

Hat-trick of wins edges Academy 1st XV towards play-off

ACADEMY Rugby Club 1st XV completed a busy week with three handsome Qualifying Three League victories.

The first match was against Grosvenor 1st XV, and Academy ran out winners 31-8. Peter McGimpsey, Rikki Huddleston, Neil McCreery and Stephen Sharkie all scored tries. McCreery kicked three penalties and one conversion.

A few days later Academy took on Antrim 1st XV at Valley Park. With Stephen Sharkie not available and captain Paul Gamble sidelined through injury, The Academy backline was re-shuffled to include Alan Gaskin and Fawcett Wilson.

The final scoreline of 11-6 was a relief to the Academy players and spectators. Peter McGimpsey scored the games only try with a fine individual run to score in the corner. Neil McCreery kicked two penalties.

A gruelling week was rounded off with a fine 32-0 victory over Civil Service at Valley Park on Saturday.

It was sweet revenge for Academy who had suffered a reverse at the hands of the same team in their first league game of the season in early September.

It was a different story this time around as Academy went on the rampage scoring tries through Gordon Henderson (2), Donal Walsh, Jonathan Allen and Stephen Sharkie. Sharkie added one penalty and a conversion while McCreery added the final conversion.

Academy complete their league programme against UUC this week and victory would bring them a play-off against Ballymoney for the Qualifying Three title.

