

Match Report: Round 12

Kiama Rugby suffered their second heart breaking loss in succession on the weekend, going down to premiership leaders Avondale by six points. Down by seven early in the match it was not long until Kiama hit back through outside centre Chris Weir who was put through a hole with a great ball from five eighth Scott Morgan. With both teams crossing for early points the game quickly developed into a tense affair a Kiama consistently spread the ball to both sides of the field while the much larger Avondale pack continued to cart the ball up the middle of the paddock. Avondale crossed for two consecutive tries just before the break however Kiama hit back through some great work by Ryan Gunning who beat two men to score in the corner. With a good home crowd in support Kiama were pulling out all the stops to beat the more fancied Avondale side and when Chris Weir crossed for two more quick tries to bring up the hat trick, the home team moved within five points with 20 remaining. Despite some fantastic defence by the smaller Kiama team, Avondale extended their lead to 13 with ten remaining after another try out wide. With the game in the balance Kiama's forwards again dug deep presenting fantastic ball for the backs which allowed Scott Morgan, who was one of Kiama's best, to streak through the middle of the field untouched and put the home side within six points. Sadly this was as close as Kiama got with time running away from then in a very entertaining and physical clash. Avondale winning 39-33.

Second grade had the undefeated Avondale on the back foot early after Clint Paget crossed on the back of a charged down kick only minutes into the encounter. Kiama had a number of opportunities to score again and continue to mount pressure however a number of dropped balls and poor passes resulted in the loss of momentum. Consecutive tries to Avondale before half time put Kiama down by 12 at the break but confident a renewed showing with the ball would result in more points. The second half quickly turned into an arm wrestle with both teams revelling in the physicality of the fixture. Kiama refused to let Avondale's bigger forwards gain the ascendancy and it was not until the 80th minute of the game that points were scored in the second stanza as Avondale crossed out wide after Kiama turned the ball over trying for a desperate match-levelling try. Avondale running out winners 24-5.

Third grade were again lucky to go down against the much larger Avondale side after coming from behind in an entertaining fixture. Down by 17 at the half Kiama never threw in the towel, getting within five points in the later stages of the match. Dylan O'Brien proved himself as a human wrecking ball out wide in the centres while in tight it was the hard work of Steven Woollett and Vince Picton that led the way for Kiama.