



Convicts Player Report (17 May 2008)

Convicts II v Briars 17th May 2008

An early morning start at Concord saw Convicts II take on Briars away. After last week's nail biting win Convicts II were keen to consolidate with another strong showing. Coach Breezy called for the boys to "make the most of your three games left before Dublin and go out and smash them."

From the kick off Convicts II was by far the better side. The forwards played with good structure and discipline and were all over Briars at the breakdown. From their strong ball retention came good possession for the backs and it wasn't long before a darting run created a line break and Convicts were over for their first try. Converted it was 7-0.

From the kick off the Convicts were straight back at them and, with the ball moving smoothly between the forwards and the backs another line break saw them over again. 14-0. The Convicts were now on a roll and with their tails up and backs firing in attack they ran in a succession of tries to grab their 7th before the final whistle blew. Briars scored a consolidated try but there was no denying the Convicts today and they ran out comprehensive winners 45-7.

"A great win with Dublin so close. The boys are definitely firing at the right time for the Cup defence."

Convicts 1 vs Woolahra Colleagues 17th May 2008

The Convicts moved 1 week closer to Bingham cup glory on the weekend with the much-anticipated showdown with Woolahra Colleagues, the Convicts own club. Internal matches are always full of tension and passion and the Convicts didn't disappoint this time around. Woolahra have not only been undefeated but have not had a point scored against them all year, this was set to be one of the Convicts toughest tests to date.

With only 2 more matches before departing to Dublin, the Convicts are fine tuning for the cup defence but some injuries have played a disruptive role. At the beginning of the game the Woolahra team called for uncontested scrums, a tactic frowned upon in Convict circles. Being a far bigger, stronger team the Convicts rued this missed opportunity to dominate the smaller side. The big boys of the Convicts would need all their stamina to keep pace with the younger, quicker opposition.

Starting quick out of the blocks the Convicts pounced on some sloppy defence to post the first try and break the as yet unbreakable Woolahra line. During the first half the tide slowly turned as the Convicts big men tired in keeping up the frantic pace. Leading just 7-5 on the stroke of half time the convicts gave up the lead going into the break down 12-7.

"Having uncontested scrums was a bit of a killer for us" lamented Convicts captain Charlie Winn.

The second half started with a surge from the Convicts but as the first half went the big boys tired. Facing a spirited and fast opposition and lacking the platform to use their size the Woolahra boys poured on the pressure and eventually breaking the Convicts valiant resistance.

With one eye on Bingham and the other on a repeat game against the same team in two weeks the Convicts have a steep uphill top climb in the run up to the Bingham Cup. Many of the convicts remember the bitter pill of being beaten in London and are determined to repeat the success of the New York campaign. Any previously relaxed approach has now been tossed aside replaced by gritted teeth and steely resolve, heaven help the next team to face our boys.

"This is a good reminder that we can't take winning for granted" said Convicts president Andrew 'Fuzz' Purchas.