

Australian Schools XV v Welsh U 19

Park Eirias, Colwyn Bay, North Wales

Saturday, December 5, 2009

The Australian Schoolboys have bounced back from their midweek defeat to Ireland to topple a strong Wales Under 19. A spirited 2500-strong crowd watched the first ever international at Parc Eirias, Colwyn Bay as Wales Under 18s succumbed to a strong Australian Schools XV by six points to ten. Despite the wintry conditions, both sides were committed in defense and attack and produced a competitive encounter.



Playing their second 'capped international' in three days, Australia were determined to make the most of their attacking opportunities after failing to do so in their 15-nil loss to Ireland on Thursday.

The opening ten minutes was even contest with both teams probing for weaknesses in each other's defences. The Schoolboys were on the board after some punishing defence from the Australian forwards to turn over Welsh ball on half way, with Luke Jones off loading to Rohan Saifoloi who managed to find a gap in the Welsh defence, with Jacob Woodhouse in support who then drew the last defender sending left wing Kimami Sitauti over for a try. Rohan Saifoloi added the conversion taking the score to 7 – 0 after 17 minutes.

Despite missing an earlier penalty, Wales full back Dale Ford slotted a long range goal on 21 minutes to reduce the deficit. In the last passage of play of the first half the Australians were unlucky not to score again with Captain Jordan Toapou breaking through the Welsh pack to get within metres of the try line but his final pass was dropped in the greasy conditions.

Wales came out with intent after the break and early pressure very nearly produced a try in the corner for North Walian wing George North but he was deemed by RFU referee Greg Garner to fall short of the line.

The home pressure did bring a second penalty for Ford to bring Simon King's side to within a point of the young Aussies but it was Australia who had most of the try scoring opportunities in the second half, thwarted for the most part by the slippery weather conditions causing dropped passes. In the end, a second penalty for vice-captain Saifoloi secured the win for the visitors.



Rohan Saifoloi was awarded 'Man of the Match' by the Welsh Team Management.

Australian Schoolboys manager Graeme Dedrick said Wales pushed Australia for the entire 80 minutes. "We played some goods movements in the first half to put some pressure on the Welsh in really tough conditions," Dedrick said." We had couple of missed chances but we turned it up another level today. Our defence was of a very high standard."

AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLBOYS 10 (Kimami Sitauti try, Rohan Saifoloi pen, con) def **WALES 6** (Dale Ford 2 pens)

