

Taming of the Wolf

The legion returned to action having been given an appreciated 2 week break from action. Raring to go they faced a young talented Wolverhampton side that played a similar style to the legion. They were not afraid to play attacking rugby with a tight game when needed. It was an entertaining game which is a regular thing for the legion at the minute proving this league is a good development step for the 1st team.

A brisk cool wind was at foot when the game kicked off, the legion were attacking up the famous Forton hill on the first team pitch. Within the first 20 minutes close exchanges were traded by either side before a break by centre Pennells who was at his impressive best all game beat a number of defenders to touch down within 15 minutes. However with a relatively simple conversion attempt Pete Thomas showed every young fan at the game how not to kick. 5-0.

Next Wolves fullback made a great break cutting through the legions pack before a great last ditch cover tackle from home full back Lucas saw the full back brought short. Another break from the same player saw the ball pass through the hands before yet again 'the cat' Lucas put in a textbook ankle tackle to thwart the wolves attack and create a scrum on the 5 metre line for the home side. Disaster struck, the usual steady scrum for Newport was under some serious pressure this week from a strong technical wolves side. The scrum wheels and their number 8 picked and went putting it through the 9 and wingers hands to score out wide. 5-5.

Wolves then scored another try in short succession after the first again good phase play in the loose saw the opposition cut through the legions defence like a lion in a petting zoo. This time the fly half scoring under the posts for an easy conversion showing Pete Thomas how to do it. 5-12.

Now the referee did control the game within a reasonable degree however his fitness levels could do with a bit of work on. Pennells once again broke a number of would be tacklers to offload to fellow team mate and ginger (they stick together) Ellis Moyes, who kicked through and touched down to score. However as the referee was still on the home sides half way line he couldn't see the 'grounding' and didn't award the score.

At half time words of keep the ball in hand rather than try the last ditch offload, and keep the ball tighter than a Clinton v Trump presidential race meant the legion could use the slope to their advantage. After these inspirational words out they came racing out the blocks, to score a try than went through more hands than a German watch maker to score a try in the corner. However sports fans it was not the beloved legion but the advantageous wolves side. 5-19 again the conversion was made to show Pete Thomas how to do it. 5-19.

However the fly half whose waistline is thicker than a gerkas foreskin put in a great cross field kick to the impressive Reece Beddows who return from injury this week. A brilliant take from the winger saw him sprint away to try line, a last ditch tackle saw Reece ground the ball just over the line but a clear try. No wait guess what the referee was on the 22, in the home sides half. No try awarded scrum to Newport. This was quickly resolved though as Newport scored from a serious of slow ball and new lock Morgan Davies barged over for a vital score.

The legion now were firing on all cylinders great runs from Beddows, Howells and Hartshorne who were really taking it to Wolves. A few close phases on the 5 metre line and top try scorer Upsher went over for a score. Hang on sports fans guess what the referee didn't see the grounding of this one as well. Manger/linesman Lowbridge was pulling his hair out at the decisions and anybody passing the Forton Road around 4pm on Saturday may have seen a flying flag at some point. However on hand was big man Nick the Greek. Dr Gregory managed to barrel over from 5 yards and give Newport an important score. George Crow took over the kicking duties and slotted a conversion showing Thomas how to do it. 17-19.

A penalty to Wolverhampton for infringement around the ruck area saw their kicker Stroke the ball over the posts to extend their lead. However replacement BATTERY rolled out back the years and scored a try in the far corner of pitch to draw back level the Legion. Another penalty in the opposition 22 with ten minutes remaining meant the pressure was on for young George Crow to step up and coolly slot over the penalty and put the legion back into the game for a 25-22 lead. A good see saw ten minutes of play when the game could have gone either way was finally blown up by the ref who would struggle to supervise mannequins let alone 30 blokes. FT 25-22.

Stand out performers this week were Gregory, Thompson, Thomas (despite his kicking) Beddows and Pennells. But this weeks MOM was Carwyn Howells. The Welsh man stepped into the 8 role with passion, drive and a touch of grit to drag the team over the line.

The machine rolls on

Viva le Legion

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Team: Upsher, Moyes, Dr Zhivago, Woodhouse ©, Davies, Brazendale, Thompson, Howells

Crow, Potts, Hartshorne, Thomas, Pennells, Beddows, Lucas

Welsh, Holmes, BATTERY