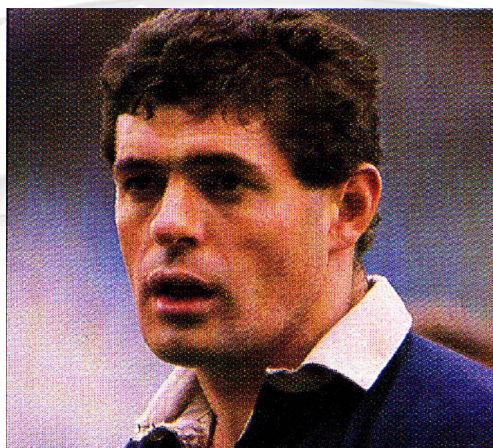


SPORTING LEGENDS: GAVIN HASTINGS

SPORT: RUGBY

COMPETITIVE ERA: 1979 - 1994

Gavin Hastings, OBE (born January 3, 1962 in Edinburgh) of Watsonians, Cambridge University Rugby Football Club, Scotland national rugby union team and the British and Irish Lions was an outstanding rugby player of his generation.



In December 1979, the powerful 6ft 2in fullback scored two penalty goals on his debut for the Scottish Schools XV, against France at Glasgow. He progressed from the Watsonian side to the Scottish under 21 team, and the Scottish XV.

By now his style was established. A tackle was never flinched; an opportunity to attack seldom ignored. Intense concentration, and a watchful study of his prey show on every photograph of Gavin Hastings.

Defeat hurt; notably, the Cambridge University side he captained at Twickenham in December 1985. Oxford triumphed 7-6, as Cambridge staged one of the classic fight-backs. Hastings scored all his side's points, but missed a possible winner in the dying moments.

On 18 January, 1986, amid the screaming fervour of Murrayfield, Gavin and Scott Hastings made Scottish history; the first brothers since 1891 to make their international debuts together.

By the day's end, Gavin made more international history, scoring every point in Scotland's 18-17 victory. His six penalty kicks equalled the world record, and his points tally set a new Scottish best.

SPORTING LEGENDS: GAVIN HASTINGS



Hastings kicking skills were reliable and deadly accurate.

By the autumn of 1988, with 213 points in 17 appearances, Hastings was on course to eclipse the Scottish record of 273 points, held by Andy Irvine. He had also done his share to help Scotland share the Triple Crown with France in 1985/86 season.

After graduating at Cambridge, Hastings moved south in late 1985 with London Scottish; and, after a brief return to Scotland and Watsonians, rejoined London Scottish in 1987.

He played fullback, and captained the Lions on the tour to New Zealand in 1993. He is the all-time record points scorer in the Scotland national rugby union team. Nickname: "Big Gav".

In 1996 Hastings made an initially controversial decision to accept an invitation to switch to American football with the Scottish Claymores of the WLAFF. However, Hastings' brief spell in his new code would be a successful one, as the Claymores won that year's World Bowl at the home of Scottish Rugby, Murrayfield Stadium.

He is considered one of the legends of the game, and is hugely respected by his peers. He recently selected the candidates for the 2005 IRB "Player of the Year Award", alongside fellow greats Francois Pienaar, Michael Jones, Fabien Galthie, Keith Wood, Jonathan Davies, Dan Lyle, Federico Mendez and John Eales.

SPORTING LEGENDS: GAVIN HASTINGS



Scott Burton's Final Thought

Gavin Hastings carried the hope of a nation on his shoulders whenever he represented Scotland, and he always gave his best.

A great team player, he was fantastic at motivating his team mates whenever the chips were down. His sheer ability was good enough to grace any rugby team on the planet.



The big boot of Big Gav!