

Alresford vs US Portsmouth

Match Report

7th October 2017

Straight from the off ARFC found themselves on the back foot, against a very fired up Portsmouth side, who set their stall out to dominate from the start and within 2 mins went over in the corner. ARFC 0 - 5 USP. Con kicked. **0 - 7**

For the next few minutes ARFC seemed to be caught cold and damage limitation was the message and we seemed to settle to defend.

As the first half wore on ARFC started to believe and our impressive forwards powered over to reduce the deficit to 2 points. Muzzer touching down. **5-7**

ARFC grew into the game, and with the boys starting to push USP back, things looked bright, until some poor defensive tackles allowed USPC to run right through us and extend their lead. **5-12** and converted. **5-14**

From the restart, again, ARFC started so well, but after a small period of domination, ARFC allowed USP to come through us far too easily and score again. **ARFC 5 - 21 USP**

With the game now being played more or less on the half way line, and with Mr A Cleeve showing incredible reflexes to be nearly taken out but still catch his hip flask, ARFC really were putting USP under pressure. But, like the story of the half, and at this level, if we don't take our chances, the opposition will, and so it proved to be.

In the 26th minute, with ARFC holding their own, USP broke and with impressive handling, touching down to extend their lead. Con kicked

HALF TIME: ARFC 5 - 28 USP

I don't know what exactly was said at half time by Cain and Scott, but the second half was a totally different game. ARFC did not allow USP any possession or dominance, and minute by minute ARFC were racking up the pressure. With Pete Rogers winning every line out and Olly, Chem and Billy, along with the mighty impressive Tom Rodwell starting to dominate, USP never found a way out of their half. In the 64th minute all that new found confidence and pressure told as Muzzer went over for Alresford.

Even though there were only minutes left it was one of those games that you thought we can still get something out of this, but ultimately our first half let us down.

It's worth noting, USP did not get into our half once in the entire second half. Credit to the boys and our coaching team for giving us that resolve.

If we can be half as good without the ball as we are when we have it, we will more than ok.

Thank you to all that came and supported.

FINAL SCORE: ARFC 10 - 28 USP

Man of the Match - Tom Rodwell