



Year 7 Rugby

The Year 7 (U12) rugby team at Haydon School have trained every week since September without fail. The coaching has been a combination of parental help, a professional coach from Ruislip RFC and Mr Searle from Haydon School. The training sessions have obviously paid off as the squad has grown both in terms of numbers and ability levels.

So far this year we have played every other team in Hillingdon Borough (Queensmead, Vyners, Bishopshalt, Douay Martyrs, Abbotsfield, Harefield, Barnhill, Uxbridge) on more than one occasion and have beat them very convincingly. As a result of winning a local tournament at Ruislip RFC we qualified for a Middlesex Emerging Schools Tournament hosted at Wasps RFC training ground where we faced more seasoned teams from further afield. Haydon started slowly with a 5-0 victory over Greycourt School from Richmond, but we then began to play the kind of rugby that earned us a place at the tournament and comfortably beat Twyford School from Ealing, Chiswick School and Villiers School from Southall in our group matches. We progressed to the next round as top of our group and faced Cardinal Wiseman School from Greenford in the semi-final. The 10-5 score line suggests that the game was a close encounter, but we were camped on their try line for the entire game and only a fantastic break away try allowed Cardinal Wiseman to score at all.

The final was against a very strong and disciplined Drayton Manor School (Hanwell) who also won their group comfortably. After a very close first half it was obvious why both teams had made it to the final – the standard of rugby was incredible. During the second half Haydon began to dominate proceedings and eventually scored a well worked try. Drayton Manor then came back strong and if it wasn't for our excellent defensive work on our own try line then the game would have gone to extra time. However, we held strong and deservedly won the match 5-0. This victory earned us qualification to the London North Region Emerging Schools Final which was hosted at Bishops Stortford on Friday 26th March.

Needless to say that the quality of rugby was even higher at this tournament and our first group game was against West Hatch School from Essex. We immediately went one try ahead with some great play from the forwards, but the sheer strength and speed of the winger from West Hatch School meant that they equalled the score very quickly. From this point on, the Haydon team played the best rugby that I have seen all season. The forwards dominated every scrum, lineout, ruck and

The Players:

Adam Cobbing	P2
Max Williams	D4
Oliver Case	C2
Matt Hodson	D1
Edward Horchover	E1
Finlay Macknay	D1
Ben Retter	C1
Stephen Santos	E2
Miles White	C1
Nick White	C2
Miles Winkworth	V2
Medhi Ladak	D1
Ben Cockman	P2
Nathan Lam	P1
Michael Foster	E2

maul and the backs made their tackles and ran the ball forward extremely well – which led to us winning by five tries. Our next two group games were against Albany School from Enfield and St Bedes School from Redhill, but unfortunately we did not manage to repeat our form from the first game and ended up drawing both matches. This was very disappointing as we definitely had the beating of both teams and it was our own lack of precision more so than the performance of our opposition that stopped us from winning. Our final group game was against a very strong team from Parmiters School in Watford who had won all three of their group matches so far. It was a very close affair with Haydon scoring first and Parmiters levelling the score just before half time. The second half remained tight until a great run from the Parmiters scrum half led to a try to win the game 10-5. This result meant that Haydon finished second in the group and then played a third versus fourth game against the runners up from the other group – which were Drayton Manor (the team we played in the final of the previous tournament). Haydon played some strong rugby in their final match and managed to hold onto their first half lead to win the game 15-10. This meant that Haydon finished the London North Region Emerging Schools Final in third place – a fantastic achievement for all involved.

With continued hard work and a few new editions to the squad, next year promises to be even more successful for the Year 7 rugby team.

