

Billingham u13s v Acklam u13s

Billingham, were short of players following a bunch of injuries but had 4 guest players in from Yarm, but confidence was high following the recent double header victory against Durham.

The match kicked off and the pattern of play soon started to emerge, the Acklam pack being better drilled and disciplined gaining good ball but whenever a breakdown occurred and the ball spread to Billingham backs they attacked with style. There was then a stunning run from Scott Ferguson from Yarm playing for Billingham {stay with me} covering over 50 metres and breaking tackles and side stepping defenders to go over for the first score. Marcus Suddren converting 7-0. Acklam hit back and their No.7 who was to prove a thorn throughout the game scored in a similar fashion eluding some weak attempts at tackling by Billingham. Conversion missed 7-5. Billingham kept pressing David Rawson standing in at scrum half made a dash! From 20 meters following a scrum only to be wiped out with a superb tackle from a covering Acklam player that brought applause from all supporters. Acklam kept pressing gaining good ground via the forwards and soon the No7 went over again, with the conversion missed 7 -10. Billingham hit back superb tackling and running with the ball by Ben McWilliams setting up good possession for the boys in green with that man again Scott going over for his second, conversion missed 12-10 half time.

Second half saw more of the same Acklam fired up as they had recently come away from beating Middlesbrough well, and wanted to continue their run of form, Again their No7 was proving to be the main weapon, covering lots of ground and eluding tackles, Acklam continued to press and scored but again missed the kick from the touchline 12-15 Billingham held on Gary Chuelish playing a storming game at flanker doing lots of work and tackling anything that moved, or attempted to! Helped turn the ball over close to the Acklam line and Scott again! going over for the score, he took the conversion making it 19-15.

All the players on both sides were working hard and tempers occasionally flared but nothing serious, at the end 19-15 to Billingham, a great game hard fought, and the Acklam coaches eagerly await the return fixture.

man of the match guest players from Yarm Scott Ferguson, Billingham Gary Chuelish

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THIS WEEK GAMES BILLINGHAM 1ST V RYTON BILLINGHAM 2^{nds} V DARLINGTON DARLINGTON V BILLINGHAM 3^{rds}

Saturday, 25 November 2006

North Shields	0 - 35	Gosforth
Northern	21 - 12	Gateshead
Ponteland	32 - 0	Consett
Redcar	10 - 87	Billingham
Ryton	7 - 36	Alnwick
Stockton	28 - 21	Sunderland

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts	Adjust
Gateshead	10	8	0	2	340	137	203	16	0
Northern	10	8	0	2	234	141	93	16	0
Billingham	10	7	0	3	372	150	222	14	0
Sunderland	10	7	0	3	221	150	71	14	0
Alnwick	10	6	0	4	222	148	74	12	0
Consett	10	5	0	5	170	231	-61	10	0
Ponteland	10	4	1	5	199	187	12	9	0
Ryton	10	4	1	5	155	194	-39	9	0
Gosforth	10	4	0	6	221	199	22	8	0
Redcar	10	2	2	6	140	342	-202	6	0
Stockton	9	1	2	6	133	197	-64	4	0
North Shields	9	0	0	9	64	395	-331	-2	-2

1 Billingham	33	4	8	10	12	3	2	1	1	0	185
2 Gateshead	23	10	2	12	7	2	3	0	7	0	165
3 Northern	22	7	3	10	7	2	2	5	0	0	145
4 Alnwick	13	10	3	7	0	3	3	3	4	0	115
5 Ponteland	15	7	6	6	1	2	4	2	1	1	115
6 Sunderland	16	6	1	6	7	2	4	2	0	0	110
7 Consett	15	5	1	8	5	1	3	0	2	0	100
8 Gosforth	13	6	2	6	1	4	4	0	2	1	100
9 Redcar	12	5	3	1	3	5	3	0	2	1	90
10 Ryton	11	1	1	4	5	1	1	0	0	1	65
11 Stockton	7	2	0	2	4	1	1	1	0	0	45
12 North Shields	2	4	0	0	0	2	3	1	0	0	30

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Billingham is topping the stats

Joe Evans is currently top of the Durham and Northumberland division one points scorers.

Not content with this Craig Shepherd is top try scorer with brother Paul joint second and Chris Hyndman close behind in fourth.

Although currently lying third in the league we are the top points scorers and have the largest points difference.

We must not forget however that it is a squad effort enabling this success and off field support and assistance is also much appreciated.

One of our first team players said after Saturdays win "It is the forwards who win games, the backs decide by how many"

True to some extent but it is the squad that wins games and the club spirit that is the real winner.

Congratulations to the lads for their achievements, thanks to the non try scorers (the grafters) and thanks to all the players from all teams Senior and Junior for entertaining us week in and week out

A. Reporter

TOP TRY SCORES

	Player	Team	cons	pens	dg	trys	pts
1	Chris Hyndman	Billingham	0	0	0	9	45
2	Christopher Naylor	Gateshead	0	0	0	9	45
3	Craig Shepherd	Billingham	0	0	0	8	40
4	Paul Shepherd	Billingham	0	0	0	7	35
5	Stephen Kay	Northern	0	0	0	7	35

TOP KICKERS

	Player	Team	cons	pens	drops	pts
1	David Kell	Gateshead	14	15	0	73
2	Joe Evans	Billingham	25	7	0	71
3	Matthew Roberts	Ryton	8	13	0	55
4	Robin Weston	Gosforth	11	8	1	49
5	Jeremy Good	Stockton	4	11	0	41

REDCAR 10 v BILLINGHAM FIRST XV 87

Playing conditions are usually difficult at McKinley Park but the weather was kind and suited Billingham's expansive game. With Dave Robinson suffering a broken thumb Chris Hyndman rang the changes with Durnion, Garbutt Youdale and Woodhouse all starting although Daley was due to start but "benched" himself following a recurring muscle pull.

We are used to being entertained by the coaches quick ball tactics destroying the opposition but following a maul from the kick off quick ball saw C. Shepherd sprint sixty metres for the try even Chris was delighted.

This set the stall for the rest of the first half with Joe Evans converting.

Hutchinson had a hand in the next two tries breaking away twice for J. Evans then P. Shepherd to touch down. M Evans was next with a brilliant dummy to carve a hole in their defence to score. Redcar came back with a disputed try and from the line it looked clear that Tennant was under the ball. The Redcar pack were expecting to dominate but Amos, Robinson and Willis giving them nothing up front. More quick ball saw Hyndman appear to dance dazzling their defence before setting P. Shepherd away in the corner. Woodhouse surprised Redcar who were expecting more wide play by hitting a gap, drawing the full back and putting C. Shepherd over with a pass ruled to be level (remember Gateshead!)

Half Time REDCAR 10 BILLINGHAM 40

More of the same in the second half quick ball, good handling skills seeing both Sheps completing hat tricks to take us to 54 points and the back row of McQuillan, Durnion and Youdale stifling Redcar's rucks.

Burgum came on for Woodhouse and Fernie made his first team debut replacing Tennant taking a line out ball from the very next play.

J. Evans went over and Hyndman scored his mandatory one before Paul Shepherd got his fourth. Not to be outdone Craig did as well!

Garbutt probably would have scored but foul play prevented this and the ensuing penalty saw Burgum touch down in the corner.

Full Time REDCAR 10 BILLINGHAM 87

Scorer Tries: C. Shepherd 4, P Shepherd 4, J. Evans 2, M, Evans C.

Hyndman. P. Burgum Kicks J, Evans Conversions 11

Reporters comment. All backs tries but didn't the pack do well to present good ball and thanks to the touchline team for keeping the players going.

Coaching tip of the week (from an informed supporter who wishes to remain anon)

"Their number ten is like a gate".Copyright pending