



U 13s - 6th November 2010 - South Munster League – Muskerry 38 vs Mitchelstown 20

This was the Under 13's eagerly awaited first home game of the season. An enthusiastic squad of 27 were present for their first ever game against this opposition and selection was always going to be a challenge especially as Mitchelstown had requested we play 13 rather than 15 a-side. The game was on the Ballyanley training pitch which in horse racing parlance would have been politely described as 'heavy' with some areas 'good to soft' but the Under 13 stable is comprised of thoroughbreds and the ground was not going to be an issue.

Muskerry opened with Peadar O'Callaghan at out half and under orders to get the back line moving at every opportunity. The team settled quickly and drew first blood when Robert O'Callaghan burst over for the first try. Within minutes Muskerry struck again when John Sheehan sprinted over in the corner. As the half progressed the men from north Cork came into the game and good pressure resulted in an intercept and their first try. It was 12 - 5 now and Muskerry knew they had a game on their hands.

The work done on the training ground paid off when the ball was moved the length of the backline to put Jack Harrington home in the corner. Odhran Heelan and Ciarán O'Connor were stout in defence in the backs, while Ian Flannery and Luke Horgan were making the hard yards amongst the forwards. The good work yielded a dividend eventually as John Sheehan again grounded near the corner flag after some trojan work by the six man forward pack. Mitchelstown rallied and scored again before the half time whistle leaving the score at 19-10.

The break saw wholesale changes to the home line up and this disruption meant we lost our shape for periods of the second half but stalwart work by the likes of Liam Weafer and Barry Fitzpatrick meant we still managed to hold the upper hand. Jared Sheehan was a lively presence at scrum half while Ryan Hegarty, Sean Creedon and Kyle O'Brien showed well in the loose play. After some good rucking the ball was fed to Jack Harrington who appeared to be covered by the Mitchelstown defence but he switched on the turbo boost and left the defenders in his wake to score a cracker of try complete with trademark celebration. The boys from the foot of the Galtee Mountains were not finished yet and they scored two good tries at the other end as our defence lost its cohesion. In the final quarter Shane O'Riordan picked from a ruck to crash over under the posts and complete the try scoring.

N.B. Well done to both Matt Hayes (3 conversions) and Adam O'Connell (1 conversion) whose place kicking was excellent in very difficult conditions.

Final result: Muskerry 38 (6 tries, 4 conversions), Mitchelstown 20 (4 tries)

And finally: Our thanks to Tim Sheehan who refereed for us straight after taking an U12 training session - he had a great match and his performance was complimented by a visiting Munster Branch official. Tim, the only way is up.....

Muskerry Squad: Craig Bennet, Sean Creedon, Cormac Dennehy, Gordon Desmond, Barry Fitzpatrick, Ian Flannery, Joe Harrington, Jack Harrington, Matt Hayes, Patrick Healy, Odhran Heelan, Ryan Hegarty, Luke Horgan, Jared Murphy-Sheehan, Rober O'Callaghan, Kyle O'Brien, Peadar O'Callaghan, Michael O'Connell, Adam O'Connell, Ciaran O'Connor, Martin O'Reilly, Shane O'Riordan, Colm O'Sullivan, Michael O'Sullivan Greene, Cian Riordan, John Sheehan, Liam Weafer.