

12TH JUNE 2024

6TH EDITION NO 11

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BUSTING AT THE SEAMS ON SPONSORS DAY

A huge crowd turned up for Pirongia Rugby's Sponsors Day, where they witnessed some fantastic running rugby. With over 200 junior players registered for the club, the day began with a series of ripper and half-field tackle games. The excitement continued with the senior games, with Pirongia fielding five senior teams this year, it promised to be an action-packed afternoon for sponsors and supporters,

and they didn't disappoint. Unfortunately, the women's team was drawn away to play Matamata, so we were not able to show off just how far this young team has come.

After four highly competitive games, supporters and sponsors enjoyed a great night in the clubrooms.



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MONSTER WIN FOR COLTS

Pirongia Colts did enough to knock over third-placed Hamilton 29-26 at Pirongia on Saturday. In a tough, back-and-forth game, Pirongia managed to edge out Old Boys at the end. Pirongia started well and exerted pressure on Old Boys in the opening exchanges.

Keeping the ball in hand, they battered the Old Boys' line until the dynamic Michael Sanders crossed out wide to give Pirongia a 5-0 lead. Pirongia continued to exert pressure, but Old Boys broke into the Pirongia quarter and sustained enough pressure to score a try, leveling the score at 5-5.

Pirongia soon went back on the attack. After manipulating the defence to the right and then back to the left, Michael Sanders scored his second try to take a 10-5 lead. With midfield defence from Lochie Bolstad and Callum Hall shutting down the Old Boys' back line, Pirongia created a turnover ball from their own quarter. Using good inter-passing, they broke open the defence, and Sanders seemed to be racing away for a hat-trick, only for the pass to be called forward, leaving the score at 10-5 at halftime.

Pirongia started the second half strongly, maintaining possession. In the 9th minute, they put left wing Corbin Fleming in the clear to race



Flynn Wuest was a weapon all day on the wing!

15 meters and give Pirongia a 15-5 lead. With more possession and attacks in the Old Boys' quarter, space opened on the left for Hall, who zipped through a gap only to be held up over the line. Spurred on by this piece of defense, Old Boys fed off Pirongia mistakes and exerted pressure in the Pirongia quarter, leading to two converted tries and taking a 19-15 lead with eight minutes remaining.

Then things got exciting! Some Jason Hill magic saw him take the floating kickoff from Hall on the full and glide through between four tacklers to score next to the posts, giving Pirongia a 22-19 lead. However, Pirongia failed to claim the

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next kickoff, and from the scrum, Old Boys used their possession to pound the Pirongia line until they were awarded a try close to the posts, taking a 26-22 lead after the conversion.

With two minutes to go, Pirongia exerted pressure on Old Boys and created a turnover. Pirongia's backs manipulated the defence side to side, creating space for Hill to beat three defenders and cross next to the posts. Fleming's conversion gave Pirongia a 29-26 lead. With the referee now playing injury time, Pirongia secured the kickoff and wound the clock down, eventually clearing a kick from a scrum to end the game.

Pirongia's defense was strong all day, led by Captain Jay Seebeck and his fellow loosies, Sanders and Hunter Coxon. The backline defence was impenetrable, with Bolstad and Hall forming a dynamic midfield duo on both defense and attack. Under the direction of first five Kirwyn Ellis, the backline was dangerous, with fullback (and player of the day) Jason Hill and wings Corbin Fleming and Flynn Wuest gaining great yardage. Jefferey Rich made an impact off the bench with some beautiful grass-cutting tackles.

Next up is another big Hamilton club, Fraser Tech, at Pirongia.



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A's PUSH TOP OF TABLE HINUERA

Today marked a significant milestone for Graham Wade as he celebrated his 50th Blazer game with Pirongia A. The team was well aware of the challenge ahead, facing Hinuera, a top-of-the-table team, and knowing that a strong start was crucial after last week's performance.

The match began with Hinuera taking an early lead, scoring the first try and successfully converting it. However, Pirongia quickly responded with a spectacular try from the flying Fijian, Sani Ramuwai, which was converted by Graham Wade, bringing the score to an even 7-7.

After the halftime break, Pirongia A came out strong. Mathew Findsen charged through Hinuera's defense to score a try, followed by another try from Sean Coutts, showcasing Pirongia's determination and skill. Despite these efforts, Hinuera managed to score three more tries in the second half, securing their lead. Pirongia A added another try to their tally, but it wasn't enough to close the gap. The final whistle blew with Hinuera leading 31-22.

Despite the loss, the team remains optimistic, focusing on the positives from today's game as they prepare for what is anticipated to be the biggest battle of the season against Ohaupo next week.



G Wade in his 50th for the club. Well done mate!

Player of the Day

1 point: Graham Wade – Celebrated his 50th Blazer game with an outstanding performance running the back line.

2 points: Lucas Dampney – Showed exceptional skill and determination throughout the game, making significant contributions on both offense and defense.

3 points: Preston Pepperall – Delivered an outstanding game, demonstrating exceptional leadership and performance, earning him the top honors for Player of the Day.

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B's PUSH TOP OF TABLE HINUERA

Pirongia B's came back strongly after a disappointing display against Southern last weekend to push top-of-the-table Hinuera all the way.

Pirongia had a great start, and it only took until the sixth minute for them to open the scoring. After a great kick and chase, the ball was regathered by Kayden Moorfield, who made good metres. After a couple of pick-and-goes, Sam Kirkbride was able to score.

Hinuera hit back almost immediately when, from a lineout 5 metres from the Pirongia line, they were able to use their large pack to maul their way over and, with the successful conversion, take a 7 to 5 lead. Pirongia had the better of the half and camped themselves in the Hinuera twenty-two. With wave after wave of attack, Pirongia could not quite get over, but Hinuera could not hold on forever. In the 32nd minute, Sam Kirkbride was able to go over for his second try. With the successful conversion from Tim Bird, Pirongia held a very well-deserved lead, 12 - 7.

Unfortunately for Pirongia, Hinuera was able to use their large forward pack to again maul their way to the line and score in the 38th minute, going into the half with a 14 to 12 lead.

Hinuera started strongly in the second half and was able to score two quick tries, increasing their lead to 28 to 12. To their credit, Pirongia never gave up and was able to score when Josh MacKenzie went over out wide, closing the gap to 28 to 17. Hinuera scored again, using their large forward pack to good effect. Despite the unsuccessful conversion, they held a comfortable 33 to 17 lead.

Pirongia wasn't going to lie down; they kept attacking and were able to score through Tim Bird, again closing the gap to 33 to 22.

This was how the game ended, with Hinuera taking the win 33 to 22. Pirongia played some great rugby and were well-deserving of getting a bonus point for scoring four tries. Both backs and forwards took it to their counterparts, never giving an inch. Player of the day went to Connor Storey, who was strong in the front row and made some storming hit-ups throughout the game, always getting over the advantage line.

Big game next weekend when we play our local derby against Ohaupo. Kickoff at 1:00 PM at Ohaupo.



Tim Bird dotting down for the B's

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PRESIDENTS GO CLOSE AT HOME

Pirongia Presidents went down to Hinuera in a tight battle, 14 - 12, in what was a quick and, at times, torrid match. Both teams took it to each other, with some massive hits being dished out by both sides.

Hinuera started the better of the two teams, using their large forwards to rumble up the middle, but they could not turn this into points due to some great defence from the Pirongia boys. Pirongia had their moments, spinning the ball wide to good effect, but it was Hinuera who opened the scoring. They went down the blindside, found space, and their flanker was able to cut inside the cover defence and score under the posts. With the successful conversion, Hinuera held a 7 - 0 lead.

Pirongia hit back almost immediately. After some good interchanges from the forwards, the ball was spun wide where Tim Gilbert was able to gather the ball and go over, carrying two Hinuera defenders on the way. Both teams had chances in the next 10 minutes, but Hinuera was able to score again and go into the break with a 14 to 5 lead.

The second half belonged to Pirongia, who were able to pressure Hinuera, resulting in Hinuera conceding a penalty try and closing the gap to two points. Pirongia went on the attack again, but through some good defence from Hinuera, they were not able to break through. When the final whistle sounded, Hinuera had held on, just, to take a 14 to 12 win.

Player of the day went to Dan Duncan, who had an outstanding all-around game. There were talks of appeals that the management should get "Dick of the Day," but in the end, it deservedly went to Cameron Coombes. Big local derby this coming Friday as we play Te Awamutu Marist at home. 7:00 PM kickoff. Get on down and support our boys!



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MANA WAHINE OUT HUSTLED

The Wahine from the Maunga travelled to Matamata to play their last match of the Championship round against UMS Matamata. Due to a large injury toll over the season the Pirongia Wahine fronted up with 17 players with season forwards Kaitlin & Pare slotting into centre & wing respectively.

Pirongia started well in the early stages of the match with great shape in their attack but couldn't put together those finishing touches to get over the line & take points.

UMS started to play to their strengths with their big forward pack making huge gains in their carry's which then created space out wide to get on the scoreboard.

This was a difficult patch for Pirongia as our ability to tackle was put to the test. UMS kept coming & coming but the Wahine from Pirongia never gave up which has been their MOTTO all season.

A couple of injuries to Dobbo & Kylie which meant the bench was now empty and the character of the team was outstanding. Each player stayed focussed on the task ahead with several opportunities to apply pressure on the UMS try line.

Pirongia were unlucky not to score in the corner as the Ref called a knock on by our girl's.

It was like Moses's parting of the sea and the girl's found their mojo. Our ball carriers running into holes with huge gains which then provided quick quality ball for our back line.

Milla scored a well-executed try with Kaitlin taking the extra 2 points, The crowd goes wild, just on one side of the park!

This proved to the girls that once the simple things are done well then, the rewards will come.

This sparked another stellar period of phases which was put together by the team to once again allow Milla to cross over for her 2nd try of the day, Kaitlin's conversion was successful.

Final Score UMS 44 to 14.

Pirongia stayed in the fight from start to finish and as the score didn't reflect on how the actual game was played, our girl's were super pleased with how they created those 14 points.

The girl's wish to thank their loyal supporters who come week in week out as their journey slowly comes to an end for the 15s campaign.

This Saturday see the Wahine from Pirongia play Waitete @ Te Kuiti 1.00pm for final rankings.

Congratulations to Sienna Sanders who made her debut for the Black & White Hoops.

A black silhouette of a mountain range with several peaks of varying heights.

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2024 DRAW

15TH JUNE

A's and B's - Ohaupo - Away
Colts - Fraser Tech - home
Womens - Waitete - away

22ND JUNE

A's and B's - TBC (Start of second round)
Colts - Morrinsville - Away
Womens - TBC



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