

Saturday 12th January 2008

Warwickshire Shield Quarter Final

Alcester 5 Rugby St Andrews 30

Alcester exited the Shield in somewhat disappointing circumstances, where they were unable to repeat the performance they put in against the same opponents in the league fixture November, and were outplayed in the second half of the game.

The red and blacks started brightly and were in front from the first play of the game. Saints knocked on from the kick off, and Alcester were awarded a penalty from the resulting scrum. Skipper Scott Carmichael took a quick tap and ran into the space left in the visitors defence to cross the line unchallenged. Fly half Matt Gwynn was wide with the conversion attempt.

As is becoming of a side that are champions elect in the league, the visitors hit back and crossed the line for a try of their own which was converted to give them the lead. They also had a penalty opportunity, but the normally faultless boot of their wing Lee Hersey, let him down on this occasion and the score lines remained the same.

The home side were dealt a massive blow before the break, when the influential Gwynn was stretchered off with a knee injury that looks likely to keep him out of action for some time and adds to a growing Kings Coughton knee injury list.

Turning around only 7-5 behind at the break, the home side were still well in the game, although they were being made to work hard for their possession up front particularly at the line out, where the visitors had much the better of things.

The opening exchanges of the half were fairly even, but the game turned in the visitors favour when an Alcester pass was intercepted pass by Hersey who raced into score. The Saints winger clearly enjoys playing at Kings Coughton having scored all of his sides 16 points in the meeting in November and amassing a handsome personal tally today.

From then on in, as much as the home side battled, there was really only one team that was going to go on and win the game, as the visitors racked up a total of 23 points in the second period.

Alcester now need to regroup this week before they make the journey to Rugby for the return league fixture between these two sides next Saturday.