't anticipate a landslide, but it would be a major surprise if Tumble slip-up.

Survival is the name of the game for Llandovery and Kidwelly, who are at present on the right side of the relegation zone. But it's a thin line which divides them from the bottom three — Bryncoch, Seven Sisters and Dunvant.

Llandovery aim to complete the double over visiting New Dock Stars, having already beaten them 20-8. The Dock crashed 20-0 at Llandovery last time around, and their record there is poor.

Section A Llandovery 14 New Dock Stars 7

Llandovery completed the double, easing their relegation worries as a result.

Wyn Williams, Wyn Morgan and Chris Davies crossed for the Llandovery tries, Carwyn Williams converting one.

Micky Howells replied with a try, while Jeff Williams kicked a penalty.

LLANDOVERY took another important step forward in their battle to avoid relegation from Section A on Saturday as they entertained the New Dock Stars and ran out winners by 14 points to 7.

Llandovery led by just a single point at 8-7 following a tight and competitive first period, lock Wyn Williams and Wyn Morgan both crossing for tries, while Mike Hanwell scored a try for the Stars, with Jeff Williams adding a penalty.

In the second period however, Llandovery made full use of wind advantage, running in further tries through Chris Davies and Carwyn Williams to seal their success and consolidate their sixth position in the table.



Llandovery RFC Team Records 1987-89 ww03

Courtesy Wyn Williams

LLANDOVERY jumped three places to the head of the Section D table of the Llanelli and District Rugby Union Championship following their 19-4 victory over bottom club Penygroes on Saturday.

Llandovery ran in three tries, from flanker David Bancroft, hooker Mike Owen and centre Tim Williams, while full-back Carwyn Jones sent over a penalty and two conversions.

In the only game played in the West Wales Championship, Llandovery greatly increased their chances of avoiding relegation from Section A as they overcame Ystradgynlais 10-4.

Tovali Cup

Wing Eirian Jones scored the Llandovery try, with Carwyn Williams kicking two penalties, while the one Ystradgynlais score was a try from number eight Les Rutherford.

Llandovery's victory moves them up to fifth in the Section A table, easily their highest position so far this season.

Counties to try again

CARMARTHENSHIRE and **Pembrokeshire** make a third attempt to beat the weather and play their Welsh Counties senior cup first round tie tonight.

Carmarthenshire: Kevin Thomas (Felinfoel); Paul Rees (Ammaford), Steve Bowling (Llanelli), Anthony Dragone (Bridgend), Carwyn Davies (Llanelli); Aled Williams (Bridgend), Alan Williams (Swansea, capt); Robert Williams, Errol Price (Tumble), Laurance Delaney (Llanelli), Alan Webb (Llangennech), Wyn Williams (Llandovery), Anthony Griffiths (Felinfoel), Julian Williams (Burry Port), Emyr Lewis (Llanelli).

Llandovery power is enough

By Ian Davies

HALF of the Tovali West Wales RU Cup first round ties were called off because of waterlogged grounds, including the top Gwendraeth Valley clash at Pontyberem, but Llandovery's encounter at Abercrave survived.

Llandovery defied the conditions to power their way to a 14-4 win.

All three Llandovery tries came in the opening half, with lock Wyn Williams, prop Phil Davies and flanker Chris Davies crossing. Carwyn Williams added one conversion.

With the Park being declared unfit, Carmarthen Quins moved up the road to Abergwili to play their tie against Morriston.

That was hardly playable, but the Quins aren't complaining. Scrum half Simon Rogers helped them to a 6-0 success with a penalty in each half.

Llandeilo virtually clinched promotion from Section D of the West Wales RU (Welsh Brewers) Championship following their 12-0 victory over Furnace United at Cae William.

It was one-way traffic throughout, with Andrew Davies Neville Harries and Jonathon

David going over for tries.

Inspiration of the Llandeilo win were flanker Owen Richards and scrum half Dafydd Richards.

Results

West Wales Cup

1st Round: Abercrave 4, Llandovery 14; Alltwn 0, Vardre 16; Bynea 18, Pontardawe 0; Carmarthen 6, Morriston 0; Dunvant 0, Glynneath 14; Penclawdd 20, Amman Utd. 7; Penygroes 0, Ystradgynlais 6 (abandoned 35 minutes); Waunarlwydd 13, Loughor 0.

Championship

Section C: Felinfoel 15, Llandybie 13.

Section D: Llandeilo 12, Furnace Utd. 0.

Llanelli & District

Section C: Blaenau 4, Ferryside 12.

Section D: Llandovery 11, Laugharne 9.

With four Llanelli and District RU Cup first round ties still waiting to be played, twenty teams went into the

hat for the second round draw.

Holders Tumble enjoy home advantage against either Llangennech or Ammanford, but Carmarthen United have to take the road to Llandeilo.

Second Round ties:

Aberaeron v Kidwelly; Betws v Llansawel or Tycroes; Burry Port or Mynydd y Garreg v Ferryside; Hendy v New Dock Stars; Llandeilo v Carmarthen Utd; Pantyffynon v Llandybie or Carmarthen Druids; Penybanc v Amman Quins; Tumble v Llangennech or Ammanford.

Ties to be played on or before Saturday, February 27.

In the draw for the championship play-offs, Section A champions Tumble meet the Section B kingpins in one semi-final.

The other throws together the Section C title winners against either Llandeilo or the Section D champions, who meet in a preliminary

clash.

Morriston visit town for the second week running, hoping for better luck against Carmarthen Athletic tonight (Friday) in a West Wales RU (Welsh Brewers) Championship Section B fixture. The match takes place under lights at the Park.

A sprinkling of West Wales teams are also in action today with friendlies, most of them against Scottish opposition.

Fixtures West Wales

Section B: Carmarthen Athletic v Morriston.

Friendlies: Ammanford v Lismore; Bryncoch v Murrayfield; Cefneithin v Peebles; Cwmgwrach v Lasswade; Hendy v Llangennech; Llandybie v Grangemouth; Pontarddulais v Perthshire; Pyle v Mumbles; Seven Sisters v Dumfries; Tonna v Currie; Whitland v Tumble.



Llandovery RFC Team Records 1987-89 ww03

Courtesy Wyn Williams

Cup delight

TRAILING to an early penalty by full-back Richard Hopkins, Llandovery fought back to beat Llandybie 13-7 in the Final of the Amman Valley and District Youth RU 'Granada Trophy' knockout competition at Cae Carwyn James, Cef-neithin.

Full-back Hywel Jones kicked a penalty to make it 3-3 at half-time, and Llandovery went in front for the first time through an unconverted corner try by wing Martin Pritchard in the opening minutes of the second half.

Jones landed a couple more penalties to put Llandovery 13-3 up, the second awarded for stamping against hooker Ian Lloyd who was sent off.

Despite being reduced to 14 men Llandybie staged a grandstand finish, and prop Christopher Jones gave his side new hope by forcing his way over wide-out.

Llandybie had their sights on a replay, but were thwarted by the first class tackling of their rivals.

Ian Davies



● The Llandovery team that won the Amman Valley Granada Youth Trophy, beating Llandybie 13-7 in last week's final. For details, see page 31. (Photo: Peter Evans)



Llandovery RFC Team Records 1987-89 ww03

Courtesy Wyn Williams

Llandovery have dropped a pre-season bombshell by pulling out of the West Wales Conference to concentrate on the first division of the Parker Plant Hire Carmarthenshire County Championship (writes Ian Davies:-)

It's a backward step, but

the decision was forced upon them after only four of last season's squad declared themselves available. The present crop, under the guidance of skipper Malcolm Page, aren't strong enough to compete in the Premier division of the Conference. Pwll are firm favourites to retain the Parker Plant Hire crown, but you can rest assured that Trim-saran, Llanelli Wanderers, Llandovery and

possibly Johnstown will push them hard. Carmarthen Athletic have withdrawn.

After being re-admitted into the second division Llandybie found little support in the village, and took the sad decision to withdraw without bowling a ball.

Relegated Penygroes should bounce straight back as champions, but it's going to be a battle royal for the other promotion spot.

Athletic suffer from bad case of wind

THIS opening fixture in the West Wales Section B sector was a most disappointing affair, dominated by a gale force wind and squally showers.

The large crowd had little to cheer in a forward-dominated encounter, and it was soon clear that the scoreboard would not tick over quickly.

With the elements behind them half backs Geraint and Carwyn Williams kicked intelligently for Llandovery pinning the Athletic in their own 22 for long periods.

**Carmarthen Ath. 3
Llandovery 6**

The red and black had begun in an enterprising fashion but could make little headway in the face of determined tackling.

The vital score came when scrum half Carwyn Williams slipped through a flat-footed defence to touch down and convert his own try.

Robbie Jones reduced the deficit with a well-judged kick after the interval and the home side briefly stepped up their

work rate seeking a winning score.

The Athletic lineout jumpers Richard Byng, Viv Davies and Keith Jones won some good ball in increasingly difficult conditions, but some indifferent kicking and handling contributed little to the cause.

With the last kick of the match Robbie Jones had the opportunity to equalise but the cross-wind took the ball wide of the posts.

On Saturday the second league fixture is away at Hendy, when skipper Richard Lewis will hope for a better result - and better weather!

WITH TUMBLE'S problems continuing on Saturday with their second defeat of the season, at home to Vardre (see back page), Llandovery too suffered a disappointing afternoon, going down 15-10 at home to Bryncoch in the battle of the sides relegated from Section A last time.

Out in front

WAUNARLWYDD 11, LLANDOVERY 33

LLANDOVERY swept to the top of the Section B table in impressive fashion at the weekend as they pulled away from a battling Waunarlwydd in the second period to record a comfortable success.

Prior to Saturday's game, Waunarlwydd were joint leading try-scorers in the section, but it was Llandovery, fresh from their 26-4 defeat of second-placed Morriston the previous week, who deservedly went in front in the tenth minute, capping a period of pressure with a fine drop-goal from outside-half Geraint Williams.

Waunarlwydd though were enjoying a largely even share of the game, two penalty chances from reasonable positions being missed by inside half Steve Vickery, and they were made to rue those misses as Llandovery bolstered their lead by way of a penalty in front of the posts from Carwyn Williams.

Waunarlwydd eventually got their names on to the scoresheet, but largely due to a misunderstanding in the Llandovery ranks - the visitors thinking a penalty was being taken only to see the ball whipped out to Joe Bendle who ran over to score unopposed in the corner.

With Llandovery still a little rocked by that unexpected setback, Waunarlwydd took the opportunity to go in front for the first time in the game, Stuart Hart being sent over for an unconverted try to make the score 8-6 in the home side's favour.

Determined Llandovery quickly forced themselves back ahead once again however, number eight David Giles recording their first try and Carwyn Williams slotting over the conversion to give them a narrow 12-8 lead at the end of an evenly-contested first period.

In the second half, Vickery sent over a penalty for Waunarlwydd, but gradually Llandovery began to take a grip on the game, winning the bulk of quality possession and adding three further tries, Hugh Thomas crossing twice in addition to a penalty try being awarded by the referee.

David Giles meanwhile added a penalty and Carwyn Williams took his points tally to 12 with a penalty and two further conversions. Llandovery then ran out 33-11 winners to move top of the table and serve ample notice of their intention to return to Section A at the earliest possible opportunity.



Table toppers!

Hendy 4pts, Llandovery 26pts

LAST YEAR, Llandovery considered themselves very unlucky to have been relegated from the premier section, but from the evidence of their early-season form they look ready to rectify that injustice at the first-time of asking.

Their latest victims were Hendy who were comprehensively beaten at Hendy Park by the overwhelming margin of a goal, two tries and four penalty goals to a try.

The basis of victory was sealed in the first quarter when skipper and flanker Chris Davies spearheaded an ailout forward onslaught on the home line and although the early territorial advantage was not immediately converted into points, the unrelenting pressure eventually paid dividends.

After the home side had been forced to concede penalty goals, scrum half Carwyn Williams duly obliged with a brace of successful attempts before demonstrating his running skills by racing away on the short side from 20 yards for a super, individualist unconverted try. Although at

this stage of the proceedings, the younger of the Williams boys threatened to monopolise the score sheet, Hendy's main protagonist was undoubtedly the older Williams, at fly half — Geraint, whose pinpoint kicking kept the home side pegged ten yards from their try line for long periods.

Although Hendy at this stage, through the fine jumping of locks Raymond Davies and Mark Howells were able to control the lineouts for scrum half Phill Mcquire to clear to touch, they were unable to break the territorial stranglehold and during the initial forty minute period, Hendy's visit to the Towy Valley side's 22, was limited to two sortics.

On the stroke of half-time, the visitors three-quarters suddenly clicked into action and fine hand-

ling at speed enabled right wing Martin Rees to sprint away before squeezing in at the corner.

Lock Ian Jones and number eight David Giles started monopolising lineout possession and with the Williams brothers kicking accurately and sensibly in support, the visitors eight continued to rumble forward.

A fine blind-side break and pin-point accurate grubber kick by Geraint Williams enabled Martin Rees to take advantage of a hesitant home defence to get his second touchdown and with Carwyn Williams adding the conversion and a further two penalty goals the visitors were as good as past the post.

A tremendous combined downfield move by the home eight enabled flanker Aled Jones to crash over for an excellent unconverted try.



• Llandovery's Carwyn Williams races away to put his side on attack during the Section 'B' match at Hendy which resulted in another emphatic win for 'Doverby' by 23pts to 4.
Photo: Alan Richards



Last gasp

LLANDOVERY owe their place in the third round of the Schweppes WRU Welsh Cup to an injury-time try from right wing Martin Rees, which helped them edge out battling Porthcawl of the Central Glamorgan League 15-12 in a tight tussle.

Porthcawl made the early running against a Llandovery side currently going so well in Section B of the West Wales Championship, and led 12-6 at half-time, Llandovery's points having come from two Carwyn Williams penalties.

In the second period, a further Williams penalty brought Llandovery to within three points at 12-9, but despite some determined pressure, they looked to be heading for defeat until Rees dived over during injury time, Williams converted, and Llandovery had been saved at the last possible moment.

Pontarddulais' long trip to North Wales proved fruitless as they were beaten 12-9 by Mold, whilst Brynaman slipped to defeat by the same narrow margin away at Tonyrefail.

Llangennech though returned triumphant from their trip to Pontyclun, going through by a comfortable 27-12.

Despite trailing 4-3 at half-time, Vardre booked their passage into round three with an ultimately smooth enough 22-10 success over Abercrave. Vardre went in front on 15 minutes with a Jamie Richards penalty, but Abercrave were rewarded for some sustained pressure with an unconverted Mike Davies try before half-time.

In the second half however, Vardre stamped their authority on the proceedings with tries from Mark Todd, Dewi Richards, captain Ieuan Jones and the inspirational Martin Probert. Richards added two conversions, while for Abercrave, the ex-Neath wing Noel Mannion went over for a try and Gwynhefin Evans supplied the conversion.

Gorseinon went out, beaten 36-9 by a very strong Neath Athletic side. Stuart Davies scored the Gorseinon try, converted by ex-Neath centre David Cole. Neath Athletic tries came from Neil Llewellyn (2), Jeremy Nesbitt (2), Mike Richards, Steve Carter and Mike Rowlands. Neale Harries and Paul Watkins added two conversions apiece.

Dunvant's scorers in their 15-10 home defeat by Pontypool United were Huw Davies (try) and Keith Eaton (two penalties).



Llandovery RFC Team Records 1987-89 ww03

Courtesy Wyn Williams

On title trail

Llandovery 18, Ammanford 0

IMPRESSIVE Llandovery got back on the Section B title trail on Saturday following their surprise defeat at Abercrave the week before as they wore down the challenge of Ammanford to move to victory.

Ammanford were under pressure almost from the start of the game, with the powerful Llandovery eight winning the ball almost at will, and the home side went in front after ten minutes as scrum-half Carwyn Williams kicked a 30 metre penalty.

Ammanford were defending with great spirit, but were forced to spend almost the entire opening period inside their own half.

With Llandovery continuing to dominate, their scoreline advantage steadily grew as Carwyn Williams sent over a further three

penalties in quick succession.

Five minutes before half-time, the livewire Williams was on hand to claim a pushover try after more forceful work by the Llandovery pack, and when he added the conversion, the home side changed over 18-0 to the good.

As the second half got under way, Ammanford were displaying more vigour and enterprise than previously, and with an extra degree of good fortune could have scored at least two tries after some fine handling by their backs.

Llandovery failed to add to their points tally after

the break, although their threequarters continued to receive a good stream of possession from their outstanding forwards.

For Ammanford, Jeff Price, Paul Rees, Paul Watts and Darrel Parkin all enjoyed outstanding games, with wing Paul Rees and scrum-half Lyn Evans both pulling off try-saving tackles.

Ammanford are at home to bottom club Waunarlwydd on Saturday, and look capable of gaining two valuable points, while on Saturday's form, title-chasing Llandovery should taste success on their trip to struggling New Dock Stars.



• Llandovery's rugby team, who defeated Ammanford 18-0 in Section B on Saturday.



Llandovery RFC Team Records 1987-89 ww03

Courtesy Wyn Williams

Trading places: The plan that works

Captain's
Factfile

IF anyone's forced to describe Llandovery's rugby players in a single word, then versatile is the one adjective that'll fit best.

What else could you say when you consider their No. 8 is a converted winger and their fly-half can slip with the ease of a greased shoe-horn into the No. 9 jersey.

And the beauty of this Jack-of-all-trades set-up is that it works.

For evidence of that you've only got to look at Llandovery's record in the West Wales Union's Section B this season — six wins and just two defeats.

"And for one of them — the match against Abercrave — we've got nobody but ourselves to blame," admitted

By ROBERT
LLOYD

coach Alan Walters.

That record put Llandovery in third spot in Section B before their game with Carmarthen Athletic this afternoon and means they're well on course for a quick return to Section A.

The two examples of their Jack-of-all-trades style are David Giles — "a 6' 2" winger we've switched to No. 8," says coach Walters — and Carwyn Williams — "who started the season at scrum-half and then moved to fly-half."

The have-ball-play-anywhere-syndrome is exemplified by Llandovery Rugby Club's most famous son, Llanelli wing Carwyn



LOCAL PRODUCE ...
Carwyn Davies.

Davies, who was this afternoon lining up for Wales against tourist Western Samoa.

He's played in most positions behind the scrum and has always impressed with his ability to kick left-footed penalties from the right side of the pitch.

"Carwyn is a true product

of Llandovery rugby club and the system we operate here," coach Walters said. "A home-grown product, he captained the Under 16s and played for the youth and the firsts before he was asked to play for Llanelli."

Walters is particularly proud that the club is now producing players at a rate to cope with demand.

"You can't blame some players for starting off with us and wanting to go off and play for other clubs — in particular they have some affinity with Swansea — but we are now in the position where we have strength in depth.

"Our problem has always been that when we get up into Section A we have not got the strength in depth to sustain our challenge. As things stand at the moment, I

think things look very promising for the club as we have an excellent squad with plenty of talented players and we have the youngsters coming through."

Walters, in his first season as senior coach at Llandovery and eagerly awaiting the Schweppes WRU Cup clash with Abertillery next Saturday, pinpoints his star players as No. 8 Giles, flanker Eifion Jenkins, fly-half Williams, second-row Ian Jones, full-back Geraint Williams and captain Chris Davies, who says "I can't wait for the Abertillery game."

"Everyone plays a key role, though," Walters stressed. "We've got very committed players in most positions and the atmosphere in the club is something that's reflected on the pitch."

Captain's Factfile



Chris
Davies

Name: David Christopher
Davies
Position: Flanker
Age: 23
Ht.: 6' 3"
Wt.: 14 st.

Most respected opponent:
"You have to respect all
your opponents in West
Wales rugby."

Chris Davies ... eagerly
awaiting the Cup clash with
Abertillery.



THE LLANDOVERY CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM



Llandovery RFC Team Records 1987-89 ww03

Courtesy Wyn Williams

So close . . .

LLANDOVERY 3, ABERTILLERY 4

LLANDOVERY'S BELIEF that they could shock first-class visitors Abertillery in Saturday's third round Schweppes Welsh Cup tie was so nearly borne out as they put up a rousing display to lose by just a single point.

The visitors however began strongly, and Llandovery were forced into some grimly determined defending to hold their lines. The first scoring attempt fell to Abertillery after eight minutes, but fly-half Byron Hayward was wide with his 30-metre penalty.

Abertillery continued to press, and a strong series of drives by Robert Preece and Peter Crane took play near the home line, and only a fine tackle by Llandovery number eight David Giles prevented a try for right wing David Manley.

Manley was at the heart of another Abertillery thrust,

but he spoilt some good build-up by passing to a Llandovery player.

The visitors went ahead when scrum-half Rupert Moon broke on the blind-side and kicked ahead for left-wing David Owen to win the race and score an unconverted try.

Llandovery though started the second half powerfully as they sought a way back, and set up a good attacking base inside the Abertillery 22.

From a scrum, Eifion Hughes whipped the ball out to outside half Carwyn Williams who coolly dropped a sparkling left-footed goal.

As full-time approached, a by-now buzzing Llandovery had two chances to seal victory with penalties from David Giles and Carwyn Williams, but both fell short of the mark.

Llandovery then bowed out 4-3, but did themselves great credit by their performance, and can confidently return to their task of winning promotion from Section B of the West Wales Championship.

WYN EVANS



• Carwyn Williams, whose drop goal gave Llandovery hope of victory over Abertillery in Saturday's Schweppes Cup tie before they finally went down by a slender 4-3.

(Photo: Peter Evans)

Flying Carwyn on the mend

LLANGADOG's Carwyn Davies who marked his Welsh debut with a try against Western Samoa on Saturday was back at work on the farm this week.

But it was light duties only as the flying winger recovers from the shoulder injury which sadly cut short his first match.

"It's still a bit stiff, but there's nothing broken. It's just badly bruised. I've been to see the physiotherapist and he says I should be all right for the cup game against Pontyberem on Saturday," said Carwyn.

Although pleased to have made his debut and score a try, Carwyn was not so pleased with the final result. "I'm delighted we won, but I don't think we played well as a team. I was also disappointed that I had to come off," said Carwyn.

The experience of walking out at the National Stadium wasn't as nerve-racking for Carwyn as many would have expected. "I played there last season in the Schweppes Cup Final for Llanelli against Neath in front of a world record crowd of 56,000 and that was much more frightening."

His relaxed mood was clear for all to see in the photographs of Carwyn crossing the line with a broad smile on his face for his first international try. "Obviously I was over the moon to have scored but I didn't realise I was smiling."

Looking to his international future Carwyn's next goal is the international against Romania in December. "I'm hoping to be in for the Romania match but it's four weeks away and anything could happen by then. As a player it's not for me to say, but there could be changes in some positions."



• Carwyn Davies who scored on his debut for Wales on Saturday.

(Photo: Alan Richards)



Llandovery RFC Team Records 1987-89 ww03

Courtesy Wyn Williams

LLANDOVERY stormed to a 23-3 home win over Ammanford in the second round of the Llanelli and District RU Cup.

Flanker Huw Evans, No. 8 Stuart Fry and flanker Wil Workman crossed for the Llandovery tries, while full-back Carwyn Jones landed a conversion and three penalties. Full-back Wayne Evans kicked a penalty for Ammanford.

LLANDOVERY hit back from their defeat by Felinfoel on Christmas Eve to beat Abercrave 15-3 on Saturday and get their Section B promotion drive firmly back on course.

Martin Rees scored two of the Llandovery tries, with Arwel Rowlands grabbing one and Carwyn Williams rifling over a penalty.

Llandovery earned a First Round home tie with Ystalyfera as they beat Resolven 19-6. Elfyn Jenkins, Geraint Williams and Carwyn Williams scored tries, Carwyn converting two of them and kicking a penalty.

Friendly feast

**Llandovery 26
Llanelli Presidents XV 26**

A large and appreciative crowd were treated to a feast of friendly rugby at Llandovery last Thursday as the home side fought out an entertaining draw with a star-studded visiting team assembled by Phil Bennett and Gareth Jenkins, the game marking the opening of Llandovery's new lights.

On a perfect evening for playing and watching, the visitors went into an early lead through a Gerald Williams try, converted by Phil Bennett.

Llandovery quickly hit back however, Carwyn Williams crossing for a try he converted himself. An Eirion Jones try then put Llandovery in front, before Domenic Setaro crossed for the visitors to level things at 10-10.

That was to herald an inspired period by Llandovery as Chris Davies and David Giles both touching down for tries converted by Carwyn Williams to sweep them into a 22-10 lead.

In the second half however, the Presidents XV brought on Gareth Jenkins himself, so giving them a far greater degree of forward power, and they began to eat away at the

Llandovery points cushion. Left wing Chris Jones scored two tries, and Bridgend's Aled Williams, originally from Llandovery, got another. Phil Bennett converted two, and the visitors had crept in front at 26-22.

On the stroke of full-time however, Llandovery's Elfyn Jenkins crossed for a levelling try with the final action of the game.

The organisers of the game wish to thank Phil Bennett and Gareth Jenkins for organising such a strong and entertaining team, and also the match sponsors for making the evening such a great success.



Llandovery RFC Team Records 1987-89 ww03

Courtesy Wyn Williams



• The Llandovery side that played host to a Phil Bennett Presidents XV last thursday.



• The Phil Bennett Llanelli Presidents XV who drew 26-26 at Llandovery last Thursday. For report, see back page. (Photos: Dafydd)



Llandovery RFC Team Records 1987-89 ww03

Courtesy Wyn Williams

LLANDOVERY still look good value to gain promotion straight back to Section A as champions just one season after being relegated following their impressive 42-6 demolition of New Dock Stars on Saturday, which took them top of the table on try count and with a game in hand over previous incumbents Bryncoch.

Winger Mark Rees led the Llandovery romp with three tries, David Giles claiming two and Hugh Thomas, Eifion Hughes and Ian Jnes one apiece. Carwyn Williams converted five of the eight touchdowns.

Llandovery slipped to a 14-12 defeat at Bryncoch, who touched down for tries from Russell Arnold, John Smith and Paul Jones. For Llandovery, full-back Hywel Jones kicked two penalties and converted a David Giles try.

**FELINFOEL 17
LLANDOVERY 11**

LLANDOVERY surrendered an 11-4 interval lead to slip out of the Tovali Cup at the second round stage on Saturday, beaten by their great Section B rivals of this season, Felinfoel.

Llandovery made a bright and positive start and moved ahead when they won a penalty, slotted over by the reliable Carwyn Williams.

Llandovery continued to

hold the upper hand as the game developed, and were able to increase their lead to 7-0 as a neat attacking raid sent wing Huw Morgan over in the corner for an unconverted try.

Felinfoel were taking a little time to get fully into their stride, and industrious Llandovery enhanced their victory chances still further as try-scorer Morgan swooped onto a loose ball and sped away past the home cover to notch his second touchdown of the game.

The conversion attempt

again went astray, but Llandovery had succeeded in building a promising-looking 11-0 advantage.

Having looked sluggish early on, it seemed inevitable that Felinfoel would begin to come a little more into the reckoning, and so it proved to be as the home backs moved the ball smoothly acrossfield, and speedy wing John Goss was freed to go over in the corner.

With the conversion attempt failing though, Llandovery were still able to

change over 11-4 up, and with every hope of success.

After the break however, a revitalised Felinfoel came increasingly to the fore, and the Llandovery advantage was gradually whittled away.

Number eight Mark Gravelle crossed for a try as did David Nicholas, and with Kevin Thomas landing a penalty and conversion, Felinfoel had by the end thrown off their slow start to the game to run out 17-11 winners.

Tumble tops

Tumble 8, Llandovery 3

MIGHTY Tumble clinched their fourth Section A title in five seasons in a hard fought win over bogey side Llandovery.

The mud caked victory was all the more special for the Magpies, because the visitors had already beaten them twice this year in the Schweppes Cup and the championship.

The game, played on Tuesday afternoon, had to be switched from Mynydd Mawr Park to the school ground in Drefach, because of the waterlogged conditions.

It was Llandovery who adapted quickest to the heavy ground and driving rain, taking an early lead through scrum half Carwyn

Williams's penalty.

But Tumble gradually fought their way back into the game and five minutes before the break full back Wynford Lewis slotted over a penalty from in front of the posts.

The second half was evenly contested with the Llandovery forward sharing the spoils in both lines out and scrums.

But with the scores still even entering the last 15 minutes Tumble hooker Errol Price crossed near the corner for what turned out to be the clinching try. Wynford Lewis converted.

Although Llandovery pressed hard in the last ten minutes Tumble were never really stretched and the final whistle sent their loyal supporters home singing in the rain.



Llandovery RFC Team Records 1987-89 WW03

Courtesy Wyn Williams

IN a pre-Easter clash, the CC Evans XV took on Llandovery and won 14-10. Both sides fully deserved the accolades showered upon them following a keenly fought game played on a bitterly cold night and in conditions slippery underfoot. Llandovery opened the scoring through second-row Dilwyn Jones who raced in for a try, Carwyn Williams converting.

CARWYN Williams was the king of Llandovery on Saturday as they scored a thrilling 22-18 victory over visiting Felinfoel to seal them the Section B title.

Llandovery knew how vital victory was against Tovali Cup

finalists Felinfoel, and fly-half Williams rose to the occasion in the grand manner, notching all 22 of his side's points.

That prolific haul came via three tries, two conversions and two penalties, the match-clinching kick coming just five minutes from the end. The Felinfoel effort was similarly dominated by one man, skipper Kevin Thomas.

He scored all 18 of their points through four penalties, a try and conversion. To add to Felinfoel's disappointment at missing out on the section title however, flanker Dennis Davey was sent off early in the second half, and now misses the Tovali Cup final against Tumble.

Llandovery power on

Vardre 12, Llandovery 16

HAVING already gained immediate promotion back to Section A of the Welsh Brewers West Wales Championship, Llandovery's season of fine achievement continued last week as they made their way through to the inaugural final of the new Welsh Brewers Bowl Competition with a victory over favourites Vardre.

In the match, played at Brynaman, Llandovery were well worthy of the victory, dominating the lines-out through their larger and more

both crossed the Llandovery line for tries, while full-back Jamie Richards landed two conversions.

enterprising pack, and making full use of the scoring chances that came their way.

Despite winning little quality possession, Vardre did have their opportunities, but some loose passing and catching frequently let them down.

Llandovery number eight David Giles was in fine form, and capped a stirring display with two notable tries. Fly-half Carwyn Williams completed the Llandovery scoring with two penalties and a conversion.

For Section A Champions Vardre, Mark Todd and Andrew Lewis



• Llandovery flanker Elfyn Jenkins stands firm against a Vardre charge during last week's Welsh Brewers Bowl semi-final.



Llandovery RFC Team Records 1987-89 ww03

Courtesy Wyn Williams

The Champions!

Felinfoel 13 Llandovery 17

LAST Friday at Stradey Park saw bubbling Llandovery complete their own season's "double" as they added to their already-achieved promotion to Section A of the Welsh Brewers West Wales Championship by becoming the first winners of the Union's new League bowl.

The game was lively all through, and in the final analysis of play, no-one could begrudge Llandovery their well-earned victory.

Llandovery moved in front early on as some neat handling sent wing Arwel Rowlands over for a try, but Felinfoel hit back. Half-backs Kevin Thomas and Richard Williams were regularly to the fore as Felinfoel displayed their customary brand of open, fluent play, and Thomas was on hand first to kick a penalty, then supply the

conversion to a fine try by wing John Goss.

Dependable Llandovery fly-half Carwyn Williams then reduced the Felinfoel advantage to 9-7 with a penalty, and the lead was soon to change hands once more.

Two further Llandovery tries were to give them an advantage and an initiative they were never to lose, Rowlands and Jones being the scorers, while Williams converted one.

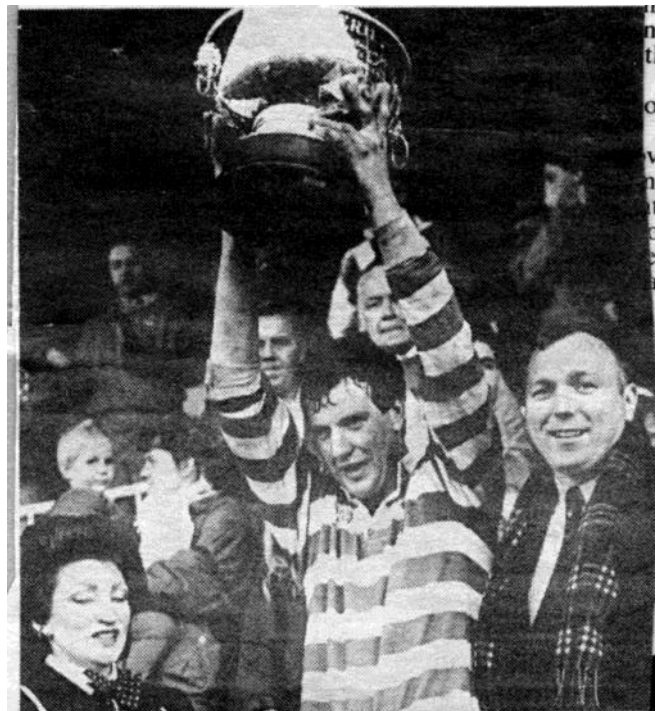
Felinfoel fought hard to draw level again, and were given the late consolation of a second try for wing Goss.



• Flanker Elfyn Jenkins, who starred for Llandovery in the Welsh Brewers Bowl final, prepares to make an attacking break. (Photo: Peter Evans)



• Llandovery wing Arwel Rowlands prepares to cross the Felinfoel line for the opening try of last week's inaugural West Wales Welsh Brewers League Bowl final. (Photo: Peter Evans)



• Llandovery are the inaugural winners of the new Welsh Brewers West Wales League Bowl after they had defeated Felinfoel by 17pts to 13 in the final. Skipper Chris Davies is pictured holding the magnificent trophy aloft after it was presented to him by Mrs. Jeff Harris, wife of Welsh Brewers Area Manager. (Photo: Alan Richard)



Llandovery RFC Team Records 1987-89 ww03

Courtesy Wyn Williams

Llandovery's Sevens glory

SATURDAY'S WWRU District 'F' Sevens as ever produced some entertaining and attractive rugby, with the honours going to Llandovery as they edged out Llandybie 22-18 in a thrilling final.

Holders Llangennech went out in the First Round Proper, beaten 9-8 by Llandybie. Llangennech had earlier passed through the Preliminary Round as they brushed aside Pontarddulais 22-0.

Kevin George, the pick of their players, set the ball rolling with a sparkling 50-yard dash to the try-line, with other touchdowns sup-

plied by Merddin Phillips (2), Paul Morgan, and a second from George. Alwyn Bowen kicked a conversion.

Llandybie, who've had such a fine all-round season, were inspired by fly-half Mike Lewis, and looked a formidable side as they swept past Amman United 22-4.

Wing Andrew Lewis crossed for three tries, with others coming from Wyn Williams, and Robert Owen. Lewis converted two of the tries.

Penclawdd made early progress, beating Gowerton 12-8, Ian Dallimore's two tries each being converted by Gareth Williams. Gowerton's score came from tries by Nick and

Colin Davies.

Ammanford went out early, beaten 14-8 by Brynaman. Jeremy Lloyd, Nick Jones and Tim Davies scored the Brynaman tries, Huw Williams converting one.

Cwmgors scored an impressive and stylish 20-4 First Round win over Waunarlwydd, and reached the semi-finals with an equally emphatic 22-0 demolition of Cefneithin in the last eight, but were edged out for a place in the final by Llandybie, 18-12.

Llandovery's route to the final was a 20-8 defeat of Gorseinon, a 14-10 defeat of Pontyberem and a 22-4 success against Penclawdd.



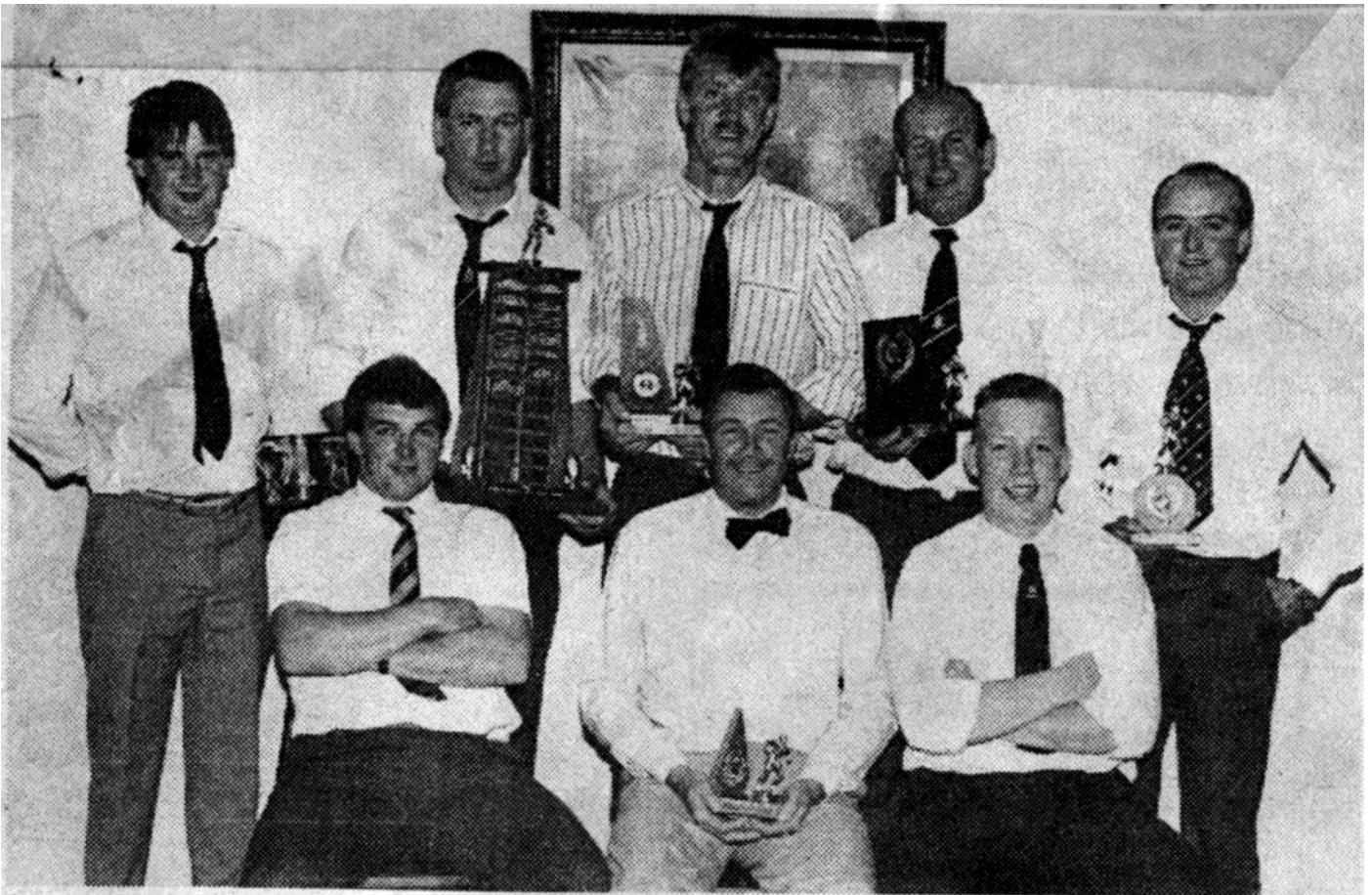
• Llandovery — who defeated Llandybie 22-18 to win this season's District 'F' sevens title, which was played at Gorseinon on Saturday. They were skippered by Chris Davies (front — centre), the tournament being sponsored by Modplan, whose Managing Director Mr. Hugh Richards is pictured middle — back row.





Llandovery RFC Team Records 1987-89 ww03

Courtesy Wyn Williams



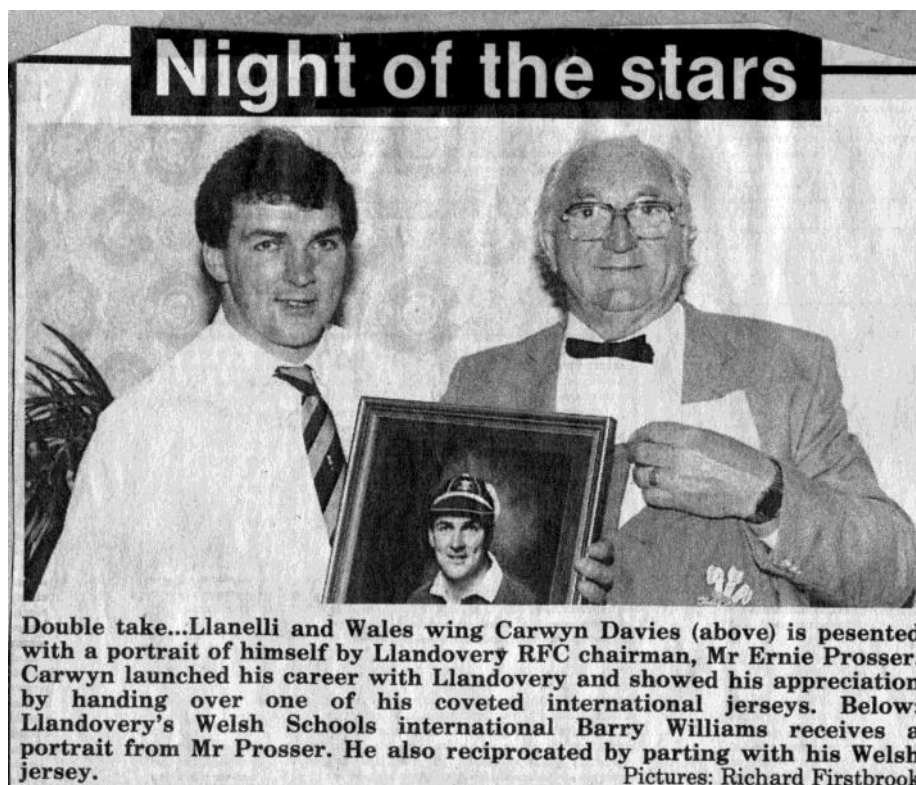
• Seen at the Llandovery RFC Presentation dinner are award winners: Wyn Williams (First team player of the year and players' player); Stuart Fry (Second team player of the year); David Giles (Most improved player); Carwyn Williams (for his 22 points against Felinfoel); Huw Morgan (Most tries); also Carwyn Davies; John Williams (First Aid); Barry Williams (Welsh Secondary Schools and Under-15 International) and not in photo is Peter Clark (Second team First Aid).
(Photo: Richard Firstbrook)





Llandovery RFC Team Records 1987-89 ww03

Courtesy Wyn Williams





LADIES FIND TRUE FORM

Llandovery Ladies 15 Polytechnic of Wales 0

LLANDOVERY Ladies recorded their first home win of their inaugural rugby season over a slightly more experienced Polytechnic of Wales side.

The first score came after a forward rush, which led to Cath Joseph crashing over for her first ever try.

The home side's forwards soon put the Poly under more pressure, resulting in the visitors conceding a penalty, which scrum-half Meryl Walters slotted neatly through the uprights.

Although 7-0 down, the

Poly came back strongly, but some stern defensive work by the Llandovery backs kept them at bay.

After another shuddering tackle by back-row forward Sue Morgan, centre Sian Davies displayed some nifty footwork and won the race for the touchdown to take her try tally for the season to five.

The home side's scrum-

maging got stronger as the game progressed and eventually number eight Joseph claimed her second try from a pushover.

Llandovery entertain Newcastle Emlyn at home on April 7, with the honours between the sides so far standing at one each.

The girls would like to thank match sponsors GMB trade union.