

**Saturday 31st January 2009**

**Kidderminster Carolians 2<sup>nd</sup> XV 35 Alcester 27**

A week on from their now infamous game against Coventry Saracens, it was Alcester's turn this week to try and compete against a full side with reduced numbers. Missing several regulars and travelling with only the bare fifteen, they were forced to play 70 minutes with only fourteen men and half an hour with twelve after injuries robbed them of three players throughout the game.

The home side started brightest, and after Alcester had to withstand some early pressure they took the lead when their pack shunted the home side off their put in, and skipper Scott Carmichael broke from the scrum half position to feed full back Andy Smith who opened the scoring. Unfortunately this was Smith's final contribution of the game as he left the field shortly afterwards with a calf injury.

The home side hit back with a try and a converted penalty of their own, before Alcester's kiwi fly half Ash Newdick, making his final appearance in the red and black, slotted over a successful penalty kick to level the scores.

Before the break Kidderminster regained the lead with another try for a 13-8 half time score.

Alcester were dealt a double blow at the start of the second half when after conceding a third try, they lost player coach Steve Lea to a head injury. The remaining thirteen upped their game, and were rewarded with a try in the corner by Newdick which he converted himself to move Alcester within three points at 18-15.

In this topsy turvy game, the Carolians extended their lead with another try, before Alcester were further reduced in numbers when they lost hooker Brett Allard to an arm injury.

Still Alcester refused to lie down, and the remaining six in their pack had the pleasure of shoving the home eight off their own ball to create an opportunity for scrum half Carmichael to score. Newdick converted to bring Alcester back within a point.

With their tails up and now playing decidedly nervy opponents given their superior numbers, Alcester sensed an incredible win when Newdick once again took centre stage with an accurate cross kick which found centre Sam Kirby who powered over to score and give his side the lead.

Unfortunately the visitors were not able to hold out for the remaining five minutes and the home side ran in two further scores to end the game.

Alcester took great heart from this excellent team showing in the face of adversity, where the performances of Matt Bolton and debutante back row forward Steve Green stood out.

Alcester return to league action next week, when they try again at Wellesbourne after the fixture scheduled for earlier in the year was frozen off.