

THE MUSKERRY U13 NEWS

Saturday March 19th 2011

Mitchelstown 5 Muskerry 17

Muskerry serve up sizzler in Galtees showdown

They say a week is a long time in politics, but perhaps the same could be said of U13 rugby. Seven days earlier Muskerry had suffered their second successive defeat and also incurred a raft of injuries. On Saturday they made the journey to the foot of the Galtees shorn of some regulars but determined to get their season back on track.

Muskerry had 19 players fit and ready to go on a tight but firm pitch. The opposition had big numbers but one felt it was those with the biggest hearts that would prevail on the day. Muskerry settled reasonably well and drew first blood after about 10 minutes when Shane



O'Riordan got over for a try that was superbly converted by Adam O'Connell. The home side came back at Muskerry though and despite some stout defence managed to get over for an unconverted try to leave the score at 7-5 in favour of Muskerry at the break.

In the second half Muskerry upped the tempo but could not break down the locals in the early stages. Muskerry had to put up some stiff

defence to prevent the concession of a second score. Then the irrepressible Gordon Desmond weaved his way over for a fine score. Muskerry continued to press and Jack Harrington was unlucky to be penalised after a great break through the home cover. Mitchelstown rallied again but there was no change from the Mid Cork boys and they soon were back in the home side's half. Then the clincher: Michael O'Connell got up quickly on his counterpart and forced him to spill the ball; he gained possession and offloaded to the oncoming Shane O'Riordan who crashed over to seal the victory.

This was a win where every member of panel played their hearts out and where there were heroes across the team. Cormac dennehy led from the front while Robert O'Callaghan played a stormer and Gordon Desmond was a constant thorn in the side of the home team. Shane O'Riordan was back to his bullocking best while Jared Sheehan worked his socks off at scrum half. Mention too for Adam O'Connell who had one of his best games of the year: strong in attack and stout in defence.

Final Score Mitchelstown 5 Muskerry 17

NB. It would be unfair not to mention Muskerry's '16th man'. A posse of fathers patrolled the touchline and gave great vocal encouragement to the boys especially when they were under pressure.

Muskerry Squad: Craig Bennet, Cormac Dennehy, Gordon Desmond, Jack Harrington, Patrick Healy, Odhran Heelan, Luke Horgan, Barry Fitzpatrick, Jared Murphy-Sheehan, Robert O'Callaghan, Adam O'Connell, Michael O'Connell, Ciaran O'Connor, Ryan O'Neill, Shane O'Riordan, Martin O'Reilly, Colm O'Sullivan, Cian Riordan, Liam Weafer