

Dudley Kingswinford Colts v Stourbridge

26th December 2008 at Stourton Park

Dudley Kingswinford 22 – 6 Stourbridge 17

Tries: Michael Cowern, Jak Davis, Richard Kelly, Richard Greswell.

Conversion: Nick Adams

The Colts went to Stourton Park on Boxing Day, hungry for a win to avenge the defeat at home earlier in the season and they didn't let down the DK faithful who had come to watch what turned out to be an exciting game of forwards power, and great running lines and hands from the backs of both teams. Stourbridge started with a period of constant pressure with several attacks in the DK 22 resulting in a converted try after only 4 minutes and a further try 5 minutes later. With the score at 12 – 0 so early and all the territory and possession it looked as if it would be Stourbridge's day again. Then the game took a turn in direction when Stefan Shillingford came on at 12 and made a break of 60 meters down the centre channel with his first touch. The rest of the second half was an even sided affair with end to end play and exciting breaks from both sides. DK's first score came from lock Michael Cowern, the move was started by Stefan Shillingford powering through several challenges after a Stourbridge clearance kick from their 22, taken into contact by Centre partner Matt Highfield, then quick ball from a ruck and number 8 Chris Bartley showed tremendous strength carrying tacklers with him almost to the line then Michael Cowern finished off the move showing strength to stay on his feet and get over the line with several tacklers hanging off him. The conversion was missed. The response from Stourbridge was a third try and although the conversion was missed they looked to be well in control of the game at half time with a lead of 17 – 5.

This truly was a game of two halves and the second was all DK's. Jak Davis came on at full back, Richard Kelly and Richard Greswell joined Danny Richards in the front row, Jamie Graham at lock and Mike Griffiths at blindside. DK had all the possession and territory and Stourbridge hardly got out of their half for the 40 minutes. The forwards dominated the set pieces stealing lineouts and turning over scrums with powerful drives. Yet another break by Shillingford led to a pile of bodies on the Stourbridge line and DK were held up. Another scrum dominated by DK on the Stourbridge 22 and scrum half Sheldon Goble made a break towards the right wing, passed to Jak Davis who showed strength and speed to evade all challenges to touch down in the corner. Another conversion was missed and the score was 17 – 10. Needing only one converted try to level the scores DK maintained the pressure in the Stourbridge half and yet another burst from Shillingford led to Richard Kelly powering over the line to cap an excellent 40 minutes of front row power and technique and ball carrying. On what was not a good day for kicking DK threw away a further 2 points taking the total of missed kickable points to 9. The score line remained 17 -15 for a nail biting period where Stourbridge defended well against the power of the DK forwards. However relief came at last

with the decisive try from prop Rich Greswell who showed immense strength to carry the Stourbridge defenders over the line with him in the right corner. And finally a kick went over for DK when winger Nick Adams was given the chance to prove his talent for place kicking and from a difficult angle the strike was perfect, sealing the win at 22 -17.

Both teams should be congratulated for a fine entertaining game.

Happy New Year to everyone.

See the all the action at www.dkcolts.com

