

Renegades Rugby



Match Report

Feb 17

Away Norwich Crusaders

Lost 41-7



Team

Starting Lineup

- 1) Toby Sanders
- 2) Callum 'Wilko' Wilkins
- 3) Tom 'BFT' Powell
- 4) Ben Molyneaux-Hetherington
- 5) Fraser 'Spongebob' Johnson
- 6) Ryan 'Shep' Sheppard
- 7) Ollie Witt
- 8) Aaron Stevens
- 9) Doug Ellis
- 10) Tom 'Proccy' Procter
- 11) Matt 'Faiersy' Faiers
- 12) Harry Mills
- 13) Tom 'Tucker' Heathcote
- 14) Dan Phillips

Replacements

There were no replacements.

Report

On Thursday, renegades had reached the dizzy heights of having 15 players for an away game, but sadly Liam fell ill, and they were back to 14 on the day. Fortunately, there was no further mishap, and all showed up at the Crusaders ground in time for kickoff.

Renegades kicked off with the slight slope on the pitch favouring them in the first half. At the outset it looked like two very evenly matched sides and play ebbed and flowed around the pitch. However, as the half progressed the location of play drifted further and further up the hill as Crusaders established territorial dominance. Good defence and a bit of luck denied them any reward for this dominance for a fair while but eventually they did cross the line only to be held up. They came again and a Penalty to Renegades relieved the pressure.

Eventually, a turnover ball on the right side of the pitch saw Crusaders move the ball across the pitch to score in the left corner. The challenging conversion attempt was well struck and glanced off the outside of the post, 5-0.

A period of scrappy play ensued with lots of mistakes by both sides and many penalties. Eventually, a good kick through by Crusaders was followed up well and was rewarded with a penalty. Crusaders spun the ball wide and then back in slightly to score. The conversion missed, 10-0.

Crusaders came again with a strong run around the left side of the pitch crossing the line and getting close to the posts to touch down. The relatively straightforward conversion was good, 17-0. As half time approached, Crusaders had one more onslaught with a good kick ahead stretching the Renegades defence. Proccy covered back but was penalised for a high tackle. Renegades defence



was steadfast and eventually Crusaders knocked the ball on, and the resulting scrum gave Renegades an opportunity to relieve the pressure.

Crusaders kicked off and Renegades responded with more structured play which saw them climb up the hill and into the Crusaders 22. They pressed on close to the Crusaders line and piled on the pressure but were eventually penalised allowing Crusaders to take the game back down the hill again. That was the first time that Renegades threatened the Crusaders line and the lift in spirit among the players was visible.

However, a short time later, Crusaders stole a Renegades lineout and they charged through the middle to score under the posts. The conversion was good, 24-0. They followed this with another attack which saw Proccy make a high tackle which was rewarded with a penalty try. Proccy went to the bin for 10 minutes, 31-0.

A while later, the Crusaders new boy Imran, who had a big impact whenever he got the ball, crossed the line in the left corner and pulled his hamstring touching down. The conversion again clipped the outside of the post, 36-0.

Undaunted by these slaps, Renegades progressed up the field with Shep making many yards. They continued the advance into the Crusaders 22 and won a penalty under the posts. A tap ball alternated between Aaron and Toby, with Toby crashing over to open the Renegades account. Harry slotted the conversion, 36-7.

This again lifted Renegades spirits and determined running by Ollie and Shep climbed the hill again into the Crusaders 22, with Shep being chopped very close to the line. A subsequent scrum was taken by Renegades and a long high pass to Dan saw him over the line to touch down. Unfortunately, the referee judged the pass to have been forward and no try was given.

Crusaders restarted and they hoofed the ball down the hill chased by Matt "Oh fuck, not again" Faiers and Dan P. Dan made a super catch on the very wild ball and cleared, but Crusaders came back and scored in the corner. The conversion missed, 41-7. And that's how it stayed until the final whistle. It was a tough game but a good performance by an outmanned Renegades team. The game suffered from the referee being too eager to use his whistle and stoppages were too frequent for flowing rugby.



Ollie Witt for bruising determination throughout the game.



Proccy for getting a yellow card for a high tackle.

Scores

Tries: Toby Sanders

Conversion: Harry Mills.

Match Report by Eddie Murphy

