

Renegades Rugby



Match Report

1 November

Away

Cantabs 2

Lost 12:28



Team

Starting Line-up

1) Carl Hulyer 2) Dan Jerred 3) Josh Cambourne

4) Tom Wykes 5) Tom Powell

6) Ben Powell 7) Ren Pesci 8) Dan Poucher

9) Richard 'BTW' Fickling 10) Steve Marsh

11) Eddie 'Billbob' Murphy 12) Dave Steward 13) Phil 'Porkpie' Hepworth 14) Jake Sweet

15) Jeff 'Medic' Mercer

Replacements

16) Matt Cambourne 17) Rik Relph

Report

The sun shone brightly and the Renegades were in optimistic mood as we gathered at the Cantabs ground. We were buoyed up by the news that Cantabs Firsts had a game away and that Nigel Faben had said that the Cantabs seconds were struggling to field a front row. The pitch was ok but not nearly as nice as the second pitch that we played on last time.

Renegades looked strong from the start. From the kickoff, we occupied the Cantabs half of the field. The forwards looked strong and the first scrum confirmed that Nigel Faben wasn't lying when he said that the Cantabs 2's were struggling to field a front row. In fairness to Keith who played prop, he was a centre when we last played Cantabs – not a natural role for him.

It wasn't long before Medic crossed the Cantabs line but was held up. The pressure on Cantabs was relentless for most of the first half an hour of play. All credit to their defence which was impregnable and for all the dominance of play, Renegades had nothing to show for it on the scoreboard. Then Cantabs made a quick break out of their own 22 and ran the length of the pitch to score under the posts. The conversion was a formality (0-7).

A try against the run of play ... ho hum ... back to work. Renegades applied the pressure again and dominated play. Then the buggers did it again – another break away try under the posts followed by another easy conversion (0-14). The ref blew for half time immediately after the conversion.

Cantabs started the second half with their tails in the air. Renegades continued to dominate the scrum but the overall dominance of play seen in the first half was not as evident after the interval. Renegades battled to narrow the deficit but Cantabs defence was strong and nothing was forthcoming. Then the blighters snatched another converted try (0-21). It was getting desperate.

Renegades pushed back and camped in the Cantabs 22. After a series of scrums, including an episode where Cantabs collapsed an advancing scrum on their line, Renegades eventually crossed the line and Richard Fickling touched down (5-21). The conversion was tantalisingly close but no cigar.

Cantabs responded and drove Renegades back to their 22. After a sustained period of pressure, Cantabs scored another converted try (5-28). Renegades pushed back and took the game back to Cantabs. Another scrum close to the Cantabs line was walked over and Dam P again grounded the ball. Steve's conversion was beautifully struck and sailed between the posts (12-28). And that was it.

All credit to Cantabs, who bloody well took every opportunity we gave them and were resolute in defence. And fair play to them for not opting for uncontested scrums.

Scores

Tries: Richard Fickling, Dan Poucher

Conversions: Steve Marsh



Ben Powell for energy and enthusiasm (and honourable mention to Richard BTW who played a very good game at no. 9, scored a try and was rewarded with an undeserved 'dick of the day' at the post match knees up).



I daren't point the finger at anyone else after my own dismal performance.



Report by Eddie 'Billbob' Murphy