



MATCH REPORT 3 March 07

Old Iltydians 38 – Crumlin 0

The Illts made it ten wins in a row on Saturday with a comprehensive six try victory over Crumlin, which sent them to the top of Division Four East courtesy of Garndiffaith's game with Risca being postponed.

On a soggy pitch at the Rec, the Illts, playing up the slope in the first half, made a fast start. Centre Neil Dallimore plunged over for the first try with just five minutes on the clock, after the forwards had driven close to the line after Matthew Taylors initial break. Outside half Nathan Hopkins converted to make the score 7-0.

With Phil Morse and Bessie dominating the lineout, the Illts were able to steal plenty of Crumlin possession. After a lineout drive, second row Tom Games broke powerfully into midfield before offloading. Lovely hands by prop Matt Phillips created an overlap which enabled Eugene Williams to put winger Kai Lewis over for the second try, which was again goaled by Hopkins.

For the remainder of the first half, the Illts seemed to lose their way. Too many 50-50 passes were attempted and the ball was thrown wide too early, before inroads had been made into the Crumlin defence. Handling errors and silly mistakes crept in, highlighted by Bessies attempt to chip the full back after he had made a tremendous break in midfield. There were no further scores in the first half, despite the Illts having dominated territory and possession.

After some stern words from coaches Matthew Lloyd and Matthew Back, the Illts began the second half with more focus.

Lewis collected his second try of the match early in the second half after some lovely handling from flanker John Saunders, Hopkins and Dallimore before full back Williams again gave the scoring pass. Hopkins again converted to take the score to 21-0.

With the forwards carrying the ball powerfully and recycling quickly, the Illts backs began to look increasingly dangerous despite the muddy conditions. Second row Games burst through a couple of tackles to score at the posts after some sustained forward pressure. Hopkins converted to make the score 28-0.

Lewis was unlucky not to complete his hat trick after gathering Hopkins cross kick at full pace, before being bundled into touch just short of the line.

The Illts didn't have to wait too long for their 5th try. A good lineout drive was dragged down 5 metres from the Crumlin line. Substitute Dai Mac drove to within a metre of the line and Captain Andrew Maunder was on hand to plunge over.

Matthew Taylor completed the scoring, taking an inside pass to stroll over, after Dallimore had carried powerfully to within 5 yards of the Crumlin posts. Both conversions were missed to leave the final score at 38-0.