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Season 2009/2010

The English Clubs Rugby Union Championship – National 3 South-West

Barnstaple v Bournemouth Lions

Saturday 12 September 2009, KO 2.30 p.m. at Pottington Road.

Result: Barnstaple 10/tcp v 17/2t2cp Bournemouth. Half-time: 7/tc v 3/p.

Referee: Chris Bartlett; Dorset & Wilts.

Touch Judges: Steve Buffery; Bournemouth, Trevor Edwards, Barnstaple.

Bournemouth Team: 15; Mike Pope, 14; Anthony Dunkerley (Adam Higgins 77), 13; Ben Stewart, 12; Scott Chislett, 11; Rory Hearson/t (Ben Winimala 67), 10; 'Puks' Ngapaku/2cp, 9; Craig Barter, 1; Tim Wareham (Riad Lynch 65), 2; Frazer Wilford, 3; Alan Manning (c), 4; Tim Seward, 5; Callum Forrest, 6; Tomas Ford, 7; Iain Crombie (Anthony Dunkerley 77), 8; Chris Hughes. Unused Substitute; Riad Lynch.

League Debuts: Adam Higgins, Ben Wainimala.

Coaches: Junior Paramore, Robert Todd.

Sports Therapist: Elle Lemprière

Scorers: Tries 2; Hughes/8/ (49), Hearson/11/ (54). Conversions 2; Ngapaku/10/ (49 54). Penalties 1: Ngapaku/10/ (25).

Scoring Sequence: 8m: 0-7 Berry/14/t, Giddy/10/c; 25m: 3-7 Ngapaku/10/p; 40m: Half-time 3-7; 49m: 10-7 Hughes/8/7, Ngapaku/10/c; 54m: 17-7 Hearson/11/t, Ngapaku/10/c; 56m: 17-10 Tuhakaraina/R10/p; 80m: Full Time 17-10.

League Points: Bournemouth 4 (win), Barnstaple 1 (losing by seven or fewer points).

Milestones: Bournemouth win at Pottington Road for the first time in the league.

Barnstaple Team: 15; Mark Galliford, 14; Luke Berry/t, 13; Simon Watkins, 12; Mark Fatialofa, 11; Winston Kuva, 10; Neil Giddy/c (Grant Tuhakaraina/p 56), 9 Ian Wilson, 1; Ross Crang, 2; Leon Incedon, 3; Phil Gordon (c) (Mike Sumner 18), 4; John Ovenell, 5; Ian Thatcher (John Childs 61), 6; Dan Ewing, 7; Jamie Arnold, 8; Jack Elliott.

Bournemouth took a while to shake off the effects of a long journey down and conceded an early but well-worked try to be set back 7-nil after just eight minutes. However they slowly got back into the game and might have reduced the arrears but for a badly pulled shot at goal by fly-half Ngapaku five minutes later. The scrum, that had just about held its own in the opening tussles began to exert itself after the Barnstaple pack began to lose power with the loss of their loosehead and captain Phil Gordon. This was to prove crucial later. Bournemouth's increasing dominance eventually bore fruit when, after twenty-five minutes, Ngapaku made sure this time with a well-struck goal from in front of the posts. The score remained 3-7 until half-time.

It was early in the second half that Bournemouth really exploited their dominance in the set-piece scrums when, after denting the Barnstaple defence with a number of forward charges led by captain Alan Manning, they won a five-metre scrum. With No 8 Chris Hughes shepherding the ball at his feet, his fellow forwards relentlessly drove

the Barnstaple pack back and, with referee Chris Bartlett making sure scrum-half Ian Wilson remained on-side, eventually picked up and fell over the line. Ngapaku, having now put that early blemish behind him, confidently struck the goal to put his side 10-7 up nine minutes into the half. This early second half pressure was further exploited when a poor clearance kick was field by full-back Mike Pope who beat the first man with a step and change of pace to get in behind the defence and then, crucially, drew his man and put the strong running Rory Hearson in for a well-worked score. Again Ngapakau added the two points from wide on the left and Bournemouth were ten points up at 17-7 less than half-way through the second period. However Barnstaple immediately reduced the arrears when Callum Forrest was adjudged off-side at the maul resulting from the kick-off and replacement fly-half Grant Tuhakaraina kicked an excellent goal to take his side within one score of the visitors'. This set up, from the Bournemouth perspective, an overlong period of some tension as memories were still raw after the last minute defeat here last season. Centre Mark Fatialofa, we met him when we played Exeter Chiefs IIs at the beginning of last season, was a constant threat in midfield well supported by his back row. Left wing Winston Kuva may well have got in the corner when Barnstaple quickly swung the ball left but for a Boy's Own tackle by Pope forcing the winger into touch and enabling Ngapaku, eventually, to clear the Bournemouth lines. On the other side of the coin right wing Anthony Dunkerley was almost in himself when he was well tackled just short of the line by his opposite number. This almost finished off a number of dangerous moves by the backs. Ngapaku also began to kick well putting the ball into space when before Bournemouth's kicks seemed to be returned with interest making it look a very doubtful option. However in Hearson the fly-half has a very willing chaser and the winger consistently puts the receiver under pressure opening up any number of possibilities for Bournemouth to exploit.