



Match Report

Westcombe Pk 2nd XV 32 v Mustangs XV 7

Played at Goddington Dene, Saturday 23rd November, 2013

With no scheduled match last weekend and Westcombe Park 3s withdrawal from the Invicta League a few days prior to the Saturday fixture, rather than have another week with no fixture Maidstone's Mustangs XV took the opportunity to take on Combe's 2nd string who play their competitive rugby in 'The Shield' league structure and sit 5th in Div 2(S

Confusion over the KO time which Combe had brought forward from the RFU norm of 2:30 meant that the Mustangs had to curtail their normal warm up procedures. As a consequence the Mustangs were 'slow out of the blocks' and with the hosts starting brightly as some slick hands saw them run in two tries in the opening encounters to open up a 10-0 cushion. Mustangs slowly came to grips with the game as the half progressed but concede three further tries to find themselves 27-0 down at the interval.

After a few 'home truths' and a quick blast of the 'hair dryer' at half time what appeared to be a completely different side kicked off the second half. With the lethargy dispelled the intensity of their play was increased and the home side were very much on the back foot as Maidstone applied the pressure and forcing errors in the home defence. With Combe's penalty count increasing a kick to the corner provided the opportunity for a lineout 'catch and drive' on the home sides 5m mark; hooker Josh McKenzie at the base of the maul got the touchdown with Brad Ford adding the extras. Maidstone continued to press and were unlucky when in the closing minutes a slick counter attack by the host saw them cross to complete the scoring.

In summary, a lethargic first period cost the Mustangs dear in this fixture, if they had played with the passion and physicality of the second half throughout, the result could have been different.