

PEDRICK CUP FINAL OPOs II...0 OPM Nomads...10

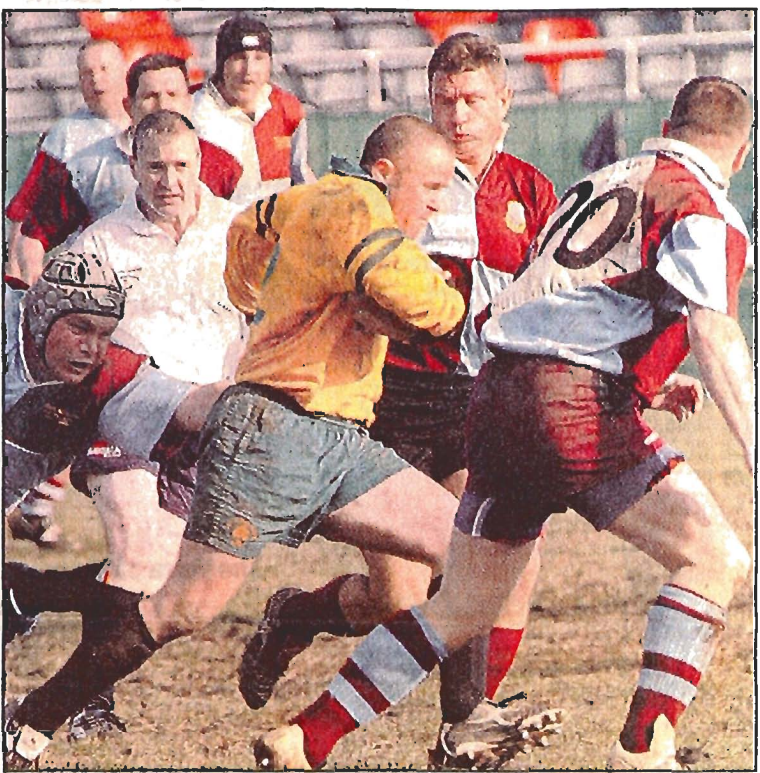
WITH over 80 per cent of the territorial advantage Oaks second string should have sewn up their Pedrick Cup Final against the Nomads.

Tom Watts missed penalty chances as early as the fourth and sixth minutes and it was well past both of these before some bullocking runs from centre Geoff Howarth cleared the OPMs from their half.

They were soon back deep in their own 22 and with neither side attacking from depth, and a midfield determined to hold strong, it went to the break without a point on the board.

Howarth opened the second half with his pot at goal going wide and it was on the hour that the Nomads had the clearest chance of an overlap. OPM's continued to press and a second Howarth penalty failed to find its way. Ironically, as the ball began to find its way to the OPM wingers, it was skipper and number eight Mark Turner who broke at a close scrum for the first try.

The wily old heads of Paul Duggan and Keith Potter couldn't inspire Oaks in the closing stages and, as the Nomads put the pressure on in the final minutes, Neil Rawlings slipped in on the stroke of 80 minutes to seal victory for OPM's and for skipper Turner to dedicate their success to stalwart John Gillan who died earlier this year.



ON THE RUN: Above OPOs make a break through the OPMs ranks in the Pedrick Cup final, while below OPOs release quick ball

Picture Lucy Duval EAA17968_LMD_004 / EAA17968_LMD_003

