

14TH MAY 2024

6TH EDITION NO 7

2024 PLATINUM SPONSORS

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GIANT KILLERS YET AGAIN!

Under the Mountain at Pirongia the local Colts team upset the competition leading big boys from Hamilton Marist 29-26. It was Hamilton Marist's first defeat in a number of years.

Pirongia hit the ground running hard! From the start Pirongia swept onto attack and in only the 3rd minute Max Shaw sniped around the edge of a ruck, found a gap and sprinted 30m to score the opening try to put Pirongia up 5-0.

From the kick off Marist moved on to attack and had Pirongia stretched on defence, only for Jason Hill to intercept and sprint 75m to open up a 10-0 lead in the 5th minute of the game. Both teams had periods on attack but it was Marist who breached Pirongias defence in the 31st minute to score a converted try to close the gap to 10-7.

From further attack Marist got a fortuitous bounce for their winger to regather and score for the lead 12-10. With time running out in the first half Marist put a kick through and had another favourable bounce for a regather and another converted try to take a 19-10 half time lead. Pirongia had played bravely but were being worn down.



Marist started the 2nd half strongly and were hammering the Pirongia defence for the first 20 minutes of the half. Pirongias defence was strong but Marist were able to cross for a converted try to extend their lead to 26-10.

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Pirongia were almost out for the count on their feet but began to secure some ball and the fight back was on! Led by some punishing hit ups from Boston Zeuren, Jay Seebeck and Nathan Stewart, Pirongia stormed onto attack. From repeated attacks Marists defence was eventually breached as Stewart crashed over for a try to close the gap to 26-15.

Pirongia sensed the Marist spirit was wavering and stormed back onto attack. With Flynn Wuest, Callum Hall, Corbin Fleming and Hill making yards at will in the backs Pirongia set up attack at the 22m line, and it was Charlie Mason who burst through 2 tackles stepped 2 defenders and fended off the Marists fullback to score by the posts to give Fleming an easy conversion to close the gap to 26-22.

Marist were now on the back foot and Pirongia were quickly back on attack again. With half back Finn McLean directing the attack and Pirongias forwards gaining yardage at will, the Pirongia backs were receiving plenty of ball with plenty of space to work. After working to the right flank the ball was shifted back through the backs to the left for Hill to accelerate into a gap, step 2 players and then beat the fullback to slice back in to score a try under the posts for Fleming to convert. With time up on the clock all that was left was for Pirongia to secure the kickoff and clear to touch which they did.

Continued

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Captain Seebeck led from the front on attack and defence, and was justly player of the day. Tight forwards Stewart, B Zeuren, Brooke Witehira and Stewart all had monster games. Mason was a beast at no8, and tackling machine Michael Sanders played to his impressively high standard.

Replacement forwards Hunter Coxon and Ethan Kiernan added spark from the bench. In the backs Shaw and McLean again added a fantastic one-two punch at half back, Mitch Zeuren continued his blazing form, Lochie Bolstad was great on defence, and Hill, Hall, Flynn Wuest and Fleming sparkled with their pace and flair all day.

Next up another huge challenge away at Hautapu



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KIRWYN ELLIS WINS BIG

Our Colts team had another major win on Saturday night when Colts Fullback/1st V Kirwyn Ellis won Dairy Trainee of the year at the 2024 New Zealand Dairy Industry Awards in Queenstown. After winning the Waikato region back in March, Kirwyn took out the big one!

Massive congratulations Kirwyn - well deserved.



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MANA WAHINE WIN BIG

Match report written by Jorja Wright - Mana Wahine Player

It was a very chilly night at Hinuera Rugby Club but that didn't stop the Mana Wahine from having a fiery start.

The game started with the Hinuera Honeys receiving, however our ladies quickly turned it over. There was lots of good plays up the middle of the pitch and then Kaitlin Bates broke through the defence line to score the first try. Bates then kicked beautifully to snatch up the extra 2 points.

Hinuera retaliated by scoring a try of their own which could not be successfully converted. Our forwards worked continuously hard up the guts to gain those extra metres. This again, gave Kaitlin Bates the opportunity to score the next try right under the posts. Another nice conversion, saw the scoreboard at 14-5.

There was some good rugby displayed from both sides and then our fullback, Sarah Moorhouse 'Dobbs', caught a kick out the back and raced through the defence to gain the third try of the match. The Honeys then gained metres with use of both forwards and backs to gain their second try of the game. With another unsuccessful conversion, it was 21-10.

The half time whistle blew and the girls got a much needed breather after their hard mahi.

Now going downhill, the wahine continued their fiery plays which then saw Kaitlin Bates secure her third try of the match. Which unfortunately could not be

converted. Play continued with the some big hits and some solid carries from almost all players on the Pirongia side.

After an unfortunate tackle, we saw a penalty try awarded to our wahine. This then left the scoreboard at 40-10. Pirongia's defence saw Hinuera scoreless in the second half, and as the final whistle blew, we had officially won.

The Pirongia Women should be extremely proud of the rugby they displayed on Friday night, everything they had been working tirelessly on, really came out to play. Our Player of the Match went to Hannah Kendrick, who usually plays halfback but did an outstanding job in First Five.

Biggest Hits went to Kaeshia Troy, who made some beautiful tackles throughout the game, she started in Flanker and then moved to Prop. Goodiest B**** went to Holly Robinson who plays prop and had some amazing carries up the guts consistently throughout the game.

Big ups to all the girls, mean mahi!!
#whoupweup

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As GO DOWN IN GREAT BATTLE

In a riveting clash between Pirongia A and Taupiri, spectators were treated to a display of rugby prowess that left no doubt as to why this sport captivates so many hearts. From the kickoff, it was evident that both teams came prepared to leave everything on the field, setting the stage for a fiercely contested battle.

The game burst into life early on as Pirongia A's Sean Coutts unleashed a display of agility, slicing through Taupiri's defense to notch the first try of the match. However, Taupiri responded swiftly, equalizing the score with a try of their own, followed by a conversion. Not to be outdone, Pirongia A's Tom Kirkbride embarked on a sensational run, leaving defenders chasing as he crossed the try line but yet again, Taupiri countered, displaying their own attacking flair to keep the scoreboard ticking over.

As halftime approached, Pirongia A refused to relent, with Graham Wade bulldozing his way through Taupiri's defensive line to claim another try for his side. With both teams matching each other blow for blow, the first half concluded with the score deadlocked, reflecting the intensity of the contest.

The second half saw a tactical shift as both teams tightened their defensive structures, resulting in a tense stalemate on the field. Sani Ramuwai broke the deadlock with a well-executed try, converted by Epa Nadru. However, Taupiri responded swiftly with a try of their own, converting it.

In a testament to the resilience of both teams Taupiri managed to capitalize on their opportunities, adding two more tries to their tally and converting one, further highlighting their clinical edge in crucial moments.

In the end, the closely contested encounter between Pirongia A and Taupiri showcased the true definition of rugby excellence. Players from both teams exchanged handshakes and mutual respect, it was clear that the spirit of the game had prevailed.

Bs LOSE IN CLOSE ENCOUNTER

Pirongia B's Battle Hard but Go Down in a Close Encounter

Pirongia B's fought hard but ultimately fell short against a larger Taupiri team, losing 15 points to 6. Pirongia started well and earned a penalty, which Tim Bird calmly converted to take a 3-0 lead. Taupiri utilised their large forwards and kicking game to gain ground, and a penalty awarded to them after an indiscretion from a Pirongia player tied the game at 3-3 after 10 minutes.

Taupiri began to assert control, but Pirongia's stout defence held them until a lineout five metres from the Pirongia line. Taupiri secured clean ball and drove over for the first try, converting it to take a 10-3 lead after 20 minutes. Taupiri scored again shortly after to extend their lead to 15-3, appearing dominant. However, the Pirongia team dug deep, repelling numerous Taupiri attacks. As the half neared its end, Pirongia launched an attack, resulting in Taupiri conceding a penalty. Tim Bird capitalised, bringing the halftime score to 15-6 in favour of Taupiri.

In the second half, both teams had chances, but neither managed to score. When the final whistle blew, the score remained 15-6 to Taupiri.

Pirongia stood firm defensively against the larger Taupiri pack but regretted the number of dropped balls and conceded penalties. Both teams struggled to find rhythm amidst the stop-start nature of the game and frequent penalties.

Player of the day for Pirongia was Sean Carter, who excelled at number 8. Each time he received the ball, he made significant ground, consistently breaching the advantage line, and contributed tirelessly on defence with numerous tackles.

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B'S RUE MISSED OPPORTUNITIES

In a scrappy encounter, Pirongia B's were unable to finish off a fired-up Frankton B's team and eventually went down 29 points to 22.

Pirongia started the better and were rewarded with a well-taken individual try by Max Frandi, who was able to gather the ball from the Frankton halfback, break through 2 to 3 tackles, and score under the posts. With the successful conversion from Todd Foster, Pirongia held an early 7-point lead.

Pirongia was having the better of the game, but through dropped balls or not retaining possession in collisions, they handed back possession and territory to the Frankton team. From one such mistake, Frankton were rewarded with a scrum. The ball was spun to their large centre who barged his way over. Frankton then took the lead with a well-taken try. After some interplay, they were able to exploit an overlap and score out wide to take a 12 to 7 lead.

Pirongia then had a good patch on attack and were rewarded with a try to Tim Bird who used his strength from a quick tap to take the ball up strongly, beating two defenders on his way to scoring. Pirongia was finding it difficult to stick to their pattern, but they still looked the better of the two teams, which showed on the scoreboard with another try, this time to the newly returned Andrew Charleston who made an immediate impact, breaking tackles at will and

making huge ground for the Pirongia team. From another penalty 35 metres out from the Frankton line, Charleston took a quick tap and used his pace to outrun Frankton's cover defence and score in the corner. When the halftime whistle sounded, Pirongia held a well-deserved 17 to 12 lead.

The second half became a scrappy affair with Pirongia getting quite frustrated by the continued offside and other offences going unnoticed, which led to Pirongia not being able to get into the flow of the game. Pirongia were able to increase their lead with another well-taken try by Andrew Charleston, who from 5 metres out picked up the ball and was able to reach out and score to increase their lead to 22 to 12. Pirongia camped inside Frankton's half for the next 10 minutes, but they just couldn't finish off a number of opportunities and with 15 minutes to go, Frankton spun the ball wide and found their quick winger who was able to score and close the gap to 22 points to 17.

Frankton were full of confidence now, and keeping the ball in hand, they were running the Pirongia team around, and over the next 10 minutes, they were able to score 2 more tries, converting one to close the game out with a 29 points to 22 win.

Pirongia would rue the number of unforced errors they made, especially in the first half, as well as deviating from their game plan and becoming a bit disjointed. They would be very pleased with the commitment of the team, the great numbers turning out at both trainings and game time, and the youth coming through.

Sean Carter ran hard with the ball all day, making some great ground, Andrew Charleston showed his class when introduced midway through the first half, and Tim Bird organised the backs well and ran well with the ball in hand. Player of the day went to Hunter Scott who was constantly on the ball, ran hard with the ball in hand, and made numerous tackles.



Andrew Charleston on his well-taken try

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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
Presidents - Huntly (Friday night) - 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

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