

Super Rugby leading Hurricanes back to winning ways against Queensland Reds: Queensland Reds 19-35 Hurricanes

The Hurricanes remain top of the Super Rugby ladder after holding off an improved Queensland Reds to win 35-19 on Sunday.

A bumper crowd of 26,374 at Suncorp Stadium saw the Reds battle manfully, only to once again prove to be their own enemy with more bad errors and poor execution.

Late tries from Julian Savea and TJ Perenara sealed the victory for the Hurricanes, who bounced back well from last weekend's loss against the NSW Waratahs. It looked like the same old Reds had rolled out as they coughed up four penalties inside the first 10 minutes, allowing the Hurricanes all the early momentum. Beauden Barrett passed David Holwell as the Hurricanes' highest-ever points scorer and gave the visitors a 3-0 lead.

Despite all their faults, the Reds proved damaging when they eventually got their hands on the ball. Kerevi scored his two tries six minutes apart, with the first of them the more impressive, as he breezed past All Blacks pair Savea and Conrad Smith. The 21-year-old put a massive right step on Savea and then slipped through Smith's tackle to crash over the line. James O'Connor could only convert Kerevi's second effort, giving the Reds a 12-3 advantage.

Yet just as easily as they surged in front, Queensland fell apart. Tackles stopped sticking, the Hurricanes sniffed an opportunity and they took it with a penalty and two converted tries from Perenara and Callum Gibbins before the break. Barrett again kicked minutes after the restart to make it 20 unanswered points and to go 23-12 in front. The Reds were by no means finished and in the 46th minute they struck back through Gill, who spun out of a tackle after a scrum and scored under the posts.

From this point on it was a case of one step forward, two steps back. O'Connor converted Gill's try to make it 23-19, but his night ended four minutes later when he had to go off after a head knock – leaving Queensland without a recognised goalkicker. Then Gill joined him on the sidelines, earning a yellow card in the 57th minute and opening the door for the Hurricanes to take control.

Source: adapted from <http://www.theguardian.com/sport/2015/apr/26/super-rugby-queensland-reds-hurricanes-match-report>