



RHS RUGBY NEWSLETTER

Miles Toyota



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Press Cup Game 9: vs Christ's College @ CC 25 June 2014

This was a much anticipated fixture as Rangiora High School had never played Christ's College on their home ground 'Upper' in 4 seasons of Press Cup competition. Ground conditions were superb until about 30 minutes before kick-off when the rains came. This created a very greasy surface and a ball that proved difficult for both sides to hold onto. Still ambitious to play 15 man rugby both sides tried to play too much with ball in hand for the conditions and with handling being a challenge it quickly took its toll on both forward packs as they battled for possession and go forward. Both sides desperately needed a victory and it showed in the work rate and intensity of the game up front. Early play by Rangiora was tidier than their opposition and despite controlling territory and much of the possession it was a sole penalty kick to first-five Scott Allin that showed on the scoreboard at half-time. Christ's College managed the same and at 3-3 it wasn't a pretty game to watch.



Half time: Rangiora 3 Christ's College 3



Having the better of territory in the first half it was more of the same asked for by the coaches at half-time. The mood was confident and as long as Rangiora played the game in Christ's half the feeling was points would come. Having struggled to finish off good attacking play it was again to prove a weakness for Rangiora summed up when an over enthusiastic player scored a try on the 5m line – close but not quite. As the game wore on Christ's resilient defence refused to yield and they began to create some good attacking play, threatening to break the deadlock. Both kickers had unsuccessful attempts at goal and with 5 minutes to play Christ's looked the more likely to score next.

Spurred on into the last minutes of the game Rangiora found an extra gear and pressured the opposition defence with strong running play. Repeated infringements at the breakdown from a desperate defence went unpunished and frustrations began to grow on the sideline. At the final whistle Christ's were awarded a penalty which they chose to run. In a desperate last effort the ball was turned over by the hard working Rangiora forwards and carried forward with urgency. A ruck infringement was picked up by the referee and a final play penalty was awarded to Rangiora. Coolly Scott Allin stepped up to the mark and in front of a noisy barrage from College supporters kicked the winning goal.





Thanks to Jacqueline Gilbert for these photos.

A huge work rate again from a busy forward pack and despite the greasy conditions an industrious day from the backs. Both joy and exhaustion summed up the mood of the team at the end of a tough tussle.

'It's great to see the boys finally get a reward for their efforts. Often we are the authors of our own demise but today the team kept its focus and didn't let up for 70 minutes' co-coach Gilbert commented.

Final score:
Rangiora 6 Christs College 3



R.J. Preston Player of the Day:
 First-five Scott Allin

Principal's Pin:
 Wing Harry Retallick-Brown

Cap Game:
 Mohsen Stirling, Matt Cooke, Harry Retallick-Brown, Thomas Harrison

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RHS 2nd XV vs Oxford/Woodend



This was a much anticipated clash after our courageous 7 nil win in the first round, and many of the opposition's players familiar to us as current or ex-students. And it did not let us down. As predicted, Oxford-Woodend started strongly and some defensive penalties had them dominating the first 20 minutes of this match. A deceptive move, including a clever juggle, and the familiar face of Scott Powell had scored under our posts. It was not too much longer that Oxford-Woodend set up a second try when earlier phases by the opposition had left Rangiora High's defence thin out wide.



After this initial barrage the 2nd XV began to dominate in both territory and possession. Retaining possession was vital, and this turned the penalty count also. What has become a habit this season, Kerran Jenkins burst through a tiring defence to score and put his side back in the game. After a dominate passage of forward play on the stroke of half time, Player of the Day, Harley Robinson cleverly dived over on the short side of a maul. This finish had the School side confident at half time although trailing 10-12.

As often is the case, scoring first after half time would be significant in the final outcome. Turning down penalty points showed admirable confidence but the points took longer than the 2nd XV coaches had hoped. A slicing run had Ben Wicksteed scoring handy enough for Rhys Smith to convert. However the local rivalry sparked a comeback try from the visitor's captain giving them the lead back. A penalty to Rhys Smith soon followed and the 2nd XV lead by a sole point; 20-19.



The School backline had looked more dangerous all day, and a set move had created space out wide. Conor Churchill's inside support play led to him to take the final pass and score, which Rhys Smith coolly converted. This gave them the fortunate 8 point cushion with only a few minutes left fortunately, as Oxford-Woodend had the last say with a converted try to Luke Palliser.

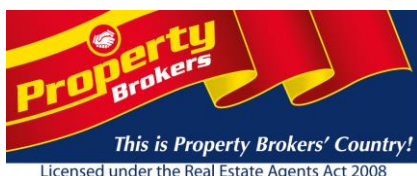


Final score: RHS 27 Oxford/Woodend 26

For the 2nd XV, it was definitely a team effort in the end that secured the win. Andrew McDonald and Brendan Maw showed their experience and leadership. George Howat had another industrious game, and Harley Robinson was always threatening. Front rowers, Jordy Siu and Mitchell Ashwell had their best game in recent times. Rhys Smith became more controlled as the game progressed, and the midfield pairing of Jenkins and Wicksteed continued their development as a solid duo.

It was great to see a contest played in good spirits between a number of good friends. The visitor's Palliser and Hayden Trail were significant players in last year's 2nd XV success, and it was encouraging to see them playing good football again, and Powell also, who started this year in the 1st XV.

Thanks to Lisa Sim for these photos.



RHS 2nd XV vs Aranui

It was always going to be a hard day when our midweek 2nd XV played away to an unbeaten Aranui 1st XV last Wednesday. The opposition were not big, they were very big. And if they weren't big they were fast. However it was a determined Rangiora High side that battled during the first half. After letting in an early try, our 2nd XV boys dominated set pieces and staunch defence had the better over Aranui for the next 15 minutes. A well taken converted try by Kerran Jenkins from an Aranui mistake was just reward and the 7 all score line surprised many. This spurred the host's big runners and the next 15 minutes was dominated by 'league type' attacks. Three more tries and some very good goal kicking followed. Rangiora's persistence continued and Brendan Maw scooped on another mistake to run 40 metres and score.

Half time score 33-12.

The second half was Aranui's who, although convincingly outplayed at set piece, were too strong on attack. It was only the fatigue from the first half's physical effort that led to the significant score line. George Howat and Hamish Richardson had extraordinary tackling stats, ably supported by Louie James, Jacob Pepper-Edwards and Cam Lynskey. Lynskey also took a handful of tight-heads early in the match. Josh Sim took great lineout ball at number two in that dominant period of play. The backline's midfield defence of Ben Wicksteed and Jenkins was busy and effective in the first half, and Callum Henderson in the second half also. Callum Smith scrambled well to shut down the many attacks he faced out wide. Again, Luke Gold and Deaven Clarkson battled bravely to tackle these huge boys.

It was a difficult day for a young side from Rangiora. It was a challenge that it was never going to win on the scoreboard but had a lot of positives. "It was particularly pleasing that their massive scrum could not move us, and lineouts were good all day. When we had the ball we were very effective in playing as structured as they would allow us. I had to admire the whole squad", said Kelvin Eder, coach.

Final score 78-12.

Player of the Day: Hamish Richardson, who also received the 'Oh No Bro Fro' for stepping on a yoghurt pottle to spray the yoghurt up his leg.

GAMES THIS WEEK



This Saturday the 1st XV have a home game at RHS vs Christchurch Boys High School, kick-off 2.45 p.m. while the 2nd XV travel to Culverden to play Hurunui, kick-off 2.00 p.m.

JUNIOR BOYS

Junior Boys Green suffered a loss to a strong Lincoln side last Wednesday (46-7 to Lincoln), while Gold was unable to play due to no referee showing, so split points with Papanui High School.

Green Player of the Day: Ben McCaw

GIRLS TENS

The Girls also lost to Lincoln, the College Day winners, 62-7. **Player of the Day: Georgia Calder-Lee**



Spaces filling up for the annual 1st XV Quiz Night!

Scheduled for Monday 28th July at Monteiths, Rangiora, the 1st XV Quiz Night is a really fun night contesting the winner's title and \$50 Monteiths voucher, all the while supporting the 1st XV's fundraising efforts. Tickets are \$10 head. Teams of 6-8 people can be signed up/paid for at the Payments counter in the Student Office or call Sarah on 0274 306 153.

CONGRATULATIONS

The following RHS boys have made the NC U18 side to play Ellesmere at Culverden on the 12/07/2014:

Luke Ellis
 Mohsen Stirling
 Oscar Howat
 Connor MacKinnon
 Ryan McCallum

Matt Cooke
 Cameron Dyer
 Craig Stockwell
 Scott Allin
 Harry Retallick-Brown

Hadrian Jackson
 Lemuel Hill
 Travel Tuaputa
 Brendan Maw

RHS 1st XV Player Profile:



Name	Harry Retallick-Brown
Year	13
House	Sheppard
Preferred Position	2 nd 5/8, Centre, Wing
Previous Club	Oxford
Rugby Player you admire most and why	Conrad Smith – hits good holes, performs basics well and is smart on and off the field.
Most memorable Rugby moment	When Oxford won a game
Favourite Food	Indian
Other sports played/hobbies	Surfing
Favourite music	Rap and hip hop

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