

Match Report: Round 8

Kiama Rugby Union club endured a disjointed round eight of competition over the past weekend with first and third grades playing at Engadine on the Saturday and second grade travelling down the coast to play Vincentia on the Sunday. Facing a white hot Engadine side coming off five consecutive victories Kiama first grade started the match in terrific form with the structured game plan paying off early. Working hard in both attack and defence Kiama had the better of the early exchanges and when Mitch Brown scored after 10 minutes had a 5-0 lead. The next 30 minutes saw both teams launch numerous attacking raids however several late cover tackles from both sides left points at a premium. Letting in two tries in the 20 minutes before half time Kiama went to the break seven points down. Dominating the early exchanges Kiama were unlucky to concede a try 15 minutes into the half as a loose ball was swept on by an opportunistic Engadine player. Down by 12 Kiama refused to give up and when Jeff Mitchell scored under the sticks the away team began playing a confident brand of football. Despite Engadine securing a penalty goal Kiama had all the running following with superior fitness holding them in good stead in the final stages. Tension reached breaking point when Chris Weir found himself on the end of a magic Michael Quinn pass to put the home team down by five with three minutes remaining however despite a number of close shaves Engadine managed to hold on for a 22-17 victory.

Third grade were unlucky to go down after clawing their way back from a 12-0 deficit to be level at half time. Indiscipline and poor handling cost Kiama as a mounting penalty count handed Engadine the weight of possession and territory in a see-sawing match. Despite great work from the Reeves brothers and Corey Hughes Kiama went down 22-12 in a closely fought match.

Second grade travelled to Vincentia keen to post a win after slipping from second spot to fourth in the last three weeks. Posting the first points after an excellent Paul Glover try Kiama were looking good with the ball in the hand and managed to take the lead into the half time break. A lapse in concentration early in the second half gave Vincentia too soft tries and allowed the home team to gain the momentum. It took Kiama 20 minutes to begin dominating again with Dave McKinley crashing over after great lead up work from Clint Paget and Steve Emmett. Kiama threatened to score again late in the match and steal the victory however a number of penalties and spilt balls ruined their chances with Kiama going down 15-5.

This week Kiama is home to Bowral in seconds and thirds with firsts having the bye. Games will start at the normal times of 12.15 for thirds and 1.30 for seconds.