

INSIDE THE SHARK CAGE

Momentum is starting to build...



You are receiving this Inside the Shark Cage after we have played our game in Otago. Normally I like to send it out a day or so before our next clash but this week my best laid plans were thrown into disarray. The old manager's worst nightmare struck – A flight cancelation!! We ended up having to minivan to Christchurch, stay the night there and then get up at "Sparrow's Fart" to get to Dunedin in time for the match. Luckily our lads rode this challenge superbly and it we didn't let it affect how we approached the match.

In the next couple of paragraphs is what I thought might play out against Otago, read it and see if you think I was close to the mark or not!!

Otago will be a massive challenge for us and they always seem to play well under the roof at Forsyth Barr Stadium. They play a low mistake type game with plenty of physicality at the break down.

As with a few of the teams in the competition there are a couple of ex Tasman players in their set up and it only adds to the occasion.

We need to continue to grow our game and improve on the areas of our game that are slowly getting up to speed. This match will be a massive swing match in our season – a win will set us up for a run at the semifinals!!

Back to the Wellington game in Blenheim. Again, it wasn't pretty for the full 80 minutes but again five points is gold. Wellington are a good side, especially offensively, and scored a couple of exceptional long range tries. They are the sort of side that are really hard to subdue for the whole match



Tasman Makos 500 Club 1st September 2017

An encouraging sign for us was that we were patient on attack and held onto the ball for a lot more phases than in previous weeks. Whilst we leaked in five tries I reckon our defense also stepped up a notch this week but will have to keep improving if we are going to climb the premiership table.

Sometimes a campaign can be kick started by gutsy wins, so let's hope our season will get a shot in the arm from Sunday's victory. You must applaud the desire of our lads who got out of a big hole when we were down 28 points to 13 just after half time. Obviously, we need to make sure we don't get in that position again but it was good to see we can stay calm and get out of that situation

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Our discipline was another aspect of our game that is getting better and better each week. The lads picked their time when to attack the ruck and seemed to be understanding their roles better. Saying that we are not naïve and realize we still have a long way to go to get our game to the standard we need it to be.



This week our Makos awards were again handed out, they are voted on by the players and management. The Mako Man this week went to our livewire flyhalf Mitchell Hunt.



Mitch was outstanding on both attack and D. He is really starting to have clarity in his role and lead the boys around the field with confidence. His goal kicking was arguably the difference in the match, with a couple of his sideline conversions being memorable.

Our Ironman award went to Ethan Blackadder who had a stellar game on the blindside flank. He continues to put a big shift of work in each week and is always near the top of the tackle count. It's great to see a local product coming through our ranks and now commanding a starting spot.



**Finz Up from Makos Team Manager
Martyn Vercoe**