

Old Dunstonians 9 – Mustangs 27.

Happy NewYear to all players.

The Mustangs first game of 2013 was away to Old Dunstonians, and expectation was high. Andy Bacon returning from injury, and Adrian Hogbarn making his debut at 9.

Maidstone opened the scoring when after a period of defence, the home team dropped the ball and a kick through and chase saw Eastwood get the touchdown in the corner, Smith converting. Dunstonians were then camped in the Maidstone 22 and great defence stopped all chances of a try, two penalties given away brought the score to within 1 point. After a few phases of play and a great line break, a penalty taken by Hogbarn opened up a 6 point cushion. The first half was ugly to watch as Maidstone gave away far too many penalties and spoilt some good phases of play, we have something to work on!

The start of the second half started like the first half, Maidstone gave away far too many penalties and Dunstonians got the 3 points and Maidstone down to 14 men, no names, no pack drill, and soon down to 13 as another penalty awarded to the home team, luckily it sailed wide. Maidstone then realised it was time to step up a gear, Smith kicking a penalty and missing one, opening up a margin again. As soon as the Mustangs were up to 15 men, another sin binning saw them down to 14, and hold out. Naismith, scored in the corner with minutes to go and even more pressure by the team saw Mickel driven over the line by Cooper and Ionica, Smith converting.

This was an ugly game to watch, with far too many penalties given away, but a win, even if ugly is still a win. Lots of positives were seen through the game, great defence, big tackles, good support play and a pack which held its own in the scrum when down to 6 men.

After 4 weeks without a game, a win cannot be grumbled at.