

Camped On A Wire

With the Legion's pride hurt the previous week with their first loss of the season to a strong willed Stoke side, there was no time to lick the wounds as they were back on the battlefield against Camp Hill this Saturday. A number of players returned to the side who were missing in action last week. Fly half Pete Thomas came in like a whirlwind and was magnificent for the entire 80. Grant Cowe and Luke Kendall had come down from the 1st team, whom were welcomed with open arms into the embrace of the legion. Both putting in sterling performances. Alex Wells had returned from a vacation of three weeks in Rhyl. He had been their that long the lad developed an extra finger, thirst for banks mild and addiction to penny slot machines. However he managed to put a great shift in the 13 shirt, solid in defence and offering running lines Mo Farah couldn't dream of.

As per usual the Legion is like a well oiled machine, until arriving before games and being left with 20 minutes to warm up. Micheal Woodhouse, captain for the day as Noberto Styles was sunning himself in Portugal, decided to put the wrong postcode into the sat nav. B19 instead of B90 took Woodhorse to the other side of Birmingham, not a major issue however he was carrying the kit and none of the lads could warm up until it arrived. Something the Warburton's transport distribution manager of Birmingham never had a problem with before. Never mind it's not as if the lad had played their 6 times previously either. I'm buying Hovis this week !

The game kicked off and the legion started strongly good carries from Cowe, Pardesi and Thomas early doors put the Legion in charge. Off a line out on the 10 metre line for the Legion half saw a nasty looking shoulder injury to no. 8 Copsey, a shame as he had been a star performer of recent weeks. Play continued and winger Josh Evans danced his way through the Camp Hill defence like a Bee Gee in a disco. The momentum was high and George Crowe was a thorn in the Camp Hill side especially around the ruck area. His show and go is something similar to a young Matt Dawson on a certain Lions tour of 97. From one of his show and goes Crowe managed to weave his way through the home sides defence to score under the posts. 0-12.

For a brief period the Legion switched there attention to defending their lines. Good tackles from Wells, Cowe and Thomas meant the home side were kept at bay, good clear up work from stand in full back Nick Belshaw thwarted a sure fire try for the home side however the Legion did crack with a try by Camp Hill just before half time when their winger ran through a gap wider than a trouser leg of Pavarotti. HT 5-12.

The half time team talk consisted of keep the structures of play, lower in the tackles and get more support than a band aid concert to the player with the ball. For 20 minutes of the second half the Legion played champagne rugby. Pete Thomas was stepping players and sprinting away before offloading to the

support. As they said about Gazza once 'he ain't bad or a fat lad'. It was off such a break he raced away to score his try and kick start the Legion. 5-19.

Cowe managed to turn over a ball from the opposition and the offload to the on running Crowe who raced away for another score.

Cowe had to go off due to an ankle injury he sustained which was a shame as the flanker was putting in a shift worthy of a place in a battle seen from Braveheart. As the legion were gaining momentum the field was turning into a scene from a Mike Tyson boxing match. Fists flying and bodies everywhere. However Newport never shied from the confrontation and Woodhouse making up for his early howler put in Upsher with a pass sexier than a 1995 Cameron Diaz photo shoot. The hooker going over for his 4th score of the season and now top of the try scoring charts. 5-29.

Josh Evans returned to the fray after he was nursing a sore wrist, Josh had spent the week in Rome having drinks in the Vatican and chilling with the Pope. Even his holiness said to Josh I have seen some wonders in my time but nether the regrowth of hair like that. Given this Josh was now parting defenders like Moses to the sea and he grabbed his second of the afternoon after good work from Thomas again. 5-34

Camp Hill were given a sudden injection, and in full credit to their big forwards they put in a good shift for the Legion lads to counter. 2 quick fire try's and a decision that could have been helped if linesman Lowbridge wasn't trying to see how his beloved wolves were getting on and keeping up with play meant the ref gave the home side a try. 15-34.

The Legion saved the best till last and after a number of quick phases the ball was passed between the hands of the back line and Joe Richards, who 3 minutes earlier had wiped himself clean of the dog excrement that was littered on the pitch, managed to cut back inside his opposition and dived in for the try and final score of the game. 15-39.

A tough forward battle but pleasing result for the mighty 2nds, getting back on track after a difficult week. Still a lot to work on but signs at the moment look promising. Mentions this week go to George Crowe, Alex Wells and Pete Thomas who was sublime. But this week's man of the match selected by the bus driver was flanker Grant Cowe. He was simply brilliant until his game was cut short by injury.