



Convicts Player Report (3 May 2008)

Convicts I vs Petersham

On a sunny Saturday morning the boys from Convicts I graced the field for yet another step on the road to Bingham Cup glory in June. Facing Petersham, a club the convicts have played in years past, our boys were prepared for the tough test they were about to receive.

From the kickoff the Convicts roared out of the blocks pressuring that Petersham outfit and driving deep into enemy territory. Such was the Convicts enthusiasm; some uncharacteristic mistakes prevented a more immediate punishment of the defiant Petersham lads.

But this was only a delay in the inevitable with The Convicts crossing the line about 15 minutes into the game thanks to a crushing solo run from James Saunders as he carried 2 players on his back to surge over the line.

Not to be quelled easily, Petersham responded in kind, forcing the Convicts to withstand a wave of attack. With the defenses stretched the Convicts organization showed cracks and threatened to open. Still surging onward through repeated drives to the Convicts line, our boys were forced to withstand the onslaught to hold onto their slim lead. Only through scrambling defence and sheer will did the Convicts hold them out, once holding the ball up over the line. But keeping it together our brave boys clawed back their advantage to restore their ascendancy and keep the scoreboard untroubled.

Adopting some new philosophies, the Convicts played a fast, attacking game and showed class to match their courage.

“I’m so stoked that the boys were able to take the things we did in training and bring them to the game” said a jubilant Broni, convicts head coach.

Holding it all together the Convicts got it all together to post a convincing 21-0 despite suffering some minor injuries. Led by fullback and man of the match Matty Vagulans from the back the convicts put in place a few more pieces to the puzzle. James Saunders ran in the other 2 tries to bag himself a hat trick on a golden day for the youngest member of the touring squad to Dublin.

“I’m happy that we kept them to nil, we’re going to need to play tough like that in Dublin” said Convicts I captain Charlie Winn.

Convicts 2 vs Maccabi II

In the interest of getting some more tough games before they fly out to Dublin, Convicts II again took on Maccabi at home. Not wanting to let Maccabi get the jump on the boys the coach Glyb “Breezy” Breeze and team captain Simon Thompson’s words rang out across the field, “Take them head on early, go at them low and hard and make the first 15 minutes count.”

From the kick off the Convicts played strong. The forwards had been training on improving their work at the breakdown and it was starting to pay off. Great line out jumping from magic Marcel saw them win plenty of ball and the Convicts had good field position. Strong drives from the forwards and a great dart from the back saw Marcel over for the first try. Dean converted. 7-0. The Convicts continued to dominate Maccabi but the points didn’t come and it remained 7-0 at the break.

Second half saw the Convicts run on the reserves to maximize experience before the up coming tour. As they restructured Maccabi pounced and from broken place they were over beside the posts. Try converted and scores were locked up 7-7. Convicts hit back and once again drove at their line. This time the boys were held up and no try. From the 5-meter scrum they again drove to within inches only to be repelled.

Maccabi hit back and some punishing kicks saw them in the Convicts half. The sin binning of damaging Dunc saw them down a player and despite some scrambling defence, Maccabi took advantage and were over in the corner. 12-7. Some gripping last minutes runs from the Convicts were not enough and the score remained 12-7.

“Despite not winning, the forwards were impressive and showed they will do we well Dublin” said coach Breezy as the boys headed towards the beers and showers.