

NEWPORT (SALOP) RUFC UNDER 15S

Newport Under15 24 -19 Whitchurch Under 15

After the disappointment of defeat at Bridgnorth a few weeks before and without two players on County duty, Newport secured an excellent win against local rivals Whitchurch.

A reshuffled pack had total dominance at the line-out and some excellent pick and go drives punched big holes in a well organised defence. However, Whitchurch snuffed out any three quarter moves with very sharp a strong tackling in the centre.

On the first occasion that Newport were able to get quick ball out to left wing Chris Massey, the home side benefited with a tremendous try. Quick ball and excellent handling put Massey outside his opposite number and he showed fantastic speed to run 60 metres and touchdown under the posts.

Newport continued their dominance in the first half, although a large Whitchurch pack put Newport under great pressure in the scrum. Jamie Dyke was unlucky not to have been awarded a try when he pounced on some loose defensive work by the Whitchurch backs. However, he was not to be denied when good driving by the forwards set up quick ball for him to dive in for a try under the posts. Jonno Wilson kicked his second conversion.

Whitchurch seemed over reliant on kicking and squandered a number of useful situations, but a lucky break from one kick, helped by indecision in the Newport defence enabled them to snatch a try just before half time.

The second half saw a similar pattern of play with outstanding defence from both sides and some ferocious forward play. Once again Newport started the scoring with winger Velcho Alexandrov showing his pace, to beat his man on the outside and score in the corner.

Fifteen minutes later Velcho snatched another try in the corner, when quick thinking by scrum half Moof King, put him clear. With the score 24 – 7, Newport relaxed, but to their credit Whitchurch lifted their game and they camped in the Newport half for the last quarter of the game.

Ironically the usually defiant Newport defence missed a few tackles late on, as they tired and Whitchurch grabbed two late tries to leave a final score of 24 -19.

A superb performance by the Newport side, which showed great guts and courage.