

## **DUDLEY KINGSWINFORD U17**

**30 v 10**

## **HEREFORD U17**

The game played at Heathbrook on Sunday April 1<sup>st</sup> saw the boys from DK book their appearance in the North Midlands cup final for 2007. The semi final was a fast open affair evenly contested by two determined sides.

On a perfect pitch and in blustery conditions the home side pressed from the kick off and only some dogged defence and uncharacteristic handling errors kept the score line blank. After a period of midfield play the visitors took advantage of a missed tackle to open the scoring from a blind side break. The missed conversion led to a 0-5 score to Hereford. They then followed a massive spell of pressure led by the home teams' forward pack and after a neat catch and drive from a lineout prop Richard Gresswell drove over for the score. DK also missed the kick and the game stood balanced at 5-5.

The Hereford side with the wind at their backs came more into the game and another missed tackle and break out wide gave them their second try. Again the kick went begging. At 10-5 the home side could feel slightly disappointed as they had largely controlled the game but they were not discouraged and back they came thanks to a try by Richard Kelly from a well planned and executed training ground move. Levelling the score this time gave more heart to the home side and they camped out in the visitors 22 for the remainder of the half.

Having the wind at their backs in the second period was all DK needed to really cut loose and the under pressure away team gave away penalties and from one of these Jordan Brookes slotted the kick to move DK 13 – 10 ahead.

Forward dominance by DK soon created more opportunities and from another drive by the posts Richard Gresswell scored his second try. This time the kick by Brookes was successful and the gap opened to 20 -10.

Apart from isolated runs by the Hereford backs the home team dominated play and from another forward drive Kelley grabbed try number two for himself and the fourth in all for the home side, Brookes again knocking over the kick from wide out on the left. 27 -10 soon became 30 -10 as Brookes hit his fourth successful kick from long range. This had the effect of deflating the spirited visitors and the Dudley lads could have scored on several more occasions.

The last ten minutes was played out with DK in total control.

The win means that the Mark Lockley/ Neil Shillingford coached team will make their fourth final appearance in five years where they will meet arch rivals Moseley, a great achievement.

The game to be played at Droitwich RFC on April 22nd will surely be a great occasion for all supporters.

**The lads and coaches and parents now embark upon the annual tour, this time to Ireland over the Easter break.**