



LRGS v Merchant Taylor's

Lancashire Cup Semi Final

LRGS won 37 – 0

Following a week of intense Sevens practise, the U16s used Monday's after school session and Wednesday's Games lessons to get ready for the big Lancashire Cup Semi Final against Merchant Taylor's. The training sessions were brilliantly well run by Mr Mason and Mr Jacques.

The limited preparation time was not evident as a bright start gave LRGS an early 3-point lead. Further pressure was applied by the forwards with the catch and drive pushing MTS backwards. After several mauls, it was Michael A who was able to bulldoze over for the first score and stretch the lead to 8 points.

The points kept coming as Joel broke the line just outside the opposition's 22 to run in a second try for LRGS. Then Connor, alert to the situation, squeezed through the rushed defence from a quick-tap penalty 5 metres out and crossed the line for Lancaster's third try to conclude a simply stunning first-half performance.

Despite being 20 points ahead and in control, it was crucial that Lancaster got the next score. The start of the second half, unlike the first, started with MTS on top. Merchant's best efforts, however, were equally matched with solid defence to prevent a score.

Physical, direct carries from Jonathan M, who won MOTM, out of the back of the scrum got LRGS going forward and allowed us to play the game in the right areas of the pitch. Eventually, some excellent link-up play down the wing between Connor, James H and Joel carved open MTS's kick chase to put Joel under the posts.

Ernie C had a superb kicking game and deserves praise for the way he controlled the game at fly half.

Lancaster did not ease off at 27-0 as Joel completed his hat trick midway into the second half and Connor soon followed with his second try for the day. MTS refused to give up and fought right to the end but were unable to get on the scoreboard. This meant the game finished at 37-0, which was a score line to reflect the best performance of the season, and LRGS U16 advance to the Final of the Lancashire Cup. Mr Ralston refereed the game excellently and Mr Loney was ok running touch too.

We wish Ashton (broken ankle), Lewis M (6 stitches above eye) and Jim (tiny bruise on shin) speedy recoveries and hope they will be available to play in the Lancashire Cup Final.

On Pitch Roving Reporter – Ernest C