



Puddletown 1st XV 3 v Dorchester 1st XV 13

This eagerly awaited fixture did not fail to disappoint the large crowd making the most of the home sides hospitality, as two hugely committed sides battled it out to gain the temporary local bragging rights.

Puddletown knew they would have to be at the top of their game to be victors in this fixture and needed to dominate the forward play to achieve that goal. It was Dorchester, playing into the wind, however that settled first and from the kick off immediately put the villagers under pressure. Puddletown were unable to clear their lines and the visitors eventually forced the first score in the corner for an unconverted try.

The homesides forwards started to get into the game and were causing problems both in the set piece and loose, but perhaps over eagerness and inexperience saw them trying to force the game too much and unforced errors meant they were unable to provide themselves the consistent platform to give the continued territorial pressure they needed. Aligned with a string of penalties, Dorchester were able to keep the villagers away from the scoring zone and an eventual kickable opportunity saw their lead extended as Puddletown strayed off-side deep in their own half.

The remainder of the half was evenly contested; both sides defended resolutely and following a period of pressure from Puddletown provided them a penalty opportunity, taken by Dan Udell to take the scores to 8-3.

Just before half-time a Dorchester break saw their left wing chip ahead, and the resultant bounce went Dorchester's way, Puddletown failing to gather and the follow-up chase from Dorchester saw them dive on the loose ball to extend their lead to ten points at the half with an unconverted try.

Puddletown really needed to score early in the second half to get themselves back in the game and reverted to keeping the ball closer to their forwards, who were becoming dominant. Dorchester's defence however was up to the task and were able to keep the villagers largely contained. Both sides had disallowed tries wide out for close calls by the touch judges and Puddletown chasing an elusive try, decided to give up a number of kickable penalty opportunities to close the deficit.

It was Dorchester however who took the spoils on the day and the homeside left disappointed and the crowd knowing that it had been a close call between the two sides.

Puddletown's coach Pete Gordon, commented after the game:-

"This was a hugely anticipated clash and every one of my players stepped up to the challenge. Despite a couple of crucial decisions going against us we maintained our focus, intensity and

discipline. I am very proud of the team's performance, I expect us to carry this momentum into the rest of our league and cup programme; particularly the return leg at Coburg Road!”.

Scorers:

Tries:

Conversions:

Penalties: Dan Udell

1st XV Team:

(1) Tom Bamlet; (2) Toby Boatswain; (3) Jon Wilson; (4) James Perrett; (5) Jim Talbot; (6) Neil Cahill; (7) Martin Spicer; (8) Tom Cato; (9) Josh Hiscock; (10) Tom Yeatman; (11) Jack Foot; (12) Ben Carter; (13) Toby Musgrove; (14) Mike Ball; (15) Dan Udell; (Reserves) Ryan Snook (for Toby Musgrove, 60 mins); Tim Yeatman (for Jon Wilson, 60 mins); Harlan Hill (for Jim Talbot 40 mins).

PRFC Man-of-the-Match: Martin Spicer

Next Weekend 1st November '08

Puddletown 1st XV v Westbury 1st XV (Away)