

ALCESTER RFC MATCH REPORTS

Saturday 6th March 2010

Midlands Division Four West (South)

Pinley 22 Alcester 15

An Alcester squad comprising no fewer than eight players under the age of 20, ran a Pinley side, still buoyed by their midweek success to reach the last 16 in the National Junior Vase, very close in an evenly and hard fought contest at The Croft.

Whilst Pinley deservedly edged this contest and were the just the better side on the day, Alcester left this hotbed of the local rugby scene, feeling somewhat aggrieved at their manner of their defeat, with controversial incidents in the run up to all four of the home side's tries.

After their kicker lost his footing and sent an early penalty attempt wide, the deadlock was broken by the Coventry men midway through the first half, after an even opening whilst Alcester were still smarting from a decision they felt had not gone their way in the run up to the score, their ire was increased by an equally controversial decision in the run up to the second try.

In fairness to the match official and to the home side, there were some decisions that did go Alcester's way, including one such incident that could have led to a carding of a visiting player after the Pinley wing was dangerously upended in a tackle.

At now 12-0 down, Alcester rallied and kicker Max Biltcliffe put the Alcester men's first points on the board after converting the second of the two kickable penalty opportunities presented to him. This was the final score of the half, but by now the visitors had lost full back Tom Burgess to injury. Burgess was replaced by fellow teenager Adam Beech, who moved to outside centre in a positional shift that saw Sean Sudworth occupy the full back berth for the remainder of the game.

The second half started in a similarly even vein, but Alcester reduced the deficit ten minutes in, in no small part due to an excellent contribution by replacement Beech who set off on a pacy run from inside his own half towards the try line, only to be hauled down just short of the white wash. When the cavalry arrived behind him a ruck was formed, and no 8 Rich Hartley picked up and was driven over the line by his brother and fellow back rower Ed, with other members of the Alcester pack.

The home side were dealt a further blow when their loose head prop was yellow carded, but this galvanized Pinley, and they actually increased their lead when down to fourteen men, through a third try, but once again Alcester had complaints in the run up to the score.

When the home side were restored to their full contingent, they added a fourth score, which only added to the Alcester frustration and the sense of being "hard done by" spawned a somewhat crazy finish to the game, which saw no fewer than three visiting players sent to the sin bin, inside the closing stages.

With only twelve players on the field against the home side's fifteen as the game drew to a close, and somewhat unbelievably, they managed to add a second try through skipper Scott Carmichael, which Biltcliffe converted.

Alcester were especially pleased with the performances of their younger players in defeat, and will be hoping for a similarly impressive showing from them and others when they visit Rugby Welsh for the second in a six week run of consecutive league games. Kick off at Alwyn Road is 3.00pm.

Alcester Fun Run 2010

Alcester Rugby Club will be once again organising the annual Alcester fun run, which will take place on the day of the street market on Sunday June 13th. The run over four miles of the town countryside and taking in Kinwarton and parts of the banks of the River Arrow around the town, is a charity run which kicks off a packed day of events in the town. Further information will be released nearer the run date, but for more information now and to get involved, please contact the club on 01789 764061 or visit the club website.