

# Windsor Rogues v Norfolk RFC Match report...

Saturday July 16th, 2016

This week we traveled up to visit the Norfolk county team hoping to avenge a drubbing from last year's road game. While we did win the return match in Windsor we haven't won in Norfolk in a couple of years.

A solid squad of 23 made the trip and while a couple of key guys were unavailable we felt we had what was needed to get the job done. The game started with a lot of hard pounding yards by the big farm boys interspersed with an occasional spin to a well drilled backline. The Windsor starters were up to the task with a bend but don't break approach, holding off the Harvesters for long minutes early until eventually being awarded the penalty deep in our own end. Spencer hit a great clearance and we were suddenly ready to attack with the lineout inside their 22. We won the lineout and then the story began....some dropped passes killed the momentum and just as suddenly their fullback joined the line and went 70 meters through a couple of tacklers for the opening try. 7-0. Undeterred Windsor battled back and another clearance and follow-up soon found us in scoring position again. And again we left without the major but Shawsie built hope with a penalty leaving us at 7-3. The home side then got back on the attack because by end of half their tight head had pounded in that forwards try they had been seeking. The half ended with the Rogues feeling the 14-3 score could easily be closer and the second half would tell the story. It did. Instead of striking quick in the second half Windsor conceded a try going down 21-3. With lots of time left it should not have been over in a fiercely contested match but play got a little loose and desperate and Windsor failed again to convert down close being held out of the try zone on a couple of occasions and then coughing up the ball. The forwards started to falter in defense of crashes and began getting driven over in scrums as further sign of fatigue. Soon enough Norfolk had another long run in and 28-3 signaled garbage time approaching even though almost 20 minutes remained on the clock. At this point we made a couple of subs to shore up the pack and this worked to stabilize the scrum and some sustained pack pressure at the goal line drew enough defenders that a few phases in shawsie was able to join the attack from 2 meters out to score a major which he quickly converted . 28-10. This was too little too late and with some more desperation driven errors their pack found themselves back at the Windsor end to finish out the day by their loosehead. Final score Norfolk 35 / Shawsie 10