



Old Iltydian RFC

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MATCH REPORT

20 August 08

Pre-season Match v Caerphilly Development Squad

Caerphilly Squad 10 – Old Iltydians 12

After a good season last year where we consolidated our position in Division Three South East after promotion the previous year, once again reaching the final of the East District Cup, excitement has been building during pre-season training in readiness for our first league game of 2008/2009 away to Llantwit Fardre on 6 September 2008.

Having said our goodbyes and thanks to last season's coaches Matthew Lloyd (now Coach at Caerphilly) and Richard Langmead (now Pontypridd Team Manager) it was with confidence that we travelled to our first pre-season evening game at Caerphilly.

New Head Coach Dave Brown and his assistant Player/Coach Richard Jones have been working hard with the squad during pre-season, instilling a hard-working and committed training environment that the players have really bought into. New First Team Captain Matt Phillips and Second Team Captain Danny Mears have been showing the way and leading from the front at training and at team management meetings.

With a number of players from last seasons squad departing for pastures new including Neil Dallimore, Matt Taylor, Justin Benfield, Mark Berridge (dual registration), Aled Richard (dual registration) and with Codie Rees trialling with Pontypool at the moment it was a youthful squad that took the field at Caerphilly.

The match was played in two separate 30 minute periods and a final 20 minute period to give all players involved a chance to play and get some game time.

Iltydian squad

Forwards

Matt Phillips, Michael Hiscocks, Andrew Maunder, Andrew Debreau, Steve Morris, Danny Mears, Joe Lewis, Andrew Phillips, Joey Price, Angelo Aviles, Asa Nolan, David Tanner, Phil Morse.

Backs

Jason Harding, Matt Bater, Kai Lewis, Richard Jones, Kayne Hendrickson, Dawie Venter, Jason Thomas, David Hughes, Ben Evans, Daniel Slocombe.

Players unavailable for this match either through injury, holidays, retirement(!), marriage or work commitments included: David Rowley, Gareth Hopkins, Joe Caunt, Carl Townsend, James Gainey, Duncan Law, Bobby Harding, Lee Davies, Matt Maunder, Codie Rees, Robert Harry, Tommy Walsh, Andrew Coles, Mark Coles and Stuart Rees to name a few!

The first couple of minutes of the game began as expected, at a fast and furious tempo with the Iltydians displaying plenty of commitment and endeavour defending well as Caerphilly attacked deep into Iltydian territory. At a ruck close to the Iltydian 10 metre line Joe Lewis playing at no 8 and David Tanner at open side flanker robbed the Caerphilly players of the ball, the ball being released quickly to scrum half Jason Harding and outside half Matt Bater. Bater seeing that the



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Caerphilly defence were a little asleep fed the ball to inside centre Richard Jones who quickly passed to outside centre Kayne Richardson, who with tremendous pace and a fantastic outside break moved into the Caerphilly half reaching the Caerphilly 22 metre line before passing outside to Kai Lewis who continued the move, before passing inside to Jason Thomas who had supported brilliantly to dive over in the corner for a fantastic 3rd minute try.

This score silenced the Caerphilly crowd, but had the effect of galvanising the Caerphilly forwards and backs who came at the Iltydians with a tremendous flurry of attacks. The Iltydian defence held firm and frustrated the Caerphilly players until Caerphilly were able to wheel a scrum five metres from the Iltydian line, launching their back row, who finally forced their way over for a try. With the score now 5 – 5 both sides settled into their rhythms with some good play from both sides as the rain stopped and the skies cleared. The Iltydian forwards, especially the back row of David Tanner, Joe Lewis and Angelo Aviles, second rows Andrew Phillips, Joey Price and Captain Matt Phillips were taking the game to Caerphilly and were quicker to the ball having plenty of success at the breakdown with a number of crucial turnovers. The hard work and commitment of the players was clear for all to see, and the Iltydian backs were showing plenty of skill and pace, breaking the Caerphilly defence on a number of occasions with Caerphilly's 'scramble defence' just enough to keep the Iltydians at bay.

The second period saw a number of changes for both sides and once again the game began at a frantic pace. The Iltydians, much like the first period, had the better of this half, pretty much controlling most facets of play with a strong scrum throughout and the front rows of Matt Phillips, Andrew Debreau, Michael Hiscocks, Danny Mears and Steven Morris to be applauded for their efforts. The Iltydian backs were looking sharp with Jason Thomas, Dawie Venter, Kai Lewis and Ben Evans much to the fore with some great attacking back play and some tremendous defence knocking the Caerphilly centres back on a number of occasions.

With Dave Hughes on at outside half controlling play well, and the backs defending strongly, not allowing the Caerphilly backs much room it was now the opportunity for the Iltydian backs to show their paces! From a breakdown in the centre of the field the Iltydian forwards once again stole the ball from a ruck releasing quick ball to Matt Bater, who, now at scrum half, passed quickly to David Hughes, the ball being moved along the line drawing the Caerphilly defence in before Dawie Venter's pace and a great pass from the speeding Jason Thomas to winger Daniel Slocombe saw the youngster dive over in the corner for a great try. The try was converted superbly by David Hughes from the touchline leaving the Iltydians a deserved 12 – 5 ahead. This period of play ended with Andrew Maunder, playing at flanker and flanker Asa Nolan to the fore with some tremendous back row play covering every metre of the ground. Special mention must go to Captain Matt Phillips for his efforts, encouragement and guidance on the field.

The third period saw a few more changes with Caerphilly bringing on some of their 'big guns' in an attempt to rejuvenate their team! The Iltydians losing Matt Bater, Kayne Hendrickson and Andrew Debreau to injury remained resilient throughout showing plenty of commitment especially in defence. Caerphilly were by now attacking from all areas of the pitch but were unable to make too much headway until a high up and under from the Caerphilly full back was dropped by an Iltydian player 10 metres out from the try line allowing the Caerphilly wing to gather the loose ball and scramble over wide out. The conversion was missed leaving the Iltydians leading 12 – 10.

A frantic last five minutes saw the Iltydian defence holding out with some great 'scramble defence' by all but special mention must go to Dawie Venter, Kai Lewis, Richard Jones and Jason Thomas for continuing to show the enthusiasm, commitment and effort with which they had begun the game. The referee ended the last of the three periods with the Iltydians a deserved 12 points to 10 winners.