

Academy success

ACADEMY, unaccustomed to success, but intent on making an impact this year, lifted the first trophy of the season when they made the short hop down the road with the Will Totten Memorial Trophy after winning Ophir's annual Junior Seven-a-side tournament at Mallusk. After coming through their section which saw them chalk up 94 points with only 13 against from their four games, they went charged into the final with a 7-4 victory over Ballyclare. With Belfast High School FP ousting host club Ophir in the other semi-final by 28-0, the scene was set for a classic final.

However, a strong Academy made light of their opponents and romped home to a 28-0 victory.

Results:

Section 1

Randalstown 4 Ballyclare 16; Woodvale 3 Shorts 6; Ballyclare 10 BHSFP 14; Shorts 10 Randalstown 18; Woodvale 4 BHSFP 12; Shorts 8 Ballyclare 12; Randalstown 0 BHSFP 16; Woodvale 0 Ballyclare 4; Shorts 0 BHSFP 14; Randalstown 6 Woodvale 6.

Section 2

Ophir 10 Barbarians 0; Academy 30 Armoy 4; Carrick 4 Ophir 6; Academy 30 Barbarians 0; Armoy 4 Carrick 16; Ophir 3 Academy 16; Barbarians 4 Armoy 10; Carrick 6 Academy 18; Ophir 6 Armoy 3; Barbarians 4 Carrick 12.



The first trophy of the season went to Academy (front row), after defeating Belfast HSFP (back row) in the final.

Ulster rugby October 1988

DOUBLE SURPRISE IN BOSTON

THERE were two major shocks in the first round of this season's Smithwick's Boston Cup when Academy thrashed 1982 winners Malone 27-12 and Hollywood pipped Portadown. Graham Cloke was Academy's hero when he picked up no fewer than 23 points which must surely be a record for the Roughford side. They thoroughly deserved their victory even though the Gibson Park side could offer the customary excuse that they were sorely weakened by representative call-ups and injuries. Unfortunately for them, excuses do not bring in the silverware. In the second game it took extra-time and a penalty shoot-out to decide the winner between Portadown and Hollywood. Locked at 12-12 after normal time then 18-18 in overtime, it was another penalty by Hollywood's hero Brad Turkington who took them into the second round.

The first round continued with Junior side Hollywood and Portadown, North and Ballymena, 1974 winners Ards and Coleraine all in opposition, while Collegians faced Armagh and champions and host club Bangor are due to Dungannon on October 18.

CIYMS, first winners of the Boston Cup back in 1974 meet the 1984 winners Instonians on October 25, while Queen's wrap up the final first round game with a tough one against Junior Cup holders Ballynahinch on November 1.

This is the second season that Smithwick's have sponsored the Bangor tournament, and they will also put up for grabs the Floodlit Challenge Trophy which will be between the winners of the Boston Cup and the respective victors from the old Belvedere Floodlit competition in Dublin.

Bangor outgunned Old Wesley last season at Uprichard Park, to make it a floodlight double. This season the grand challenge will be on the eve of the Ireland v France Five nations game in Dublin on January 20, so teams will have more than just the victory laurels of the Boston Cup to look forward to.



All The Presidents Men Pictured at the announcement of Digital Equipment Company's continued sponsorship of the Ulster Senior League were (front) Brian Watt (left) Northern Ireland Manager of Digital with Scott Gardner, (IRFU) Senior Vice President Ulster Branch and a line-up of club presidents - (from left) Roy Gibson, (Instonians); Billy Smyth (Dungannon); Bill Davidson, (Armagh); Bill Brown, (Collegians); Jimmy Montgomery (North); John Murray, (CIYMS); Eric Armstrong, (Malone); Chris Sturgess, (Academy); E W Hamilton, (City of Derry); R Hamilton, (Queens); Con McCall, (Bangor); with Stevenson Shield John Rankin< (Portadown); James Campbell, (Ards); Bill McBride, (Ballymena).

Academy Lepers

Dear sir

AM I mistaken, or is there an Ulster Branch ruling that an Academy player cannot play for Ulster? For example, would David Marrs have made the Ulster team - as an Academy player? No sooner had he joined North then he was off with Ulster to Zimbabwe. Mark Reynolds has now made the senior Ulster side, but only after he joined Malone.

My final example is that of Ricky Huddlestone, undoubtedly the best scrum-half around a few years ago who was outstanding for Academy despite frequently playing behind a beaten pack. Surely a player who stands out when on a losing team is better than the likes of Rob Brady who could hardly have failed to look good behind a winning pack every week.

How can Section 2 teams like Acade.my be expected to compete when their best players are 'poached' by other clubs or 'encouraged' by selectors to move elsewhere?

Finally, at the start of a new season when Academy are trying to be as optimistic as possible, pessimistic comments such as those from Jim Stokes in the Ireland Saturday Night are not helpful. He claims Academy have had a "few defec-tions". On top of that, he says that the return of Mark Gilbert will stem the flow! Where exactly is the flow? How about a bit of decent publicity for some of the less glamorous, Section 2 teams.

Peter Whitten
Academy Sports Club

Comfortable win for Academy firsts

ACADEMY rugby firsts had a comfortable victory against City of Derry at Roughfort on Saturday.

It was the visitors who opened the scoring with an unconverted try early on, but from then on Academy controlled the game.

Wing forward Ray Cromie, who seems to have returned to his old form, picked up to cross the line for the equalising try and Graham Cloke added another shortly after with a blindside effort.

Paul Gamble's penalty took the score to 11-4 at half-time.

Derry staged a short-

lived revival on the restart but were unable to capitalise and Gamble made them pay with another penalty.

Academy ran the ball at every opportunity in the last quarter and the back line were well rewarded with an excellent try. Blindside winger Alan Kirk came into the line to create an overlap and fed his wing partner Niall Blankley who scored in the corner.

This victory puts Academy on top of the

Senior League Section Two and puts the team in confident mood for the mid season tour of Holland next week.

The team will have a tough schedule, playing three games in ten days.

Team - Sharkey, Blankley, Gamble, McCreery, Kirk, Cloke, Branagh, Tennant, Walsh, Olding, Trinble, Henderson, Cromie, Nash, Whan.

SECONDS

The Seconds travelled to Omagh as underdogs on Saturday for the first round of the Junior Cup and lost out 23-6.

Omagh controlled the game for most of the match, although Academy looked good on the odd occasions that they were able to run the ball.

Omagh led 23-0 before a mazy dash by winger Mark Gilbert ended with second row Gordon McCormick barged through several tackles to take the consolation try. Paddy Martin converted from the touch-line.

Team - Russell, McGuigan, Knox, Lynn, Gilbert, Martin, Fawcett, Frame, Magowan, Mills, O'Reilly, McCormick, King, Terrington, Morrow.



The Academy Rugby Club Holland '88 tour party. 43101

Academy go Dutch for a mid-season break

THE FOCUS of attention in the Academy clubhouse will stretch beyond the Ulster rugby scene for the next two weeks.

Then the senior squad take a mid-season break from local competition to embark on a two-day tour of Holland.

Having achieved maximum points from their first two Senior League outings against Queens and Derry, Academy are taking advantage of a lull in their league campaign to undertake their first overseas tour since their highly successful trip to Canada in 1977.

Coach, Ken Knox hopes that the "change of scene" will have the beneficial effect of maintaining the present high level of fitness and sharpness amongst the players and provide a springboard to further league success in November.

Under the guidance of Ken Knox and team manager, Davy Best, the party left Aldergrove for Amsterdam last Friday with their first match against Bassets R.F.C. on Saturday.

With little prior knowledge of the quality of opposition they would meet, Academy could only assume that their first fixture would be the easiest

of their schedule, against a team placed seventh in the Dutch league last season.

This proved to be the case, Academy winning 37-9 and scoring six tries in all.

The Academy pack apparently dominated their hosts throughout the match, with second row,

Philp Trimble and flanker, Ian Whan, producing outstanding performances while winger, Alan Kirk, mesmerised the opposition with some dazzling running to pick up three of the tries.

Paddy Martin, Stuart Knox and Phil Trimble supplied other scores.

Despite this opening success, the remaining matches should provide tougher opposition in Hilversum and Haagshe who finished first and second, respectively, in the Dutch league last season.

In fact, between them, these two clubs make up the entire Dutch national

team.

On the home front, Academy 111 gained their first league points of the season with a close fought victory of 13-8 away to Queens 111, whilst the veterans of the V (Tankards) defeated the youth of N.U.U. 14-10 at Coleraine.

Times

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SPORT