

The Mowing of Lichfield

On a dull, grey Saturday afternoon the Legion travelled to near Staffordshire rivals Lichfield to play in an anticipated high paced game. Over the years Lichfield have fashionably had a good side with exciting backs, meaning the legion had some good battles over the seasons. With the highs and elations of beating Bridgnorth last week behind them it was a good opportunity for the legion to crack on and keep the pressure on Burton in the league.

Every time the Legion play away unavailability due to work and family commitments the squad is depleted. However a testimony to the players available to Newport as they can slot in as if they have been playing for weeks. The back row of Keyzor, Pugh and Howells could not make it and scrum half Crowe was injured playing for Harper in the week. Step forward Copsey, Holmes and fly half Jez Cramyson to the team all to put in sterling performances. The team wasn't to dissimilar and showed in the 2nd half with good structure and phase play.

The game kicked off and Holmes who was keen to make an impression chased after ball like a demented Labrador, putting in a good tackle from kick off. However Lichfield within the first 5 minutes scored a great attacking move that went through the hands of every player in the back line. Newport needed that kick up the rear rectum to wake them up. 5-42.

Newports forward this season have dominated near every game they have played in, Bossing teams around like a matron on night shifts. This game was no different a front row of Pardesi, Kendall and Evans were pushing the opposition back at scrum time like army surrounding the platoon. Off a lineout within the 22 the forwards put together a driving maul Martin Johnson would have dreamed of. Orchestrated by skipper Norberto Styles who is in marvellous form ordered his men around and were driven over the white wash with Walt Disney Pumba wannabe Kendall grabbed the score. Converted by the terrible Craymson 5-7.

Throughout the reaming period of the first half Newport were in an arm wrestle with Lichfield. Possession changed hands a number of times with Lichfields powerful 8 making inroads every time. But hits bigger than Stalins Artillery meant the Legion kept them at bay, Cramyson, Styles, Wells and Belshaw were at the forefront of this. Good phase play from the forwards meant Woodhouse sprinted, yes sprinted folks, 34 yards to offload to Pistol where the ball went through the hands of the backs before the ever green Buttery went over for a crucial try just before half time. 5-14. Cramyson doing a horrendous job of the touch line conversion but it somehow sneaked over.

Well what a second half this was from the Legion, Lichfield could barely get a hand on the ball for Possession. Another scrum 5 meters before the Opponents line and an introduction of Willenhalls finest Upsher kept the pressure at scrum time on the Lichfield pack for Noberto Styles to touch a down a Forward dominated try. Obviously Upsher's new Job as a fish monger on Bilston market has been keeping

him chomping at the bit for action Craymosan barely making the conversion. 5-21.

Henry Holmes unavailability to training cost him a place in the side last week, however the all action flanker made a barnstorming impression this week and put his hand up for selection with a well taken try executed brilliantly by Noberto. Cramysons average pass may have added to it but nether the less Holmes took his try well and marked his performance with a gold star. Nanny Holmes will be proud. 5-28.

The legion were really licking their lips now and Manager Lowbridge was so too with a £3.60 pint of Guinness from Lichfield, no wonder the set up looks so good. It's a far cry from the £1.50 at Newport. Maybe we should up the rates? However the magnificent Styles was barging men over for fun, that extra bit of weight round the midriff proving handy for something and a good team try meant Noberto strolled over the line like a cheetah on raw Elephant meat. 5-35.

With about ten minutes to go the Legion were playing champagne rugby, Luke Kendall and Pete Thomas both with a similar BMI index one playing 2 the other 12. Put together a piece of brilliance. Hooker Kendall fresh from a health and safety visit from Brown hills coal mine threw an unbelievable over head throw around 20 metres to the on rushing barrel Thomas. Now when I say onrushing the lad was at full tilt, any faster folks a Delorean would have taken him in to 1958 when George Best scored that magnificent goal against Benfica in the European Final. Tackled in the 22 the ball was recycled and went threw every pair of hands in the forwards before an great turn and pass from Styles saw Buttery offload to the onrushing Cramyson who went over in the corner. It was a magincent try and the best I have seen in a Legion game. Cramyson converting 5-42.

This will be remembered as a great victory for the Legion a near flawless 80 minutes of rugby and pleasing performance meant Lowbridge was over the moon. Mentions to Styles, Woodhouse the front row union, Buttery and Potts when the replacement came on. But this weeks MOM was the average at best Cramyson. Only kidding the fly half was simply magnicent, goal kicking spectacular and general game play outstanding. The Army under 23 is really worth his weight in goal and produced a fantastic performance for the Legion.

On rolls the Machine

Viva le Legion

Pardesi, Kendall, Meatloaf, Styles © Woodhouse, Davies, Holmes, Copsey
Evans, Cramyson, Buttery, Thomas, Chandler, Wells, Belshaw
Potts, Upsher, Brazendale

Report Marco Polo Oscar Whiskey