

DUDLEY KINGSWINFORD U17 v BROMSGROVE U17

The final home game in the North Midlands premier league saw the DK boys play hosts to visitors Bromsgrove at Heathbrook on Sunday February 11th.

The game had special significance as progress to the National Cup competition was at stake for both sides. DK had to take no less than a point to progress while Bromsgrove needed a win to keep their chances alive.

On a pitch made soft by the recent snow and rain both sides came out of the starting blocks quickly and the early play saw the occasional error as the teams settled into the pattern of the match.

Bromsgrove took every opportunity to introduce their kicking game but safe handling by the DK defence countered this expected tactic leading to good attacking play at high speed. After a period of home pressure the first score of the match came with good use of the blind side by the Dudley team and the visitors defence was opened up for a try under the posts. The following conversion gave the home team a 7 – 0 lead.

Bromsgrove rallied but again ran into a solid blue wall of tacklers as time after time they were hit back behind the gain line. Good midfield pressure created several more scoring opportunities and from one of these the second score to the home side came out wide on the right. This time the attempt to increase the score by two was missed but the score had the effect of knocking some of the early enthusiasm from the visitors.

The half progressed somewhat more scrappily and the home team had a player sidelined for 10 minutes after a misdemeanour that the referee believed deserved a yellow card. No further scores came and at half time the score line stood at DK 12 Bromsgrove 0.

The second half started with Bromsgrove having to produce a more expansive game to get back into the match. Again good defence repelled the attacks and good tactical use of the boot put the DK boys back on the offensive.

Another score soon followed. From a lineout on the Bromsgrove line the home team put the visitors throw under pressure and the resulting mistake allowed the try to be scored giving five more point to the Dudley boys, again the kick was unsuccessful.

Back came Bromsgrove and from a trade mark rolling maul the home line was threatened for the first time. However again the home team held firm and soon were back on the offensive.

Another break from midfield and quality support play saw the ball go through several pairs of hands and the Bromsgrove defensive line was breached for the final try of the match again with kick unsuccessful.

The game finished with the home side camped out in the visitors 22 threatening to add more points.

The final score of Dudley Kingswinford 22 Bromsgrove 0 was thoroughly merited and was a reflection of an outstanding team performance. The game itself was a great advert for junior rugby in the North Mids and Bromsgrove deserve praise for their part in the encounter.

DK now progress to the National cup competition but not before they have their final game in the league away to Moseley next Sunday, February 18th. The result of this game should determine the destination of the league trophy.