

Match Report: Round 7

Kiama Rugby Union Club managed only one victory from three games against their southern neighbours Shoalhaven on the weekend despite a spirited performance from an injury stricken squad. With 24 players out due to a rising injury toll Kiama were looking for a determined club performance against last year's first grade premiers. Running against the wind in the first half Kiama looked good early opening the scoring through a penalty try on the back of a blatant trip by the Shoalhaven winger. Despite the transparent nature of the foul and the danger posed to the opposition the Shoalhaven player managed to stay on the field.

Looking to capitalise on their positive start Kiama let in a pair of quick tries, both of which were against the run of play. Going into the halftime break Kiama were behind 31-12 however with the wind beginning to reach gale proportions were far from out of the game. Dominating both field position and possession Kiama created far more opportunities than their opposition however were unlucky not to capitalise with too many final passes not going to hand. When Mitch Lark followed Chris Weir's try by crossing under the posts with 20 to go, the home side was beginning to smell an upset however the arrival of a torrential rain outburst put paid to any comeback plans with both teams struggling to hold onto the ball in the wild conditions. Kiama's best in the 38 –17 loss were Mitchell Payne, Justin Richards in first grade debut and fullback Nick Brown.

Second grade were under the pump early as they introduced over ten new players to their squad for the crucial Shoalhaven match. Running against the wind in the first half the home side found themselves down 17-0 despite dominating play for long periods of play. The second half saw Kiama fight back into contention however a late try against the run of play put paid to any comeback hopes with Kiama going down 22 – 12. Despite two losses on the trot Kiama still sit in fourth spot and need to regain their winning form to grab an elusive top two spot.

Third grades chances of victory took a massive swing in the right direction early in their clash after a Shoalhaven player was sent off early after 'chesting up' to a bemused referee. From here, Kiama dominated the clash with the forwards holding onto the ball for long periods of time. Played in atrocious conditions Kiama ran out winners 15 –5 with Clint Rogers, Kel Gray and the Reeves brothers the best in a gutsy display.

Kiama has the weekend off before travelling to both Engadine and Vincentia the following week.