



RHS RUGBY NEWSLETTER

Miles Toyota



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Press Cup Game 10: vs Christchurch Boys High, RHS 5th July

Christchurch Boys HS came into this fixture as top of the table and unbeaten in Press Cup competition in 2014. They also have scored 4 try bonus point wins in all games played to date. 1 vs 11 and a pretty big challenge ahead for the home side. To add to the challenge CTV had brought their cameras along and the Year 13 Ball had happened the previous night. Discipline and preparation saw the squad assemble with a determination to give CBHS a meaningful fixture and the mood was certainly upbeat as they warmed up for arguably the toughest game of 2014. It was a bright start for the visiting side as they quickly turned possession into points, taking a 7 point lead 2 minutes from kick off following some very gently defence by Rangiora. Stung into action a little more purpose was injected into the contact zone by Rangiora who were rewarded with 3 points to the reliable boot of Scott Allin shortly after. CBHS showed why they are top of the table playing at a high pace with impressive ball movement, making it difficult for the Rangiora defensive line. To the home sides credit they defended strongly and although CBHS score twice more before the half time break, it wasn't made easy. Rangiora finished the half in the best way possible with a well-executed try to wing Travel Tuaputa. From an attacking scrum the backline executed a strike play that put the big winger in close to the corner flag. Scott Allin calmly converted from the sideline into a strong breeze and 10-21 was a much brighter half time score.

Half time: Rangiora 10 CBHS 21

The power and pace of CBHS always threatened and it was soon into the second half that a line break resulted in their 4th try and an 18 point lead. Things looked ominous for Rangiora but defensively they were having an impact and restricted the flow of the CBHS game. Ball in hand Rangiora gained good territory and 2 penalty kicks gave Rangiora a sniff of an upset as they came to 16-28 and then went on a period of attack. From a scrum halfback Jordy Gray spotted an opportunity blindside and with number eight Cam



Dyer executed the play perfectly to catch the opposition napping and score in the corner. The sideline conversion into what was now a stiff wind went close but was unsuccessful. At 21-28 Rangiora had a genuine chance to upset and with their tails up went on the offensive. CBHS had to work extremely hard to hold out the home side. Showing their quality they managed to gain back possession late in the game and with a foray into the Rangiora 22 gained a penalty which was quickly taken to score and secure the victory. 21-35 final score. The final 5 minutes were played at a tremendous pace and not to be out done Rangiora again came very close to the CBHS tryline. The final play was with CBHS who were denied a 6th try by the sideline.

No-one outside of the RHS team expected this to be a contest. Even the CTV commentators described this as a live training run for the visitors. For it to be a contest late into the second half is credit to the courage and determination of the Rangiora side. 'We were determined to earn the respect of the opposition with our performance today' captain Luke Ellis commented at the after-match function.

With halfback Craig Stockwell going off early in the first half after a serious head knock Jordy Gray stepped up to the challenge and was awarded joint player of the Day with replacement flanker Todd Couch. Both showed their talent against the best in the competition and have bright futures as they look to another season of Press Cup rugby in 2015.

First-five Scott Allin had another strong performance and kept his side going forward as well as the scoreboard ticking over – 3 penalties and a conversion; clocking up his 50 points for the season so far.

Full time: Rangiora 21 CBHS 35

R.J. Preston Player of the Day: Jordy Gray and Todd Couch

Principal's Pin: Scott Allin

CTV Player of the Day: Scott Allin

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Press Cup Game 11: vs St Thomas's College, RHS 19th July

This was a game that the players were really looking forward to following a very good performance in their last outing against CBHS. The preparations were good during the week but unfortunately the intensity and focus didn't make it to Saturday afternoon. St Thomas's are in resurgent form having had a poor start to their 2014 season and now have won their last two games. The first half was an even contest with both sides enjoying periods of attack. Two penalties gave a 3 all half time score line which reflected a sluggish match typical of end of school holiday games.



Half time: Rangiora 3 STC 3

The team that fired first would take control of this game and the message was the same to both teams from the respective coaching teams. Injury forced changes to the Rangiora side were a disruption but not a reason for the inability of the team to lift its collective energy to a level that was going to threaten St Thomas's. As hard as many tried others were struggling and St Thomas's were the team to lift the intensity. A converted try gave them a 7 point lead to which Rangiora responded finally and showed a glimpse of the quality they had displayed against competition leaders CBHS.

A well-constructed try to in-form winger Travel Tuaputa closed the scoreline to 8-10 and energy levels were up. St Thomas's were hungrier on the day and poor ruck defence gifted the visitors a late try to give them a 7 point lead going into the final minutes of the game. Chasing the draw almost came off as Rangiora forced some desperate defence from St Thomas's off their line. Close but no points and a well taken victory for St Thomas's.



A very disappointing performance that was felt by the players who know they let this one slip.



**Full time:
Rangiora 8 STC 15**

R.J. Preston Player of the Day: Ethan McDuff

Principal's Pin: Cam Dyer

Thanks to Murray Stirling and Trudy McKay for these photos.



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GAMES THIS WEEK



This Saturday the 1st XV play St Bede's College at St Bede's, kick-off 2.45 p.m. while the 2nd XV play at Oxford against Oxford/Woodend, kick-off 1.00 p.m. *(please note the changed venue for this game).*



RHS 2nd XV vs Kaiapoi July 19th

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A relaxed squad warmed up for their must-win match away to Kaiapoi. Pre-match talk was about playing with structure and discipline, and these proved to be the difference. A solid first 34 minutes had the visitors comfortably leading 15 nil with an early penalty to Kerran Jenkins, a bullocking try to Mitchell Ashwell, and slick hands from the backs creating acres of space for Bailey Mechen. These were just reward as the 2nd XV forward pack had dominated and the backline looked more dangerous. However as has been the case in all three encounters against Kaiapoi the gap quickly closed with an opportunist try just before half-time following a fly kick ahead.

The importance of scoring first in the second half was discussed, but it was again the Kaiapoi who took their chance, and the score had closed to 15-12 in the space of five minutes of playing time. However that was it for Kaiapoi as the Rangiora High School side took control of territory and possession to shut them out. The superior structure and discipline was obvious. Only one more try followed, again to Jenkins, but a number of other opportunities fell short with handling errors or infringements at vital times.

George Howat, Andrew McDonald and Conor Churchill tackled well to frustrate the opposition. Mitchell Ashwell, Josh Sim and McDonald took the ball over the advantage line well. Halves, Brendan Maw and Harley Robinson kept Kaiapoi's defence guessing, and the combination of Jenkins and Ben Wicksted showed a telepathic understanding at times. Bailey Mechen and Callum Henderson were often dangerous out wide.



So the Saturday season comes down to another must-win match next Saturday against Oxford-Woodend to make the goal of the North Canterbury final.

Final score: 20-12.

Player of the day: Josh Sim

vs Hurunui 5th July

The 2nd XV travelled to Culverden to battle Country champions, Hurunui last Saturday. It was always going to be a challenge with end of term school activities hindering preparation. However this was no excuse for such a disappointing performance.

George Howat, Conor Churchill, Louie James, Harley Robinson and Jordy Siu were honest performers in a beaten pack but few others could have walked off satisfied. Brendan Maw continued to look for attacking opportunities but there was little assistance.

It is one to be forgotten as we prepare our run to the North Canterbury final and a rematch against the same Hurunui side. "After the match, I told the boys they had the ability to beat that side, and as optimistic as it sounds I truly believe that" said coach Kelvin Eder.

Final score: 61 nil.

Player of the day: Jordy Siu.

Thanks to Lisa Sim for these photos.



Only one week until the annual 1st XV Quiz Night

There are still a couple of team spots left for the 1st XV Quiz Night next Monday 28th July at Monteiths, Rangiora. 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 to the follow RHS Rugby players who have been selected for North Canterbury representative teams:

U16

Todd Couch, Jordan Gray, Jarod Cox

U15

Jacob Pepper-Edwards, Lachlan McKenzie, Kyle Williams, George Blyth, Luke Gold, Mark Rankin

U14

Fletcher Newell, Fraser Philip, George Prain, Ben Gibbons, Fraser Wilson, Angus Mitchell (Vice-Captain), Jordan O'Hara, Harlem Brown

RHS U15 Tournament team

The RHS U15 Tournament team has also recently been named, after selection from a wider training squad. These players, to attend the South Island Secondary Schools Junior Rugby Tournament in Queenstown from 1-3 September are:

Jacob Pepper Edwards
Fletcher Newell
George Blyth
Angus Mitchell
Sam Freeman
Angus Fletcher
Lachlan McKenzie
Josh Duckworth
Mitch Read
Luke Campbell
Ben Gibbons
George Prain

Ben McCaw
Mark Rankin
Vaughn P
Luke Gold
Kyle Williams
Ihaka Abrahams
Korbyn Gray
Zane Carter
Caleb Rust
Jake Pope
Daniel Syme
Joel Epps

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