

NEWPORT (SALOP) RUFC UNDER 15S

Newport Under 15 38 – 10 Willenhall Under 15

Newport under 15s started off the new season with an emphatic win against a strong and physical Willenhall side at the Old Showground.

An early try by Velcho Alexandrov was cancelled out by the visitors following some weak tackling. However, when Matthew (Moof) King jinked through the Willenhall defence to score a try, converted by Jonno Wilson, Newport started to relax and play some good aggressive rugby.

Newport's back row dominated their opposite numbers in both defence and attack, with Sam Moysey putting in some crunching tackles and Jamie Dykes and Kieran Porter smashing holes in the Willenhall defence.

Following sustained pressure by Newport, Willenhall had a defensive line-out on their own five metre line, but the ever alert Jonno Wilson stole the throw in at the front of the line and bulldozed over.

When Velcho scored his second try just before half time, with typically aggressive running and Jonno converted, Newport looked to be comfortably controlling the match at 24 points to 5.

As was the pattern last season, the lads became sloppy and failed to ensure that the basic skills were done well. More weak tackling let Willenhall score a try out wide to narrow the gap to 24-10 and this encouraged the visitors into believing that they could win the game.

With Newport playing too static a game in the backs and Willenhall forwards punching big holes in their defence, the pressure was really on. While the home side did put together some good attacking drives, the final pass was either forced or delivered sloppily and moves continually broke down, just when a score looked certain.

The silky running of outside centre Nathan Potter saved the day, with two late tries. Potter is not only a strong tackler, he is also a classic runner that glides through gaps effortlessly. Too often he took the ball standing still, but when pace was put on the ball, tries looked more likely.

Jonno Wilson completed a highly successful day, with two conversions to take his personal tally to thirteen.

An excellent result to start the season off. However, they will also know that they can play much better than this and the coaching team will be looking for a better performance at Stafford next week.