

50TH KEN GRAY TROPHY WIN FOR SILVERSTREAM



St Patrick's College, Silverstream have won the Ken Gray Memorial Trophy for the 50th time beating Wellington College 45-26 in Upper Hutt on Wednesday. In the highest-scoring of the 89 traditional fixtures, dating back to 1931, there were 11 tries scored in bright sunshine. The previous highest-scoring game was in 2015 when Silverstream won 38-27.

Early in the second spell, the hosts trailed 19-17 but Wellington lost a player to the sin bin for a deliberate knockdown. It was a mistake that would cost 21 points and effectively settled the contest.

From the outset, signs were ominous for the visitors when blindside Toby Crosby twice cracked open the defense with the latter break finished by openside Mitch Southall after some deft hands from fullback Lachie Forbes and support by center Riley Higgins.

Wellington regrouped quickly, however, and wing Caleb Stanley crossed unopposed after a series of phases inside the 22. His next strike would be belligerent as he cannoned through some feeble defense to charge 30-meters for a touchdown under the sticks.

Crosby was rampant and he bettered Morgan's individual effort blasting through like a missile from halfway to level the scores at 12-12.

Silverstream led 17-12 at the interval after Wellington failed to find touch from a goal-line clearance. Forbes retrieved at the ten-metre mark and regathered his chip kick as Wellington waited for an advantage from a knock-on that never materialized.

Silverstream first-five Luke Walmsley will have nightmares about his spillage, a cold drop from a high hoist at halfway gifted second-five Angus Cooper a try as Wellington reclaimed the lead.

Cooper would see yellow from the kick-off, unfortunately impending a Silverstream attack with an errant hand.

From the penalty, Silverstream won clean lineout possession and No 8. Peter Lakai powerful over from a simple midfield crash to make it 24-19.

Wellington restarted deep and Higgins faked a kick, instead scampering clear in a spectacular coast to coast effort in front of a delirious embankment.

Yellow and black woes deepened when Higgins midfield partner Junior Paulo showed his brawn to supply halfback Tjay Clarke with a try.

Restored to a full complaint Wellington proved hearty while Silverstream succumbed to error and ill-discipline. A player was sent off for punching as a disturbing regress commenced.

Wellington prop Ben Baker squirmed over out wide to close the gap to 38-26. Had Wellington had a functional lineout the deficit could have been reduced further.

Fittingly Higgins had the last say when he again busted in front of the embankment and regathered a well-placed chip.

Silverstream have maximum points after two games of the Premiership, but the gap between their best and worst was quite pronounced and suggests there is plenty of work to do.

Wellington looked solid from halfback to second five with George Sims, Jacob Waikari-Jones, and Angus Cooper an effective trio. Stanley on the wing is a handful and openside George Murray was tireless. The set-piece had a rough outing and a robust ball-carrying forward like Crosby would add an awful lot.

By Adam Julian