



## Match Report

### Invicta League

Mustangs XV 38 v Thanet Wanderers 2<sup>nd</sup> XV 7

Played at The Mote, Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November, 2013

Maidstone's Mustangs XV provided coach Richard Weston with the ideal birthday present as they looked to bounce back from last week's disappointment against Thanet Wanderers second string.

With skipper Nick East called up to the 1<sup>st</sup> XV, Matt Vickers captained the side in a performance that saw both forwards and backs combining effectively to put the result beyond doubt by the half-time interval. Man of the match Brad Ford opened the scoring with a penalty after Thanet had infringed in response to a pressuring run by No8 Sam Weston. Good tactical kicking by Ford kept the Mustangs on the front foot and deep in Thanet territory and it was from a lineout in the Thanet 22m that a text book catch and drive saw the visitors driven back with Weston at the base of the maul touching down, Ford converted the score to give the Mustangs an early 10-0 lead.

Some great interplay between forwards and backs kept Thanet on the back foot and provided the next score with Alex Eastwood making the final penetrating surge and unselfishly offloading for Richard Parker to score, Ford added the extras. Two quick-fire scores by Jason Smith stretched the Mustangs lead with Ford again adding the extras to both tries to take the home side to the interval with a 31-0 lead

Thanet came out of the blocks for the second period showing much more determination as they set about disrupting the Mustangs game plan; solid all round defence and some big defensive tackles by the Mustangs' back row held them at bay. However as the match entered the final quarter with there having been no addition to the score Thanet finally prised a gap in the home side's defence to touch down for a converted try. Maidstone were able to respond and some quick thinking by half back, Steve McNamara saw the opportunity of a quick penalty following a Thanet infringement to glide in under the posts, Ford was again successful with the boot for the Mustangs to run out 38-7 winners at full time.