



NSWCRU Development Tour Match No 4

The NSWCRU Development Team wrapped up their USA West Coast Tour with an impressive 55 – 10 win over OMBAC Rugby Club at Mission Beach, San Diego.

OMBAC Rugby Club being the main host for Country's tour had undertaken a long build up in preparation for the match, which had been heavily promoted and was played before a healthy and supportive crowd.

Country went into the match with three wins on tour, and they were determined to keep their record in tack and make it four from four for the tour.

A muffed clearing kick at the start of the match saw Country having to set a series of scrums close to their line, which eventually saw them awarded a free kick and the pressure relieved.

The ensuing up and under was knocked on by OMBAC forty metres out from their line, and from the scrum the Wasps did several hit ups before halfback Mahe Fangupo worked the blind to score and Country was up 5 – 0 after three minutes of play.

Another muffed restart provided OMBAC with a great opportunity to go on the attack, but the Wasps muscled up and took a tighthead, before several strong runs and a clearing kick took play into OMBAC's twenty two.

Eight minutes into the match a lineout win on the OMBAC's twenty two saw five-eight Ben Greentree take on the line and slice through for a converted try, and Country had gone out to a 12 – 0 led.

The next ten minutes were very intense with both teams hitting hard in defence, and on the back of a string of penalties OMBAC were able to gain some momentum in attack, but has had been the case all tour Country muscled up in defence.

Country's scrum was causing OMBAC all sorts of problems and was providing the Wasps with a steady stream on ball, and midway through the half another tighthead enabled centre Filisione Pauta to crash his way over for a converted try to make Country's lead 19 – 0.

OMBAC were very competitive at the restarts and were causing Country grief, and on the back of several penalties were able to mount pressure, but once again they couldn't turn the pressure into points.

With ten minutes remaining in the half Filisione Pauta made a crunching tackle, stripped the ball and raced fifty metres to score in the corner to increase Country's lead to 24 – 0.

Right on halftime the Wasps won a lineout against the throw, and quick hands across the backline saw winger Eli Sinoti outpace the cover defence to cross for a converted try in the corner to have Country go to the break up 31 – 0.

The second half was only minutes old when prop Benn Wright was issued with a yellow card; this was the first of three yellow cards issued against Country, and on the back of a sixteen to one penalty count the Wasps had to dig deep.

The yellow card spurred the Wasps into action, and in the next five minutes turned defence into attack on two occasions and scored length of the field tries by lock Paul Tuala and flanker Steve Lamont to increase the lead to 43 – 0.

OMBAC were finally rewarded when Country ran out of numbers and they scored in the corner to make the score 43 - 5, but the Wasps hit back almost immediately with another breakout try to winger Andre Itula to lead 48 – 5.

As soon as one player returned from the sin bin another was sent, and in the latter part of the half flanker Bradd Sheridan and then lock Ollie Bartlett had time on the sideline.

OMBAC continued to press and again managed to work an overlap and cross in the corner to make the score 48 – 10, but the Country Wasps had the final say right on the bell when halfback Mahe Fangupo took an intercept and raced fifty metres for a converted try to make the final score 55 – 10.

Players Player for the match was five eight Ben Greentree.

NSWCRU Development Tour Wasps: 55 Mahe Fangupo 2, Filisione Pauta 2, Ben Greentree, Andre Itula, Steve Lamont, Eli Sinoti & Paul Tuala Tries, Ben Damen 4 Conversions & Ben Greentree Conversion.

Defeated

OMBAC Rugby Club: 10 2 Tries.

ENDS