

Round 5: v Waiuku @ Paddock 7

HT: 1-2

FT: 2-2 (Simon Tailby, Josh Thomas)

As my passenger Marcus and I travelled through Waiuku to the ground I knew this was going to be a tough game. Marcus commented on the smell of teenage pregnancy and domestic violence and to be fair to Marcus, he would know. When we got to the ground at the local primary school I was disappointed we missed calf club day as I am a huge fan of veal.

The day got even tougher as during warm up our keeper Lloyd had an incident. Upon retrieving the ball from the back of the net, he got his foot stuck in the net and had huge problems getting it out. The lads were so focussed on their football they kept aiming for Lloyd as this is how I like my keepers to warm up, it keeps them on their toes. If I knew earlier I would cut Lloyd out of the net with my hunting knife I keep in a snakeskin ankle sheath but he didn't say anything and he kept getting pelted. I shouldn't have yelled at him but from where I was standing he was fooling around with his foot in the net. If there's one thing I hate more than rapists and murderers, it's fooling around on the job.

I sent the guys for a jog around the perimeter of Waiuku to finish their warm up and went over to see Lloyd who seemed distressed. I thought at the time he has every reason to be distressed, he did not save a single shot during the shooting drill. It was the poorest performance I'd ever seen to be frank and I told him so. I told him he was the worst keeper I'd seen in thirty years. He answered that he had his foot stuck in the net so I hit him with a closed fist and drew blood from his ear, quite a lot actually. The flurry of punches after were, in hindsight, not necessary. I told him never to answer his coach back like that and he replied "my fault" so I accepted his apology on the spot. He was actually saying "my foot". Upon closer inspection he had got his foot stuck in the netting which looked serious. I'll be the first to admit I panicked at first but I got the help of a tall fellow from the Waiuku team and we took the net down from the post and dragged Lloyd to the sideline in the netting. I patted the Waiuku lad on the back and stayed with Lloyd until the team returned, 4 minutes later from their jog.

To cut a long story short, we got Lloyd out of the net and I took him for a short drive through Waiuku and asked him to think long and hard about his priorities in life. Lloyd got the player of the day for his performance and it's a credit to the way he bounced back from his warm up. Lloyd played at right mid for the majority of the game.

Credit goes to the Waiuku team, who by their performance, appear to commute there.