

Match Report - Saturday 10 November 2007

'The Reeves' London & South East Division 2 North Staines RFC 36 London Nigerians 19

Staines kept their promotion push on track, maintaining their grip on second place in the League, with a comfortable win over old adversaries London Nigerians.

Previous encounters between the two sides had always been extremely competitive, with several notable match ups in both league and cup competitions over the years, this was to be no exception, the main issues being whether Staines could control London Nigerians free running attacking game and whether the home side could dominate proceedings, through their forward power, in the end Staines ran out deserved winners scoring 6 tries to London Nigerians 3.

After an impeccably observed minutes silence, to honour the fallen, London Nigerians were fastest out of the blocks, playing with the wind at their backs, they opened the scoring with a well worked try, successfully converted by their flyhalf, to lead 7 nil, after 5 minutes of play.

This early setback, galvanised the Staines players, who hit back almost immediately, when No.6 Luciano Silvera, scored in the corner, following some bright interplay between both backs and forwards, the conversion attempt failed.

Staines then proceeded to ratchet up the pressure, sensing that they had their opposition on the run, they dominated possession and attacked at every opportunity, leading to a further two tries in ten minutes.

Jon Turner, who was proving a handful in the centre with his direct running, kicked ahead, was first to the ball and put flyhalf Dave Knill in for a simple try under the posts, which was converted.

Next on the score sheet was the Staines hooker, Stefan Myburgh, with his ninth score of the season in nine games, when a supporting run, following wing Andy Turner's break through the middle of London Nigerian's backline, led to him being on the receiving end of a slipped pass to score wide out, the extra points did not materialise.

Although the first half ended with Staines 17 - 7 ahead, London Nigerians continued to be a threat, playing their usual brand of counter attacking rugby through their elusive runners and although they currently lie in the bottom half of the League, it is no surprise that they have scored 200 points this season.

Staines virtually secured the win, early in the second half, when Jon Turner scored a fine try near to the posts, following a period of constant Staines forward pressure which London Nigerians were unable to deal with, the Staines backs ultimately counter attacking from a failed touch kick, the conversion was successful.

Although Staines dominance continued, handling errors and ill discipline crept into their game, compounded by their scrumhalf, Richard Scott, leaving the field through injury, resulted in Staines game plan being disrupted and London Nigerians underwent a period of resurgence, scoring a break out try, which was converted.

Staines responded positively, Junior Harrison scoring against his old club and Andy Turner, scoring a trade mark try, when he came off his wing to take a short flat pass from the Staines flyhalf, running in unopposed under the posts, this try was converted.

London Nigerians, who persevered with their attacking play, throughout the game, scored the last try of the game, Staines 36 London Nigerians 19.

Staines will be pleased with this win, against difficult opposition and will hope to keep a winning momentum running when they visit the higher league side Portsmouth next Saturday in the EDF Intermediate Cup, a fixture which may indicate their progress to date.

Scorers:

Tries: Andy Turner (1)
Stefan Myburgh (1)
Jon Turner (1)
Junior Harrison (1)
Dave Knill (1)
Luciano Silvera (1)

Conversions:

Dave Knill (3)

Team:

15 James Cornish 14 Andy Turner 13 Jon Turner 12 Marinus Scheepers 11 Mikey Wilmott 10 Dave Knill 9 Richard Scott 1 Leonard Leibenburg 2 Stefan Myburgh 3 Rony Bachour 4 Junior Harrison 5 Tom Cleary 6 Luciano Silvera 7 Eddie Landsburg 8 Eddie Jones

Subs:

16 Giles Walker 17 Andy Regan 18 Tony Willis