

Sunday 17th October 2010

DK U15 0 Worcester U15 10

This turned out to be a dour, hard-fought and increasingly ill-tempered affair, which the referee decided should come to an end with five minutes still to be played. Whether that decision would have altered the final score, we shall never know. However, if the early finish was intended to prevent further shenanigans, it failed to do so, with unseemly scenes taking place first in and then around the tunnel. This left a highly-charged and unpleasant atmosphere, but it would be inappropriate to make further comment at this stage.

Back to the game itself, DK started promisingly, putting the visitors under early pressure with the forwards competing successfully for the ball and securing good possession. However, following an unsuccessful penalty attempt, the remainder of the half was spent almost entirely in the DK half. The large Worcester pack were able to gain the lion's share of the ball and it required some inspired tackling from the whole of the home team to keep out the visitors. Infringements came from both sides, with DK unable to make the most of the opportunities to take play upfield. As in the Shrewsbury game, kicks too frequently gave possession and the initiative back to the opposition. However, the home defence held firm until shortly before half time when Worcester finally went over for an unconverted try, following an earlier reprieve when the ball was dropped in the act of scoring.

A number of changes in personnel were made at half time, after which the game continued with Worcester maintaining their overall territorial share, but still meeting solid resistance, although the DK threequarters were only able to threaten on infrequent occasions. Halfway into the half, a penalty to DK was reversed, as a result of which Worcester were able to move the ball out wide towards the left wing for a second unconverted try.

Following the re-start, a determined yet sinuous run out of defence from Mattie Acaster was finally stopped on the Worcester 22 and DK now camped themselves firmly in opposition territory. With ten minutes left, the referee brandished two yellow cards at the visitors as matters became increasingly fractious. The indiscretions apparently merited only two minutes on the sidelines, most of which were occupied by attempts to set the scrum. The opportunity came and went, with Ben Aston going over, but adjudged to have been held up. After a couple of late substitutions, the referee's whistle ended the game early, with Worcester the 10-0 victors. In terms of territory and possession, no-one would argue with the result. However, the home side stood up extremely well to a strong and very physical team and their refusal to be ground into submission by the visitors displayed resolve and commitment.

The next scheduled game is again at home on Sunday 24th, this time hosting Bees.