

First ever Danish “State of Origin” Match

West 14 – 44 East

The first rugby league team in Jutland has been in training for some time and recently played their first game, at home against the more experienced Copenhagen RLFC. With far more competitive experience, Copenhagen RLFC, ‘The Black Swan’, were strong favourites against the emerging rivals West of Storebælt. However, the game was tough and closer than many expected.

Randers is a small town, with an impressively strong rugby league presence. Denmark’s player of the year for 2012, Viiga Lima, came over to Randers to play for his region. Allan Llobel, also based in Randers, is driving forward the development of the game in Jutland. The arrival of Copenhagen RLFC to play the new Jutland team is the first milestone in the development.

With an almost full squad, who narrowly missed out on the Pan Scandinavian Rugby League title, Copenhagen RLFC had every reason to be confident. However, with Jutland’s strong rugby union heritage and several Jutland players having experience in the Danish national team, there was hope for a tough game.

That hope may have seemed forlorn initially, with Copenhagen’s well drilled attack going over for two tries from Morten Dam and Christoffer Ellebirke shortly after the kick-off. It was not the start the initially enthused Randers crowd had expected. When Jawad Azir added another try and Richard Naylor converted with sniper like accuracy, they did well to maintain hope.

That hope was rewarded with an increasing organized and disciplined defensive performance, which stemmed the initial points flow for Copenhagen, with only one more try for Silas Mubanda before the break.

The half time break brought brighter weather and a chance for Jutland to regroup and Copenhagen to build up their determination to make the victory convincing. The start of the second half seemed to suggest more of the same, with Silas Mubanda showing characteristic verve to seize his second try, ably converted by the metronomic James Wilkinson.

It was, however, to be a game of two halves. And the second was a tight fought game. Jutland’s Viiga Lima benefited from a well worked series of moves straight from the training ground to ghost through the defensive line and claim the historic first Jutland try. The reinvigorated game showed there is no such thing as a friendly in rugby, the powerful Jutland pack asserted themselves and the tackles demonstrated ferocity.



Thor Thomsen was the beneficiary, scoring for Copenhagen, as penalties gave the boys from the capital the edge. However, Mark Nielsen used power and pace to craft a classy culmination to the more disciplined sets from Jutland.

It was the greater competitive experience of the Copenhagen team and also the individual experience of the next Copenhagen try-scorers of James (former Hull KR academy) and Richard Naylor (formerly of the Cardiff Demons), that gave the final say to Copenhagen.

However, the final score of 44-14 to Copenhagen represented a hard day's work for the winning team and an extremely impressive debut performance from the new Jutland team.

Copenhagen Chairman, Murray Power, was pleased with the victory, but even more pleased with what the game represented, "This game was very important for the continued growth of our great game in Denmark, it's an indication of how far Rugby League has come in such a short time. It was a fantastic effort by our boys to turn in a dominant display and get the first win over Jutland, it's the start of a great rivalry."