

Ricoh Black Rams Rugby Review

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Ricoh Black Rams (34) vs. Kintetsu Liners (8)

The Game

After another long hike down south the Ricoh black rams took on an inform **Kintetsu Liners** in Osaka. A much anticipated match, a win in this game would see a dramatic change in the pool B

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ladder. After a good week of preparation with the focus still being on their defense and structure the **Ricoh Black Rams** were ready to go.

In perfect weather the game started off with both teams sparring for field position. An intense opening from the Rams set the pace of the game in the starting minutes. It's fair to say Ricoh won this battle early and was able to

convert some early pressure in Kintetsu's half into points.

Ricoh won the Lineout contest but were unable to get much return from a strong scrumming game. The set piece proved to be the only tussle between the sides as the Rams were dominate around the rest of the park and set a high standard for a seemingly surprised Kintetsu. Both Makita and Santoh had strong, high work rate games and provided a lot of go forward for the team, keeping them on the front foot in broken play throughout the game.



Coaches Corner

Next week will be Ricoh's third game on the road. They come up against Toyota Shokki who played very well in their last game against Kubota and were unlucky not to come away with a win.



Coach's focus- The team will continue to work on their accuracy and urgency at the breakdown as well as its focus in defense.

Coach Hill said "Shokki has a competitive scrum, a strong kicking game and plenty of strong off-loading ball runners who will test Ricoh across the park."

Makita scored a superb try in the first half after sustained pressure in Kintetsu's 22. Captain Shota had a busy game and kept the ball moving crisply from the base of the ruck, directing his troops around the park and making sure the structures and focus's going into the game were maintained.



Bourke directed the team well and was able to keep the strong Kintetsu defense in two minds, varying between his powerful runs with ball in hand and creative passing and running, keeping the Kintetsu structure second guessing. Back rower Broadhurst, hooker Takizawa and no.10 replacement Ellison had notably impressive games which impacted heavily in the teams go forward.

There were two tries against the run of play, the first a timely intercept by Shota Yamamoto for a 50 meter sprint to the line and in the second half Ricoh lock Pohiva Latoahea managed to outrun the cover defense and sprint away for an outstanding individual effort to score in the corner after some excellent defense in the buildup.

Defensive line speed and counter ruck were a highlight of the game and continues to be a focus for the Rams going into the rest of the games in the season. This was highlighted by some phenomenal cover defense between the back three, the stand out being last week's man of the match Dan Peters who executed a great cover tackle on Kintetsu's fullback and saved a certain try late in the game.



It was disappointing to let Kintetsu in after the bell for their only try for the game. Kintetsu used super sub and former Wallaby Radike Samo in a destructive display of straight running and brutal strength which led to tired but consistent Ricoh defense letting in the try.



However, despite last minute attempts made by the Liners, the Rams came away with the 4 tries to 1 win, picking up a handy bonus point and placing them on the top of the table.

Ricoh Black Rams Vs. Kintetsu Liners

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