

Ricoh Black Rams Rugby Review

Ricoh Black Rams

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Ricoh Black Rams (36) vs. Shokki Shuffles(0)

The Game

Heading into their third away game in a row, the Ricoh Black Rams were coming off two solid wins on the road and eager to add to their tally. Training well throughout the week and the success of the previous two weeks should

side more points were warranted in the opening half. It seemed the toll of the previous weeks was evident as they struggled to make much impact and convert pressure into points.

“Training well throughout the week and the success of the previous two weeks should have seen them in a good mindset going into the game with Shokki Shuffles.”

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However a slow 1st half saw Ricoh Black Rams up only 10 nil at the 40 minute mark. Against a weakened Shokki

Head Coach Damien Hill said “We were lethargic for large parts of the 1st half; we weren't working hard off the ball to provide opportunities in attack and as a result kicked away a lot of quality possession”

With this being the result of the first half, Ricoh went into the second half only a converted try and penalty in front.

Coaches Corner

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After focusing on the scrum and lineout during the week Coach Liam Barry said “*he was pleased with the execution by the forwards of the Lineout and with how they handled the strong Shuffles scrum.*”

Although it was a slow first half, the second half saw them execute their practiced game plan and put 26 points on.

Hill said “*It was pleasing to keep the opposition scoreless and score 2 tries from the bench.*” He highlighted the impact from the bench as crucial in their recent wins.



Going into next weeks game Hill emphasized again the roll the bench would have against NTT.

However, this was not the case with the Rams showcasing their strong defense of the previous weeks. This set the platform for more front foot rugby in the second half, allowing the reserves to come on and display energy and enthusiasm in attack resulting in more go forward and more points.

“The second half was a far better performance; we played with purpose.” Coach Hill commented, saying that this is a standard they must maintain in the rest of their

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games in order to be competitive.

Josh Mau led a lift in the teams work rate and boosted the

speed of the game taking the ball to the advantage line and defending vigorously at ruck time. Shokki have had a bad of run of injuries so they could not field their full strength side, but still defended well and pushed the Ricoh defense for the majority of the match.

Hooker Takizawa, outside centre Santoh and half back Shota were three of the best for the game. Week in week out these three have been putting their hands up and leading by example with their high work rates and enthusiasm.

The final score of the game was 36 – 0, with Ricoh putting on three tries in the second half to come away with a convincing win to make it three in a row going into next week’s home game. The team has gathered some momentum and taken confidence away from the recent weeks. Committing to their set structures in training, the Rams should be confident going into next week’s game.

All in all 3 wins from 3 away games is a great credit to the team. The focus of the coaches and the team now changes to NTT Docomo who will meet the Rams at Chichibu on Saturday for a much anticipated home game. Docomo have been playing well all in the second round with Brussow and Viljoen leading the way. Both players have been strong performers and provide an effective base for their team to be threat when they come up against Ricoh next week.



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Article written by Timothy Hill