

**Saturday October 4<sup>th</sup> 2008**

**Midlands Division Six West (South East)**

**Coventry Tech 0 Alcester 34**

Alcester recorded a third straight win, and a second league victory on the road, with a comprehensive win following a good team performance, described by player coach Steve Lea as the best display for two seasons.

In blustery conditions in the University district of Coventry, Alcester started against the wind, and the opening exchanges were fairly even with the home side having the two early scoring chances, although their kicker was wide with both penalty attempts at goal.

The red and blacks started to settle and gained the upper hand, particularly at the scrum where the big home pack were driven back by the equally sizeable visiting eight. Out wide, the younger Alcester backs looked to have the legs on their opponents, and it was not long before this was demonstrated on the score board for the visitors.

The red and blacks forwards won off the top ball at the front of the line out, allowing scrum half Robbie Parker to set his back line free and the ball was moved at pace to the left wing, where Stuart Whitehead outpaced his man in a touchline hugging run to open the score, with what turned out to be the try of the game. Within a couple of minutes, Alcester doubled their lead, when the telescopic arms of flanker Mica Pieri intercepted a home move, before he set off on a pacy run to the line from just inside his own half. Centre Max Biltcliffe converted, before he added a penalty on the stroke of half time to give his side a 15-0 lead.

With the wind at their backs in the second half, Alcester made the perfect start when full back Andy Smith joined the line at pace to break free and score, which Biltcliffe again added the extras for. This seemed to sap the remaining morale in the home side and it now became a question of how many Alcester could score, as they totally dominated the second period, with the only disappointment in their performance being that they really should have won by more than they eventually did.

They did add two further tries. Hooker Brett Allard capitalized on a mistake and hesitation in the home defence to race clear to the corner, before his pack's upper hand at the scrum forced a second injury to a home front row forward which resulted in the rest of the game being played with passive scrums.

Smith added a second try with an almost carbon copy of his first score, which Biltcliffe again converted to round off the scoring and a very pleasing win for Alcester.

In an all round good team performance, the scrummaging of loose head Matt Bolton was a stand out feature of the game, with his "Sheridanesque" display resulting in his two opponents having to leave the field, such was the pressure he put them under.

Alcester continue with league action next week and entertain fellow unbeaten side Trinity Guild from Baggington. Kick off at King's Coughton is 3pm.