



30th October 2010 - U13 South Munster League - Ballincollig vs Muskerry

This was a big day for the U13s squad: Rodez memories were fading and new challenges awaited in the form of a first outing in the South Munster League and more importantly a first 15 aside game.

The setting was perfect: Ballincolligs' excellent main pitch and a fine autumn morning suited to open, expansive rugby. With 22 players in attendance selecting a starting 15 was not easy for new head coach Ben Dick, who was anxious to see at least one of "his" teams win, after the All Blacks capitulation to Australia earlier that morning.

Ballincollig already had a league game under their belt so there was concern on the part of the coaching team that they might have an advantage over us. Our fears proved to be unfounded as Muskerry dictated the early exchanges against a home team who were short some front line players.

A textbook backline move saw winger John Sheehan use his pace to ground in the corner for our first try. On the other wing Jack Harrington was tackling like his life depended on it while the forward pack, with Shane O'Riordan to the fore, were generating plenty of possession for our backs.

The pressure began to tell on the home side and Peadar O'Callaghan made a good break to notch try number two. More tries were garnered before half-time and we went in 30-0 up at the break.

In the second half Ballincollig re-grouped and began to come into the game more as Muskerry seemed to have become a little complacent and lost their shape a little. However the boys in blue still had too much strength for the black and whites and soon were playing champagne rugby with standout tries from Luke Horgan, Cormac Dennehy and Ian Flannery amongst others.

In the end a comfortable win and a successful start to our league campaign. This was a fine performance where every one of the 22 players present made a significant contribution to the cause, but tougher challenges lie ahead....

Muskerry Squad: Craig Bennet, Sean Creedon, Cormac Dennehy, Gordon Desmond, Barry Fitzpatrick, Ian Flannery, Jack Harrington, Matt Hayes, Odhran Heelan, Ryan Hegarty, Luke Horgan, Robert O'Callaghan, Peadar O'Callaghan, Michael O'Connell, Adam O'Connell, Ciaran O'Connor, Martin O'Reilly, Shane O'Riordan, Colm O'Sullivan, Alec Roche, John Sheehan, Liam Weafer.