

ALCESTER RFC MATCH REPORTS

Saturday 23rd January 2010

Midlands Division Four West (South)

Dudley Wasps 36 Alcester 15

After a six week, mainly weather enforced lay off, Alcester were glad to return to competitive action against the junior level club of one of the Midlands rugby scene's powerhouses, Dudley Kingswinford.

They made the difficult journey with a much changed side from the one that started the last league game in December, and with no fewer than four players making their league debuts against a side that are notoriously better at home than they are travellers, Alcester knew they faced a tricky task.

In the first half the older and generally bigger home side, out muscled the red and blacks and the visitors were grateful to keep the score to 15-0 at half time, with their play a little disjointed and their only dangerous forays in to Dudley territory, mainly coming on the counter attack.

At half time the home side had to replace two of their more effective players due to injury, and this seemed to unsettle them as the visitors got some controlled phases of possession going for the first real time in the game, although they were not without injury problems of their own as wing Max Biltcliffe had to leave the field with an elbow injury, to be replaced by Ian King.

The visitors got their opening score following a flowing move, involving forwards and backs which was rounded off on the left hand touch line by fly half Tom Burgess.

Moments later they were really back in the game, when no 8 Phil Birks dived over from close range, following a trade mark Pat Lamb gallop deep inside the Dudley territory, after the Alcester lock had reacted quickest to snatch a home line out ball that their front jumper had failed to gather. When Lamb was finally hauled down he fed flanker Andy Trigg up in support who in turn found Birks to score.

The home side sprang back into life following Alcester's recovery, and with their pack still on top they forced a penalty try when the visitors were forced to kill the ball as they retreated over the line from the five yard set scrum.

Despite a much improved showing in the second half, from which the young Alcester side have taken great heart, they were powerless to stop two further converted Wasps tries. They did manage a further try of their own through replacement Ian King, but the score line still ended with a more resounding look to it, than actually reflected the balance of play.

Alcester return to league action next week and welcome neighbours and unbeaten league leaders Evesham to King Coughton for a 2.15pm kick off.