

## Tucson Cup 2009

### Tucson Magpies 23-5 Old Pueblo Lions:

The game started with some ferocious play, unfortunately not without its casualties. Tim Pappas was the first casualty having flown up quicker than he had planned in defense and getting himself into a not so good position, his jaw then collided with the O.P's centers forearm and the Tucson talismans game was over before it had begun. His replacement was a new comer to the center, Dusty Gilvin. The O.P's first attack exposed the fresh face in the midfield and got outside Dusty, as Dusty has shown in the preseason one line break isn't enough to score as he tracked back to make the cover tackle on the guy he had missed. Again however the curse of the centers struck and Gilvin managed to lacerate his head in the process, spilling some claret and requiring stitches.

His replacement was Dan Larkin a new recruit to the magpies making his first appearance for the club, he fortunately lasted longer than the 2 centers before him.

The scrums where solid and notable loose play from number 8 Cody Dieffenbach and some great rucking from center Art Figueroa helped keep the pies moving. Eddie Aguirre was hooking immensely stealing some opposition scrums and solid line out throws throughout.

Ed Down brought a wise head and helped steer younger players into the right position, and also scrimmaged well in the tight.

Nathan Podsakoff played outstanding throughout the game with more tackles than any player on the field and some great support lines.

The first quarter of the game was dominated by some fast play around the fringes catching the O.P guys on the back foot, who conceded several penalties

Nick Whitrow playing in his first game at Estevan park kicked a penalty (3-0) and later helped gain valuable field advantage through some long distance kicks to the O.P 22 which set the pies up with some good attacking options.

Both the tries in the first half came from excellent line outs.

The first try was a cleverly worked line out call and had 2 very quick phases that led to John Rouff breaking through to score under the posts. The try was converted by Nick Whitrow.

The second try came from the opposite side of the field. The lineout went to plan and a show and go from scrum half Whitrow led to an offload to the quick footed Kevin Harrison, who showed dancing feet to get outside the O.P defense and good speed to finish. Whitrow missed the conversion, making the score 15-0.

Constant pressure on the O.P pack by the immense 'Pies tight 5 and a series of quick rucks led to a penalty on the half hour mark. The penalty was converted by Whitrow making the score 18-0, he also missed 2 long range penalties just before half time. Half time score was Tucson Magpies 18- Old Pueblo Lions 0.

The second half saw some fresh legs introduced to the fold some strong running by Kyle Lowd who was in for the hard working Charles Wylie and Dave Hammond who was his typical lively self.

Although the new introductions disrupted the score board the game continued with Magpie dominance. The vast majority of the second half was spent in the O.P half and was a story of miscommunications not improving the score. Long periods of time were spent in the O.P 22 with no scores coming from it, the last pass too hard to find.

The break through came after a good scrum the ball was spun to Jared Cote who's speed and a good fixing line run by Mitch Perley helped improve the score to 23-0.

The back 3 of Mitch, Jared and Doug Miller defended with the lives as O.P where gunning for a consolation try, Some great counter attack running and tidying up kicks at the back showed that they are a real threat from deep.

O.P finally got a reward for their late onslaught when their outside center who had been closed down all day but was an obvious threat, evaded a tackle in the midfield and managed to squeak home in the corner, a disappointing end for the 'Pies but if any O.P player deserved a try it was him.

Final score Magpies 23 – 5 O.P Lions

The trophy celebration was brief. The exchange of the trophy to the victorious Captain Dief' was shortly followed by the mishap that led to the trophy needing minor repairs if anybody knows what happened to the trophy please mail your information to:

Kyle Lowd broke our trophy  
P.O'd very much  
Tucson  
AZ