



Match Report

Maidstone FC President's Cup

Mustangs XV 52 v 1st Bn PWRR 7

Played at The Mote, Saturday 7th September, 2013

Brachers

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The first fixture of this weekend's 'Double Header' at The Mote saw Maidstone's 2nd's string (Mustangs XV) pitched against a Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment side from the county regiment's 1st Battalion (The Tigers). Recent years have seen The Tigers as a force in the Army's Premiership competition as well as being a taking part in a number of Europe's high profile 7s competitions. Although to be fair to The Tigers, their tour from their base in Germany had seen them playing 2 fixtures and the Army's 10s competition in the space of 5 days and the effects of had taken their toll.



This should however take nothing away from a Mustangs performance that featured impressive debuts for Ryan Jenkins at scrum half and Alex Fogavini in the centres. From the outset, and with young fly-half Brad Ford pulling the strings, they played the game at a high tempo, with pace and imagination, quickly gaining the ascendancy at the breakdown and maintaining a relentless pressure on the

Tigers defence. In fact the forces side rarely saw the ball in the first quarter of the match and tries by James Iles and a brace for winger Jack Naismith inside the 10-minute mark had provided an statement of the Mustangs intent. With the forwards providing a platform for a good supply of quick ball, further tries followed as the pace of wing James Douglas, the support of Tom Holmes and attacking flair of Jason Smith saw them all cross to increase the scoreline to 38-0 at half-time thanks to Ford's excellent conversion attempts with the boot.

The second half proved to be a more competitive affair as the Mustangs made changes and the Tigers beginning to get into their stride, and whilst they struggled at times to get out of their own half, the attacking threat of their backs was apparent, in particular Bukalidi, who proved to both an abrasive and elusive runner with ball in hand.

However it was the Mustangs who continued their scoring following a period of pressure in the Tigers 22m and a series of lineouts, they were finally able to create the drive they had been looking for to breach the defence with back rower Mark Cashmore able to burrow over from close range. With the Tigers looking to run the ball at every opportunity and the odd tackle being missed by the home side, the visitors finally breached the Mustang's defence, when following some good offloading in the tackle, winger Bukalidi finally outstripped the cover to cross close to the posts.



The remainder of the match followed much the same vein, as the Mustangs continued to press, whilst the Tigers looked to counter attack from defence. In the end it was Maidstone that again prevailed, as with the last play of the match a period of pressure in the Tigers 22m saw Majcher able to strike from the base of a ruck to cross just to the left of the posts. Fly-half ford completed a good afternoon with the boot as he slotted his sixth conversion of the game



Maidstone FC. Mustangs XV

Michael Majcher, Nick East (C), Luke Debnam, Nick Bunyan, James Iles, Jamie Sims, Matt Vickers, Sam Weston, Ryan Jenkins, Bradley Ford, Jack Naismith, Alex Fogavini, Jason Smith, James Douglas, Tom Holmes.

Replacements (All used): Cezar Ionica, Mark Cashmore, Jack Hart, Kenny Murray, James Sullivan, Alex Clark, Will Miles, Sam Mann

