

Monday 11th December 2006

OA U8's Weekly News

Hosting Bedford at Home Sunday 9th December 2006

Last week we played at home to a visiting Bedford team. Unfortunately they only brought one team with them, preferring I hear to send others to another fixture elsewhere! Despite having limited opposition, we had a great morning, enhanced by the weather being dry although very cold in the bracing wind. Thanks as always go to our coaches and helpers whose time, effort and support is always invaluable. Thanks also to you parents and players for turning out in the cold.

I list match reports from the teams who all worked very hard in another successful and productive morning.

The Greens

The Greens collectively took a silly pill on Sunday - anyone would think that Christmas was round the corner - but stopped larking about when it came to the match against Bedford. During the match we scored six brilliant tries - three by Joseph ("two hands") Hensman, two by Matthew Ellis and one by Thomas Murphy. Louis Thomas and Harry Deeks also made some great runs.

Unfortunately, our brilliance in attack was offset by the fact that Bedford scored eight tries - tagging was not our strong point ... maybe we are waiting for full contact tackling.

However, everyone enjoyed this exhibition of Barbarian-style rugby & even the coach avoided falling over.

Thanks to Gianni Vuolo and Guy Palmer for helping me cope with 11 mad 7 year olds ... there again, with our own kids we have had plenty of practice.

Report by Martin Thomas

The Yellows

The Yellows kicked off first against Bedford on Sunday and the remarkably cold day resulted in a somewhat slow start. Cold hands and fingers couldn't quite grab the tags effectively and so, before we knew it, we were a few scores down.

However the team soon warmed up to play, in my opinion, the perhaps the Yellows' game of the season. Fine running and support play soon narrowed the try count and OAs turned round 3-4 down at the interval.

The second half really made the difference where the entire team played excellent rugby. Great running, terrific support play and good defence showed what the team is capable of. From a coach's point of view two things were excellent to see - first, the entire team knew what was expected from their individual position and were consequently well organised and secondly, passing was accurate and timely.

The Yellows dominated the second half and the final score was OAs 9-5 Bedford.

With such a good performance it is difficult to single individuals out for praise. However, the players who shone this week were: Andrew Doughty, who was a fine attack captain with his fast re-starts, last ditch tagging and good passing; James Clark was effective in his strong running and determined tagging; Caswell Sparks made a number of important tags; and, Kane White made some impressive runs. Paul Greener, Harry Newman-Booth, Joseph Wackett and Rory Superfine also scored tries.

My top tagger and attacker award both go to Rory Superfine who had an outstanding game.

Well done chaps.

Report by Simon Mitchell

The Reds

Due to technical difficulties (my pen wouldn't work) the details in this report are a bit sketchy. This week we played two games against the Blues and one against our visitors from Bedford.

The games against the Blues demonstrated what we are aiming to achieve as team. The initial defence, tagging and support play was excellent and at half time in the first game we only trailed by 4 tries to 3. However, lapses in concentration led to several "soft" tries by the Blues whose ruthlessness shone through in the remainder of the matches. The lesson from these games is that we need to play more as a team rather than individuals and ensure opposition players are tagged as soon as they receive the ball.

Against Bedford the Reds ran out comfortable winners 7 tries to 2 (I think) and Toby Palmer put in a particularly strong performance.

However try of the week must go to James Yurkovich for a solo effort from the half way line cheered all the way from the touchlines!

It was another week that the saw the Reds improve and next Sunday will be a good opportunity to practice our defence play and teamwork.

Once again thanks for the support each week and kids, keep up the good work.

Report by Rick Powdrell

The Blues

Unfortunately, other than the fine practice games we played against the Reds (see Rick's report for the Reds above), we were out of time and Bedford were too down in spirit to play a forth game against the Blues at the end of the session.

The Blues continue to be a strong in most departments of the game, although a little rusty from lack of match practice recently. This rustiness tends to manifest in slightly sloppy defence although, by the time they have had me bellowing at them a few times, they tend to wake up and return to an awesome tagging machine - I have never seen a team that wins so much turn over ball from simply tagging.

I would say that all players continue to play well, so highlighting someone in particular is difficult. Despite this not being a competitive week for this team, I want to give special mention to Luke Simpson's transformation from the wing to play as flanker. Although blessed with lightening speed that is probably best suited for the wing, Luke has struggled out there in recent times to maintain his positioning and concentration. However, in a "trial" as a flanker, he really did a great job this week and may have made himself a "utility player". His contribution to tagging in the centre of the field was excellent - keep this up Luke no matter what position we play you in. Thankfully, if we move Luke into the centre of the field we will still retain some other real speedsters out there.

Also, in the centre of the field, Jonathan Powdrell continues to make very strong progress, particularly in his attacking and support play - well done Jonathan. Cameron Clark continues to make dominant and aggressive contributions to any game in defence, attack or, most noticeably recently, in having the vision to make the killer pass to a team mate in space rather than take the half chance himself. At the full back position, William Stewart continues to make incisive

additions to the defence and attack due to his intuitive positioning.Keep up the good work lads!!!

Report by Brian Clark