



Frome 2nds 29 Puddletown 0

by Geoff Puryer

Recent results between these two sides suggested that another close game was on the cards, and had they had a full squad to select from, The Villagers would have been confident of getting a result on their Somerset rivals' home ground.

Instead, skipper Martin Spicer, faced with a long list of injuries and late withdrawals, ended up fielding a team with several people, himself included, having to play out of position in a makeshift pack.

Frome it seemed had no such selection problems, and from the early exchanges their forwards started to dominate, particularly in the set scrums.

Despite this, some determined defending by Puddletown kept them at bay for long periods, with stand-in flankers Kevin Voss and Mike Ball particularly putting in tackle after tackle to frustrate the home side. However the relentless pressure eventually told and Frome's forwards crossed the line twice in each half to secure the victory, the other try coming from their winger touching down in the corner following a rare passing move through the backs.

For the visitors, fly-half Tom Yeatman never stopped trying to create openings, but being forced onto the back foot for so much of the game meant few opportunities to attack, although winger Nigel Smith nearly got a consolation score in the last five minutes, when, after a strong run down the wing he was finally tackled just two metres short of the line.

After the game Martin Spicer commented "Obviously I'm disappointed with the defeat but I'm proud of the commitment and passion all of the lads showed today. We could have shipped a lot more points than we did, but we kept at it and never let our heads drop. The reaction of the Frome team and their supporters at the end of the game confirmed that"

Puddletown 1st XV

1) Martin Spicer (capt), 2) Toby Boatswain, 3) Tim Yeatman, 4) Jim Talbot, 5) Matt Symes, 6) Kevin Voss, 7) Mike Ball, 8) Paul Chidley, 9) Josh Hiscock, 10) Tom Yeatman, 11) Mark Thomson, 12) Jack Foot, 13) Barry Dovell, 14) Nigel Smith, 15) Dan Udell, Replacements: None.