

ALCESTER RFC MATCH REPORTS

Sunday 4th October 2009

Alcester Colts 5 Towcester Colts 10

One too many injuries prevented Alcester from winning this match and continuing their 100% home record so far this season.

Even before the kick off Alcester suffered the first casualty of the day with winger Steve Douthwaite failing a fitness test on a hand injury.

Despite the changes it was Alcester who started the stronger. Number 8 Rich Hartley led the attack to the opposition up front with half backs Jon Halton and Andrew Chung working well off him.

The only score in a closely contested first half came from Alcester. Winger Tom Parker picked up a clearance kick from Towcester, stepped inside his opposite man to run in the from the 22 metre line. His own conversion attempt came up just short. At the interval it was Alcester 5 – 0 Towcester.

At the break Alcester suffered the first of a succession of injuries when lock Ian Duggan was forced off the field and replaced by the impressive Rory Kavanagh in the second row.

Going up the hill in the second half Alcester's defensive line was always going to be tested. But the commitment of the team was immense. Props Andy Heap and Jack Thompson led the forward effort, flankers Ben Hope and Ben Smith snaffled opposition ball to ease the pressure and captain Adam Beech led by example with an impressive display of tackling. Alcester came closest to scoring when centre Ross Hunter cut through the Towcester line only for the referee to disallow the try for a knock on.

Then the injuries that finally determined the result of this game started to hit Alcester. Heap suffered an ankle injury which forced him off the pitch for treatment, the visitors hoisted up a high ball which was taken well by Chung only for the man of the match to suffer a head injury as he crashed back to the ground. With Alcester struggling for numbers Towcester levelled the scores with a try out wide.

Enforced changes saw George Elsby move to scrum half and Halton replacing Chung at number 10.

Not long afterwards Parker suffered a knee injury to leave Alcester with 13 players on the field.

Despite being outnumbered a draw looked the most likely result with Alcester soaking up the pressure and still threatening with breaks from Hunter, Hope and full back Tom Pedley.

Into the final quarter and the walking wounded, Heap, Duggan and Parker were forced to come back on for Alcester as lock Jamie Leitch injured his shoulder and Elsby suffered seriously from a bang to the head.

Towcester's winning try came from a forwards drive to the line and despite Alcester's best efforts to hold up the attack the ball was grounded.

Two minutes from the end the visitors had a player sin binned for a dangerously high tackle but Alcester had run out of time and fit players.

All the coaches and players wish George Elsby a speedy recovery after being hospitalised following that head injury.

Team:

1. Jack Thompson
2. A. Guest
3. Andy Heap
4. Jamie Leitch
5. Ian Duggan
6. Ben Smith
7. Ben Hope
8. Rich Hartley
9. Jon Halton
10. Andrew Chung (man of the match)
11. George Elsby
12. Adam Beech (c)
13. Ross Hunter
14. Tom Parker
15. Tom Pedley

Replacement: Rory Kavanagh