

Malta lose despite early lead

LATVIA 27
MALTA 16

DESPITE SCORING two unconverted tries and two penalties (16) and twice enjoying a lead, Damian Neil's new look Malta side faded in the last quarter to a big and strong Latvia side.

There is no doubt that the promotion to European Pool 2B has presented the Malta men with a challenge to which they must rise if they are to maintain their status. The biggest problem is that Malta's lock forwards tend to be small and light compared with the size of their opponents. This means there is always a danger that stamina and strength will be drained from them towards the end of matches.

Only one team in the pool will be promoted and only one demot-

ed, so Malta must aim for at least one win out of four matches.

Next week at Hibs ground, Kordina, Malta will face a Croatia team eager to revenge their defeat of some months ago and this will be another severe test.

The MRFU have called on the Maltese people to come along to Hibs and give their usual marvellous support.

MALTA TEAM.

1. J. Bordo, 2. J. Ramage, 3. E. Zarb, 4. P. Mangion, 5. R. Bonavia, 6. G. Kennedy, 7. S. Kempster, 8. D. St. George, 9. J. Dimond, 10. J. Caruana, 11. J. Finlayson, 12. T. Watts, 13. M. Attard, 14. L. Culhane, 15. O. Sacco.

Subs. 16. J. Attard, 17. M. Mirabelli, 18. M. McArdle, 19. D. Gasan, 20. P. Allen, 21. L. Mifsud, 22. R. Robson.

Monaco too strong for Malta U18



Malta 0
Monaco 51

IN THEIR very first international match at, Marsa, in perfect conditions the Malta U 18 side were given a lesson in basics. Although the score showed a resounding win for Monaco, they were made to work hard in a grueling encounter.

Despite showing great spirit and determination, the Malta youths wasted much of their hard work by lapses in tackling and by losing their defensive shape too easily, thus occasionally presenting no coherent defence when Monaco ran the ball at them.

Several of the Maltese players, especially Beppe Sammut, looked very promising.

Most of the Monaco scores were the result of naïve and inexperienced play and/or positional errors.

It is clear from this match that there is great promise in the young Maltese players, but they urgently need a regular League competition which can only happen when the proper facilities for Rugby in Malta are made available.

Well over 200 spectators gave spirited support.