



## TULLOW JUNIORS ADVANCE WITH BIG WIN!!

Reporting by: Aine Hickey & Allie McDonagh -Active School Flag Reporting Team



It was a breezy, numbing Thursday afternoon as the Tullow Junior boys took to the pitch to play their first-round match against Ardscoil na Tríonoide, Athy. The Tullow boys made a very strong and quick start to the game as Enda Byrne made his way through the defensive line on the Athy side passing the ball off elegantly to Freddie Gibson who proceeds to fly down the wing placing the ball over the line starting Tullow off with a nice lead to settle into the game. Unlucky for Tullow as the ball was heading in between the posts for the conversion but the wind was just too much to get it over. The game proceeds on with Athy and Tullow each winning a lineout and Athy win themselves a scrum where without a doubt Freddie Gibson sweeps in stealing the ball and tears up the left wing proceeding to pass the ball into Tiarnán Whelan who energetically breaks through the Athy defence once again where he fires the ball across on his way into a tackle to his teammate Darragh Butler who makes a clean catch placing the ball into the zone adding 5 more points to the score for Tullow. Kyle Doran stayed steady across the defence line for Tullow executing tackles time and time again keeping Athy from scoring. Paddy Nolan puts in a clean tackle turning the ball over and taking off up the pitch leaving the Athy player in shock. The game continues with top-notch defending from both sides. Athy make a sub as their no.2 goes off carrying an injury winning a penalty, but quickly turned over by Paddy Nolan once again, passing to Fergal O Toole in the middle of the field who flew through Athys side scoring a try with three players hanging off him. The match continues as Paddy Nolan and Tiarnán Whelan danced past Athy players left, right and centre hoping to get it over the line before the halftime whistle. Athy win another scrum and lineout but Tullow caught them in their tracks keeping the halftime score 15-0.





Tullow made a tactical decision to bring Cathal Thornton on in the 48<sup>th</sup> minute of the match. Paddy Nolan passed off a beautiful ball to Ruben Capota who bursts through Athy's defence leaving them stunned, he places the ball between the posts. Following up from the try Darragh Butler steps up to take the conversion and skilfully slots the ball between the uprights with ease. The game carries on to when Paddy Nolan turns over the ball and with a team effort Ruben takes the last pass before bursting forward to add another try to the scoreboard. Once again Darragh Butler shows his skill and slots over another conversion for Tullow.

Tullow made the decision to bring on Freddie Walshe for Fergal O Toole and Adam Laaraichi Byrne for Jack Nolan in the 63<sup>rd</sup> minute of the game. Once again, the ball is in the safe hands of Darragh Butler as he intercepts the ball from Athy's lineout. Tullow work the ball through their team but unluckily it gets taken off them and quick try from Athy ensues getting them a foothold in the game.

Fergal O Toole makes a reappearance in the game after previously being subbed off. Athy attempt to close the gap by scoring another 2 tries but unfortunately for them they missed their conversions leaving them at 15 points. Fergal makes a quick burst coming back into the game as he runs rapidly up the line scoring his second try for Tullow. Darragh Butler scores the last conversion of the game leaving the final score 39-15, well done to all the players securing another win for Tullow, you have made your school proud. Lastly the Tullow coach made a comment saying "Look where teamwork gets you," and awards No. 7 Paddy Nolan Man of the Match!!!





