

Renegades Rugby



Match Report

Oct 30

Away Cantabrigians 2

Won 15-36



Team

Starting Lineup

- 1) Tom 'BFT' Powell 2) Callum Wilkins 3) Ryan Duffy
- 4) Aaron Stevens 5) Adam Richards
- 6) Sam Jones 7) Ryan Cox 8) Harry Mills
- 9) Ollie Witt 10) Andrew 'Baz' MacKay
- 11) Jon Farrar 12) Ben Powell 13) Tom 'Tucker' Heathcote 14) Geoff Kirby
- 15) Ross Catchpole

Replacements

- 16) Doyle Onley 17) Ryan 'Shep' Shepperd 18) Matt Green
- 19) Tom 'Proccy' Proctor 20) Dan Stockbridge

Report

The weather was unseasonably warm and pleasant as Renegades gathered at Cantabrigians ground on Sedley Taylor Road. Renegades faced Cantabs 2 while their first team were entertaining Chelmsford. It was a busy car park. Stockers was in his kit again after his ankle injury, but it was decided to play Ollie at scrum half for most of the game bringing Dan on late in the day to try out the ankle.

Renegades kicked off and attacked from the outset. Good hands saw them advance into the Cantabs 22 and a penalty allowed Baz to put the ball in the corner. The lineout was taken cleanly, and the resulting drive advanced towards the Cantabs line. As it approached, Callum broke and went for the line but was held up. Cantabs cleared the pressure.

A few minutes later, a half break from Ben was stopped and Cantabs won the ball and moved it out to their left winger who scored in the corner. The conversion missed, 5-0. A while later another penalty allowed Baz to put the ball in the right corner. Again, the lineout was taken cleanly, and the drive advanced relentlessly until Aaron flopped over the line to open the Renegades account. The challenging conversion was beautifully struck and sailed between the posts, 5-7.

The game ebbed and flowed with some nice play by Renegades falling foul of dropped balls and some good defence by Cantabs. Tucker was involved in a head clash with a Cantabs player which

resulted in an impressive shiner. As the half hour approached, a lovely strip by BFT saw the ball flow from Ross to Harry to Ross and on to Aaron who carried the ball a good 30m to within feet of the Cantabs line. He drew his man and popped it to Geoff who crashed through defenders to ground the ball on the line. After a brief consultation with Richard, the referee awarded the try. The conversion missed, 5-12.

As half time approached, a Cantabs scrum near their 22 was absolutely destroyed by the Renegades drive allowing Harry to pick from the back of the scrum and charge down the blind side, dummifying his defender to crash over the line for yet another H-bomb try! The conversion was just wide, 5-17. That's how the score stood at half time.

Quite a few changes for the second half with Aaron being replaced by Sam at second row, Geoff moved to flanker with Matt Green taking his place on the wing. Proccy replaced Tucker

Early in the second half, Speedie was forced off with a shoulder injury making way for Doyle at second row. A few minutes later Sam was chopped just short of the line. Back for a penalty and the drive to the Cantabs line was held up. The resulting goal line dropout went to Ben and then to Proccy who fed Matt who charged down the line fending off at least two defenders and dived to score one handed in the corner. The referee consulted with the Cantabs linesman who confirmed that Matt had stayed in field throughout. It was an outstanding try and would have been at any level. The challenging conversion missed, 5-22.

Stockers came on for Ollie. A while later Ryan Duffy was helped off the pitch with significant knee damage which is likely to see him out for some time. Aaron came back into the front row. A period of sustained pressure from Cantabs was rewarded with a try which was not converted, 10-22.

Callum was replaced by Shep. A little while later Cantabs had a scrum on their 5m line. Once again, the Renegades scrum annihilated Cantabs and Stockers was able to pick the ball from the back of the scrum and score. The conversion was good, 10-29.

It looked like time might be running out for Ben to celebrate his Renegades century, but the ball came out wide to Matt and then fed back to Ben who crashed over with only a few minutes to go. Century achieved! Baz added the two points, 10-36.

As the game drew to a close, Cantabs advanced to the Renegades line and managed a third unconverted try, 15-36. That's how it finished with the ref blowing as soon as the conversion missed.

It was a very entertaining game to watch, if a little frustrating sometimes. The try count could have been higher but for handling errors and the penalty count was off the scale. However, the dominance of scrums and lineouts was a joy to watch, and that dominance was instrumental in many of the tries that were scored.

Scores

Tries: Aaron Stevens, Geoff Kirby, Harry Mills, Matt Green, Dan Stockbridge, Ben Powell (10)

Conversions: Andrew 'Baz' MacKay (3)





Matt Green for that spectacular touch down in the corner!

Closely followed by the Cantabs groundsman for a beautiful pitch!

Also special mention for Ollie playing very well at scrum half



Speedie – because it was his last game!

Match report by Eddie 'Billbob' Murphy (with significant input from Stockers's excellent WhatsApp commentary)

Peter Haigh was away.