

Windsor Rogues v Detroit Match report...

Saturday April 29th

In Touch-2016 ambassador cup.

You know rugby season is underway in the border cities when the cold drizzle and soft earth set the stage between Windsor rugby and our local brothers at Detroit rfc! With the home sides dominating the series over the last several years windsor was looking to break the pattern and a more experienced side (old farts) dusted off last year's boots dug up their passports and headed over to 8 mile.

The team had a solid core going in but like the opener in mississauga lacked some size in the pack and experience in the front row. Always ready for what's needed coach and no.8 Scott Murphy reacquainted himself at loose head and old boys Craig Weir and Nish Rama stepped up to play the first attempt at hooker and tight.

We knew 'the cobra' would be looking to exploit the weight difference and the boys all stepped up tackling hard and limiting damage at fringes of set piece. With Murphy and Josh leading the way on crash tackling and Harry and Spence cutting off anything moving wide it looked like we might weather the on- slot. Eventually Detroit drove a forward try over to open the scoring but Simon and Harry combined for a nice opportunistic try by Harry and it appeared we would get out of the half down 10-7 but the wheels started to come off when detroit slotted a late penalty by former chatham standout jordan foster followed by a halftime/season ending injury to Nish when his ankle was put 'back to front', a position he is all too familiar with. After a long ambulance delay the second half got underway and the Rogues seemed to rally around their fallen comrade and put together a series of good phases resulting in an excellent team try, convert by Shawsie, giving us our first lead of the new season at 14-13 !

Detroit was not done yet though, using the better depth availability as home side, they brought in a couple of fresh players and quickly answered back 18-14 Detroit. The game was back and forth from there a bit but with windsor looking to get all its travellers some pitch time Detroit's fresh no. 8 (and another former standout canadian player) Derek Fraser sealed the deal when he took a hard run close in, jump stepped the first would- be tackler then finished by smashing through the weak arm tackler (yours truly) who was caught unprepared by the sudden change of lane.....Windsor didn't give up and did pressure late but being more than a converted try out were unable to mount a comeback. Great effort by all.

My call for co-men of the match for Windsor Harry9 and Spence 10 and for Detroit Fraser8 (-- the only 'Canadian' to touchdown on the day ;)). Special mention to Ryan and Austen who each got a touch and a trot on at the end in their first ever rugby game watched or played! D23-W14