



## Media Release

8 July 2010

### COUNTIES MANUKAU EMERGE VICTORIOUS

In spite of never giving up the fight, the Bay of Plenty Wasps tasted defeat against Counties Manukau on Wednesday (7 July 2010) at Moore Park in Katikati.

A full house in the stand and plenty of spectators lining the field greeted the Counties Manukau ITM Cup squad, who met a Bay of Plenty Wasps team selected from the best of the Baywide club ranks.

A brilliant solo effort from New Zealand Sevens star Sherwin Stowers, who ran straight as a die down the sideline to Counties first try, suggested that the visitors would play the game at pace.

However the Wasps reply came a few minutes later, when Sikeli Bola grabbed the ball and scooted away for the Bay representatives first touchdown. Counties ran in two more tries, before Steven Honey finished a Wasps backline move to dot down his teams second try.

While Counties led 34-14 at the break, a spirited comeback from the Wasps saw them make several strong attacks on the visitors line early in the second half. However the Counties defence remained steadfast with the Wasps unable to cross the advantage line.

Counties tactics of spinning the ball wide, to their pace out wide paid further dividends in the second half, running in three further tries. The six conversions and a penalty goal from Baden Kerr was the icing on the cake as Counties raced to a 55-14 lead.

However the last scoring movement of the game came from a determined Wasps forward push, with Ted Tauroa awarded the touchdown, with just a few minutes remaining on the clock.

While the final whistle resulted in Counties taking out the encounter 55-19 - the Wasps performance gave the Bay of Plenty Development selectors, plenty of options for the Development side campaign later in the season.

#### Result

Counties Manukau 55 BOP Wasps 19 (Sikeli Bola, Steven Honey, Ted Tauroa tries; Kelly Haimoana 2 cons)

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