

Match Report: Round 14

Kiama Rugby Club put a huge dent in University's premiership aspirations with a clinical 31-27 defeat at the Kiama Showground on Saturday. Spurred on by three close defeats to the competition front runners in recent weeks Kiama started the game strongly with Stephen Emmett and Andrew Saulter applying a physical brand of football right from the opening whistle. After finding himself battling a pair of rogue plovers Chris O'Born found the time to cross for the opening points of the game when he was on the end of some brilliant backline play. University hit back almost straight away to the disappointment of the Kiama coaching staff however Kiama continued to dominate the battle at both the breakdown and the midfield with Ryan Gunning causing the Uni defenders plenty of problems out wide. With the Kiama forwards dominating the play the halves combination of Mitchell Payne and Michael Quinn began creating a number of opportunities on the fringes of the ruck and it wasn't long before Stevie Rae and Mitchell Brown both crossed the line. The second half saw University hanging in the game and when they scored against the run of play the Kiama supporters were nervous of another narrow loss. Stalwart centre Chris Weir steadied the ship with a 90 intercept try that took the game away from University and despite a late consolation try Kiama ran away victors 31-27.

Second grade were locked in fourth place with University heading into the weekend's fixture with both teams needing a victory to consolidate a top five position. Kiama started the better creating a number of attacking opportunities early with Norm Callaghan and Justin Richards both going close to scoring. Michael McKinley opened the scoring with a penalty goal before going over the line for a converted try only minutes later. University hit back on the cusp of half time but solid Kiama defence seemed to have the visitors rattled. The second half turned into classic semi final football with Dave McKinley's solid defence in the midfield causing the Uni defence all sorts of headaches. Despite both teams best efforts and two controversial held up calls against Kiama, neither team could add to the second half tally with the game finishing in a 10-10 draw leaving Kiama still locked in a tight race for fourth spot.

Third grade played an entertaining fixture going down 31-27 despite the inclusion of a number of club legends on the bench. Ben King Gee proved he hasn't lost his ability with a remarkable return to the 10 jersey while Dyl O'Brien and Steve Kenna dominated the Uni midfield through their strong defence.