

Ricoh Black Rams Rugby Review

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[Edition 1, Volume 1]

Ricoh Black Rams (26) vs. NTT Red Hurricanes (27)

The Game

After a good week of preparation and coming off the back of three wins in a row, Ricoh were seemingly prepared for their Sunday home game with NTT Docomo Red Hurricanes. Unfortunately the Rams were unable to continue their winning streak and use their momentum, going down by 1 point to the Red Hurricanes 26-27.

In a game of ups and downs, Ricoh took an early lead applying the pressure on NTT and keeping them in their 22 for the majority of the first half. With some good structure and courageous runs from Colin Bourke, setting a good attacking platform, Ricoh were in a good attacking position for the first 40 minutes. NTT received many chances as Ricoh struggled to turn this pressure into points like they

had done so well the 3 weeks previous, only finding the try line through Emosi Kauhenga in the 5th minute then back into the frustrating style of rugby NTT made them play.



The set piece of the Rams was on point, with backrower Broadhurst controlling possession in the line out

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along with a strong scrum which led to a second try from Shota Yamamoto. Ricoh dominated throughout the park, with the Hurricanes

Coaches Corner

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In slippery conditions the Rams were encouraged to stick to their guns and continue playing the creative style of rugby that saw them win three in a row, off the back of their outstanding defense that had been showcased in all of those games.

Unfortunately they were unable to execute this plan and turn a great amount of possession into points.



Coming up against the Spears this weekend, Ricoh will once again work on keeping to their game plan with defense being the key. Defense still remains their primary focus as they look to re-gather after their one point lose and get back in the winner's circle. Coach Liam Barry commented saying it would be nice to turn possession into points!

only escaping and relieving the pressure through their number 10 or by the Rams own mistakes. A dominant performance by Heinrich Brussow also had a telling effect on the final result.

Dropped ball and turn over ball coupled with some disciplinary issues saw the Red Hurricanes finish the first half 4 points behind, with the Rams 2 converted tries not doing the teams efforts justice.

Taking an early lead after the half time break NTT came out firing scoring an early 5 pointer followed by the conversion. Their number 10 Riaan Viljoe was playing the territory game apparently having enough of playing in his own 22, keeping the pressure on the disheartened Rams with some belting kicks for touch. With apparently no intent of running for the first 15 minutes of he continued to pin Ricoh back into their half.



Another try and conversion saw Ricoh fall behind by 10

despite the defensive efforts lead by Fumiya Santo and Shota Yamamoto. Keeping the composure that had served them so well in previous weeks Ricoh, however, was not able to turn their defensive efforts into an offensive one until later in the half.

Firing one after the other Pohiva Lotoahea and a penalty try put the Rams back onto the front foot and bringing the momentum back to their side. They seemed to be pumped right up with forward runs making brutal impact and covering great meters as well as the back passes finding and meeting their mark. An added intensity from bench number 10 Tamati Ellison seemed to boost Ricoh, as he was slamming into rucks as well as leading the players around the park.

A missed goal from fullback Daniel Peters and an NTT conversion meant that the Red Hurricanes were 1 point in front with little time left on the clock. As, the game seemed to draw to a close, Ricohs efforts in the scrum gave the Rams a penalty goal attempt to steal the win away

from NTT. However, with a strong breeze and slippery conditions to compete with the ball failed to find its mark bouncing off the uprights and the hurricanes were quick to send the ball into touch. This finished a nerve racking game 26-27 handing the Rams their first defeat in four games.

Coming up against the Spears this week Ricoh are focused on returning to their recent form and minimalizing their mistakes in order to turn opportunities into points. They plan on an improved breakdown effort in order to convert possession that they have kept so well into points on the scoreboard. This weekend is shaping up to be a great clash between the two sides and we are sure to see some great rugby all around the park.

