



RHS RUGBY NEWSLETTER

Miles Toyota



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Press Cup Game 14: vs Ashburton College, Allenton RFC, kick-off 12 noon

In what was to prove to be the last Press cup game of the season for Rangiora High School, the 1st XV travelled to Ashburton to play Ashburton College.

As expected, the hosts started with all guns blazing, and RHS did well to weather the storm in the opening stanza. The team however was to suffer an early setback with the departure from the field of captain Luke Ellis with a dislocated and suspected broken finger. RHS did rally for a period following the replacement, but couldn't prevent Ashburton from scoring the first try after approximately 15 minutes.



It was then Ashburton's turn to experience misfortune with the sending off of their star mid fielder Caucau for an over vigorous fend. RHS then turned up the heat and scored a try to winger Travel Tuaputa. Ashburton responded with another try and a penalty, to which RHS replied with a penalty also. Ashburton lead at the break by 15-8.

Going into the second half, RHS were right to feel confident with the wind and the sun behind them, and playing against only 14 men. The game drew level with another Tuaputa try, converted by Scott Allin.

Ashburton weren't done yet, and after a promising back attack from RHS, the Ashburton left winger stripped the ball in a tackle and ran 40 metres to score under the bar. The try was duly converted. Shortly after that the hosts were awarded a penalty which was converted into points.

RHS continued to attack and were rewarded with a try to Caleb Wunderink, which was converted by Allin.

However it was too little too late, with Ashburton coming out the winners 25-22.



Manager Kerry Sullivan described it as a season of ups and downs, with the highlights being the team's performances against the top 4 sides in the competition. "The team was gutted to have ended the season this way" said Kerry. "However, looking forward, there have been learning experiences to be had from all the games, which can only serve to make the team stronger in coming years".

Ashburton College: 3 tries, 2 conversions, 2 penalties

RHS: 3 tries (Travel Tuaputa 2, Caleb Wunderink), 2 conversions (Scott Allin), 1 penalty (Allin)

Full time: Rangiora 22 Ashburton 25

R.J. Preston Player of the Day: Jordan Gray
Principal's Pin: Matt Cooke

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Thanks to Murray Stirling for these photos.



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GAMES NEXT WEEK

Next Wednesday 20th the U15 Tournament team play a pre-tournament game against Lincoln at Burnside Park, kick-off 3.15 p.m.

2nd XV U18 Grand Final vs Hurunui



The 2nd XV had achieved well above expectations to reach this final, but there was no doubt this team was very keen to go one further. They knew Hurunui were beatable after the previous result so a determined side arrived at Loburn on Saturday morning.

Obviously Hurunui had also remembered last week's result, as the first quarter was dominated by their big forwards running hard at a resilient School defence. Unfortunately numbers soon thinned out wide for the Hurunui captain to score close to the corner. Not long after a "Richie McCaw" penalty decision went against Rangiora High, and the additional three points meant they would need to score twice to lead.





For the next 15 minutes, the 2nd XV did everything but score. Turning down penalties, a number of forwards came close to diving over. The backs too were stretching the Hurunui defence and on three occasions players cut through only to be tackled metres from the line. It was an admirable effort by the Hurunui side to hold on until half time.

Turning with the eight point deficit was a repeat from the previous week, so everyone knew a win was there for the taking again. However it was the Hurunui side that came out harder and faster, and a couple of missed tackles had the school side defending close to their line again. The resulting converted try made the

task greater for Rangiora High School but not out of reach.

It was a see saw second half with both sides determined to score next. A blind side attack following a number of phases had Jack Howe being driven over the line with significant help from George Howat, and a number of other forwards with ten minutes remaining.

The fairy tale ending wasn't to be, and the plucky School side had to accept second place to the well drilled Hurunui Under 18 team. Although the Cup wasn't theirs, it was a satisfied group of players, coaches, managers and supporters that left the field. Everyone on that paddock had played well.



The long season of 32 games had come to an end, and so much had been achieved by a great bunch of boys; sorry that's "young men". Thank you for a great season, fellas!

Final score: RHS 5 Hurunui 15

Player of the Day: George Howat

Below: Captain Andy McDonald accepts the U18 Runner Up Trophy



Above: The runners-up in NC U18 – well done RHS 2nd XV.

Thanks to Trudy McKay
<http://trudymckayphotos.wordpress.com/>
 and Angus Henderson for these photos.



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Shield Final: 2nd XV vs Middleton Grange

Confidence was high going in to last Wednesday's Senior Rugby Shield final. The midweek 2nd XV had lost to the opposition, Middleton Grange, at College Day so there was added motivation. Home advantage was soon obvious with a full squad of 22 ready to go.

Rangiora High started well and soon pressure turned in to points. A favourite blindside move worked perfectly, and Brendan Maw's support play was rewarded with a 35 metre run to the line. Three more tries followed so the 22 nil half time lead had one Rangiora hand on the shield.

However, in the second half Middleton were allowed to score twice when players fell off early tackles and allowed their ball running Number 8 to score. These lapses in defence were disappointing but the effectiveness on attack from anywhere was too good for the visiting side. Another three second half made it a comfortable win. Stacy Baker finished off a good attacking day with a great inside line to take the pass and race away to score. His inside backs had been dominant all day so this last play was an appropriate ending.

And so a second piece of silverware was banked for the summer.

Try scorers were Maw (2), George Gardner, George Howat, Mitchell Ashwell, Kerran Jenkins, and Baker.

Final score: RHS 39 Middleton Grange 12

Player of the Day: Ben Wicksteed



Above: Co-Captain Brendan Maw accepts the Shield from Wayne Masters, CRFU



Above: Co-Captains Brendan Maw, Andy McDonald and Mitchell Ashwell with the Shield



Above: The victorious Wednesday 2nd XV squad

Junior Boys

Both teams were a little nervous playing Lincoln in two semi-finals and it showed in the first 10mins of the Green game against top of the table Lincoln Red, with Lincoln scoring a couple of quick tries. Rangiora didn't front up in the tackle and Lincoln made us pay. Any mistakes we made resulted in Lincoln scoring and at half time the score was 24 nil. Second half started much the same but with about 20 mins to go Green started to build a bit of confidence and looked like a better side. It was all too late with the final score 10 – 51.

Green Player of the Day: Ihaka Abraham

The score in the Gold vs Lincoln Green game was 28-52.

Gold Player of the Day: Fletcher Newell

Girls

In their final match of the season, the Girls were dominant in the first half but the speed of one Hillmorton girl really shone in the second half.

Final score: RHS 10 Hillmorton 33

Player of the Day: Sophie Marsh.

Thanks for a great season, and best wishes to all those who are not returning to school next year!



CARWASH Fundraiser

for Rangiora High School
U15 Tournament team

**The Plough
carpark,
398 High Street,
Rangiora**



**Saturday 23rd August \$10
10.00 a.m.- 1.00 p.m.**

To assist with cost of attending the South Island Secondary Schools Junior Rugby tournament in Queenstown 1-3 Sept.

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