

COLUMN FROM MAYOR TIM SHADBOLT

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A lot of great events have taken place in Invercargill this week with the Surgeons' Conference; Dairy Farmers' Dinner; Highland Dancing; Netball; Athletics and numerous other activities, but perhaps our greatest publicity coup of the week was the exporting of an event.

Having the Highlanders playing the Bulls in Palmerston North was inspirational. It made the South look generous and we won a lot of friends. Because it was such an unusual move there was a lot of pre-match publicity generated. A large, good natured crowd gathered in excellent weather. And what a fantastic game it was. The Highlanders were the underdogs but they certainly gave the 'top of the table' Bulls a good old fashioned hiding. They did it with style. No-one can argue with an exciting 36-12 score-line. Palmerston North is a good city to be friends with – world class agricultural research and a great airport.

Probably the biggest challenge we face is to make our streets safe and I'm sure there is enough strength in this Government to maintain law and order.