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Motueka 1st XV toughs it out with in-form tourists

by Murray Owen

The touring London school side Coopers and Coborn beat the Motueka High School 1st XV 52-0 at Sports Park, Motueka, on Monday.

The imposing size of the visiting players was significant and as a result the Motueka team, in their only fixture of the season, was always going to be struggling in the set pieces.

With a wealth of possession, and with an all-too-dominant scrum, Coopers and Coborn were on the front foot early.

To their credit the Motueka line-up, with players drawn mostly from its under-18 squad, with the addition of some Under-16s, defended bravely and successfully for the first 15 minutes.

However, the floodgates opened midway through the first spell with three quick tries recorded.

At halftime the Londoners were ahead 26-0.

Motueka displayed adequate ball skills but were guilty of kicking some hard-won possession back to their eager opponents. Poor kick-offs didn't help the cause either.

Two charge-downs and London team were soon up by 38-0.

For a time in the second half the tourists went off the boil slightly and Motueka began to show some heartening resolve in the close-quarter battles.

In the end, however, the visitors, had too much gas in the tank to notch up the half-century, in what they say was their best performance of their so-far unbeaten New Zealand tour.

The side has now headed south for further matches in Christchurch and Wyndham.



Above: Motueka High front-rower Alex Hannah making ground against Coopers and Coborn on Monday.

Under-15s thrash Nelson

The Motueka High School Under-15 side romped to a huge 72-19 victory over Nelson College in Motueka on Saturday.

The Motueka side has suffered just two losses this season, one a surprise defeat to Nayland College, and were on the march early on Saturday, leading at halftime 41-7.

A superior scrum laid the plat-

form for success. Back rower Miro Mitchell made several telling runs and the backline was able to show its attacking ability with Mitchell Eades, Hayden Crapper and Shaun Wells all shining.

It was club day for the High School on Saturday. The Under-18s, Under-16s and Under-14s all suffered losses.



Above: Motueka High School Under-15 winger Harry Townsend makes a telling tackle against Nelson College on Saturday. Jessie Peacock (left) looms in support.

Wilson's Abel Tasman helps High School footballers travel

by Finn Bulman, member of Motueka High 1st XI football team

The Motueka High School Girls' 1st XI football team is preparing to attend the 2010 New Zealand Secondary Schools tournament in Palmerston North.

Coached by Carl Koberstein, the girls have been working hard since the beginning of April, with weekly trainings and games.

After losing many of their experienced players from last year the team knew that this year was going to be tough.

There was also a problem with numbers - too many for one team but too few for two. The solution is that three of the more senior high school players have been playing for the Motueka Women's team.

In their Sunday morning games, both teams have done well, with the girls now in a playoff round for the plate award and the women's team playing in the cup and shield competition.

For the High School tournament, held at the end of August, the senior girls will rejoin the team and the combined squad of 16 girls, plus coach, manager and parent support

will set off up north.

Costs were predicted to be high, so much planning has gone into some fundraising events.

The girls have been promoting hard to raise funds from two cruises organised with Wilson's Abel Tasman in the National Park. All proceeds from tickets sold on the Wilson's Barbecue Cruise and Beachstop held on July 24th and August 7th will go towards the travelling fund.

The Wilson's Winter Barbecue Cruise and Beachstop leaves every morning from April to October from Kaiteriteri at 9am, returning 3.30pm. It sails up to Totaranui, stopping along the way at various beaches and picnic spots.

The barbecue lunch stop at Medlands Beach helps to make one of these cruises a great day out. The cruise last Saturday was extremely successful, with beautiful weather. Tickets have been discounted hugely and can be ordered through the Wilson's Abel Tasman office in Motueka. Wilson's Abel Tasman have also provided the team with training tops to wear to tournament.



Above: 1st XI members, from left, Stephanie Best, Rosie Kenning, Jennie Nelson and Finn Bulman.