



OVERTON 5 V ROMSEY 24

The Laverstoke Park side faced joint Hampshire 2 leaders in the first round of the Gales Plate competition, eventually going down by 19 points in their toughest game of the season so far. Both sides were a few players short of a full first team but as far as the village side were concerned the players bought up from the seconds certainly rose to the occasion and staked claims for inclusion in next weeks league game against Fawley. Both sides have got realistic ambitions for promotion in this season's league campaign and the village side were given a good taste of what level the top of Hants 2 are playing at. The visitors fired from the start and were 12 points up in 15 minutes as the travelling pack stormed up the park. Overton struggled to find their footing and they were constantly on the back foot being forced to defend for the majority of the first half. The home side gradually worked their way into the game lead by the form of debutant George Harwood who was soaring high and winning a lot of ball in the lineout. This gave a good platform which enabled the backs to probe the Romsey defence and create a number of half chances that were kept out by a defence that was stretched a number of times. The home pack enjoyed success in driving mauls from the lineout and good ball was secured from the ruck situation that improved through out the game. At half time coach Jonty Spaul urged his side to continue playing the game and enjoying themselves and to relax. This proved to be inspirational as the second half was drawn 5 points all. The village pack started to fire as an eight and created problems in the scrum for the much bigger Romsey pack. Leading from the front the Overton pack showed the way to go and the visitors try line was threatened on a number of occasions. Chris Cave, Dave Clark and Carl Marchment were solid at the back and always willing to counter attack. With the visitors forced to defend their line the pack drew in defenders and a quick ball out followed by a miss move in the centres allowed Carl Marchment to score for the second week running. Romsey had finished their scoring mid way through the second period as the big forwards made a rare excursion into home side territory. Overton can be greatly encouraged by this performance and know that if promotion is enjoyed this season they will be able to hold their own in the higher division.

Next week the league continues with Fawley travelling to Laverstoke Park, kick off at 2.30pm.

Team from

Chris Salmon, Gavin Plows, David Pinchback, Andy Bond, George Harwod, Adam McLeod, James Smith-Jones, Alan Brighty, Darren Barton, Dan Williams, Chris Cave, Alan Cornell, Jon Baker, Dave Clark, Carl Marchment.

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