

Match Report: Round 11

Kiama Rugby suffered a heartbreaking weekend of away matches against Shamrocks losing both first and second grade in the dying stages of both fixtures. Coming off the back of two promising victories against Camden and Vikings first grade started well against Shamrocks and despite having minimal ball in the opening stages found themselves up 10-0 at the break thanks to a converted Ryan Gunning try and Scott Morgan penalty try. Shamrocks would have been hoping to be closer to Kiama at half time given the amount of possession they held but Kiama's scrambling defence, including a fantastic cover tackle by half Mitch Payne, allowed the visitors a handy lead. The lead was cut to three early in the second half as Shamrocks scooted down the right flank to score a fortunate yet skilful try. Winger Joel McCabe crossed not long after using his considerable pace and strength to beat four Shamrocks defenders however the extended lead was again short lived with Shamrocks hitting back almost instantly. With five minutes remaining Kiama supporters were overjoyed when stalwart inside centre carried his old lethargic bones across the line following a magic Scott Morgan ball to return the lead back to Kiama. With the champagne corks slowly wiggling free and the party poppers at the ready the Kiama celebrations were forced to be put on permanent hold when the Shamrocks half ducked under some tired defence to steal the victory in the final seconds. Kiama had one more chance to hit back but Shamrocks held on 26-22 in a classic encounter.

Second grade were looking to cement a top three position on the ladder and were boosted by the return of club legend and recovering spa addict Norman Callaghan. Defending for the first five minutes Kiama quickly took control of the match soon after with Michael McKinley and Richard Payne both crossing for long range tries. The rest of the half developed into an arm wrestle with Shamrocks scoring two late tries to leave the scores dead locked at the break. Michael McKinley crossed for his second straight after half time before Adam Allen ran forty metres to widen the gap with a try out wide. Kiama looked to have almost sealed the win with a try to Norm Callaghan however the referee ruled a controversial knock on. With only five minutes remaining and a 10 point lead Kiama looked to have the game in the bag however the hard nosed defence and line speed that had been a feature of the game up until that point deserted the team and Shamrocks were able to steal the victory after the siren 24-22.

Third grade suffered a disappointing 46-5 loss after never really being in the clash. James Reeves and Dylan O'Brien defended well while Corey Paget continued his strong run of form in tight. Kiama lost their captain Ross Bloomfield to a sickening facial injury midway through the first half and all of Kiama wishes the Boss best of luck and hope he can retain his good lucks sometime in the near future.