

Announcement:

As the publisher of *Scrum* magazine, I have had to make the unfortunate decision to cancel the Fall 2009 issue. I have made a significant personal investment in the magazine to keep in running over this past year but I am not able to contribute out of pocket this time around.

I understand the economy is tough right now and advertising dollars can be hard to come by, but since we distribute to the vast majority of our readers free of charge, we rely completely on advertising-generated revenue to cover the basic costs of printing and mailing. *Scrum* depends on a fantastic team of volunteers and it's because of their generosity that overhead costs are absolutely minimal, but, as with any venture, there are bills that need to be paid.

The support for the magazine by the rugby community has been wonderful and it's my pleasure to provide this publication to such a thriving market, so I do need to stress that *Scrum* is NOT shutting down. Rather we are going to take this time to regroup and continue to publish on schedule in 2010 — bigger and better than before.

Anyone who has paid for a subscription will still get the four issues they paid for. The circulation team will be updating our distribution list to make sure you receive a total of four issues. Also, we are going to continue to publish the "Scrum e-News" as scheduled.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me directly at editor@scrummag.com.

Thank-you so much for your support and we'll see everyone in 2010!



Elaine Wiltshire
Publisher | Editor



Photo: José Romelo Lagman

Barbs win McCormick Cup final tug-of-war

After 80 minutes of physical, back-and-forth rugby action worthy of a McCormick Cup final, the Aurora Barbarians emerged with a 12–11 win over the Oakville Crusaders for their second Rugby Ontario championship in four appearances.

The Barbarians overcame a slow start to their 2009 season and a rough start to the Crusaders at Fletcher's Fields on Saturday, October 31, to secure the win which captain Shaun Allen says was satisfying after his team's loss to the Irish Canadians in the 2008 final.

"Losing sucks. The first one didn't sting as much as last year. Last year was a tough loss. We've been in a lot of these tight games and winning's a whole lot better than losing."

Allen says the battle of the breakdown was tough as the Crusaders had a strong pack which forced 11 turnovers throughout the game

"They played a lot like team Ontario did, just gritty forwards rugby. They had great forward play all around."

Meanwhile, Barbarians' coach Bart Hennessey breathed a sigh of



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relief at the result, saying the last part of the game took a toll on his nerves.

“I’m so pleased. I think I was crying like a baby there for a while when they were up on us but the boys pulled it together and I’m so proud of these guys.”

The Crusaders enjoyed major dominance in every aspect in the first half of the game but received only minor reward with only three points in their favour at halftime.

Crusaders’ captain Spencer Fullerton was unhappy with the result but says his team has set a good platform for next year.

“We’re not happy with that at all. We lost to them by a conversion so by no means are we happy or content but we’ve done some good things this year so we’ll come back next year and give it another run.”

The Crusaders opened their account early with a penalty kick by Kristian Evans but the remainder of the half was filled with scoreless frustration as they controlled possession and territory but couldn’t convert it into further points despite two more penalty



Photo: José Romelo Lagman

Steve Shortly of the Aurora Barbarians is taken to ground by the Oakville Crusaders during the McCormick Cup finals on October 31.

conversion opportunities.

The Barbarians, starved of the ball and suffering from a lot of spoiled set pieces, were unable to string together the phases necessary to create a momentum shift.

The Crusaders had some combination issues from scrum-half Amil Madularachchi to Fullerton but their forward pack lead the way and their backs benefitted from the likes of Scholz, Fullerton and Dan West.

Just before the close of the first half, Crusaders’ flanker Stuart Riley was given a yellow card for

cynical play at the breakdown.

In the second half the Barbarians took advantage of their one-man overlap immediately, shifting the ball wide to Zach Pancer from a 22-metre scrum.

Pancer was tackled just shy of the line but spilt the ball into the in-goal which was dived on by Barbarian Marco Di Girolamo for a momentary 5-3 lead.

A minute after the Barbarians scored, they turned the ball over in their own end off the kickoff and Fullerton kicked a 22-metre drop goal to regain the lead, 6-5, for his team.

The tug-o-war continued until the 30th minute when the Crusaders fielded an attempted clearance kick and sent it to winger Mike Sutherland who kicked a chased a 40-metre grubber into the Barbarians in-goal and dove on it, a metre from the dead ball line while Barbarians’ fullback Di Girolamo attempted to shepherd the ball out.

With less than 10-minutes remaining, the Barbarians secured possession and were given a helping hand by two offside penalties.

The Barbarians eventually capitalized when they sucked in a large number of Crusaders using their forwards, and then shifted the ball to Steve Shortly who waltzed in for the try just left of the posts.

Zach Pancer then kicked the crucial convert to give his team the one-point buffer with less than three minutes left.

In the consolation final, the Oshawa Vikings defeated Balmy Beach 22-20.

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