

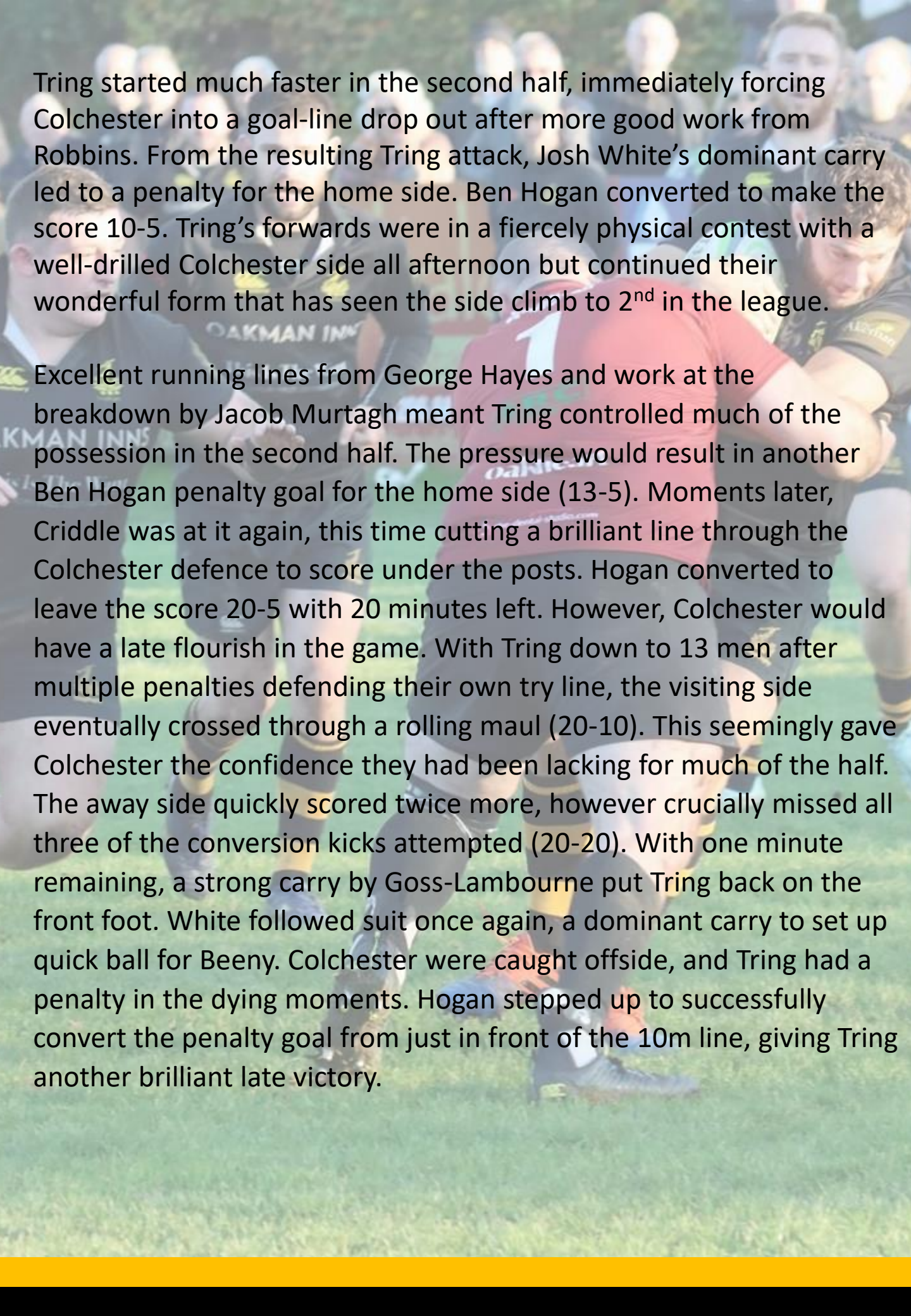
Late Penalty Extends Tring's Win Streak to Five

Tring 23 – 20 Colchester by Ted Stanford

It was a warm and sunny day at Cow Lane as Tring faced middle of the table Colchester, looking to extend their current win-streak to five in a row. There were changes for the home side as Josh White and Harry McCartney returned to the forward pack, as Jack Doodson was handed his first start of the season on the wing.

Colchester used their considerable size to control the early stages of the game. The visitors scored as once again; Tring were left trailing at the start of the game (0-5). However, as in previous weeks, this would prove to be the wake-up call the home side needed. With Colchester's discipline letting them down, Tring began to control possession and territory. Scrum-half Richard Beeny began to pull the strings, making multiple breaks around the ruck to give Tring quick ball. Likewise, there were breaks from Charlie Goss-Lambourne and winger Alfie Robbins which caused issues for the Colchester defence. After a hard-fought forwards battle on the visitor's 5m line, Tring were awarded a penalty for offside. Quick thinking from fly half Ben Criddle saw him take a quick tap and dive under the posts for the home side's opening score (7-5). Tring were forced to repel a number of Colchester attacks just before half time, and were successful, as the referee brought an end to a very physical first half.

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Excellent running lines from George Hayes and work at the breakdown by Jacob Murtagh meant Tring controlled much of the possession in the second half. The pressure would result in another Ben Hogan penalty goal for the home side (13-5). Moments later, Criddle was at it again, this time cutting a brilliant line through the Colchester defence to score under the posts. Hogan converted to leave the score 20-5 with 20 minutes left. However, Colchester would have a late flourish in the game. With Tring down to 13 men after multiple penalties defending their own try line, the visiting side eventually crossed through a rolling maul (20-10). This seemingly gave Colchester the confidence they had been lacking for much of the half. The away side quickly scored twice more, however crucially missed all three of the conversion kicks attempted (20-20). With one minute remaining, a strong carry by Goss-Lambourne put Tring back on the front foot. White followed suit once again, a dominant carry to set up quick ball for Beeny. Colchester were caught offside, and Tring had a penalty in the dying moments. Hogan stepped up to successfully convert the penalty goal from just in front of the 10m line, giving Tring another brilliant late victory.

Tring remain 2nd in Regional 1 South East heading into a rest week. They return to action away at Harpenden on Saturday 26th November. Final score at Cow Lane, 23-20.

MOTM: *Richard Beeny*

Tries: Criddle (2)

Cons: Hogan (2)

Pens: Hogan (3)

(photos courtesy of Stuart Seagrave)



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