



Puddletown 18 Westbury 15

by Geoff Puryer

Given their relative positions in Dorset & Wilts Division 1 South this game was always going to be an evenly contested affair, and that proved to be the case with the Villagers holding on to claim a much needed victory against their Wiltshire opponents..

The home side had the better of the early exchanges with their forwards dominating in the loose, but it was Westbury who, against the run of play, opened the scoring with a well taken penalty from 30 metres out.

The lead was short-lived however with Puddletown storming back at their opponents, and after some fine close handling, flanker James Perrett broke through to touch down in the corner.

That remained the pattern for the rest of the half as the Villagers repeatedly forced their opponents back, with Paul Chidley's powerful runs being the highlight of some excellent work by the whole of the home pack. Inevitably the pressure told and a Dan Udell penalty increased the lead.

Puddletown continued to turn the screw, and the half ended with prop Jon Wilson pouncing on a fumble by the visitors on their own goal line to ground the ball. Full-back Udell scored the extra two points.

With a 15-3 half-time lead, and having had such territorial advantage, the home side looked to be in the driving seat, but the visitors clearly had other ideas, and straight from the restart caught their hosts napping, slicing the defence wide open to score a try under the posts. The conversion was a formality.

This inspired Westbury to raise their game and it was Puddletown's turn to face a barrage of sustained pressure, but with centres Mike Ball and the inspirational Tom Foot leading the back line and making tackle after tackle to prevent the visitors from getting the ball out wide, the home side managed to steady the ship, and regain some ground.

A further successful penalty kick from Udell took the lead back out to eight points but Westbury were not finished yet, and the last five minutes of the game saw them camped on the home goal-line, the pressure finally telling with a pushover try in the corner.

The conversion attempt was unsuccessful, and to the relief of the home supporters, the referee's whistle signalled full-time shortly after the restart.

A delighted captain Martin Spicer said after the game "We can do the post match stuff in training next week. At the moment I just want us to celebrate a hard fought victory. I'm not going to nominate a Man of the Match this week, as there are too many top performances to chose from, but I would just like to say a big thank you to Toby Musgrove not only for playing out of position at scrum-half for us today, but also for doing so with his usual skill and enthusiasm"

Scorers:

Tries: James Perrett, Jon Wilson
Conversions: Dan Udell (1)
Penalties: Dan Udell (2)

1st XV Team:

(1) Jon Wilson, (2) Toby Boatswain, (3) Rob 'Doc' Jameson, (4) Paul Chidley, (5) Matt Symes, (6) James 'Jumbo' Perrett, (7) Neil Cahill, (8) Martin 'Spice' Spicer (captain), (9) Toby Musgrove, (10) Tom Yeatman, (11) Tim Yeatman, (12) Tom Foot, (13) Mike Ball, (14) Matt 'Forest' Isaac, (15) Dan 'Beefy' Udell,
Replacements: (16) Jim 'Moose' Talbot, (for Matt Symes after 55 mins)