

NEWPORT (SALOP) RUFC UNDER 15S

Burntwood RUFC Under 15

3 - 36

Newport RUFC Under 15

Newport under 15 rugby team ended a very successful 2007 with a good win away to Staffordshire side Burntwood.

Playing up a steep hill in the first half, Newport took an early lead when after sustained pressure, they moved the ball along the back line and fly-half Nathan Potter and centre George Mason put Chris Massey into space and his electrifying pace took him over in the corner.

Burntwood replied with a straightforward penalty to record their only score of the game, but this merely galvanised the Newport pack. After a reshuffling of players, Keiran Porter joined Huw Davenport and Jonno Wilson in the front row and this steadied the scrum.

From this more stable platform, Newport launched attack after attack. When the inevitable penalty was awarded, Sam Moysey bulldozed over from 10 yards, with four would-be tacklers hanging onto him. Jonno Wilson converted, to give Newport a 12 – 3 lead at half time.

The advantage of the hill and frustration that they were not further ahead gave Newport the upper hand right from the start of the second half. Both second rows, Rob Mayer and Ollie Gernon had bullocking runs into the heart of the home side's defence. When flanker Will George joined in the fun, he set up a ruck close to the Burntwood line and quick ball enabled Keiran Porter to drive over.

As the half progressed, the back line pushed up quicker in defence and George Taylor, William Webster and Ben Hinks' pressure on their opposite number's left Newport camped in the opposition 22. From a series of quick rucks, the ball was popped out to Velcho Alexandrov for him to drive over near the posts.

The two stars of what was a great all round team performance were scrum-half Ed Foulkes and captain Matt Fleckney. As Newport continued to dominate territory, both got well-deserved tries, converted by Jonno Wilson to leave Newport winners by 36 points to 3.

The boys can look forward to a good Christmas holiday after a 2007 when they have won ten games and only suffered defeat to Bredon in the North Midlands Cup. Here's to a successful 2008.