

Victoria and Ben Madigan win a place in mini-rugby Finals

TIMES JUNE 11, 1987

EIGHT SCHOOLS in the Newtownabbey - Carrickfergus - Ballyclare district took part in the South East Antrim mini rugby competition at Hydepark on Saturday morning but it was Ben Madigan Preparatory School and Victoria Primary School (Carrickfergus) who earned tickets to appear at Ravenhill for the Ulster Championships.

Mini rugby has become increasingly popular in recent years with schoolchildren of primary school age and the organisers are indebted to those teachers who have given their time and talent in order to give young boys the opportunity to sample the joys of playing rugby.

The South East Antrim tourney is one of a series of qualifying events held throughout the Province in order to sort out the best teams for competition at the Ulster Branch Headquarters at Ravenhill on

Saturday, June 20.

Organised by Academy Rugby Club the local event took place at Hydepark where the top two sides in each section qualified for the knockout semifinals.

In section one it was Victoria Primary School and Abbots Cross Primary School who came out on top with Glengormley Primary School and Mossgrove Primary School being eliminated and the same fate awaited Carrick Model Primary School and Ballyclare Primary School

in section two where Ben Madigan Preparatory School and Whiteabbey Primary School advanced.

FINALS

In the semi-finals Victoria and Ben Madigan survived at the expense of Whiteabbey and Abbots Cross respectively and this gave them automatic entry to the Ulster finals.

Still to be decided was the destiny of the Nash Cup from the Academy Club and this went to the hosts Ben Madigan when they romped home 4-0 against their Carrick opponents.

The winning captain Gavin McCoubrey receiv-

ed the trophy from Academy R.F.C. President Ray Buchanan while Victoria skipper Billy Reid and his team mates collected a plaque and medals as runners-up.

Teachers from the various schools were full of praise for Chris Sturgess whose slick organisation ensured that there were no hold-ups with the weather threatening to deteriorate at any moment.

The referees on duty were Harry Jacob, Brian Stirling, Terry Dunlop and Mike Steen and the coaches in charge of the four top teams were Ray Cromie, Mark McIlroy, Jack Young and Keith Grant.