



Match Report

Old Dunstonians 2nd XV 9 v Maidstone Mustangs XV 27

Away, Saturday 5th January 2013, Kick-off 2:15pm

Firstly, a Happy New Year to all the players.

This Invicta League fixture at Old Dunstonians was the Mustangs XV first game of 2013 and their first competitive game in almost a month and expectations were high with senior player Andy Bacon making his first full outing since returning from injury along with new club signing Adrian Hogben making his debut at scrum-half.

In truth this was not a particularly attractive match to watch with Maidstone conceding far too many penalties in addition to a lack of match sharpness spoiling a number of phases of play. The Mustangs opened the scoring when after a period of solid defence the home side spilled possession allowing the Mustangs to kick through with the resultant follow up seeing Dan Eastwood first to the loose ball for the touchdown in the corner, Jason Smith converted the try to add the extra points. Dunstonians then spent a sustained period camped inside the Maidstone 22m and solid and committed defence held them at bay, two penalties conceded were duly converted to reduce their visitors margin to a single point. Maidstone then began to string together some phases of play and a penalty conceded saw a good line break for Hogben to touchdown and open up a 6 point cushion to take into the half-time interval.

The second half started much like the first with Maidstone conceding far too many penalties allowing Dunstonians to reduce the deficit to 3 points and a yellow card reducing Maidstone to 14 men, this deficit was further compounded with another penalty drawing the referee's yellow card and reducing the visitors to 13, fortunately the kick for goal sailed wide of the posts. With two men down Maidstone then realised it was time to step up a gear, and when points were on offer they looked to take the opportunities, with Smith kicking a penalty and another narrowly missing but establishing a margin again. No sooner had the Mustangs been restored to full complement than another penalty offence saw the yellow card brandished again to reduce them to 14 for another 10 minutes. However the closing minutes saw the Mustangs in the ascendency with Jack Naismith crossing to score in the corner and further pressure by the team saw Mickael Majcher driven over the line by Matt Cooper and Cesar Ionica to score against his former club, Smith added the extras.

As previously mentioned this was not a pretty game to watch, with the penalty count far too high; however, after a month's layoff a win, even if ugly is still a win. There were still lots of positives to be taken from the game; great defence, big tackles, good support play and a pack which held its own in the scrum when down to 6 men.