

Kei te tūhoetanga o te rā a Tamanui e rere whakateuru ana i tōna ara i te rangi. He maroke hangehange te papa whenua anō he raima kē. He rite te pēnei i Hāki Pei i ngā rā o te waru – he paki, he wera, he roa ngā rā. Ahakoa nei, ko te hunga mātakitaki e mau kotī wūru Swandri tonu ana me ngā kamupūtu - ētahi Māori.

Ko te tīmatanga wāhanga whutupōro tōmua tēnei hei rā kēmu whakawaiwai mā ngā kapa whutupōro matua o Hāki Pei. E whakamahana haere ana te kapa whutupōro o Rākaipaaka me YMC o Raupunga ki o rātou pito ake o te papa whutupōro. He kēmu kei te haere ake. Kei tētahi taha ko nga kaitautoko o YMC e whanga hīkaka mai ana, ā, kei tāwaahi atu o rātau uri o Rākaipaaka e tū māia atu nei. He waiata ngā mahi i ngā taha e rua, ānō he whakataetae kapa haka kē atu e tū mai ana i waenga i te hunga mātakitaki - ngā uri whakaheke o te ure paratī.

Whakatangi mai ana te kaiwawao i tāna wīhara kua rere ngā waewae. He kahikatea, he tōtara te hanga o ngā kaitākaro i ngā taha e rua atu i te kaiparirau o Rākaipaaka, he tamariki tonu tōna āhua, he karetata tonu a ia - hai aha hoki!

*'E oma, pine whakamurihia o taringa.'*¹ Te whakahau a koro Api, te kaiako o Rākaipaaka ki tāna mokopuna kei te parirau. Oma tonuhia atu ana e Hōri, he waewae parahutihuti ōna he piro ki te kōkona te otinga ake. Waimaria ana mēnā rā he ringa toro te tata atu o YMC ki a ia. Inā hoki ko Hōri anō te kaiwhana nāna anō te tiere hei kīnaki i tāna anō piro, riro ana - 6-0. Rākaipaaka kei runga.

¹ He kīanga Pākehā/whutupōro nei e mea ana kia kotahi atu ki te rārangi piro otiia, kia koutata ake ai. Nikā te whakapākehātanga - pin your ears back.

Ka tīmata anō ki te rārangi hawhe mā te whana. Tau iho ana anō ki ngā ringaringa o Hōri, ā, ko taua āhua anō rā. Mai i tētahi pito ki tētahi pito he piro anō te kai. Hoki atu, hoki mai, e waru katoa ngā whakawhitinga rārangi piro a Hōri, ā, ko ngā uri o Rākaipaaka kei te taha e hūrō whakahī atu nei. Kei tāwaahi atu ko ngā uri o YMC e tū tumeke mai ana ki te atua whutupōro kua ara ake nei i te kore. Kua kore he hūrō aha atu nei a ngā kaitautoko o YMC otiia, he pakipaki, he whakamiharo noa te mahi ki te karetata atua whutupōro nei.

Mutu ana te tākaro ka muia a Hōri e ngā tamariki nohinohi, rangatahi anō hoki o ngā taha e rua kia waitohua ō rātau kaka, tinana aha atu nei e taea ana - he rākau taumatua.

Ka haere mai anō he kairīpoata o te niupepa a ‘Te Whetū Marama’ kia uiuitia a Hōri.

‘Nā wai koe? tā Ira, te kairīpoata ki a Hōri.

‘Nā Te Whaenga rāua ko Rōpine, heke mai i a Rākaipaaka tonu.’ tā Hōri.

‘Tēnā tāua, e kare.’

‘E hia ō tau?’ tā Ira.’

‘E 15 ōku tau!’ ‘E tama, tō kaha hoki!’

He aha rā o wawata mō tēnei tākaro kei tua?

‘Karekau hoki, kei te hiahia hoki au ki te kāinga inai tonu nei, he timu nō te tai, ā, e rere ana ngā kahawai... kua mutu ā tāua kōrero?’ tā Hōri.

‘Āe rā otiia, me tango whakaahua mō te niupepa.’

‘Niupepa, ka uru au ki te niupepa?’ te pātai a Hōri.

‘Āe rā. He toki koe, e tika ana kia kitea koe e te tini, e te mano mō āu mahi tipua nei!’

Rere haere nei te tau tākaro kāretahi he hinanga kotahi o Rākaipaaka i te whakataetae whutupōro i Hāki Pei. Ka puta haere te kōhimuhimu ki te takiwā mō te pakari o Hōri ki te tākaro whutupōro tae rawa ake ki ngā kaiwhiriwhiri o Hāki Pei. Ka whakarite kia haere ngā kaiwhiriwhiri ki te mātakitaki atu i a Hōri hei te kēmu whiringa toa hei te mutunga wiki.

Ka tū mai te kēmu whiringa toa ki te papa tākaro nui o McLean atu i Nēpia.

Ko Te Ōtāne te hoa riri, he uri tonu. He karekata anō kei te kapa o Te Ōtāne, ko Rīhari Kupa tōna ingoa, ā, he rite anō te pakeke ki tō Hōri, ā, kei taua tūranga anō rā.

‘E tama, kia kainga ō pāreti hei whakakaha i a koe mō te kēmu a te ahiahi nei.’ ‘Ka pai, e kōkā.’ Te whakahoki a Hōri nōna tonu e amo ana i tōna poaka puihi ki te wharau kātahi anō i te ata hāpara nei i ngau. ‘Kei wareware anō, e tama, he hipi kei te taiapa me nuku atu ki te wharau ka koti ai.’ Tā tōna kuia whakahau. ‘Ka pai.’ Tā Hōri.

Mutu ana i a Hōri ngā hipi te kuti ka kuhu ki rō whare kai parakuihi ai. I reira anō tōna koroua e kōrero akiaki atu ana ki a Hōri me ētahi kōrero āwhina.

‘E moko, kei noho toka noa koe ki te parirau whanga ai ki te pōro engari haere ki te kimi mahi māu e tautoko atu i tō kapa.’ ‘Ka pai, e koro.’

Ka kuhu te whānau ki te taraka ka taki haere atu ki Nēpia me ngā whānau. Kapi katoa ana te rori i ngā taraka waikura o te pāmu, ngā waka karukaru me ngā pahi e kī poha nei i ngā uri o Kahungunu whānui. Ka tae atu ki Tūtira ka tū ai ki te taha o te roto. Ka puta te koroua ka kōrero mō te waiata o Tūtira.

‘I tēnei waahi tonu e tū nei tātau te waahi i titoa ai e te Kēnana Wī Te Tau me tōna taina a Te Ōkanga i tā rāua waiata. Ka raru tō rāua waka i konei ka puta atu ki te whakatika otiia, auare ake ka huri ai rāua ki te te tito waiata. I taua wā rā e noho wehe ana te iwi Māori, nā reira he titonga hei akiaki i te iwi Māori kia tūtira, kia whai i te mātauranga me te aroha a te iwi Māori ki a ia anō. Koia tā koutou i te rā nei, e tama mā, kia eke ki te taumata o angitu me tūtira tātau hei kapa kotahi!’

Tae atu ana ki te papa tākaro o McLean he moana tāngata e mau nei i ngā poraka tarawhiti pango me te kākārīki, ngā tae o te kapa o Te Ōtāne. Ka puta atu te kapa nei a Te Ōtāne he karekata atu anō kei te parirau rite tonu ki tō Hōri. Ko Rīhari Kupa tōna ingoa.

Mutu ana nga haka a nga kapa e rua tukituki tonu atu ana! Tika tonu atu te tukituki mai a te poumua ki te poumua, ā, ko te pōro anake ka rere whakamua. Ka mau ki ngā ringaringa anō ō Hōri - tepe mauī, tepe katau parahutihuti ana ngā waewae, ā, kai ana te hoa riri i te kapua puehu kua mahue iho i a Hōri. 6-0, ka whakaūgia te whana tāpiri e Hōri.

Piro atu, piro mai ka rite tonu ngā kaute i te kuhunga ki ngā wharau kōrero rautaki ai ngā kaiako.

Te putanga atu o Hōri ki te whāra ka kitea te kaiwhiriwhiri matua o Hāki Pei ka kemo atu ki a ia nōna e oma ana ki te mura o te ahi, ā, ka kore he whakahoki aha nei a Hōri ki a ia, he aronui nōna ki te kēmu.

Whana whakarunga ake anō te pōro ki te hau takiwā ka tau ki te hoa riri, ā, i taua wā tonu rā ka rutua e Hōri te tōtara nui atu o te whāra, hinga tonu atu ai kua wetro ngā raiti. Ka kaha ū mai te reo o te hunga mātakitaki me te wairua māharahara e rongō ana. He rutu ture tonu, kāorekau he mahi hē o roto, ka mutu, ka kore a Hōri i paku kimo aha nei, he aronui nōna ki tāna kei te aroaro!

Nāwai, nāwai, kua ora mai anō te poumua o Te Ōtāne otiia, ka tautokona tana puta i te whāra e nggā hoa.

Tīmata mai anō te kēmu, ā, ko taua āhua tonu rā, piro atu, piro mai tae rawa ake ki te miniti whakamutunga he rite tonu anō ngā kaute.

He kakari ka tū ki te rārangi *rua tekau mā rua*² ki tō Te Ōtāne pito, nā, nō Rākaipaaka te whāngai. Te whānaigtanga atu a te poro ki te kakari ka tangi mai te pūtātara whakamutunga. Nā te kairau ki a Hōri, whana taka tonu atu ana, kua ū!

² 22 metre line, which is 22 metres out from the try line.

