

23/2/95

Academy Seconds reach Forster Cup Plate Final

ACADEMY second started this semi-final of the Charles Hurst Forster Cup Plate knowing they were in for a tough time at Stevenson Park against Dungannon 4th XV, a team who are four divisions about the Mallusk men.

Academy started on the offensive and after great forward play, led by Turk and Caldwell, Academy scrum-half McRoberts put in a beautiful kick to take the visitors to within two yards of the Dungannon line.

From the ensuing line-out second

row Gareth Gilliland rose above the opposition to take a two handed catch and power over for a fine try. The conversion was missed.

Dungannon's young team responded well and repeated drives toward the Academy line soon caught them off side and the Dungannon full back slotted the ball between the posts, following this with a second minutes later.

Half time - Dungannon 6, Academy 5.

The second half started slowly before the Academy back row of

Smith, Turney and Caldwell took control.

The began to dominated rucks and mauls that forced the Dungannon side to concede a penalty which Gillespie converted to put Academy 8-6 in front.

The last ten minutes were played mainly in the Academy half but the teams determination and spirit carried them through.

Outstanding defence by Fawcett, Geary, Craig and McGimpsey ensured that the Academy line remained unbroken.

Dungannon fought bravely but

when their full back missed a difficult penalty the Academy celebrations began.

Academy look forward to a Ravenhill appearance on Saturday, March 25.

Result - Dungannon 4th XV 4, Academy 2nd XV 8.

Academy II - G. McGrath, M. McCrory, G. Donaghy, G. Gilliland, J. Turk, J. Smith, C. Turney, C. Caldwell (Captain), M. McRoberts, M. Callaghan, J. Craig, P. McGimpsey, W. Fawcett, T. Greary, C. Gillespie.

Tankards return to action

DUE to the unplayable pitches at the Valley Park, Academy Tankards travelled to Shawsbridge for the second time this season to encounter Cooke in a league match.

Both sides appeared to be a little bit stale, this was probably due to the bad weather conditions which have made so many matches being cancelled - in fact Academy Tankards haven't had a game for two months.

Academy kicked off with the wind and most of the first quarter was pleyed into the Cooke half.

Academy should have gone ahead in this period when they were awarded two penalties but both kicks fell short.

The first score came when Academy wing forward Ray Cromie took a quick penalty and opened the play to bring his backs into the game, he linked with his centre and wing before tak-

ing the return pass to run in for an unconverted try.

A lapse of concentration allowed Cooke into the Academy 22 where they were awarded and kicked penalty for offside.

Academy went back on the offensive and after some charging runs by their back row of Cromie, Kerr and McKenna they found themselves once again on the Cooke line.

A set scrum for Cooke on their line

saw veteran hooker Graham Lynn take the ball against the head and Academy scrum half Alan Clements went blind side and scored in the corner.

Half time - Cooke 3, Academy 10.

In the second half Academy, still playing the more attractive rugby, ran the ball at every opportunity, and from a line-out their second row Hanif caught the ball and passed back to Clements who spun

the ball to Harry Dyre, the Academy out half, he kicked for his right wing Barr who caught the ball and ran in for another unconverted try.

In the final quarter of the match Cooke found themselves on the Academy line but despite Academy winning the ball from a loose ruck it was thrown into the arms

of the Cooke captain who fell over a converted try.

Academy piled on the pressure from the restart and soon found themselves, back in the Cooke 22 from a penalty they ran the ball and No 8 Pete Kerr stormed over for yet another unconverted try.

Result - Cooke 10, Academy 20.