

Newport Legion 68 - 0 Hereford 2nd XV

'Newport almost bear all'

The match report for this week's fixture starts a good while before the kick off. In a time where it is deemed acceptable for both the manger and captain to take holidays during mind season! There was no fear; Trojan Horse was here to take the reins for the legion's clash with Hereford. 'Disclaimer: Pistol is in no way, legally responsible for the washing of the kit as laid out in his legion contract. But seeing as the upper management were absent, a calamitous chain of events led to the kit not being collected and a mad dash to the laundrette at 6:30am on game day was needed to collect the legion battle attire. Apologies to Maxine Gamble who had arrived pitch side early with her Ornithology book and binoculars, hoping to see some woodpecker and cockerels.

On to the game itself. In good spirits from two convincing victories over Bridgnorth and Lichfield, nothing other than absolute victory was expected over a Hereford side that were pondering at the bottom of the league and rarely travel to away fixtures. A somewhat lacklustre warm up meant that the first couple of minutes saw a string of penalties conceded and the legion found themselves defending their line from repeated Hereford attacks. A quick turnover on the legion try line saw the quick thinking Nathan Potter link up with Thomas who released Nick Gregory and Reece Beddows down the blind side. Unfortunately for Gregory, Beddows could simply not keep up and instead he had to step 3 players before applying the after burners for a length of the field try that was duly converted by Liam Evans. This first try would open the floodgates and Newport quickly took control of the game with the majority of possession during the first half. The Newport forwards dominated play with good phases that enabled the Legion's dangerous backline to exploit the tiring defence. Tries from Beddows, Thomas, Ambrose and Woodhouse combined with excellent goal kicking from Liam Evans gave Newport, a commanding 35-0 lead at half time.

Knowing that this was a league game, Newport were eager to rack up as many points as possible during the remaining 40 minutes. With the French contingent having a promising debut, Ambrose the hooker was everywhere! Shame he hadn't been there in 1935 or a lot of 'hassle' could have been avoided. Thinking he'd smelt a fresh batch of Brie, he raced a way for his second try of the afternoon. What next was frankly outrageous, ludicrous, damn physics defying! Matt Pardessi found himself in midfield with the ball in hand and instead of the front row standard approach of 'head down and charge' he threw a side step that sent ground tremors as far as Burton who must be quaking in their boots as they are yet to visit the Forton Road Colosseum. Pardessi then offloaded to Pennels, who beat 3 to score under the posts. With the backs keen to not be outdone for showmanship, Thomas screamed "Chip, Chip, Chip!" Probably hoping for better after match food than has become accustomed to. Evans, who this point had a lost his voice and sounded like a young Aled

Jones walking in the air, read Thomas' call and put in a perfectly weighted kick which the onrushing Beddows collected before outpacing the defence to score his 4th try of the afternoon. Knowing he would no doubt be subject to an aftermatch presentation of wine, cheese and garlic as this is now the French Foreign Legion, he quickly departed the field before he scored anymore. A try from Holmes that was converted by Evans in 70 minutes, gave Newport a commanding 68-0 lead.

Credit to the Hereford team, they knew how keen Newport were to keep their clean sheet and in the last 10 minutes, they relentlessly launched attack after attack to try and pierce the legions' ranks. Switching from attack to defence, Newport dug in and repelled all attacks to end the game on 68-0. A great performance by all, with too many contenders for man of the match that not one could be singled out. The Legion break for a week now before travelling to Worcester on the 17th December for their final battle of 2016

Team: Pardessi, Ambrose, Gregory, Woodhouse(C), Davies, Holmes, Pugh, Howells Potter, Evans, Brazendale, Thomas, Minge, Beddows Wright, Coco, Alex

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