Maidstone Vets vs New Ash Green 3 - 21-15

The new year rugby season opens with a satisfactory winning with the tough opponent New Ash Green.

As usual the Maidstone players needs the first twenty minutes to warm up the engine, suffering territorial domain from the visitors. Nevertheless is home side that open the scoring: after a deep kick inside the 22's and a bouncing ball along the lineout the NAG full back is forced to run back and kick the ball out under pressure of the young Dan Elsmere . The wing himself to get the ball and throw a fast lineout to the quick Marco repositioning who can run over the try line for an easy score beeing the defence not yet organized. The two additional point are granted by Mick a Walker that transform from a angled position.

Anyway the most of territorial and ball possession are for NAG and Maidstone  can breath only thanks to the skillfull kicking of Mick that takes advantage of the the wind.

NAG first points comes from a penalty from not releasing the ball in front of the posts. Easy convertion and a partial of 7-3. It takes a few minutes for NAG to score again. Just out their 22's a miscontrolled ball is regained by their forward who runs in the uncontrolled right blind side and, also because a couple of missed tackling, can overcome the midfield and pass to the winger that run over the line avoiding again two desperate late tackling. Kick missed and result is 7-8.

It's the hardest period of the match but, despite of another score transformed by NAG and a partial of 7-15, as time pass by Maidstone scrum start imposing and raising the Maidstone possession.

The second half is played against the wind but the possession turn to be in the hand of Maidstone and the forwards become really dominating. The ball and territory are secured by the massive use of pick and go and the tactic kicking of the no. 10. Also the succesfull tackling rate increase demonstrating that the Maidstone side save its best bullets for the second half.

The second half a new center Justin came on to the pitch: the talented big man after a couple of lovely running find his way to the try breaking some tacklings. Thanks to the tranformation the score is a close 14-15.

From this moment on the Maidstone forwards if furious and build the foundations for a late try  from Jason Bishop at the ending of the second half that gives Maidstone the victory.

It is worth to remember the 100% kicking of Mick Walker that transforms also the third try coronating an inspired performance: in my opinion the MoM of the day.

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