

Towcestrians 2nd XV Vs Newport Legion XV

21/04/2018 (Midlands Elite Reserve League)

A game of two halves sees the Legion avenge their defeat to Towcestrains on the opening day of the season

The final weekend of rugby for the league saw the Legion travel to Towcestrians, who they last played way back in September on the opening day of the season. In September, Newport managed to squander a 18-3 Half time lead to lose 35-25 when Towcestrians mounted a heroic second half comeback. 21 Games have passed and both teams find themselves level on points going into the final game of the season. The Legion has come on leaps and bounds since the start of the season and having sent out a statement to the league last week by demolishing Hinckley and booking their place in a cup final, they were quietly confident going into the match.

Arriving at the sun baked ground, the Flabrador quickly made conversation with the opposition and found that Towcestrians 1st XV had the arduous task of travelling to Guernsey who is top of their league while the Towcestrians languish at the foot of the league. It was to become apparent that a few 'non 2nd regulars' would be fielded but the Legion fear no one and after a slick warm up, Towcestrians started the game.

From the first collision, it was clear that the Towcestrians tactic would be to batter and bully their way through the Legion defence. Some cataclysmic hits we made and eventually the Legion managed to briefly clear their lines. The pressure was relieved only temporarily though as Towcestrians set up a driving maul and marched towards the Newport line. After a couple of minor infringements, Towcester we able to cross the line after only 4 minutes to open their account and go 7-0 up. As has been a regular occurrence, it took this reality check for the Legion to start playing and as Thomas's boot moved the Legion deep into the opposition territory, it became clear that field position and direct running would be the way forward and after 6-7 phases of interlinking forward and back play, Adam Copsey crashed over the line to score Newport's first try. Harry was unable to add the extras and the score was 7-5 in favour of Towcestrians.

End to end rugby ensued and culminated with Towcestrians scoring another try in the corner. With the heat sapping energy from the legs, both teams seemed to be struggling to maintain the tempo of play and at 12-5, the game was finely balanced. Newport needed a reaction and that was exactly what they provided. All 15 Legionnaires banded together and marched up the field to have a scrum just outside the 22. In a déjà vu moment from the Hinckley game last week, Newport executed a slick, pre planned move which enabled the Commodore to despatch the 12 to the floor and without gas man Dave Hartshorne in attendance this week, and a short gallop to the line put the half time score at 12-12.

With many promising things coming from the 1st half, it was apparent that the Legion needed a tactic change so that they could pull away in the second half. The Towcestrians team were clearly feeling the fatigue and started to slip off tackles allowing the Legion to play a fast, expansive brand of rugby that saw the scoreboard start to tick over in their favour. A flurry of tries from Knight, MacKenzie,

Riley and Thomas for his brace, quickly gave the Legion a commanding lead which sealed the fate of the Towcestrians team. Knowing that the game was seemingly gone, the opposition heads went down and the Legion started to think about point's difference for the final league standings. The Legion were awarded a scrum 5 and after Copsey let out a ear piercing shriek in pain, he was forced to retreat to the bench. Presumably to catch up on some marking that he hadn't managed to do in the 16 Weeks holiday a year he has. Legion Stalwart, Nick the Greek Gregory was introduced and having an engine like the Saturn 5 rocket, he took the scrum and marched it over the line for Jimenez to score from the base.

In an attempt to score some late points, the Towcester 10 kicked the ball long in an attempt to catch out the baby faced winger, Sam Knight. With three defenders bearing down on him, he could of simply punted the ball into touch and relived the pressure but with a name like Knight and being a Knight of the realm, he threw an outrageous side step that left 2 defenders with broken ankles and one surely needing counselling for years to come.

The final score stood at an impressive 50-26 and the Legion were to march forward into the night and party until the early hours. One more battle waits in the shape of the league cup final against Luctonians RFC at Sutton Coldfield RFC on Saturday 28th April. With Luctonians having vast experience in contesting this cup, nothing but a clinical Legion performance will be required if they are to have a chance of lifting some silverware and joining the immortal gods and taking their place in history alongside Average Joes Gymnasium who slayed the mighty Dwight Goodman and Globo-Gym. All travelling support will be welcomed as the Legion look to end their season on a high.

Man of the match could have been any one of 15 players but once again, it has to go to the second row/centre convert, Sam Sergeant who's Red Rum like strides enable him to avoid defenders and physical presence in the centres terrifies defences.

He will score tries, he will just score more and more. He will score goals, that's what we signed him for. Sam Sergeant is on fire, your defence is terrified, Sam Sergeant on fire, your defence is terrified, Sergeant on fire, your defence is terrified, Sergeant is on fire Na, na...

TEAM:

R.Biggs, L.Kendall(VC), M.Williamson, A.Copsey, S.Sergeant, L.Few, S.Abdulrahman, J.Jiminez

R.Harry, P.Thomas(C), T.Riley, J.Keary, N.Smart, S.Knight, S.Mackenzie

BENCH: L.McLinton, N.Gregory, H.Holmes, R.Nordvang

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