

Guys Hospital 2nd XV 17-29 University College London 2nd XV

So the Guys hospital 2nd XV went into the second round of the newly formed BUCS conference cup to face UCL 2nd XV. The skipper had assembled a fine looking 2nd XV until Tuesday night when players were dropping out/being called into the first team to face Reading. The merry band assembled at Waterloo for the long home game to Cobham, short of a few players who were coming late due to an examination. It was to the team's, and captain's joy that the UCL team were boarding the same train and not heading off to Berrylands, like the corresponding fixture. It was obvious that the UCL captain had had some more geography(sorry, colouring in lessons).

So the game started with a very new looking front row, with three new players there. This was to bad effect at the scrum/line out, as a front row which has not ever played together will find it hard to gel. This meant that the opening exchanges of the game saw UCL dominating the normally very reliable Guys set piece. UCL spent a lot of time and pressure in the Guys 22, an ever improving line defence, however, repelled attack after attack. It must be said that Will 'utility' Ball marshalled this very well. The pressure, however, did eventually tell and UCL crossed after eventually sucking in another forwards to create and overlap. The conversion was missed. So Guys were 5-0 down.

Will Ball hoisted the kick off high and Anthony 'sole 3rd team tourist to Malaga' O'Rourke was first there to make the hit and win the ball. Some good phases of practised play sent Lewis 'try machine' David over under the posts. The conversion was duly slotted over and Guys led 7-5. Ucl quickly responded to take the lead again to make it 10-5. The kick off was disrupted by the captain which led to a Guys scrum and some sustained pressure. UCL forwards, who played the referee very well(translate roughly into, learnt very quickly about which laws they could break), then conceded an obvious penalty. The captain opted for points to get the game back to all square. The penalty was missed however and so the game went into half time at 10-7.

H/T Guys hospital 7-10 UCL

A tactical change at half time saw Alex 'Steve McQueen' Gregory move to full back and Ed Hardman come into outside centre. Alex 'Deirdre' Brazier replaced Alex 'Captain Jack' Underwood, and Justin 'seng' Chin replaced Naveen Palani. The start of the second half saw a good catch from Hakim who secured the ball which meant that Wingrove at 10 could clear it. Then some sustained pressure within the UCL 22 saw guys come away with nothing after some good defence from UCL, who then quickly took the ball up the far end and scored. The conversion was again missed after some very poor technique. This meant that Guys trailed by 8 points.

Again, Guys took the ball into UCL's 22, and some much better set piece play kept them there. The team were actually putting into practice what had been practiced. Some very good forward running earned Guys a penalty. The skipper elected for three after realising that 3 points would put them into reach of the UCL score. Will Ball slotted the kick over. The next few phases of play after the penalty resulted in a red card for the UCL substitute, who had been on the pitch for at least five minutes. Justin 'seng' Chin was punched off the ball, which the referee saw. Despite protestations that the punch was retaliation, the UCL player was sent off. This should have worked

in Guys' favour, and it did as Lewis 'I score more than a try a game' David was sent away after some good passes out wide from the backs. The try was converted by Will 'not so boot o woe' Ball and Guys took the lead.

The red card, and try, however, seemed to have boosted UCL and sent Guys to sleep. Again, over commitment at the ruck from some very tired forwards saw the captain and Alex 'Mcqueen' Gregory face a 3 on 2. UCL duly scored after two good tackles from the captain and Mcqueen. Five minutes later and exactly the same thing happened. The UCL skipper had had a leg transplant and knocked both conversions over from out wide, leaving the final score 17-29.

Guy's were very dejected at being knocked out of the cup as St. Mary's Paddington awaited us in the third round. It does seem though that the league game between Guys and UCL will be a close encounter and key game to the season, but with a more solid pack and more reliability from players in both teams, I feel this season can only get better. Man of the match performance came from Anthony O'Rourke, who making his first start after his injury, tackled like a demon and ran like one.

Tries: Lewis David(2)

Conversions: Will Ball, Jed

Penalties: Will Ball

Starting XV: Naveen(Justin), Ken, Sean, Frazer, Sam, Alex U(Deirdre(Aman)), Anthony, Phil(tony), Will, Jed, Lewis, Marcus, Alex G, Kanish, Ed H.

Juniper Awards: Marcus, Alex U, Ed H, Phil, tony, sean