

THE 80th Traditional Silverstream 1st XV v PNBHS clash

PALMERSTON NORTH SET PULSES RACING!



Captain Josh Brown on the charge

Photo by Mike O'Leary

In a finish to rival an epic novel, Palmerston North Boys' High School have rallied from 30-12 down to defeat St. Patrick's College, Silverstream, 33-30.

Silverstream was up 30-19 when fullback Kenneth Tuffin broke down the left wing. When he was 15-meters out from the line he had Nick Smith (the fastest under-18 sprinter in New Zealand) unmarked to his left.

Instead of passing, Tuffin chipped to within a meter of the Palmerston North line. Two Palmerston North defenders got into a tangle and fumbled the ball backwards. A Silverstream attacker arrived and knocked the ball forward.

Palmerston North recovered the ball and slung it out wide to No.8 Fabien Kiri on the wing. He beat two defenders and ran 100-meters to score under the posts. The try was quickly converted by fullback Tyler Larkin and it was 30-26.

A short while later right wing Paddy Kellow stood-up his marker and galloped 65-meters to score a spectacular solo try to propel Palmerston North into an improbable lead.

The drama wasn't over. Silverstream swung onto attack and won a penalty 25-meters out directly in front. First-Five Kienan Higgins steeped forward to equalise, but he pushed the ball wide-right.

Still there was time!

Silverstream rumbled forward, Palmerston North resisted.

Palmerston North won a turnover 15-meters-out and halfback Hunter Walker meekly dribbled the ball into touch, thinking the game was over. IT WASN'T.

Silverstream No.8 Josh Brown won an overthrown lineout and barrelled hard into resolute Palmerston North defence.

Silverstream attacked right, they switched left and advanced the ball to within 10-meters of the Palmerston North line.

Second-five Albert Polu then received on the crash. He was enveloped by the Palmerston North defence and the ball remained suspended in the air.

Polu scrapped feverishly to get ground. His cavalry arrived and tussled gamely with the Palmerston North defence, but they arrived too late. The referee ruled a turnover and Palmerston North completed a great escape.

Earlier the first-half was an even affair which saw Silverstream head to the break with a 16-12 advantage.

Brown scored in the opening two minutes after Silverstream pilfered the kick-off and maintained the ball for multiple phases.

Palmerston North responded when Kiri supported a break by centre Jackson Ferris, but Silverstream wing Todd Svenson nudged the home team back in front with a penalty.

Tuffin extended Silverstream's lead when he flashed down the left-wing and scored after several offloads by the Silverstream forwards left Palmerston North out-flanked.

Svenson kicked a second penalty to make it 16-7, before a controversial try reduced the deficit to four at the interval.

First-five Stuart Cruden was tackled 10-meters out from the Silverstream line and as he hit the ground he appeared to have paddled the ball forward.

The referee ruled he wasn't held and had in fact placed the ball on his feet, permitting him to snaffle and run again. He scored to the disgust of Silverstream who started the second-spell with venom.

Halfback Ryan Fraser snatched an intercept and ran 30-meters to make it 23-12 and then classy centre Tarquinn Alatipi busted 40-meters and off-loaded to supporting flanker Jarrod Harawira.

Alatipi left the field immediately after his break. His wisdom and toughness on defence was sorely missed.

When Palmerston North reserve prop Wesley Veikoso scored a soft try to make it 30-19, it commenced a finish that will be talked about for years.

Today's game was the highest scoring game in 84 meetings between the schools.