

LRGS U16A's Vs Barnard Castle U16A's Match report by Charlie P

LRGS won 22-5

Following a difficult run of games and results, we as a team fought well against a decent Barnard Castle team to come from behind and earn our well-deserved first victory.

Following a flurry of early penalties from Lancaster, Barnard were able to push us up the pitch, where they were in the position to kick for goal, which they converted and took the first points of the game, only a few minutes in. Despite this, the rest of the first half was played predominantly in Barnard's half, allowing us to score 3 tries (Ashton, Michael, Joe), one of which was converted from a difficult angle (Ernie), to cap off a dominating first half performance from Lancaster, with the score at 17-3.

The second half had a more challenging spin on it however for Lancaster, as we were attacking uphill, trying to defend the try line down the slope behind us. Due to this slight disadvantage, the half wasn't played as much to Barnard's goal line as much as we would've liked, but the defence stayed very strong, as it had been for much of the first 30 and we finished the game without conceding try points. This period wasn't all defence though as we played some good phases of attack, leading to another try (Luke), who picked a gap in the defensive line and was able to dive through it to the try line.

With a great team performance and a final score line of 22-3, the MOTM (Joe) stood out in both attack and defence, obviously scoring the try but also making crashing runs into Barnard's line, hooking well in the scrums and lastly making his tackles with authority in defence.

From my perspective there were 3 other moments in the game from individuals that deserve mentioning.

Firstly, with us being pegged back on our own 22, Ernie kicked it up field with the intention of relieving a bit of pressure on our defence. This was before Adam, our substitute winger, dashed forwards to the ball managing to turnover possession and put us in attack well into their half.

Next was a powerful line break from Michael in the wide areas of the pitch. After getting the ball, he burst through the first defender before storming up the field handing off more defenders until he was finally pulled to the ground, not before he had made many yards of attacking ground.

Lastly, following one of Barnard's flankers making a good line break on our defensive 22, it was all down to our full back, James, to maintain our clean sheet in terms of tries, which he did. A brave diving tackle right at the flankers' legs flattened him straight away, saving a certain try, and also following a turnover by Ashton, gave us back possession and allowed all of the building defensive pressure to be taken away.

Finally, the whole squad send a get well soon message to Joel, and wish him a speedy recovery from his broken ankle and we hope you will be back playing again soon.

Charlie - Year 11