



Llandovery RFC 7s Squad — District F 7s Winners May 1985

Courtesy Wyn Williams



IT'S Champions Llandovery! Back row: Huw Morgan, Eifion Hughes, Chris Davies, Nigel Clark and Colin Henry. Front: Alan Thomas, Carwyn Davies, Geraint Williams (capt) and Carwyn Williams.



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Llandovery made it two in a row when they added the District F Sevens to the C. C. Evans Sevens they had won only two days earlier. But they had to overcome a determined challenge from host club Waunarlwydd who lasted the distance rather better than Llandovery in an injury strewn final last Saturday.

In fairness Llandovery did things the hard way - through no fault of their own. The withdrawal of Ammanford meant Waunarlwydd had a bye into the quarter final so only had to play two games to reach the final. Llandovery, on the other hand, fought through a preliminary round and tough matches against Gowerton, Loughor and Gorseinon to reach the final. At the kick-off for the final then Llandovery had played 58 minutes of breathless sevens compared with Waunarlwydd's 24 minutes.

It would have been a crying shame if Llandovery, easily the best team on view, had succumbed to fatigue in the final - the fact is, they very nearly did! But the class of man-of-the-tournament Carwyn Davies and top points scorer Carwyn Williams eventually carried them through.

Sadly one of the features of this competition was the number of withdrawals and the failure of Penclawdd to turn-up without warning. Ammanford, Llandeilo and Pontarddulais all withdrew beforehand and when Penclawdd did not arrive it meant Waunarlwydd and Gorseinon reaching the semi-finals after playing one game each. This apparent disinterest is something the organisers need to look at. Sevens at its best is a wonderful spectacle which gives players like Carwyn Davies, for so long in West Wales Rugby left on the wings waiting for a pass, a chance to show their abilities.

Davies's first try in the final was a peach which brought spontaneous applause from all spectators - how often does that happen in the 15 man game in these parts? Happily Llandovery lifted the gloom which withdrawals and lack of interest cast over the proceedings. Even an ugly punch-up in the semi-final between Hendy and Waunarlwydd could not overshadow the skills of Geraint Williams and his colleagues.

Results:

Preliminary round:

Loughor 12, Brynmanan 6; Llandovery 26, Llandybie nil.

First round:

Tumble 16, Cefneithin 6; Pontyberem 6, Cwmgors 16; Hendy 26, Penyg-roes 6; Amman Utd nil, Gorseinon 16; Llangennech 12, Loughor 16; Gowerton 10, Llandovery 16.



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QUARTER-FINALS:

Tumble 8, Waunarlwydd 14: Waunarlwydd: Joe Bendle, Norman Satterly and Stuart House (tries); Steve Davies | (con). Tumble: Aled Jones, Mike Williams (tries).
Hendy 12, Cwmgors 6: Neil Lewis, Steve Watson (tries). Nigel Howells (2 cons).
Llandovery 22, Loughor 12: Llandovery: Carwyn Davies (2), Alun Thomas, Nigel Clarke (tries). Carwyn Williams (3 cons). Loughor: Gareth Banfield, Phil Morgan (tries). Gareth Banfield (2 cons).

SEMI FINALS

Waunarlwydd 30pts., Hendy 4

Hendy simply had no answer to the all round power and skills of the host club in a game marred by some ugly incidents in the second half.

Roger Watkins weaved through the Hendy ranks to open the scoring early in the second half, Steve Davies converted. Then big Joe Bendle powered over from 70 yards for another try which Davies converted. Stuart House completed the first half rout with another long distance try with Davies again adding the conversion points.

Norman Satterly joined in the fun early in the second half, selling a lovely dummy on his way to a try which Davies converted before Steve Watson scored for Hendy.

Satterly scored his second try on the death while the rest of the players were involved in a touch-line fracas. Steve Davies, having eventually extricated himself from the melee, converted.

Llandovery 16pts., Gorseinon 6

Gorseinon fielded an exciting looking team who were still fresh in the semi-finals having played only one game to reach them. But the skill of Llandovery, who had already played three times, was too much for them. Gorseinon started well, pressurising Llandovery who nonetheless revealed their class by breaking away through brothers Geraint and Carwyn Williams with Carwyn racing clear to score between the posts. He also converted.

They went further ahead when Alun Thomas dummied to Carwyn Davies and ran clear. Williams again converted. Thomas chose to use Davies early in the second half and the winger delivered an electrifying dose of acceleration to leave Gorseinon grasping thin air.

Alun Jones scored a consolation try for Gorseinon which Huw Watkins converted to make the final score 16-6.



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THE FINAL

Llandovery 21pts., Waunarlwydd 12

Llandovery started firm favourites for the final but Waunarlwydd, while lacking the pace of Llandovery, were determined to make things difficult for them.

Carwyn Davies, who had been the outstanding personality all afternoon, then delivered the try of the tournament. He jinked off both feet in turn to beat Joe Bendle and then swerved effortlessly inside Satterly and Davies to run clear and score near the posts.

Llandovery, who had played two games more than Waun to reach the final, visibly tired in the second half. Roger Watkins ran superbly to score Waun's first try which Davies converted and then Joe Bendle, full of running, sprinted over from 70 yards with Davies' conversion tying the scores and Waun suddenly looking odds-on for victory.

But the trusty boot of Carwyn Williams, which put paid to Pontypridd in the Schweppes Cup last year, edged Llandovery ahead with a penalty from 30 metres - the first of the afternoon.

And then a long kick downfield took play into the Waun 22 where the covering Joe Bendle attempted a fly kick to touch. Instead of finding touch it flew into the hands of Carwyn Davies who scored his eighth try of the tournament.