

Geneva 13 Zurich 19

A superb performance from Zurich's forward pack inflicted a first defeat for Geneva in 2 years. The dominant Zurich pack destroyed the Geneva scrum and secured a thoroughly deserved 3-16 half time lead. Geneva can take some comfort from an improved second half which left Zurich hanging on for a first away win against Geneva this millennium.

A dream start for Zurich had debutant Fraser Callaghan bulldozing over for a superb individual try after 4 minutes. Quick ruck ball was fed out left to Callaghan on the halfway line. The fullback beat his man then showed great pace rounding another before running through the Geneva fullback to score an excellent try. The conversion attempt from the corner was unsuccessful.

This set the tempo for the first half where Zurich's pack pummelled their counterparts taking several scrums against the head. The constant pressure lead to Geneva giving away several penalties which left them pegged back in their own 22. Two penalties were converted and dynamic back row Ramiro Dip crossed from short range. Geneva's only response came in the form of a penalty.

Half Time 3-16.



A picture of the Coach's Vespa. Completely irrelevant but pads out the report to one page.

from scoring. Justice was done when the Geneva scrum half took a quick tap and scurried over the line. The conversion drifted narrowly wide leaving the score at 13-19.

Zurich held out in an uncomfortable last 5 minutes and there a great sigh of relief from the visitors when K M Nicholas cleared into touch for the last play of the game.

Verdict:

An immense forward's display left the Geneva pack in tatters and Zurich taking the points.

Points:

Although Callaghan showed more tricks than a 60 year old call girl the points were given to 7 of the 8 forwards.

Jaffa Cake:

Yves Kissenpfennig. Zurich's big blindside decided to ship the ball straight to Geneva's international winger when confronted by a 70kg defender on the Geneva 5 meter line.

Geneva started the second half in vibrant mood despite the loss of their second row and No 8 during the first half. They kept Zurich under constant pressure for the first 10 minutes after the restart. Only strong defending kept them at bay. Zurich then started to make inroads into the Geneva 22 but never quite managed to make the last pass tell. Mid way through the half Geneva scored their first try. Several breaks from their impressive replacement fly half eventually told as the Geneva wing scored in the corner after several phases of play bringing the score to 8-16.

The Geneva backs now had their tails up and looked dangerous whenever they had the ball. More last ditch defending was required to keep them at bay.

With ten minutes to go Zurich broke into the Geneva 22 and were awarded a penalty for offside. The penalty sneaked over via a post to give Zurich a 8-19 lead.

With 5 minutes remaining a break in the centre put Zurich

under all sorts of pressure and only an uncharacteristic professional foul from the kiwi fullback stopped Geneva