

16TH APRIL 2024

6TH EDITION NO 3

2024 PLATINUM SPONSORS

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A'S TAKE DOWN KEREONE

Playing their second away game of the season the mountain men turned around the two losses against Putaruru in week one to two wins v Kereone in week two.

Kereone returning to Division 1 for the first time in quite a number of seasons suffered significant losses in week one so were determined to come out strongly and take their games to the visitors this week.

Morrinsville turned on challenging weather conditions with a particularly strong wind blowing diagonally across the field.

In the main game Pirongia got off to a strong start when from a turnover in their own half a counter attack ended in a scrum 5 metres from the Kereone line. No 8 Inoke Dauniseka picked up off the back of the scrum, dummied and strode through the gap created to score the opening points.

With the wind favouring the home team, Kereone spent the next period on attack before Pirongia 2nd 5/8th Sani Ramuwai broke down the middle breaking several tackles before drawing in the last defender and linking with fullback Epa Drua Nadru who scored close to the posts allowing first-five Graham Wade to extend the lead to 12-0 with the conversion.



Ladies TROPICAL GETAWAY

PIRONGIA RUGBY AND SPORTS CLUB
\$50 PER PERSON
Saturday 20th April
1pm to 6pm

live music
cocktails
canapes

come dressed ready for a
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2024 GOLD SPONSORS



The next 20 minutes were spent with both teams struggling to get dominance as the game was played mostly played between the 22 meter lines. From a serious of rucks closer to the Pirongia line Kereone managed to score their first points of the season with a try to close the gap to 12-5.

Wade broke the game open when he burst through the Kereone back line early in the second half when fullback from deep in his own half, stepping a couple of defenders before crossing the line adjacent to the posts giving himself a comfortable conversion to give the visitors a 19-0 halftime lead.

Pirongia extended their lead within 2 minutes of the restart when Epa Drua Nadru scored his second try of the afternoon with Wade converting to make the score 26-5. Ten minutes later the final points of the game resulting from a Sani Ramuwai try converted by Wade again, the final score 33-5 to the visiting mountain men.

One of the more satisfying part of the afternoon was the contributions to the team performance by the youngest members of the team.

Player of the day and youngest member of the starting team Matt Henderson was outstanding in both his breakdown work and his defensive game and is destined to become a real leader in the club. Another young player to stand out on his A's debut was Cayden Easterbrook starting at lock alongside his captain Shaun Coutts who lead strongly in all aspects of play. Both players stood tall in the line outs and in their carries and defensive plays. Not letting just the youngsters stand out was the president of the club Greg Gane who started at centre and was strong in all day running off Ramuwai and communicating well with the players around him.

This Saturday is Ladies Day at home with the Mountain Men taking on Suburbs.

Hope to see our supporters there cheering on the Women, Colts and the 2 senior teams. Kick off for the first game by the women is 12.00pm.



Inoke Dauniseka with the big fend!



All smiles with a Pirongia runaway!

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COLTS SNEAK DRAW VS HINUERA

Pirongia Colts were lucky to sneak away with a 26-26 draw at Hinuera on Saturday. Pirongia had the use of a good wind in the first half but were unable to use it to their advantage as an error filled half kept Hinuera supplied with plenty of ball.

Hinuera's backs look sharp from the start as they created space to surge into the Pirongia half. Under the pressure of the attack Pirongia were reduced to 14 men within the first 5 minutes as Jason Hill was sin binned for a high tackle. From the resulting pressure Hinuera were able to break a gap and score close to the posts for a 7-0 lead.



New Colt Corbin Fleming in full flight

Pirongia was able to maintain some possession and string some phases together, and after some maneuvering of the defence to the right and then back to the left, the backs were able to put Corbin Fleming in for a try in the left corner. 7-5. A fumble from Pirongia from the kick off saw Hinuera gain possession and force a try out wide to take a 12-5 lead which is how the score remained at half time.

With the wind picking up, hinuera were able to pin Pirongia in their own 22, and after sustained pressure the Pirongia defense cracked allowing Hinuera to score a try by the posts to take a 19-5 lead. It was at this point in the game that half time subs Kirwyn Ellis and Mitch Zeuren were able to exert their influence and get Pirongia out of their red zone. A mid field clearance found some land and from the resulting

bounce, Hill was able to latch on to the ball, zip through a gap and sprint away to score under the posts, the resulting conversion from replacement kicker Fleming closing the gap to 19-12.

However Hinuera used the wind and were soon back in Pirongia's 22m exerting massive pressure. The defense eventually yielding to another converted try to Hinuera to take the score to 26-12 with 10mins to play. However this spurred Pirongia into action and from the kickoff Pirongia were able to exert pressure of their own. With Hinuera desperately trying to clear down field, a charge down from Hunter Coxon saw Mitch Zeuren scoop up the loose ball to score by the posts and the resulting conversion from Fleming closing the gap to 26-19.

From the kickoff Pirongia maintained possession and worked their way down field back into Hinuera's half. From a flurry of attacks a kick was put through by Ellis which the Hinuera winger could not control. A scorching Fleming raced through to dot down 7m in from touch to close the gap to 26-24. Fleming then calmly slotted a tough conversion into the wind to lock the scores up 26-26.

With time running out on the clock Hinuera kicked deep into Pirongia territory, and were able to pin Pirongia in their 22m. With time up a clearing kick from Ellis went straight up on the 5m line, however he was able to retake the kick and set the ball for his fellow backs to clear for touch to end the game.

Number 6 Michael Sanders kept Pirongia in the game with his tackling and general play in the first half. Nathan Stewart was strong on defense in the first half and fellow prop Manaia Murphy was a bully with his tackling and running through out the game. Boston Zeuren made a strong impact from the bench as did Ellis and Mitch Zeuren. Jay Seebeck was once again Captain Courageous leading the team on attack and defense. Next up Leamington at home for ladies day

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THE B'S ARE ON THE BOARD IN 2024

With a mixture of youth and experience Pirongia was able to run away with a comfortable 41 to 0 win.

With high winds making things tough for both teams Pirongia started the better and after 8 minutes Tim Bird put in a beautiful dummy kick and with a confused defence he was able to slice through to score untouched.

Sam Denize then scored out wide after tidying up a loose ball he was able to cut inside two defenders and score. A great conversion from Denize increased the score to 12 to nil. With 15 minutes till half time Max Shaw ran onto a chip kick and was able to gather the ball from half way and out sprint the defenders to score in the corner.

The half finished with Pirongia leading 19 to nil while playing into the strong wind.

It didn't take long for Pirongia to increase their lead with Max Shaw scoring his second try. After some good defending he was able to gather the ball from a dropped Kereone pass and run 35 metres to score. With the successful conversion from Denize Pirongia now led 26 to nil.

Josh Law scored next when after another drop ball from Kereone he was able to kick the ball through and out sprint the defenders to score. Sam Denize was again successful with the conversion. Pirongia were all over the Kereone team and after the ball was spun wide, Billy Ousten was able to cut inside and beat 2 defenders to score. Sean Carter finished the scoring barging over after a strong 15 metre run.

A great all round performance with all players contributing. The player of the day went to Tim Bird who controlled things well at second five running with purpose and defending strongly all game.

TOUGH ENCOUNTER FOR THE MANA WAHINE

In what turned out to be a formidable display of dominance, Hautapu Rugby Club asserted their prowess as they hosted Pirongia for Hautapu's grand club day. With an array of matches lined up and the entire club spirit at its zenith, Hautapu didn't disappoint their fervent supporters.

Right from the kickoff, Hautapu surged forward with an onslaught of attacking prowess that left Pirongia scrambling to find their footing. The first half was a testament to Hautapu's offensive capabilities, as they hammered in an impressive seven tries, leaving Pirongia trailing with only a solitary try to their name.

As the teams returned after halftime, Hautapu showed no signs of relenting. The pressure continued to mount on Pirongia's defense, resulting in more tries for the home team. Despite Pirongia managing to find the try-line for a second time, courtesy of Milla Tarawhiti-Paewai, it was clear that the day belonged to Hautapu.

For Pirongia Women, it was undeniably a tough outing, one filled with valuable lessons to be gleaned. However, amidst the challenging circumstances, individual performances stood out. Heidi Muller's relentless perseverance earned her the coveted title of Player of the Day, a testament to her unwavering commitment and resilience on the field.

Additionally, recognition was extended to Dobbs for her commendable high tackle rate, showcasing her unwavering support for the team's endeavors. Katie King's contributions also garnered acknowledgment, earning her a point in recognition of her efforts on the field.

Looking ahead, Pirongia Women will aim to regroup and refocus as they prepare to face Waitete on home turf. Anticipation looms over whether they can translate their learnings into a more balanced encounter, promising an intriguing battle on the rugby field.

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2024 CALF REARERS

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2024 DRAW

6TH APRIL

A's and B's - Putaruru - Away
Colts - United matamata Sports - Home
Womens - Hauraki North Diamonds - Home

13TH APRIL

A's and B's - Kereone - Away
Colts - Hinuera - Away
Womens - Hautapu Sports - Away

20TH APRIL

A's and B's - Suburbs - Home
Colts - Leamington - Home
Womens - Waitete - Home

27TH APRIL

A's and B's - Leamington - Home
Colts - Suburbs - Away
Womens - BYE

4TH MAY

A's and B's - Frankton - Home
Colts - Rugby United (Thames Valley) - Home
Womens - Taupiri - Away

11TH MAY

A's and B's - Taupiri - Away
Colts - Hamilton Marist - Home
Womens - Hamilton Marist - Home

18TH MAY

A's and B's - Te Rapa - Home
Colts - Hautapu Sports - Away
Womens - Putaruru Wahine - Home

25TH MAY

A's and B's - Bye
Colts - University - Away
Womens - Suburbs Fillys - Away

1ST JUNE - KINGS BIRTHDAY

A's and B's - Surf (Tokoroa) - Away
Colts
Womens

8TH JUNE

A's and B's - Hinuera - Home
Colts - Hamilton Old Boys - Home
Womens - United Matamata Sports - Away

15TH JUNE

A's and B's - Ohaupo - Away
Colts - Fraser Tech - home
Womens - TBC (Start of second round / Playoffs)

22ND JUNE

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

Presidents Rugby does not start till later in season - draw not available yet.

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