

Hertfordshire Rugby Football Union

Press Notice

Herts fail to reach Final

Devon 43 Hertfordshire 10

Hertfordshire failed to reach the Division 3 final in the Bill Beaumont Men's County Championship, losing heavily to Devon at Brixham last Saturday. Devon caught Hertfordshire cold, racking up 22 points within the first fifteen minutes and from then on the visitors were playing catch up

Although Herts were missing influential scrum half McPhun, the rest of the side was not far short of first choice. However for the first time this season they struggled in the scrums and to some extent in the loose, especially in the first half. The Herts line out worked well, taking a number of balls against the throw, and this helped to prevent Devon running away after their initial point scoring burst.

Half time changes to the pack improved the scrummaging, giving a much more stable platform. This, coupled with some Devon indiscipline, enable the try count to be equal at two each in the second half, but the mountain was too high to climb.

Herts conceded a penalty within a couple of minutes of the start and full back Ashworth put Devon on the scoreboard. Then five minutes later Devon won the ball in broken play and fly half Pinkus was over for an unconverted try.

In the blink of an eye two more tries came, Firstly a loose pass was seized by Devon and wing Crosscombe sprinted over the line. Then from a scrum following the restart Crosscombe found space to run half the length of the field for his second try. Both these were converted by Ashworth giving Devon a 22 point lead within 15 minutes.

The game then settled down somewhat and a couple of Herts chances went astray, Sharp hitting the post with a penalty shot and territory being lost when a penalty kick for a 5 metre scrum was over egged. As half time loomed it looked as though this would be the end of the scoring but shortly before the whistle, Devon won turn over ball and scrum half Hilson touched down. Ashworth's conversion gave Devon a 29- nil lead at half time.

The third quarter was much more even with the visiting pack pushing Devon at a couple of scrums. However, playing catch up the visitors pressed a bit too hard and a number of handling errors crept in and a two man overlap was missed. Then mid way through the half Devon extended their lead, when they took a quick line out inside their half and Hilson dashed for his second try.

Five minutes later the visitors finally got on the score board when they tapped a penalty on the Devon 22 and moved the ball to put wing Goss Lambourne over in the left corner. Herts continued to play with more confidence and managed a second try using good ball from a scrum to give centre Rudling the space to touch down. However Devon had the final word winning turn over ball for replacement Hext to score. Ashworth's sixth successful kick made the final score Devon 43, Herts 10.

A disappointing end to the Championship, after the very successful Pool games, but there is plenty of talent to work on for next season.

Scorers

Hertfordshire: Tries - Goss Lambourne (60m), Rudling (72m)

Devon: Tries - Pinkus (8m), Crosscombe (10m, 12m), Hilson (37m, 55m), Hext (75m);
Conversions - Ashworth (10m, 12m, 37m, 55m, 75m); Penalty - Ashworth (2m)

Hertfordshire:

Johnno Wicks (Cheshunt); Kazoo Henderson (Letchworth), Josh Rudling (Hertford), Richard Streets (Letchworth), Charlie Goss Lambourne (Huel Tring): Josh Sharp (Letchworth) (Capt), Reece Shoobridge (Cheshunt).

Josh Hewitt (Hertford), Steffan Jones (Hertford), Ben Champion (Harpenden), Ian Jarman (Huel Tring), Jack Marks (Huel Tring), Harry McCartney (Huel Tring), Liam Fitts (Letchworth), Josh Milton (Welwyn)

Replacements (all used):

Mick Brown (Huel Tring), Will McKenna (Hertford), Richard McCabe (Fullerians), Alex Kay (Hertford), Adam Green (Cheshunt), Max Brown (Unattached), Joe Stockwell (Barnet Elizabethans)

Devon:

Joe Ashworth (Brixham); Corey Jamieson (Plymstock Oaks), Nicholas Headley (Emouth0, Henry Batty (Topsham), Matthew Crosscombe (Brixham); Mitch Pinkus (Brixham), George Hilson (Tavistock).

Rikki Bentham (Devonport Services), Aden Taylor (Devonport Services), Nathan Reeves (Brixham), Oliver White (Plymstock Oaks), Andy Pond (Devonport Services), Jordan Watson (Brixham) (Capt), James Hocking (Devonport Services), Robin Edbrooke (Topsham).

Replacements (all used):

Kai Allton (Brixham), Rich Goldsby West (Devonport Services), Harry Rodwell, (Brixham), Liam Jarvis (Devonport Services), Matt Gregory (Devonport Services), Jamie Hext (Brixham), Henry Trudgill (Ivybridge).