

# Weekly News

19 July 2019

What a great final round for the Jubilee Cup Round Robin. 7 Teams in two divisions that Tawa were involved in, on a reasonably fine Saturday.

Unfortunately due to “Man Flu” (still), I resorted to watching the game on Tawa TV. The first thing to be done was to get a comments person for the game. Enter Tony Tomlinson!! Some great one-liners Tony;

Giving out a shout to our good friend Petelo “my brother from another Mother”

“Tony Coburn was not guilty of that late tackle – he was just a bit slow arriving”

The Tawa Prem Reserves went down by 5 points, thus gaining a bonus point. This puts our Boys in third position on the Ladder and a semi-final spot on Saturday against Petone. They only took us by 7 points in the first round and we have improved immensely since then. The game is at Petone with a 1230hrs start. My prediction – Tawa vs Norths in the Final.

At home we will host Norths in the semi-final after succumbing to a 7 point deficit last Saturday to the same Team. A new commentator, Brad, who kept the game well and truly alive, even during the breaks. Who knows what Brad does for a day job, but Radio could well be his forte. Our boys started real well breaking through the Norths lines on the inside, but then Norths settled into their plan somewhat. Although we looked good at times and held our own, I just could not quite fathom how come our Wingers often had 2 and sometimes 3 Guys to defend against. The drift by our Boys was non existent. That said, read on.

If we had beaten Norths on Saturday, I do not believe we could have beaten them twice in a row. What I do believe is that Tawa will beat Norths at home, having got rid of the bogie that often surrounds the “Battle of the Bridge”. Our young side continues to defy the odds with great determined play and not being bullied on the field.

Mark my words – we shall be playing Ories in the Final at Hutt Rec in just over 9 days.

Whilst watching the Premiers, I also watched the Maori All Blacks vs Fiji. The MAB’s were dismal to say the least. There was absolutely no-one in my mind putting up their hand to tell Hansen and his cohorts “look at me”. The poorest showing I have ever seen from the MAB’s. On a positive note, it was fantastic to see Fiji finally seem to get the hang of 15 man Rugby with a smattering of 7’s brilliance. This game was the first loss to Fiji since 1957. There will have to be a 360 degree turnaround by the MAB’s in Rotorua this Saturday to gain some credibility.

According to my phone schedule via Tribe, the Premier game starts at 1430hrs. This will be an awesome game not to be missed.



Allan G. Davidson  
Club President

# Upcoming Games

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	Date	Opponent	Location	Time
Premier	20 July	Norths	Lyndhurst Park	2.30pm
Premier Reserve	20 July	Petone	Petone Rec 2	12.30pm
First Grade	20 July	Upper Hutt Rams	Redwood Park	2.45pm
Presidents	20 July	Johnsonville	Helston Park	2.45pm

## PACK THE PARK

Get down to Lyndhurst Park and Petone Rec to support the boys for the Semi Finals!



## PRIZE GIVING

**Date:** 3 August 2019

**Awards:** 8.00pm - 9.00pm

After the awards enjoy some food and tunes by the DJ Luke Tomlinson.



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## Colts

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<b>Opponent:</b>	Norths	<b>Location:</b>	Porirua Park 2
<b>Date of Game:</b>	13 July 2019	<b>Final Score:</b>	Tawa 24 – Norths 29
<b>Point Scorers:</b>	Tries: Tama Marurai, Fata Silva, Cody Waititi, Chester Palauni. Con: Cullen Phipps 2.		
<b>Player of the Day:</b>	The Forwards		
<b>Coach:</b>	Richard Preston, Dave Birnie, Jacob Mua		
<b>Manager:</b>	Des Bloomfield		

### Match Report:

Sitting 4<sup>th</sup> on the table, with MSP & Norths breathing down our necks, we were determined to get the win and a bonus point, to secure a Semi Final spot. We had an extra 7 players to call on this week, after a terrible run of unavailability over the last 2 weeks. There was a good feeling during the week. Unfortunately within minutes of kick-off Norths picked up a soft 80m intercept try, however we didn't let that deter us from the task in front of us. We controlled most of the possession in the first 20 minutes and the pressure eventually broke Norths down.

Sustained forward pressure on the Norths try-line eventual allowed Tama to break through and score our first Try, Culley converted. 7 - 7.

We continued to apply the pressure with some good breaks up through the middle of the park by the forwards and the halfback Adam. This pressure lead to a flying Fata through a gap and some fancy foot work putting him over for our second Try. Tawa 12 – 7 North.

It felt like we were about to put a stranglehold on the game, dominating possession and territory, we looked like we'd score again, but we were denied on a couple of close attempts. Unfortunately, the game turned when Norths latched onto a couple of errors and ended the half with 2 more tries.

HALFTIME: Tawa 12 – 17 Norths.

The boys were very positive at halftime and our team leaders stood up to help direct what we needed to do for the 2nd half. Our structured play was wearing Norths down however their unstructured game was hurting us whenever we made an error and allowed them opportunities. Norths hurt us early in the 2nd half with a converted Try that put them up 24 – 12.

We continued to dominate possession and territory, but Norths defence wasn't letting too much through. So the Backs went over the top, with a deft little chip from Luke that Cody ran onto and dotted down wide out. We were just 7 points adrift and everything to play for. Our Forwards continued to work hard to earn every metre up the middle, with extra help from Centres Luke & Chester who threw themselves into the dark places to smash out a few extra metres. Chester drove himself over the Try-line to dot down, only to be denied by the Referee who was unsighted. But not to let that deter him, a few minutes later he got himself into a pick-n-go and drove low over the Try-line to secure a well-deserved Try. 2 Points down with the conversion to come, Culley had started his walk into kick the conversion when the ball fell off the tip, he hesitated for a split second, looked at the Ref who indicated that he just had to "play on" then seeing a

Norths player racing towards him, he picked up the ball, sidestepped the Norths player, and calmly dropped kicked the conversion.

Wow - LEGEND, it was all on for the last 10mins. Tawa 24 – 24 North.

Norths had struggled to dominate at any point in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half, their frustration was evident with multiple infringements, high tackles, punching and 2 Yellow Cards. We did a great job to keep our discipline despite the provocation and just stuck to our task, it seemed like we would get another Try but unfortunately a small error and a kick and chase from Norths saw them go 90metres to score in the corner. They missed the kick, but went up 24 – 29.

Dominating scrums, possession and territory we tried desperately to cross the chalk from only a few metres out in the remaining minutes of the game, but it wasn't to be.

FULLTIME: Tawa 24 – 29 Norths.

Unfortunately, we missed the Semi's, but some consolation in finishing 5th, above Norths. It was a typical local derby, big hits, no ground given up without some serious effort. Plenty of rubbish talk, mate vs mate and brother vs brother. A team you love to hate and hate to lose to. I know almost half of the Norths Players and our boys have grown up with most of the Norths Team so by the time the bruises, aches and pains have subsided we'll all be mates again, there'll be BBQ's, Beach and Beers together over the Summer.....until we go hard at sm



**Richard Preston**  
*Coach*



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