



GWERNYFED
RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

Match Report

CRFC v GRFC

CRFC 28 GRFC 21

Gwernyfed Youngsters Rattle League Leaders

After a long lay off Gwernyfed faced a challenging trip away to Cardiff to face League Leaders Club Caerdydd Rugby at Sophia Gardens. Having been plagued by long term injuries and the late withdrawal through illness of a couple of senior players the squad was bolstered by 4 present youth team players and allied to a further 6 being in their first senior season of Rugby without doubt this was the youngest ever side to represent the club at 1st fifteen level.

The first quarter was edged by the home side who were a very accomplished unit well organised they used their powerful centres to batter the away defence and were shortly rewarded by a penalty soon followed up by two unconverted tries to take the lead 13-0.

Gwernyfed settled down in the second quarter and with outside half Glegs Williams finding useful touchline positions and hooker Craig Fuller finding his men with ease a few powerful drives found the home side back peddling and young Prop James Brute muscled his way over for a converted try and 5 minutes later a similar move saw Fuller plunge over and with the added conversion by Williams saw Gwernyfed take the lead 13-14.

Shocked by the two quick scores the home side pressed the Gwernfed line and with the back row of Corker Owen, debutante Ben Nicholls and skipper Sam Stephens putting in crunching tackles they were failing to get through and it was their live wire scrumhalf who spotted a gap on the blindside and skipped through to touch down wide out to re take the lead which also saw a Gwernyfed forward having a 10 minute rest for lying on the ball.

18-14 down H-T the game was still wide open and it was Gwernyfed who were starting to dominate the scrums heaving their more experienced opponents off the ball the game opened up long probing kicks were returned with composure and distance by Youngsters fullback Rab Smith and Jack Williams on the wing and with stalwart Steve Harley playing at no 9 being a constant threat to the home defence around the fringes.

It took Club Caerdydd many phases to finally break the well organised stubborn defence led behind by Scott Parry and Andy Hill who contained the strong running home centres, but they eventually the home side scored under the posts with a well worked try to take the lead 25-14.

With 10 minutes to go the coaches introduced three more youngsters to the fray , Youth props Aarron Nicholls and Sam Newell and flanker Jonny Rees took no backward step and tore into the tiring home forwards and it was fitting that the final couple of minutes were spent on the home line , three consecutive scrum collapses under driving pressure saw the referee issue a yellow card to the home no.8 and eventually a penalty try was awarded to Gwernyfed, converted giving them a well deserved bonus point.

FULL TIME 28-21

Senior coaches Danny Skyrme and Chay Billen and Youth team Coach Glegs Williams were well pleased with the efforts of the whole squad ,hard work on fitness in the past month and the policy of a shared evening of training with seniors and youth together saw the seamless promotion of the clubs youngsters into the senior ranks , all home grown talent which is in abundance in the junior sections typified by the clubs U13s who travelled away to Cardiff on Sunday to record a fine 20 points victory in the 2nd round of the Blues Cup.

Gwernyfed play their first home game for two months on the 27th of December against Wattstown where a big Christmas crowd is anticipated and a stern test awaits the club against their Rhondda rivals.

