

Slow Start Costs Tring Against Sudbury



TringRugby

Sudbury 45-33 Tring

by Ted Stanford

With the host's pitch ruled frozen the day before, Saturday's clash between Tring and Sudbury took place at Colchester RUFC under the lights. The visitors were looking to re-find the good form they had shown before Christmas and bounce back from a disappointing loss against Sidcup the previous week. With club captain O'Gorman still side-lined with a shoulder injury, Nick Brown captained the Tring side, which saw four changes. Brown himself returned to the front row, Jacob Murtagh shifted from the flank into No.8, Oliver Green started at scrumhalf and Jake Olley made a return to the 1st XV on the wing. With the sun setting on an excellent afternoon for rugby, it promised to be an excellent game.

The game started at an extremely fast pace, something which Sudbury were able to utilise in the early stages. Straight from the kick off, Sudbury used a line-out in the Tring 22m to build attacking phases, leading to a try under the posts (7-0). After Tring saw a penalty goal attempt hit the post, they began to build their own attacking phases deep in the Sudbury half. The host's defence was stubborn and a mistake in the Tring backfield led to another try (14-0). Straight from the kick off, Tring were awarded a penalty in the Sudbury half. An excellent kick to touch from fullback Ben Selwyn led to a successful driving maul from the forwards, Josh White dotting down for Tring's first score of the day (14-5). 5 minutes later, Sudbury added to their lead through a pick and go from close range (21-5).



The home side would score twice more in the first half, punishing Tring for their errors (35-5). As the clock turned red in the first half, a well-judged kick from Ben Hogan found space in behind the Sudbury defence. The kick was collected by Selwyn who offloaded to Jack Flanagan, scoring in the corner. Hogan was successful with the conversion and Tring had given themselves a lifeline going into the second half (35-12).

It was Tring's turn to bring the energy at the start of the second half. Strong ball carrying and line breaks yielded penalties but no score for the visitors. Eventually, Tring were able to make their pressure count. The ball was moved wide within the Sudbury 22m, finding Ted Stanford who dived over for the first score of the half. Hogan converted brilliantly (35-19) but minutes later, Sudbury kicked a penalty goal to extend their lead (38-19). Tring were starting to see profits from their attacking shape, typified by a fast attack down the blind side, allowing Jacob Murtagh to bust over the line in the corner, Hogan converting again (38-26). Sudbury scored another breakaway try against the run of play shortly after (45-26). Tring continued to dominate possession and territory in the half, but time was running out. With the full-time whistle imminent, an excellent exchange on the break between Max Graham, Harry McCartney and Charlie Goss Lambourne saw the away side break into the Sudbury 22m. Eventually, Stanford crashed over the line from short range and converted with the final play of the game (45-33).

Tring now turn their attention to a home clash with Medway on Saturday (28th), looking to bounce back from the defeat.

Tries: White; Flanagan; Stanford (2); Murtagh

Cons: Hogan (4)



(photos courtesy of Stuart Seagrave)

