

RC Bern 18 : RC Zurich 6 (ht: 5 – 6)



With the club starting off a new season without Gary and Mike leading the first team in training and on the field, it was clear that we will need some time to find our feet. With many of the first team regulars still on summer vacations or injured, the squad that traveled to Bern had a lot of new faces. This provided an opportunity for players new to the club and second team players fighting for a spot on the first team a chance to get a game in the NLA.

We were able to get 22 committed players together for the match against newly promoted Bern, with 21 getting playing time. Although Bern is new to the NLA, it was

clear that although they might not be experienced, they would be fit and extremely keen to prove that they belong in the NLA.

It was a very hot day without a cloud in sight and no wind to cool us off. The opening minutes of the match confirmed that Bern were up for the challenge, with their big New Zealand prop and high kicks giving from their backs giving us troubles all game long. Nick Lawry was forced to leave the game after 10 minutes due to a hamstring injury, to be replaced by second team stalwart Lukas Meier. The first half saw Zurich go ahead with 2 penalty kicks in a hard fought match with many handling errors. Bern scored an unconverted try late in the half for a 6-5 scoreline in favor of Zurich.

The second half was equally strife with errors with both teams making many fundamental errors. Bern was fortunate and capitalized on Zurich errors to score two more unconverted tries and a late penalty kick. Zurich fought hard until the final whistle, but was unable to mount any fruitful attacks. Final score 18-6 for Bern - a successful debut for them in the NLA at Zurich's expense. Bern should be commended for a clean and hard fought match.

Unfortunately, there were not many positives to take from the game. Zurich's usually dominant forward pack was ineffective in the sets and lost most line-outs. Without consistent ball from the forwards, the backs were not able to launch any dangerous attacking moves. Defense was solid, but all of Bern's points came off of Zurich errors.

Thanks to all the guys who came down to Bern, especially Mathias who didn't get on the field (except for almost getting a red card as a touch judge).

Thanks also to the new faces on the first team. The following second team and junior members played in their first NLA game: Ridhwaan "Sabs" Sabat, Bertrand Blancheton, Flavio Kurti, Lukas Meier and Tony Muhia. The following players had their first game with the club: Adam Henderson, Maxime Bedu and Joseph Flanagan.

It is clear that we need more training time together and to work hard on reducing our errors and improving on the fundamentals. We will continue to have difficulty winning games if we are unable to compete better in the scrums and line-outs.

Next game: RC Zurich vs RC Avusy, 08.09.2007, in Avusy

PS: Please remember to pay your club dues, as you will be ineligible to play if you don't (no pay no play).

Paying in Slip/Einzahlungsschein:

(<http://www.rugbyzurich.ch/downloads/paymentslip.JPG>)

Membership Cost:

(<http://www.rugbyzurich.ch/club.php>)

Players:-

- 1 - Gregoire Witz
- 2 - Shane Peter
- 3 - Schelte Betten
- 4 - Clement Van Galen
- 5 - Adam Henderson
- 6 - Maxime Bedu
- 7 - Josh Bjornson
- 8 - Ramiro Dip
- 9 - Calvin Unholz
- 10 - Jesse Nicholas
- 11 - Martijn Moransard
- 12 - Andy Wood
- 13 - Nick Lawry
- 14 - Ridhwaan "Sabs" Sabat
- 15 - Bertrand Blancheton

- 16 - Andre Franke
- 17 - Fabrizio Rutishauser
- 18 - Flavio Kurti
- 19 - Joseph Flanagan
- 20 - Lukas Meier
- 21 - Mathias Schenker
- 22 - Tony Muhia