

# THE MUSKERRY U14 NEWS

26th Nov 2011

Muskerry 17 Cork Constitution 14

## Magnificent Muskerry defy Constitutional challenge

Cork Constitution is one of Ireland's best known rugby clubs and takes its name from a newspaper 'The Cork Constitution' whose staff founded the rugby club in 1892. However on Saturday last in Ballyanley the headlines all belonged to Muskerry when they produced a performance of courage, commitment and outstanding teamwork to fashion a superb win against their illustrious visitors..

Muskerry had a panel of 23 to choose from and with 8 replacements on the line rolling subs were the order of the day to ensure game time for all involved. As there had been no match the previous week, form in training was a factor in the initial selection. The boys tore in to Con from the start and the forwards rucked strongly to secure possession. Odhran Heelan was doing what all good flankers do: disrupting and pressurised the opposition half backs and his replacement Liam Weafer proved equally adept in this department in the later stages of the half.

As the first period progressed it was Muskerry who had the upper hand and following a period camped near the Con posts the ever-industrious Ian Flannery broke through for the opening score. Con came back into the game and their backline was a threat to Muskerry at times.

However Ryan Hegarty was having a stormer at prop ably assisted by the marauding Robert O'Callaghan. In the backs Jared Sheehan was working his socks off to get his back line going where Ciaran O'Connor and Jack Harrington were making every tackle count. Muskerry held the upper hand for the remainder of the half with Luke Horgan unlucky to get over after a barrelling run through the Con cover.

### H- T: Muskerry 5 Cork Con 0

During the break some fresh legs were brought on to the Muskerry side and the disruption gave Con extra impetus. Then more hard work by the forwards saw the crafty Michael O'Sullivan Greene get over in the corner for his first try of the season to make it 10-0 to the boys in blue. This was superbly converted by Adam O'Connell who had slotted well into the out half position. Then Muskerry took the foot off the pedal to allow Con in for a soft try under the posts to leave it at 12-7 and the result in the melting pot. This stage of the game saw the welcome introduction of John Sheehan after a spell out with a knee injury and he quickly made his mark by grounding in the corner after a searing run up the left wing. As the second half wore on Muskerry again upped the ante and a fine cross field kick by Michael O'Connell was met by Jack Harrington who had the misfortune to knock on with the

the line at his mercy.

Roared on by the raucous home support Muskerry were unyielding in the face of sustained pressure from the Ballintemple men with Gordon Desmond and Ryan O'Neill prominent in the loose play. Then in the final minute a defining moment in the game: like a lion eyeing a wildebeest on the savannah, Odhran Heelan lined up the Constitution ball receiver and then pounced on his prey, knocking his bigger opponent back with a perfectly executed, bone shuddering tackle, that thrilled the home crowd and provoked a strong reaction from the visitors. There was time for no more as the excellent referee Tim Sheehan blew the final whistle and brought the curtain down on an outstanding display in which every one of the 23 were heroes.

**Muskerry squad:** Craig Bennet, Gordon Desmond, Barry Fitzpatrick, Ian Flannery, Patrick Healy, Jack Harrington, Odhran Heelan, Ryan Hegarty, Luke Horgan, Jared Murphy-Sheehan, Robert O'Callaghan, Peadar O'Callaghan, Adam O'Connell, Michael O'Connell, Ciarán O'Connor, Luke O'Connor, Ryan O'Neill, Martin O'Reilly, Michael O'Sullivan Greene, John Sheehan, Alec Roche, Liam Weafer, Salman Yurel