TULLOW C.S MATCH REPORT

MEMORABLE WIN FOR TCS JUNIORS IN FR GODFREY CUP!!

Reporting by: ***Daniel Whelan & Dylan Cunningham -Active School Flag Reporting Team***

The Tullow Community School Junior Rugby team arrived in Naas GFC rugby grounds on the 12th of January in confident mood looking to keep the momentum of what has so far been an excellent season going. Having reached the semi final of the Duff Cup the TCS Juniors stepped up to take their place in a qualifier spot for the first round of the renowned Father Godfrey Cup where they meet Templeogue College. Played in a neutral venue in what the Leinster Rugby website described as "horrific weather" conditions both teams knew that it was a day for controlled rugby and limiting mistakes.

The game started well with both teams keeping the ball tight through the middle and relying on their forwards to make hard yards. There were early chances at both ends but the combination of a wickedly strong wind and some disciplined defences kept the game scoreless through the first period of the half. Tullow had an early scare when the influential Brooklyn Byrne had to receive treatment for a dead arm but fortunately he managed to continue. It was 20 minutes into the game before the deadlock was finally broken thanks to Tullow captain and No.8 Brynn Nolan who barreled over the Templeogue line to get his team on the scoreboard. The conditions were as though as could be for a kicker and despite a well struck kick Tullow No.10 Daniel Haskins seen his conversion attempt drift narrowly wide. Tullow were growing in confidence and starting to control the game but it was Templeogue who were next to strike when James Slattery drifted through the Tullow line and went over. Templeogue missed the conversion and left the game perfectly balanced at 5-5. The Tullow defence was really put to the test as Templeogue tried to press home the swing in momentum as the first half ended but some brave and resolute defending seen the game go to halftime with the score tied.

As the second half started it was clear that this was going to be a very tight game in which territory was going to be crucial and Tullow had outhalf Daniel Haskins in brilliant form as he controlled the game and made sure his team played it in the right areas. Justifying his coaches decision to bring him on, half time replacement Senan Keating had an instant impact on the game as he broke through the Templeogue defence to set up Aaron Dowling for Tullows second try and it looked like the momentum was fully behind the T.C.S lads. And when Senan Keating capped a brillaint second half performance with a try of his own a memorable win was sealed for the Tullow team.

Tullow coach Mr Thorton was very proud of his teams performance saying *"the lads played very well throughout the game but particularly at the end of the first half when some excellent and brave defending kept us in the game and gave us the platform to push on in the second half and get what is a memorable win for the team"*

Tullow C.S Team:

1. Brooklyn Byrne	2. Lorcan Byrne
3. Rian Byrne	4. Paddy Nolan
5. Darragh O' Reilly	6. Jacob Sherlock
7. Darragh Butler	8. Brynn Nolan
9. Matthew Kearney O Brien	10. Daniel Haskins
11. Joseph Gibbons	12. Daire Byrne
13. Ruben Capota	14. Cian Murphy
15. Aaron Dowling	