



## 1 XV LAST MATCH REPORT

6 March 2010

### Castleford 1 XV 17 v Wheatley Hill 9

**A try from scrum half, Daniel Price, following a powerful, penetrating run by flanker, Gareth Burns with just five minutes remaining was the icing on the cake, as Castleford put their run of three defeats behind them to return to winning ways and topple, leaders Wheatley Hills in a tense, top-of-the-table Yorkshire One tussle.**

Castleford fielded a near full-strength side with the return of fullback, Craig Jeffels, flanker, Joe South and centres, John Bramham and Paul Philpott, with Price returning to his accustomed half-back slot. The game lived up to its pre-match billing with both sides locked in an arm-wrestle for long periods and defences ruling the roost.

Castleford broke the ice after five minutes when outside half, Carl Paterson converted a twenty-five metre penalty. Wheatley outside half, Dan Storey replied to level matters five minutes later. The Castleford pack was once again central to the final result as they began to exert their usual pressure and although Hills were equal early on, as the game progressed they gradually succumbed to their relentless cohesive power.

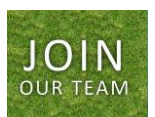
A quick release from the scrum base on halfway gave Paterson all the time he needed to look up, spot Martin Dye in acres of space wide out and execute a pin-point, cross-field kick for the speedy winger to gather and hare into the corner for his third try in as many games since his return. Paterson widened the gap with an excellent touchline conversion.

Hills were always a threat in the backs with centre, Craig Barker unlucky on numerous occasions as he sliced through the home defence only to be denied by some astute late cover tackles. Castleford rode their luck and retained their 10-3 lead into the half-time break aided by a yellow card for scrum half Ian Barker as he illegally prevented a quick tap penalty by his counterpart Price.

Wheatley are noted as a second-half side but skipper, Chris Willett and prop, Stephen Johnson had done their homework thoroughly and were not about to let Castleford's advantage slip without a fight. However, some silly infringements in the opening quarter, gave Storey the opportunity to reduce the lead to a single point with a brace of penalties and leave both sets of supporters biting their nails. Now the Castleford eight exerted their power as their opponents scrum became ragged. Unfortunately nerves and the sticky underfoot conditions prevented Paterson from making the game safe as he missed three kickable penalty attempts.

Penetrating runs from Johnson, Willett, South and second rower, Phil Watson further highlighted the Castleford forward dominance and although Storey's kicks relieved the pressure, Jeffels was equal to the task, returning the attacking position with his trade-mark block-busting runs upfield. The front row, Johnson, Andy Key and Gareth Paul were in complete control now turning their counterparts through ninety-degrees on numerous occasions. With Wheatley hanging on by the skin of their teeth it was still possible for them to steal an undeserved victory with a Storey drop-goal or penalty.

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But it was Castleford that finally made their superiority count and it was Wheatley old boy Burns who broke the deadlock with a bludgeoning run. Although he was stopped inches short the ball squirted back and Price collected to burrow his way over for the defining score. Paterson added the conversion to leave the visitors needing two scores to take the victory. In the third minute of added time they came very close to scoring a try under the posts but somehow second-rower, Dave Reed managed to hold the attacker up over the try-line.

Paterson's kicking game was a feature of the afternoon as he edged the MOM with South, who covered every blade of grass, very close, and backs Hayward, Bramham, Philpott and Dye who ensured victory by keeping the white wall's defensive line intact, denying Wheatley backs any try scoring opportunities.

Things do not get any easier for Castleford as they visit fellow promotion-chasing Bradford Salem next Saturday where victory could well cement their third-place in the league.

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## 2 XV LAST MATCH REPORT

27 February 2010

### Cougars pipped

Huddersfield YMCA 26 v Castleford Cougars 12

**With their home first team fixture cancelled, Huddersfield YMCA used 10 first team player's to strengthen their second string. This defeat seriously threatens the Cougars' chances of winning their merit table.**

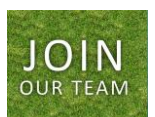
A much changed Castleford side started brightly and shocked the home fans after 5 minutes with an excellent converted try scored by skipper Richard Davies, after a tremendous forward surge. Dean Elliot was on target with the conversion to give Castleford a well deserved 7 point lead. This was increased 4 minutes later after the forwards again broke YMCA's defence for Paul Connell to score an unconverted try wide out.

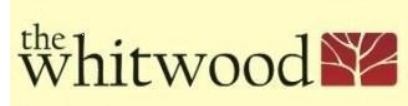
Castleford then allowed YMCA back into the game with indiscipline at the breakdowns, conceding several penalties in their eagerness to win the ball. This gave YMCA both field position and allowed them to kick to penalties to reduce their deficit to 6 – 12. It also destroyed Castleford's early dominance and boosted YMCA confidence.

With renewed belief YMCA's superior fitness started to show and they started to control the game. Just before the half time break YMCA scored a converted try to reach the interval 13 – 12 ahead.

The second half was evenly contested for the first 20 minutes with end to end rugby, before YMCA gained the upper hand following a penalty to edge them to a 16 – 12 advantage. During the last 20 minutes YMCA's greater fitness became more evident and they gained control of the game. This enabled them to score 2 late tries to finish 26 – 12 winners. These late tries made the game look far more one sided than it was.

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## 3 XV LAST MATCH REPORT

20 February 2010

### Cas steam to top of merit table

**Stanley Rodillians 1XV 17 v Castleford 3XV 24.**

**Cas thirds won their ninth game on the trot with a hard fought victory against a Stanley Rods side that have lost only three league games all season.**

The early exchanges were brutal as both sides ripped into each other with a ferocity but the big Cas pack were not taking a backward step and with number eight Danny Adamson and prop Stuart Grace to the fore they were more than matching the home side up front. As the forward battle raged on the Cas backs they showed their class and winger Duncan Bulloch ghosted past his opposite number to feed centre John Senior who crashed over for the first score of the game, a try which he improved with a touch line conversion.

Cas were now dominating the game with second rowers Gary and Mark Fisher bossing the break downs there was only one side in the game but with 30 minutes gone a mistake in midfield from centre Dave Lamb allowed the Rods open side flanker in for a try which went unconverted to leave the score 7-5 to Cas. This score got Cas fired up and from the restart hooker Mick Adamson dislodged the ball from a Rods player with a super tackle and from the resulting forward drive John Senior broke clear and fed full back James Smith who crossed near the line Seniors conversion made the score 14-5 at the break.

If Cas thought they had broken Rods resolve they were seriously wrong as Rods played their best rugby of the game and scored a converted try to bring the game back to 14-12. From the kick off Cas pushed up field and after a line out steal from flanker Nathan Fisher skipper Gary Fisher crashed over for a try which made the score 19-12. But once again Rods came back and once again replied with a try of their own to bring the score to 19-17. With 10 minutes left the game could have gone either way but it was Cas who made the winning score after scrum half Sal Battensby who had been a thorn in Rods' side all game slipped a short pass to flanker Phil Rule and he fell over the line to seal a memorable win for the Cas third string.

Best for Cas were 3 pts Sal Battensby 2pts John Senior and 1 point each to the whole of the Cas pack who were magnificent