

ALCESTER RFC MATCH REPORTS

Saturday 25th October 2009

EDF Junior Vase

Alcester 5 Coventrians 13

It is 13 seasons since Alcester have made any real progress in this competition and they will have to wait at least one more year to address that statistic as they fell at the first hurdle to a home defeat against a well organised and determined Coventrians side from the league below them.

Missing several of their established first choice team, including talismanic skipper Scott Carmichael, Alcester started up the slope and against the wind in the first half. They worked hard to keep ball in hand when they won possession, and despite creating a host of chances that should have led to at least three tries, they squandered the opportunities and one penalty shot at goal, and trailed 6-0 at the break as the visitors fly half gratefully accepted the two kicks within range, he was presented with.

With the elements at their back in the second half Alcester failed to gain sufficient possession up front, to take advantage of the wind and slope. On too many occasions the home eight were out muscled by their generally more experienced opponents and ball back to their half backs continued to be scrappy as it had been in the first half.

They were not helped by injuries to influential scrum half Robbie Parker and promising outside centre Shaun Sudworth, which caused some disruption to their flow, but unlike the first half they were unable to create any clear cut chances as the visitor's defence dealt better with the home attack than they had done in the first half. In fact the most dangerous player on the field was the Coventrians left winger, who went on a number of pacy, mazy runs up field dragging several defenders in on each occasion. On one such run, he created havoc in the home defence sufficiently well that when his scrum half recycled possession after he had finally been hauled down, the attackers outnumbered Alcester and crossed for the vital score with only minutes remaining on the clock.

There was still time for Alcester to register on the scoreboard however and after a period of pressure deep inside Coventrians territory, and several phases, the ball was moved wide to the right hand touchline for replacement wing Mike Badoud to create the overlap to score.

Alcester will be hoping to put the disappointment of the last fortnight behind them when they return to league action next Saturday and host the visit of Dudley Wasps to Kings Coughton for a 3pm kick off. Wasps were the last team to beat Alcester in league action at home, some 18 months before and the red and blacks will be hoping to avenge that result and maintain their unbeaten run.