



ACADEMY RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

CLUBROOMS: HYDEPARK, MALLUSK, Co. ANTRIM - Telephone: Glengormley 3085
GROUNDS: ROUGHFORT, MALLUSK, Co ANTRIM

SPORTS ILLUSTRATED
... NOVEMBER 24, 1988 - 57

SPORT 8

Win over Collegians takes Academy to top of league

THE CELEBRATIONS carried on late into the evening at HydePark, as Academy established themselves as leaders of section two of the Senior League.

Their fine win over Collegians at Roughfort on Saturday assured them of this position.

The visitors opened well and were rewarded with a penalty but Academy out-half, Graham Cloke, replied in similar fashion soon after.

The home side then stepped up a gear but the resulting penalty attempts were missed whilst Collegians managed a drop goal from meagre possession.

The Academy pack returned to the Collegians line and a movement involving almost the entire team resulted in wing for-

ward, David Nash, breaking from a ruck to run unopposed from 15 metres for a try - Cloke's conversion attempt failed, leaving Academy 7 - 6 ahead.

Before half-time, Collegians snatched back the lead with a further penalty.

In the second half Academy tore into the visitors and soon regained the lead when the entire team again contributed to the move which sent winger, Paddy Martin, over in the corner for an unconverted try.

Further pressure resulted in Cloke extending the lead to 16 - 9 with a penalty.

Despite another penalty conversion by Collegians, Academy continued to dominate for the remainder of the match but could not deliver the coup de grace until the dying minutes when the backline created an overlap for Martin to sprint in for his second score in the corner, before picking up a loose ball to cross, unopposed, under the posts for his hat trick.

Out-half Cloke converted both tries to leave the result at an emphatic 28 - 12 victory for Academy.

With an unbeaten record in the league to date and having secured a semi-final spot in the Smithwick's Boston Cup Floodlit Competition, the buzz of success could be seen on the faces of the

players and coach, Ken Knox, in the clubhouse afterwards.

Players are now in confident mood for their long trip to Cork next weekend.

This long-standing fixture against Highfield R.F.C. will have a more competitive edge to it following the donation of a cup by Academy in memory of the late Walter Sterling who was a founder member and past president of Academy and was instrumental in the establishment of the annual match against Highfield.

Team: S. Sharkey, A. Kirk, P. Gamble, N. McCreary, P. Martin, G. Cloke, S. Knox, T. Tennatnt, D. Walsh, G. Olding, G. Henderson, G. McCormick, I. Whan, R. Cromie, D. Nash.



ACADEMY RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

CLUBROOMS: HYDEPARK, MALLUSK, Co. ANTRIM - Telephone: Glengormley 3085
GROUNDS: ROUGHFORT, MALLUSK, Co ANTRIM

COURAGEOUS COLLEGIANS!

By Jim Stokes

WITH one week to go before the halfway stage in the Digital Senior League rugby programme, quite a number of clubs are still licking their wounds of battle and bemoaning the fact that injuries are taking a terrible toll of their troops.

One team in particular that is finding times rather tough is Collegians, who with a possible squad of 30 senior players have nearly half on the treatment table.

"It has been a very tough season regarding injuries," said Collegians skipper Alan Leckey, who is laid low himself with a very serious arm injury, that threatens to knock him out for the rest of the season.

Leckey broke his right arm after only a couple of weeks into the season, and he is due to see a specialist next week on its progress.

"They inserted a plate between the wrist and elbow, but it does not feel right," sighed Alan. "If everything was going to plan, the hospital said it would be February before I would play again. But it feels far from right

yet, and it could be that I will miss the rest of the season."

"It's crazy the way we have been hit by injuries this season. As soon as somebody recovers two more seem to fall down.

The latest recruits to the feet-up brigade are impressive centre Michael Pedlow, who has a knee injury, and the Strutt brothers. Kenny has strained ligaments in his neck and is in a collar, while Martin has a groin injury. Other prominent absentees of late have been Alan Baillie (back), David Simpson (ribs), Adam Wilson (ear), and Peter Evans (ribs). "Some have been out for so long I've even forgot their names," said a frustrated Alan, who is looking on tomorrow's game with St. Mary's as a useful warm-up before their next league clash with Portadown the following week.

However, their preparation for a vital game has not been of a confident nature. Collegians have had two outings so far against Dungannon and Academy, and are pointless, so victory over Portadown is essential if they harbour any chance of grabbing promotion.

Collegians meeting with St. Mary's is only one of a number of north-south clashes tomorrow. CIYMS, another team hit by injuries face the formidable Blackrock College side at Belmont. CI have Nevin Harris, Ardil Lindsay, Brian Reid, Ian

Killen, and Paul McKinlay still on the doubtful list for tomorrow, but will obviously be hoping all aches and pains will be cleared up in time for the league clash with Bangor the following week.

Dungannon, who are riding high along with Academy in Section Two, take on Greystones at Stevenson Park. They welcome back hooker Martin Higgins after injury and marriage, I think they came in that order, and Colin Ramsay, who displace Michael Blair and Richard Clingham respectively, while Raymond Sloan comes in for Ulster's Willie Anderson.

Academy, who host Skerries at Roughfort, have skipper Philip Trimble back in harness after injury, but still await the fitness of full-back Stephen Sharkey and hooker Dom Walsh who have ankle knocks.

Queen's, who will be missing six regulars due to Ulster under 20 appointments and other engagements, face a tough hurdle at Upper Malone when Terenure travel up from Dublin.

Although Malone will be without their inter-provincial players, they can still expect to take Portadown at Gibson Park, while North should prove too strong for Armagh at Palace Grounds.

Bangor and Instonians can warm up in style for next week's league clashes when they face

the respective king-pins of Leinster and Munster rugby. Bangor travel to Dublin to face Lansdowne, and give a first run in the senior squad to former Ulster Schools prop Chris Kerr, while Rory Graham and Derek Johnstone make up the second row. Garth Maxwell, just back from injury is given his chance to blend into the senior scene again with a run out on the wing.

Instonians, despite operating at times with a less than full-strength side, are building up quite a head of steam and fancy their chances against North in the league next week. For tomorrow's visit to Cork Constitution, Instonians are completely changed however. Skipper David Croft has a leg wound that necessitated 10 stitches, while full-back Malcolm McKibbin has a broken nose. Michael Picken pulls on the number 15 jersey while Mark Hampton moves to number 8 and young up-and-coming flanker David Lisk comes in at flanker. Other changes feature Gordon Hutchinson on the right wing, David Irvine coming in for his Ulster under 20 centre brother Paul, and Stephen Monteith and Peter McMaster step into the respective boots of Ulster's Keith Crossan and Peter Russell.

City of Derry have not had their troubles to seek either this term, particularly after their half-century drubbing by Malone last week. They welcome Ards up to Branch Road, while Malone engage Portadown at Gibson Park.

28

Belfast Telegraph, Friday, December 2 1988

SPORT

Fixtures

Heineken inter-provincials — Munster v Ulster, Thomond Park; Connaught v Leinster, Galway Sports Grounds. Under 20 inter-provincial — Munster v Ulster, Limerick.

Club fixtures — CIYMS v Blackrock, Belmont; Academy v Skerries, Roughfort; Collegians v St. Mary's, Deramore; Lansdowne v Bangor, Lansdowne Road; Armagh v North, Palace Grounds; City of Derry v Ards, Branch Road; Malone v Portadown, Gibson Park; Dungannon v Greystones, Stevenson Park; Queen's v Terenure, Upper Malone; Cork Constitution v Instonians, Cork. (All games kick-off at 2.30).