

Folkestone (II) 5 Medway (Dev) 50 - 21st November 2015

The Development Squad travelled to Folkestone hoping that the wind and the rain they had left at Medway would not be waiting for them on the coast. They got half of their wish as the rain held off during the game but a very strong wind made conditions difficult for both sides who battled through it for 80 mins.

Despite making a positive start, Medway failed to capitalise on their possession and kept kicking the ball away, which was compounded by a non-existent kick chase, this allowed the home side to run the ball back with interest and Medway were back where they started. The forwards decided to take matters into their own hands and powerful runs by Barnett, Pangarker and Coveney resulted in good yardage being made. Quick ruck ball was fed to Orris who cut back inside and fed Gerdes-Hansen who popped to Barnett who broke through a number of tackles to score the first try of the game on the 10 min mark. Orris converted for a 7 nil lead. Barnett's second try followed 5 min later after good work by the forwards at the set piece with Duggan, Coveney and Woodward causing the hosts front row difficulty and providing a solid platform for Mundy to get the backs on the front foot. Good work by Crittenden and Kopylov who made good yards before the ball was worked back the other way and Barnett crashed over for a 12.nil lead. Folkestone were struggling to get a foot hold in the game and despite having an organised midfield defence Medway were able to strike again on the 20 min mark with Callow running in for a well worked try up the left flank. Orris converted for 0.19 score line at half time.

The half time team talk was based on using the wind, keeping the ball, and putting the hosts under pressure, all of which fell on deaf ears as the hosts scored first after the break after some poor defensive work and slow reactions at the breakdown which enabled Folkestone to get on the scoreboard. 5.19. This seemed to galvanise the visitors and they never looked like conceding for the remainder of the game. With Smith and Carroll doing great work in the loose ably supported by the Medway back row, they generated a constant supply of ball for Mundy to feed the back line. Good yardage by Crittenden resulted in quick ball for Pangarker to score his first of the day which Orris converted well from out wide for a 5.26 scoreline after 60 mins.

The next try followed good work by the forwards led by Coveney and Carroll who linked well with Gerdes-Hansen and the ball was worked wide to "little" Tom Smith who ran in from 30 meters. 5.31

Callow picked up a knock and this enabled Hoggan to come off the bench for his Dev Squad debut, which at 52 years of age is impressive. He did not look out of place and scrummaged well. The Medway pack was completely dominate at the set piece and in the loose and despite some individual strong performances the home side never really go into the game. Pangarker was next on the scoreboard and he finished off a fine move across the pitch for a 5.36 score line. Folkestone had

suffered a couple of serious looking injuries, we wish them a speedy recovery, and this disrupted their defensive system enabling the visitors to capitalize on the gaps and Barnet ran in for his third of the day which was well converted by Orris. 5.43. The final play of the game resulted in the ball being worked out wide to Dickson, who beat a number of defenders to score the final try of the game, Orris converted for a final score line of 5.50.

The final "play" of the day was Barnet announcing that he did not have any money to buy the mandatory jug for scoring 3 tries, and then borrowing Pangarkers debit card, to purchase said jug. He had clearly thought it through as he proceeded to sit on a table with all the drivers and smiled widely as we all confirmed that he would have to consume the jug on his own!!!!

JJ

Squad: Greg Woodward, Mark Coveney, John Dugan, Tom Smith, Ryan Carroll, Toby Gerdes-Hansen, Mo Pangarker, Adam Barnet, Matt Mundy, Stan Orris, Frodo Smith, Sean Crittenden, Viktor Kopylov, Des Dickson, Matt Callow, Huw Collings, Andrew Hoggan.

Tries: Barnett (3), Callow, Pangarker (2), Smith (F), Dickson