

Academy 2nds 15 V Grosvenor 7 (6-Oct-07)

15	G SAUNDERS
14	I CHRISTIE
13	J DOWEY
12	M CALLAGHAN
11	G LOVE
10	P MOFFETT
9	M CHAN
8	K DOBBIN
7	P ROSS
6	M CORKEY
5	G DOBBIN
4	C CALDWELL
3	R PRESS
2	A SMYLIE
1	J ALLEN

A calm sunny day at Roughfort (a rare event), but with two unbeaten teams clashing, it was going to be a bad day for one of them.

Academy prepared well, goal kickers practising, all the team out on the pitch early to run through their moves - could the 2nds be starting to take the game seriously !



Academy had to weather the pressure early on, and because Academy did not chase up a a line after defensive clearances, Grosvenor were able to counter attack to maintain the pressure.

When Academy did break out, it was because backs and forwards worked together, offloading the ball to support players before the tackle. A great passage of play which did not deserve to end with J.Dowey's poor drop goal effort.

Poor fielding of the 22 drop out, saw Academy back in their 22, where one missed tackle allowed Grosvenor No.8 to score under the posts, with an easy conversion giving Grosvenor a 0-7 lead.

From the restart M.Corkey & P.Ross charged down successive kicks, but Academy could not take advantage from the eventual 5 metre scrum.

Academy ended the half well, driving forward with a series of rucks (could training be paying off), and again some good inter-passing saw G.Dobbin score under the posts for P.Moffett to convert and level the scores 7-7.



The teams were still very even in the second half until, after 55 mins J.Dowey intercepted a pass and sprinted 60 metres to just touch down in the corner. The conversion was missed (12-7).

This sparked Grosvenor's attack, but Academy's defense was resolute at both

lineouts and penalties.

(M. Corkey an unfortunate casualty, leaving the pitch concussed).

When Academy did breakout, a P. Moffett penalty, gave a 15-7 lead and a slight breathing space.



For the last 8-10 mins, Academy defended their line once again. The defence at the rucks was good, pillars in position, but too often the tackles were too high (only R. Press showing the difference a low tackle makes and how it can stop the offensive drive). However the tackles were made again and again, until the final whistle.



A good performance, a big step up from last week, with Academy looking really good inter-passing between backs and forwards but this was only evident in short bursts. In the end, an intercept try was the difference between the two teams.



A much happier Observer !

Academy 2nd XV v Grosvenor 1st December 2007

15	C MCKENNA
14	I CHRISTIE
13	M CALLAGHAN
12	J DOWEY
11	G HENRY
10	P MOFFETT
9	M CHAN
8	K DOBBIN
7	P ROSS
6	H MCKAY
5	G DOBBIN
4	C CALDWELL
3	G MOFFETT
2	A SMYLIE
1	R MCKENNA

Academy started the match with a strong wind advantage but were unable to gain enough possession and territory to pose a threat.

Of the 3-off excursions into Grosvenor's 22, 2-off resulted in missed penalties (2 mins & 28 mins) the other was penalised for accidental offside for a No.8 pick up from the scrum (23 mins).

At the other end, Grosvenor took advantage of 2-off missed tackles (1-off in the 22 and 1-off at half way) to score both times (6 mins & 38 mins).

A third try came from a Grosvenor scrum on Academy's 22, the No8 picked up, fed the scrum-half who in turn fed the winger, who went over unopposed (20 mins). Grosvenor backs spurned one chance in the 22, when a forward pass killed the overlap, and not to be outdone the Grosvenor forwards wasted a 5 man overlap on the other side of the pitch.

Academy lucky to reach half time only 17-0 down.

Although at the interval the players knew they had not performed, and were saying all the right things, the second half started in much the same vein.

Whilst the Academy pack would walk back cursing the ref's poor decisions, Grosvenor would tap and go to make a quick 20 metres, before Academy could scramble a

defence.

Things did improve, but only to the point that Academy were stifling Grosvenors attack, without really threatening to score themselves.

Grosvenor scored 2-off further tries towards the end of the game, after 73 mins the out-half chipped the ball, behind Academys rush defence, for the centre to gather.

The other after 76 mins, Academy won a line out on the half way line, but a sloppy fed to the scrum half went to ground and was won by Grosvenor (as they had done all day).

Grosvenor attacked up the touch line, C.McKenna managed to tap tackle the winger but Grosvenor had 2-3 men in support (Academy didn't) to leave the final score 29-0.

Grosvenor are one of the best teams in this league and It was going to take a good performance to beat them on their home pitch.

Academy failed to produce that. Grosvenor looked fitter, sharper and keener, the first and second can be addressed by training the third is an attitude of mind.

The only highlight on a poor day was Phil Ross, who was secure in the line out and managed to snag the opposition scrum half on several occasions.

The "dissapointed" Observer !

Versatile skipper moves to 2nd row to bolster pack!

Academy 2nds v Grosvenor (Foster cup quarterfinal) 23rd February 2008

In the first half Academy showed a lot of endeavour, but found little reward, whilst Grosvenor were able to capitalise on every Academy mistake.

The first was a penalty (0-3, 3 mins) and the second a turnover at a ruck which Grosvenor sucessfully moved to the left wing (0-10, 11 mins).

Academy opened their score with their second penalty attempt, after they were held up over the Grosvenor line and the ref went back for a penalty advantage for offside (3-10, 18 mins).

Grosvenor responded with two trys, both from 5m lineouts.

The first a simple catch and drive, and the second, they turned over Academy's lineout, for their forwards to drive over (this lineout was the result of not making touch from a penalty kick near the half-way line).

Half time 3-24.

Academy started the second half much better, turning over Grosvenor's lineout, a good drive through the centre by G.Davis, and A.Smylie sneaking round the side of the ruck on Grosvenors line (10-24, 42 mins).

Using the wind advantage, Academy outhalf was able to pin Grosvenor in their 22. An infamous Academy penalty move, resulted in a try for K.Dobbin (15-24, 50 mins).

Wing forward, J.Henry was sin binned for throwing handbags, and walked off embarrassed that he hadn't thrown a proper punch.

Academy, kept up the pressure with another penalty (18-24, 60 mins) and when academy took scrum ball against the head, just inside Grosvenor's 22, K.Dobbin picked up and drove over for his second try (73 mins). G.Henry added the all important conversion.

(25-24 full time).

The Observer !