

## Alcester 0 v 58 Bredon Buzzards

A fighting spirit and determined attitude were not enough to prevent Alcester succumbing to a heavy defeat against a well drilled Bredon side.

Bredon were by far the most organised and talented opposition Alcester have had to face this season and it didn't take long for them to take the lead. The defensive frailties that had been exposed during the victory away at Kidderminster last week were exploited by a creative Bredon attacking line and they scored in the corner. Bredon were both strong in the pack and quick in the backs and they broke through the Alcester line time and time again and soon built up a comfortable lead. The deficit may well have been greater had it not been for some impressive tackling from fullback John Halton.

However, when many sides would have let their heads drop and given up, Alcester lifted theirs and came back fighting. Good running from Halton and flanker Rich Pulis put Bredon on the back foot and Alcester began to play like the formidable side they have proved they can be this season. Although they didn't manage to score any points, Alcester definitely finished the first half the stronger side.

Alcester began the second half like they ended the first and dominated for long periods. The Alcester pack led by Andy Heap began winning opposition ball and took a scrum against the head. Jamie Leitch was as strong as ever in the lineout and flanker Vash Dasari and hooker Jack Green were impressive in the loose. Alcester had clearly put the first half behind them and spent long periods of time in the opposition half. Number 8 Rich Hartley was twice stopped just short of the try line, centre Adam Rendell came close after some good pressure on the Bredon fullback and an audacious cross field kick from fly half Martin Gurr was just too long for Henry James to dive on to. Despite great pressure, Alcester were unable to get a much deserved try.

With fatigue beginning to affect both sides in the miserable wet conditions, it was Bredon who scored the first points of the second half late on, perhaps a little against the run of play. A high cross field kick was caught by the Bredon winger and some good offloading allowed a Bredon flanker to power over in the corner. Another try followed soon after but Alcester still kept up their drive and determination and never gave up, demonstrated by Martin Gurr's desire to carry on playing despite a back injury.

Overall Alcester were well beaten by a very good Bredon side, although Alcester can be proud of the effort they put in and can take many positives into their next game. Man of the match went to fullback John Halton for some great last ditch tackling and skilful attacking play before being forced off injured with a shoulder injury.

(see over for line-up)

1. Jack Thompson
2. Jack Green
3. Andy Heap
4. Jamie Leitch
5. Ian Duggan (Ben Smith)
6. Rich Pulis
7. Vash Dasari
8. Rich Hartley
9. Andrew Chung
10. Martin Gurr
11. Adam Rendell
12. Adam Beech
13. Henry James
14. Kieran Redford (Tom Parker)
15. John Halton (Kieran Redford)

SUBS

David Alderson  
Ben Smith  
Tom Parker