

Academy First XV too strong for Shorts

6/10/94

ACADEMY entertained Shorts at the Valley Park last Saturday in a Progressive League match.

They kicked off into the wind and after prolonged attacking the deadlock was broken

when Ian Whan caught the ball at the bar of a lineout and crashed over for a fine try.

After more pressure from Academy, No. 8 Gordon Henderson took the ball at a short penalty, avoided a number of tackles, and touched down near to the posts. With Steven Sharkey kicking both conversions and slotting over a penalty, the half-time score was Academy 17, Shorts 0.

Although playing into the wind in the second half, Academy contin-

ued to play in the Shorts half and very soon a well executed back row move put winger Alan Gaskin over for a try.

From the restart, the solid form of Nicky McDonald caught the ball and from this platform the Academy backs flashed the ball to left wing Simon Kerr who sprinted down the wing before passing to Paul Gamble who nearly made the line before slipping the ball to Rikki Huddleston who somersaulted over for a fine team try.

By now the Academy pack were in full flow and after they pushed Shorts off the ball, Henderson touched down for a pushover try.

Near the final whistle Alan Gaskin got his second try when he collected the ball on the halfway and sprinted down the wing before wrong footing the Shorts full back.

Sharkey was in superb kicking form and, with three more conversions and a penalty, the score was finally:-

Academy 46, Shorts 0.

Derby stroll for Seconds at Valley Park against Belfast High School FP

ACADEMY Seconds kicked off against a weakened High School side last Saturday at the Valley Park, expecting a tough game nonetheless.

Within a few minutes Academy were close to the High School line, Colin Whan caught the ball and

was driven over for the first try.

Shortly after scrum half Michael McRoberts fielded the ball and jinked his way over from the High School 22m line to make the score 10-0.

The Academy pack looked much bigger and fitter than their opponents, and it was

this fact that led to Academy's third try when they rolled the ball right up to High School's line, allowing Turney to charge over - the try was converted by Gillespie.

Half time Academy 17, High School 0.

Soon after the restart the ball was beautifully fielded

by M. Lynn who dummed his way up to the 22 before feeding Geary who went in for Academy's fourth try.

High School, to their credit rallied briefly, but from another lineout near their line captain Charlie Caldwell barged over for another score.

It was all one-way traffic

from then on. Chris Turney, their No. 8, charged through for his second try followed quickly by Geary, who burst through some weak tackling to score under the posts. This try was converted by Gillespie to leave the final score Academy 41, High School 0.

Thirds continue winning ways at Donaghadee

FOLLOWING their win against Ballymoney last week, Ray Cromie took his team down to Donaghadee on Saturday to what was expected to be a tough encounter.

To add more height to the pack Ray decided to play at second row from last week's position of out half, and took the first of many good decisions to play the first half up the hill and against the elements.

Overshadowed by the height of the Donaghadee pack, Academy defended stoutly for 35 minutes of the first half before conceding a penalty (3-0).

The final five minutes of the first half showed a taste of things to come with the combination of brothers, Stuart and Ken Knox, making gaping holes in the opposition defence.

Neil McCreary tied the scores with a penalty immediately after half time, then tremendous pressure from the Academy mid-field of McClelland, McCreary and Andrews saw Donaghadee drop the ball centre field - Ray McClelland controlled the ball with soccer style dexterity and kicked a diagonal ball forward which Andrews chased, lifted and scored.

Following a phase of sustained close forward and back play near the Donaghadee line, stalwart Stuart Knox stole over for an excellent try.

Academy sealed victory ten minutes later when their pack drove up the pitch, the ball went to Clements who found S. Knox, who went over for his second try.

It was converted by McCreary who also added a penalty.

Donaghadee had a later consolation try to make the final score Donaghadee 8, Academy 26.

8/10/94

Late penalties rob Seconds of a share of the points

WITH Grosvenor 1st out of action, Academy found themselves facing a very strong 2nd XV last Saturday.

With Academy still asleep Grosvenor scored the first try of the match when missed Academy tackles let their out half in under the posts — converted.

Academy responded and good forward play resulted in a line-out inside the Grosvenor 22.

A fine catch by captain Caldwell saw No. 8 Chris Turney take the ball and drive for the line before feeding John Smith who crashed over the line for an unconverted try.

Academy's pack contin-

ued to dominate and from a well worked penalty move Charlie Caldwell broke a number of tackles and then sprinted for the line for a try — Callaghan converted.

The visitors increased their lead when good interplay between backs and forwards lead to an infringement by the Grosvenor pack and Academy kicked the resulting penalty. Grosvenor came back with a penalty of their own.

Academy rounded off the half when scrum half McRoberts bravely charged down a kick, Thompson picked up the ball and the Academy pack were on hand to drive him over the line.

Half-time: Grosvenor 10, Academy 20.

The second half saw Academy on the back foot and a quick try and penalty saw Grosvenor on equal terms. Academy continued to dominate in the forwards but poor handling by both wings prevented them from increasing their score.

As the game looked like ending in a draw two late penalties by the Grosvenor out-half saw them run out winners 26-20.

FIXTURES

This coming Saturday:-
1st XV v Grosvenor 1st XV — Grosvenor; 2nd XV v U.U.C. 2nd XV — Coleraine; 3rd XV v Portadown 5th XV — Valley Park; 4th XV v Lisburn 4th XV — Lisburn.

Tankards see off the challenge

8/10/94

ACADEMY Tankards took on the men from Clogher Valley last Saturday at the Valley Park.

This club, situated between Dungannon and Enniskillen, has been one of the successes of the past few years in Ulster rugby. Their 1st XV are already in the qualifying league and this year are fielding three teams drawing their players from the local high school.

It was Academy who drew first blood after only a few minutes. Their forwards took advantage of

the visitors long drive and after good forward passing Peter Kerr powered his way over the line.

Play was very even for the rest of the half with perhaps Clogher looking the stronger. However, every time it went to their backs Academy's Alan Clements, Harry Dyre and Richard McBride tackled so well that they could not break through.

They then switched to trying to go from the scrum but they hadn't reckoned on Ray Cromie and Pete

Kerr who let nothing through.

Just before half-time Academy were reduced to 14 players when winger Stevens had to leave the pitch with hamstring trouble.

Half-time Academy 5, Clogher Valley 0.

For the first 15 minutes it was the visitors who forced the run of play but just as it looked as if they were gaining the upper hand Academy were awarded a penalty.

It was quickly taken by the experienced scrum half Tim Reid and

brought them up to the Clogher 22 and a quickly won ball saw the ball spun to Richard McBride who touched down beside the posts — conversion missed.

The visitors came back with a penalty and again started to look dangerous but just on the final whistle Academy broke loose via Ray Cromie who made 50 yards before feeding McBride who went in for his second try, Martin converted.

Final score:- Academy 17, Clogher Valley 3.

15/10/94

Sending-off opens way for Academy

**GROSVENOR 1ST XV 9
ACADEMY 1ST XV 12**

ACADEMY travelled across town last Saturday to play Grosvenor in this Qualifying League match.

They welcomed back Mark Cousins on the left wing who had been out with a broken hand and Dominic Walsh replaced Mike Kerr who was on Junior Ulster duty.

It was Academy who kicked off knowing that this was going to be a

hard match. The first half was pretty uneventful with both sides missing two penalties each. In fact the most exciting part of the first half was the arrival of Academy's Gareth Gilliland's boots via taxi from Bangor - he had forgotten to pack

them!

Just before half-time the Grosvenor captain kicked Cousins on the back of the head. He and the rest of the team were given a blanket warning - the next foul and that person was off.

In the second half it was Grosvenor who went ahead when their scrum half kicked a penalty from the touchline.

Academy came straight back and from a short penalty the ball was spun to Cousins on the wing and he went over to put the visitors ahead.

Grosvenor put on the pressure, but could find no way through the Academy defence. However, they edged in front with a drop goal

from their outhalf. Just after this their captain late tackled the Academy outhalf Sharkey and the referee had no option but to send him off. With only seven Grosvenor forwards, Academy started to get on top of the home side, and shortly after a series of tapped penalties, Academy's centre, Wilson Fawcett, gathered the ball and from 30 yards out he jinked his way over the line - Gamble converted.

A late penalty by Grosvenor wasn't enough and Academy ran out winners by 12 points to nine points.

This Saturday Academy 1st XV travel to Ballynahinch for a Junior Cup game.

Academy Thirds take the points in a tough test

ACADEMY 3rds faced their toughest opposition of the league so far this year against Portadown 5ths at the Valley Park on Saturday.

A try by the Portadown centre and a conversion

gave the Ports a 7-0 lead which was well deserved with their early pressure.

However, Academy replied with a sustained assault on the Portadown line and this resulted in a well taken try by Harry Dyer their veteran winger

who picked up a badly cleared ball some 15 meters out and shimmied his way past a number of defenders to score in the corner.

The Academy pack came alive in the second half with their back row

providing controlled aggression on the Portadown half backs. It was Cromie and Hodges who forced their way up the pitch and the home team were rewarded with a 35m. penalty by Andrews.

Portadown rallied and continued with some very physical rugby but the Academy defence held firm.

The Academy front row of McCrea, Olding and Donaghy provided the

backs with some excellent ball and from the platform Academy fought their way down field and were rewarded with another penalty by Andrews from 40m.

Final score: Academy 11, Portadown 7.

15/10/94

Disappointment for Academy at Ballynahinch

ACADEMY travelled to the Co. Down town of Ballynahinch last Saturday for what proved to be a very tough Junior Cup match.

Three changes had been made from last week, Sturgess was back in the second row replacing Gilliland and both wings were changed, Paul Mercer and Simon Kerr replacing Gaskin and Cousins.

The conditions were terrible with driving rain the whole match; this however, did not prevent both sides from trying to play exciting rugby.

Ballynahinch, who haven't lost in Section 1 this year so far, were first to score when after only five minutes their scrum-half broke blind from a 10yd. scrum and slipped through three tackles (7-0).

Academy came back and were close to scoring on a number of occasions, especially when Henderson was held up on the line following a short penalty and then against the run of play the 'Hinch scored a sec-

ond try from a break away by their backs (12-0).

Before half-time Academy were finally rewarded when after continued play in the 'Hinch 22 Sharkey kicked a penalty (12-3).

In the second half Academy tried to play running rugby but the elements were against them. After 15 minutes in the 'Hinch half the ball broke loose for the home side and after a number of quickly won ruck balls they went over in the corner for their 3rd try. (17-3).

This was followed by a penalty and then just as it looked as if Academy might just score following a number of back movements the 'Hinch sealed it by scoring another try in the corner to bring the final score to Ballynahinch 25, Academy 3.

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JUNIOR CUP 1st Round - Saturday 22nd October 1994 - K.O. 2.30pm.

BALLYNAHINCH 1stXV	V	ACADEMY 1stXV
(Captain) Philip Gregg	15	R. Huddleston
Dale Elliott	14	P. Mercer
Clem Bassett	13	P. Gamble
Paul Koscienny	12	W. Fawcett
Raymie McCavery	11	A. Kerr
Colin Magowan	10	S. Sharkie
Mark Napier	9	N. Branagh
Andrew Ward	8	G. Henderson
Michael Rodgers	7	I. Whan
Brian Wilson	6	N. Saunders
Colin Montgomery	5	P. Terrington
Ian Moore	4	D. Sturgess
Ian Dornan	3	N. McDonald
Roy Wilson	2	D. Walsh
Ronnie Steele	1	J. Allen
Coaching George Morton		Coaching
Colours Green Shirts, Navy Shorts		Colours Maroon Shirts, White Shorts

REFEREE : David Malseed, Ulster Branch (I.R.F.U.) and N.I.F.C.