

Easy win for Academy Third XV

ACADEMY 3rd XV v B.H.S.F.P. 3rd XV

LAST Saturday Academy 3rds played a friendly match against B.H.S.F.P. at the Valley Park.

It was a special day for the Knox family, Pamela Morgan (Knox) presented the team with a new kit and on that team were brothers Ken and Stuart, and Ken's son Terry.

It was the High School who drew first blood with two penalties to take a 6-0 lead. From then on it was all Academy, who revealed their French connection in the form of Pascal.

Following a scrum on the half-way line the ball was swiftly moved left to their French winger who rounded his opposite number to score in the corner — converted by McClelland (7-6).

The next try came from some good forward play. Prop, Gary Olding caught the ball inside his own half and spread off on one of his famous trundling runs only to be stopped on the 22 line.

From the resulting ruck No.8 Ken Knox gathered the ball and this was spun along the backs and he was delighted to see his son Terry out pacing the defence and touching down for an excellent try — McClelland converted.

From the restart Academy's Gault Galwell caught the ball and brought play up to the High School line.

They were awarded a scrum, but Academy's Stuart Knox pounced on a mistake at the base of the scrum and went over from a few inches — McClelland converted.

Two tries then followed either side of half-time from the ever present flanker Roley Jamison who on both occasions picked up the ball from broken play and avoiding several tackles he touched down in the corner.

Next it was the turn of ex Northern Ireland sprinter Alan Fawcett to show the High School defence a clean pair of heels, following some powerful and sometimes even skilful forward play from Cromie, Hodges and McCrea, and score in the corner.

High School tried to rally but were not allowed past the tackling of Clements and McClelland, who with a combined age getting close to the ton showed they had not lost their skill.

Stuart Knox added his second try when a tap down by Cromie at the back of a line-out saw him gather and run all of two feet to touch down.

Finally in the last minute it was the turn of the big man, prop Gareth Donaghue, to take the ball and hurl his 19 stone at the High School; they cleverly got out of the way and he scored.

Final score:- Academy 46, High School 6.



Ray Cromie of Academy 3rd XV met the Knox clan when they presented a new set of Jerseys to the team on behalf of Autoparts. Terry Knox and his father Ken along with uncle Stuart all played in Saturdays match against old adversary Belfast High School whilst Terry's aunt Pamela Morgan handed over the jerseys and provided moral support from the touchline. 43458.



back with a Craw... starting to play...
17/11/94

14 man Academy hold on for draw

RAINEY 1ST XV v ACADEMY 1ST XV

LAST Saturday Academy travelled up to Magherafelt to play Rainey in a friendly. This match would be a stern test for Academy as Rainey are riding high in section two of the qualifying league.

Academy had made three changes from their last match, Gareth Donaghy coming in at prop for McDonald, Marcus McCrory replaced Walsh at hooker and Mercer replaced Fawcett at centre.

It was Academy who scored first when Steven Sharkey slotted the ball between the posts following Rainey being penalised for collapsing the scrum on their 10m line.

This incident however

The Officials and members of Academy Rugby Club were saddened to learn of the sudden death of Susan McGowan, wife of Club Secretary Alistair.

The Club conveys its condolences to Alistair and the family circle.

proved to be more serious for Academy as prop Johnny Allen had to be rushed to hospital with a neck injury.

Reduced to 14 men Academy had to defend for the next 10 minutes, but eventually they were caught off-side on two occasions and the Rainey outhalf kicked

both to put them 3 points ahead.

Academy's seven forwards worked hard and drove the ball up to the Rainey 22 and, just on half-time, Sharkey kicked a beautiful drop goal to bring the score to 6-6.

In the second half it was all Academy and they were soon rewarded with another penalty by Sharkey.

Time after time they launched attacks on the Rainey line but were kept out only by heroic tackling by the home side back row.

Just when it looked as if Academy would get a famous victory they were caught offside at a line-out and for the third time the Rainey outhalf put the ball between the posts.

Final score - Rainey 9 Academy 9.

Thirds edge home against Donegal

ACADEMY 3rd XV v DONEGAL 2nd XV

ACADEMY Thirds entertained Donegal at a very wet valley Park last Saturday.

Academy started well but continued pressure could not be converted into points.

The closest they came was when their flying French winger Pascal rounded his man but unfortunately he misread the try line and instead went over the dead ball line.

It was however Academy who scored first with a Neil McCready penalty from 25 yards.

After 20 minutes Donegal levelled the score and against the run of play they went ahead when a 35 yard run by their scrum half saw him touch down by the posts.

Just before half time Academy's scrum half Ian Clements limped off the field and captain Ray Cromie left the scrum to replace him.

It was Academy who took the initiative and drove up to Donegal's 22m line where Cromie picked up and darted for the corner avoiding a number of tackles before touching down.

In the second half Donegal with the extra man advantage never looked like scoring and

after 15 minutes forward McKenna erred his way over Donegal line for a try.

Academy scored another try when Bill Andrew gathered the ball on the half-way line and sprinted for the corner.

Full-time Academy 1 Donegal 10.

17/11/94

Hard earned victory for Academy

24-11-94

BALLYMONEY 1st XV
v
ACADEMY 1st XV

ACADEMY travelled up to Ballymoney last Saturday for a League match against the local side knowing it was going to be a tough game.

They kicked off into a stiff breeze and were

immediately under extreme pressure from a determined Ballymoney pack.

However, no matter how many times they tried they could not break through the Academy back row of Henderson, Whan and Saunders who knocked them down with

tremendous tackling. When the Academy centres Mercer and Gamble got the ball they looked dangerous but unfortunately the amount of ball they got was few and far between.

The half-time score of 0-0 reflected the general nature of the game

— tight and closely fought.

In the second half Academy were caught off side and the home side kicked the points for a 3-0 lead.

This spurred them on and for the majority of the next 30 minutes they kept the pressure on Academy but still

could not increase their lead.

In fact the match looked all but over when Rikki Huddleston fielded a high ball deep in his own half.

He broke through a number of tackles bringing play up to the Ballymoney half before feeding Sharkey who gave a beautiful re-

verse pass to winger Simon Kerr who sprinted in for a fine try under the posts — Sharkey converted.

A few minutes later the whistle went for full time and Academy claimed another two league points.

Result — Ballymoney 3, Academy 7.

Seconds with derby clash with Carrick

CARRICK 4th XV
v
ACADEMY 2nd XV

DESPITE a delayed kick-off the game provided plenty of entertainment. Academy kicked off and were immediately under attack with a beautiful Carrick back move which was only halted short by some cracking cover tackles by the Academy centres.

This opening only

served to sting Academy into action and surging forward drives led to flanker, Thompson driving over from five yds. — Callaghan converted (0-7).

From the re-start Academy fought their way back up to the Carrick line and from a set scrum McRoberts picked the ball up from under Carrick's noses and dived over for a try.

Academy continued to

control the game but were unlucky to have a number of tries disallowed for various reasons.

The second half was a closer affair with Carrick spoiling Academy possession at every opportunity. No side really looked like scoring and as the match began to degenerate the referee signalled full time.

Result — Carrick 0 Academy 12.

Academy maintain form at Antrim

ACADEMY 1st XV travelled to Allen Park, Antrim on Saturday to take on the previously unbeaten home team.

Straight from the kick off the Academy pack began to dominate their opposite numbers

and from a short line out after just five minutes the Academy hooker, Dominic Walsh crashed over for the opening try.

Although the Antrim pack were under extreme pressure, their backs kept them in the game by scoring two excellent opportunist tries.

It was Academy who finished the first half the strongest, and after some fine inter-passing between forwards and backs Academy No 8 Gordon Henderson squeezed over for a great try just before half time.

Stephen Sharkey converted to leave the sides level 12-12 at half time.

Shortly after the restart, Antrim were reduced to 14 men when their prop forward retired injured.

The Academy pack once again began to dominate, but despite repeated attacks the Antrim line remained intact.

An Academy penalty by Stephen Sharkey extend the lead to 15-12 and shortly afterwards Academy effectively closed out the match with a fine try from Simon Kerr.

This was an important win for Academy - leaving the Junior three league wide open as Christmas approaches.

Result - Antrim 1st XV 12, Academy 1st XV 20.

Narrow win for seconds

ACADEMY progressed to the next round of the Foster Cup after a hard fought contest with Dromore II at Valley Park.

Academy kicked off what proved to be a very scrappy first half. It was Dromore who opened the scoring when some slack Academy tackling allowed their winger to

score into the corner after a fine run.

Academy responded with some pressure in the Dromore half and were rewarded with two penalties which Callaghan converted with ease.

Dromore came back taking advantage of a complacent Academy pack and were rewarded with a soft try.

Fortunately for Academy the Dromore kicker was in poor form failing to convert any goal attempts in the first half.

Academy again responded with some driving forward play inside the Dromore 22 eventually being rewarded with a penalty try as the Dromore pack got a little desperate in defence.

Half-time - Academy 2nd XV 13, Dromore 3rd XV 10.

Dromore opened the second half drawing the score level with a penalty in front of the posts after the referee spotted an Academy and infringing in a ruck.

The Academy forwards now began to take control of the game, their extra work finally paying off when Captain

Charlie Caldwell took a great catch in the line out.

Marcus McCrory tidied up beautifully and fed from Gardiner McGrath who dived over for a try.

Dromore fought back bravely but some stout defence prevented them from crossing the Academy line.

An opportunist drop goal was their only reward but was not enough to prevent Academy from moving on to the next round.

Result - Academy 2nd XV 18, Dromore 3rd XV 16.

Academy 2nd XV - G. McGrath, M. McCrory, G. Donaghy, C. Caldwell, J. Turk, J. Smith, A. McKenna, G. Turney, M. McRoberts, M. Callaghan, R. Hagan, M. Lynn, J. Craig, T. Gearv. A. Gaskin

Penalty ^{1/12/94} decision costs Tankards victory

LAST Saturday at the Valley Park, Academy Tankards played Banbridge in the McCambley Cup.

The pitch was very heavy and this made scrummaging an untidy affair, but favoured the heavier Banbridge pack.

For the first 20 minutes honours were even with neither team doing much to impress.

The visitors were awarded a couple of penalties in front of the Academy post but were unable to convert them.

Then came the most controversial part of the game, a line out to Academy on their line, the ball was thrown in and the referee blew his whistle awarding an indirect penalty.

As Academy had withdrawn a man from the lineout, quite legally, leaving Banbridge with an illegal extra man.

However to the amazement of everyone he awarded it to Banbridge and their No 5 tapped the ball to himself and scored.

The referee then admitted he had made a mistake but although he could have, he didn't change his decision.

Although the Academy

players were enraged by this to their credit they kept their cool and continued to pound away at the Banbridge defence with solo runs by Nash and Kerr

Just before half-time Banbridge increased their lead when they eventually converted a penalty.

Half time - Academy 4th XI 0, Banbridge 5th XV 10.

In the second half it was all Academy as they tried to run the ball at every occasion.

They were rewarded with a penalty which they converted. It was the turn of Banbridge to defend for a long period.

Academy eventually broke through when first scrum half Reid broke and linked with Nash who made ground up to 5m from the visitors line before being brought down.

However who was there to puck up and roll over the line, none other than veteran prop Willie Loughheed.

This brought Academy within two points of Banbridge as the conversion was missed and eventually time ran out for the Hyde Park men.

Result - Academy 8, Banbridge 10.