

# Match Report: Round 16

Kiama Rugby Club's first grade side did not finish the season they way they had planned going down 56-12 against a very good Engadine side. With five players out through injury from the weekend before and many other players carrying injuries Kiama were always up against it in their last game of the season. Standouts in an otherwise uninspiring display were Mitchell Lark who has been one of the most consistent performers all season, Mitchell Payne who despite a lack of ball still managed to create a number of opportunities and Steven Woollett who worked hard in the tight all day. Despite a tough start to the season Kiama firsts have improved immensely throughout the year and had a number of tight results gone their way the team would now be sitting in the top three. With all players returning next season Kiama can look forward to a return to the semi finals in 2010 and a hopeful premiership in the club's 50<sup>th</sup> season.

Second grade needed a win to cement a top 5 position in their clash against Vincentia. Dominating the opening phases, Kiama were disappointed to let Vincentia open the scoring on the back of a woeful refereeing decision which allowed the breakaway to take the ball from the scrum and dive over. The rest of the half ended in a tight arm wrestle with Kiama looking to take the ball wide at all opportunities and Vincentia straight up the middle. The opening exchanges of the second half were all Vincentia with two more tries on the board in the first five minutes. With the season on the line Kiama clicked into gear and good work at the breakdown resulted in James Reeves crossing for a try under the sticks before Joel Zippena smoked three defenders on the outside to put the home team down by one with 10 remaining. Despite having all the momentum Kiama were unable to cross again leaving them needing results to go their way this weekend for a shot at the semis.

Third grade fielded a team with over 100 games experience in their clash with Engadine as injuries saw some of the older brigade again strapping the boots on. In an entertaining clash neither team could grab the ascendancy however a couple of late tries against the run of play cost the home team any chance of victory. Kiama going down 28 -17.

Next week sees second and third grade travel to Bowral for the final regular season game of the year.