



November 11th and 12th, 2011

The Legendary CoffeeMate Cup + Rovers U19 and Lomas:

by John Langley

This game is played every November 11th. The cup was put together by the Snowcaps to remember Gerard Hanlon, a young Capilano who came to watch a Snowcap game one Sunday but saw that they were a man short. Gerard grabbed his rugby bag and in an effort to fit in, applied CoffeeMate to his hair. Unfortunately, Gerard was killed in a MVA later that year, 1986 I think, on his way to work in Alberta. This game not only remembers Gerard but also those Capilanos and Snowcaps that are no longer with us, and of course the Canadian war heroes that gave their lives to make this all possible.

The game started with a few words then a moment's silence, then a toast using some Scottish lubricant substance to get the game off on the right foot. The Snowcaps always look forward to this contest and use old age and treachery in an effort to match the speed and skill of their much younger opponents. The Snowcaps are by rules, their own, permitted a few ringers from the upper division. Today's first draft choice was Cristoph Strubin, who starred for many years with the Canada sevens teams. Now that he has his first Snow Cap, Cap, Cristoph will hopefully be back for next year's game. It was also great to see Solo back on the field again. Mike Lawler had the honour of being the most senior Snowcap and his gold shorts provided a bit of a problem for the young guys as you are not permitted to touch a player in gold shorts. Other legendary characters included, Bill Henderson from Gibsons who never saw a rugby game he didn't like and his prodigy, Kelly, the knife, Quinn, Alias the mighty Quinn!

The Snowcaps were out in full force. The Cap 3rds were a bit short of players at the get go perhaps some were perhaps not keen to take on the Snowcaps or maybe some had to work as Remembrance Day isn't a holiday for everyone. To fill in their coaches, led by Downtown Gordy Brown and Aussie Rory stepped up and did not look out of place. Some looked good enough to be future Snowcap draft choices! The Snowcaps traded a couple of star players to the 3rd. div side for future considerations, (BEER).

With the weather threatening the game got underway, on the main pitch, many of us were amazed as we expected to be banished to the top pitch. We weren't keen to be out in the rain watching from the sidelines. As luck would have it though field marshal Bannister was away from headquarters and his deputy, Denny Page, using executive powers, common sense and wanting to be closer to the bar, ruled that this championship should be on the Bob Spray field. Dennis is willing to accept beers from those of you that appreciated his decision!

As the game began the skies opened and heavy rain and hail came down along with thunder claps. Was this the wrath of Alex Mahood the much revered and missed Patriarch of the Capilanos? The storm soon blew over and brilliant sunshine lit up the field of dreams! The rugby was fun to watch, the young guys put up a couple of scores but the Snowcaps fought back. Cristoph Strubin scored for the Snowcaps. During the

second break, as four 20 minute periods were played several trades were made and some of the Snowcaps played for the young guys. Gary Yuen broke through and scored a try for them amidst shouts from the stands of “you never did that when you played for us”. Gordie Brown also scored for the youngsters and he was supposed to play for the Snowcaps so the young guys owe us big time. One of the traded young guys scored a nice chip and chase for the Snowcaps. The final score was 4 tries to 3 for the 3rd division side and President Ken Robinson awarded the trophy. The score though was irrelevant as rugby was the winner!

The Snowcaps continue to prove that the rugby experience need not end in your thirties. Thanks to Geoff Parham for his good natured officiating and all of those in the crowd that attempted to assist him. It was an excellent turnout of spectators and another CoffeeMate Classic was enjoyed by all. Thanks to all that participated and watched this fun filled contest. Special thanks to some like Glen Mckinnon who came to watch and ended up playing. Great Capilano spirit guys! Several Snowcaps were so happy that they partied late into the night!

Saturday Rugby November 12th.

U19 – Caps vs Rowers

The Cap U 19 side were up against Rowing Club who won the league last season. Thanks to Rowers for agreeing to delay the game to 11am so that it would fit in with the other league games. There was no 3rd Division so the fans were treated to some excellent rugby by two very good teams. It would have been great to watch these guys play on the lower field but the weather made it impossible. The Rowing Club scored a well taken penalty kick and led until the second half. It wasn't great weather for open rugby but both sides to their credit tried very hard to play that way.

Caps first try came following a hard run by Yanigiya, brother of the Caps premier scrum half. Following the run the ball was off loaded and after a series of plays by the scrum, caps number 8 Jordan Harvey touched down. The convert was missed but Caps took the lead for the first time 5-3.

The Rowers though were determined to stay in the game and played hard. Caps second try came after a series of scrum pick and drive plays then it went out to the backs. Lucas Grover finished the play with a well taken try. Mike Harvey scored the final try for Caps and the convert was made from the far side. Caps managed to get most if not all of their bench players into the game and came away with a well earned victory. Congratulations to Rowing Club for a strong game in opposition. These clubs could meet again in the playoffs.

Capilano 1st Division versus Meralomas

First of all Caps send their best wishes to the McGinley family who are going through a medical emergency with their son. Connie is a class act and a major contributor to the Meraloma Club. Connie is respected by the Lower Mainland Rugby Community and is one of the reasons that rugby is enjoyed by all of us. Our thoughts, wishes, and prayers are with you!

First Division Game:

It was good to see that the Meraloma Club had a full side and reserves today. Caps were the better side today and won handily 53-0. The Cap 1st side is strong and have many players that can play higher. Caps were led by big Andrew Dorey, who has been playing prop. Andrew usually plays second row but did not look out of place up front. Andrew scored a hat trick and looked great running the ball. He is a former football player who has slimmed down a bit and can run the ball. I'm sure Andrew is enjoying himself playing rugby union. I think he could play up and has spared for the premier side.

Brad Whiteman also had a great game and was involved throughout. Connor Martin continues to impress and scored a couple of tries after coming on as a reserve. Chris Robinson again playing away from his usual position, showed that he can play fullback and again made a try stopping tackle. I am sure Chris would rather play number 9 but it is good for the club to have players who can fill in at several other positions. Bruce Bowman scored two tries and ran hard. John Allan came in off the bench and he scored as well. This 1st division side seems to get better each week. They should go well in the playoffs.

Premier Game versus Meraloma RFC

After watching the wide open Capilano victory over the Lomas 1st Division, this game was a bit of a letdown. The weather did deteriorate and both squads had handling problems but it certainly wasn't a classic but had its moments. Meralomas, to their credit fought hard throughout the contest and managed to keep it close. They tackled well and counter rucked competently. They also stole a few Caps lineouts but Caps stole some of theirs as well. Gord Sawers scored the first try for the Caps, the ball went out to Brady Carpenter, Brady offloaded to fullback Sawers who scored in the corner. The conversion was missed.

Both teams were penalized but Caps seemed to be getting more than their share. A Loma penalty though gave Matt Yanigiya a shot at goal and he made it 8-0. The Cap fans had a feeling that their team would break through and take control but this wasn't the case. Lomas hung in and would not roll over. Their coach seemed to be impressed as his team was in the game from start to finish. Lomas had a few chances to reduce the score but missed two makeable penalty kicks. They finally got one through and Brian Tyrer reduced the score to 8-3.

Loma Rich Farrely was carded and this was a chance to run up the score. Caps though were unable to capitalize on the man advantage. Nick Daniel was injured and was replaced by Brenden Mallory for Caps. Half time still found the score at 8-0 and both sides headed to the clubhouse to get away from the weather during the break.

Early in the second half Cudmore made a break for Caps but was tackled and the ball went to a Loma that Luke thought was a Capilano. Not long after Cudmore, who was having a strong game had to be replaced. Christoph Strubin, who hasn't been playing except in the CoffeeMate Cup on Friday came in and did a good job off the bench. Caps had a chance at goal and the fans were urging them to take the 3 points but a quick decision was made to swing the ball. It went out to Matt Yanagiya who was out wide and he found a gap and scored near the posts. Matt converted his own try and the score was now 15-3.

The game appeared out of reach but the Lomas were determined that it wasn't. They managed to keep the ball deep in Capilano territory and Caps were perilously close to giving up a penalty try after several infractions were called by the referee Mike Jones. Lomas were rewarded with a late try and the conversion brought them to within five points. Caps kicked off with only one play remaining and Charlie Jones hit touch to end the contest. Lomas will get a hard earned bonus point from this contest. Thanks to Jim Leith for feeding the hungry players as many went inside to the welcome warmth of the clubhouse for a beverage and the after game festivities.

Next week Caps are away to Ravens.