



Oakmeadians 2nds 56 Puddletown 5 by Geoff Puryer 28/11/09

Puddletown's poor season in Dorset & Wilts Division 1 South suffered another blow with this comprehensive defeat at the hands of their Bournemouth based rivals.

The Villagers, robbed at the last minute by the withdrawal of three key players, nevertheless began brightly enough with their reshuffled pack quickly settling to its task and winning its share of ball both in the loose and in the set plays.

The first quarter developed into a well matched midfield battle as both sides tested each other out, but it was the hosts who struck first when, following a good rolling maul they broke off on the blind side to score in the corner.

Puddletown were soon back on the attack and ten minute later had the opportunity to reduce the deficit when the home forwards offended in the ruck. Skipper Dan Udell elected to kick for goal from outside the twenty-two but his attempt fell just short.

Back in midfield the difference in the two teams began to emerge with the Villagers, having secured good possession, seeming reluctant to trust their backs and spread the ball out wide, whereas Oaks were using their width with increasing confidence as the game progressed. This strategy, helped in no small part by some woeful defending, saw the hosts run in three more tries before the break.

The pattern remained the same in the second period, with honours just about even in midfield, but with the hosts continuing to show far more flair in their back line. Udell did score a fine try when, taking the ball at speed from a Scott Price pass on half-way, he handed off three tacklers to touch down in the corner, and then later, replacement centre Nigel Smith, again running from deep, went close to breaking through the home defence on two occasions.

But in truth it was a now rampant home side who sealed the victory with a further six tries, all scored out wide, before the final whistle spared the Villagers from further punishment.

Toby Musgrove, Puddletown's coaching coordinator, said later: "No excuses, we were well beaten today by a side who have got used to scoring tries, and that's where we are lacking at the moment".

"It doesn't help that with injury and unavailability we've already used thirty-nine different players in the team. If we can start to field a reasonably consistent side over the next few weeks that I'm confident that we can turn our season around".

Puddletown 1st XV:

1. Jon Wilson 2. Tim Yeatman 3. Jim Talbot 4. Pete Gordon 5. Matt Symes
6. Toby Boatwain 7. Dave Phillips 8. Dave Holah 9. Josh Hiscock 10. Scott Price
11. Matt Isaac 12. Toby Musgrove 13. Mike Ball 14. Gareth Smith 15. Dan Udell (capt)

Replacements: 16. Nigel Smith (for Dave Holah - 60 mins)

Scorers:

Tries:	Dan Udell (1)
Conversions:	None
Penalties:	None

Dorset Piddle Brewery Man of the Match: Dave Phillips

Next Game:

Dorset & Wilts Division 1 South, Saturday 5th December, kick off 2:30pm

Weymouth 1st XV v Puddletown 1st XV

Please note that this fixture was originally scheduled to be played at Greenfields but has been changed to Monmouth Road by mutual agreement to coincide with the official reopening of Weymouth's relaid pitches.

The return fixture on 20th March 2010 will now be at Puddletown.