

Academy give students a lesson

ACADEMY 1st XV travelled to Coleraine on Saturday to take on UUC in their last league game before Christmas. The match kicked off in atrocious conditions.

It was Academy playing into a strong wind and driving rain who immediately began to control and dominate the game.

Forwards and backs were running and linking well and the back row of Whan, Henderson and Saunders were covering acres of ground.

The Academy scrum half Noel Branagh was looking surprisingly sharp, and following a short penalty move, Saunders opened the scoring for the visitors.

The Students began to come back into the match, but were unable to break through a strong defence.

Shortly before half-time the Academy backs worked a neat move allowing right wing Mark Cousins to round his opposite number and score in the corner. Half-time score - 10-0.

DOMINANT

Playing with the wind in the second half Academy were now dominant in all aspects of the game. G. Henderson, the veteran No. 8, scored three second half tries, although suspicions of a knock-on seemed justified for the second of his hat-trick.

Open side flanker Neil Saunders

crossed for his second try of the game while Rikki Huddleston and Stephen Sharkey both squeezed over from short range.

Stephen Sharkey kicked four second half conversions to leave the final score 48-0.

With no further league games until the New Year Academy look forward to their annual Boxing Day game against the President's XV.

Result - Academy 1st XV 48, UUC 0.
Academy 1st XV - R. Huddleston, M. Cousins, P. Gamble (captain), P. Mercer, S. Kerr, S. Sharkey, N. Branagh, J. Allen, D. Walsh, C. Whan, P. Terrington, J. Turk, I. Whan, N. Saunders, G. Henderson.

