

Selborne edge Qonce rivals in epic battle

Game of penalties sees EL side scraping home 15-13

Selborne fullback Bungqina Nuku slotted five penalties to kick his team to a gritty 15-13 win over Dale College in their King Price Derby Series schools rugby match on the A field at Selborne in East London on Saturday.

It was another agonising loss for the team from Qonce, who threw everything at the home side in the second half after trailing 9-0 at the break.

The Dalians scored the only try of the match when replacement Qhawe Mtati danced his way past a couple of defenders to cross the whitewash in the 68th minute.

Flyhalf Sonwabise Dyani slotted their conversion to bring the visitors to within two points of their opponents' tally, but it was Selborne who ended the match in the stronger position, piling on the pressure from the final kick-off to camp in Dale's 22.

They were awarded a number of penalties, but Dale were massive in defence and kept their East London rivals at bay through a number of driving mauls for the line.

Eventually, Selborne took care of matters from yet another penalty to tap the ball and kick into touch to secure the win.

It was a courageous effort by Dale, who battled to match



GOING DOWN: Selborne flyhalf Oliver Schmidt is tackled by Dale flank Owethu Siswana during their first team schools rugby match at Selborne on Saturday. Picture: SUPPLIED

their opponents in the first half and were punished by the accurate boot of Nuku each time

they infringed in their half. An example of Selborne's domination was that on three

occasions in the first 10 minutes they were held up over the Dale line as they pressed for the

opening try. Dale scrambled in defence with remarkable energy and it

meant Selborne decided to build scoreboard pressure through the educated boot of Nuku.

Admittedly he had the wind behind him, but his accuracy was commendable given the tension of the occasion.

Nuku goaled his fourth penalty three minutes into the second half before Dale got on the board, with successive penalties by Dyani closing the gap to 12-6.

The Selborne fullback then made it 15-6 before Dale's late surge brought them back into the game, but ultimately it was all in vain.

Ooskus Gymnasium dominated their match from the start against Komani outfit Hangklip, scoring two early tries and building up a 24-10 lead at half-time.

They were in control throughout the match up front and this allowed them to score two more tries in the second half for a 34-10 victory.

Players who stood out for Ooskus were lock De Wet Thiert (player of the match), flank Cole van der Merwe, replacement Stefan de Jager and eighthman Roussouw Nel.

The try-scorers for Ooskus were Thiert, Bruwer Smit, Kwagga Liebenberg, Calim Human, Gustaf Brink and Ethan Janse. Jaun Nel kicked two conversions. — Super-Sportschools.com

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