

## GLASTRY House Rugby 7's FINAL ROUND - News from the Claypit Arena

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With the brand new state of the art, sporting pitches back in use and released for the school to use, the Rugby House 7's competition was back on this year after a 2-year absence. Dunleath, McCormick and Montgomery went head to head again for the Junior and Senior shields. The Junior Shield teams were made up of all of the Year 8 rugby players from this year and pupils that hadn't played at all before were also given the option to play for their House, which some signed up for. The senior Shield would be made up of those in Yr. 9 that play rugby as well as those in Year 10 that have been coming faithfully over the last season.

In Round 1 we saw McCormick, who seemed strong on paper, go up against the might of Dunleath. In a match that was close, one player made the dramatic difference with his dancing feet and power to score 4 tries for McCormick, this was Daren Graham, who joined rugby half way through the season and has flourished ever since! It's definitely a sport for you Daren!

In the Senior section McCormick demolished an under power Dunleath side. The boys that played for Dunleath however, have nothing to be down about. They put in tackle after tackle and attacked when they could, several times just short of scoring. Ewan Kelly did score for Dunleath and Captained his side well, but it was McCormick's game, with tries from Matt Taylor, Daniel Donnan, 2 for Jack Stewart and 3 from Man of the Match Elliot McKee who was impressive with his aggressive angles of running, passing and of course his tries.

Round 2 saw McCormick take on their closest rivals on paper, Montgomery, in what would be a debut game for Corban Adair and Joel Bunting. McCormick were back to full strength, with plenty of large in stature players. Many from both teams impressed on the day, especially the McCormick boys who ran out impressive winners with 9 tries to Montgomery's one. Special mention has to go to the two debutantes, Messer's Adair and Bunting, who impressed with their fearless tackling, natural passing and aggressive attacking runs! Well done boys, it would appear that the House 7's has unearthed some real talent! Try scorers Oliver Spence (1), Ryan Waring (2), Harry McCarroll (2) and Captain, Christian Locke, with a superb performance and 4 tries. With 4 points from 2 wins, McCormick have the Shield sewn up before the last match, Dunleath and Montgomery now battle it out for 2nd and 3rd in the final game of the season.

In the Senior match, Montgomery took to the field as they looked to open their account, against a rejuvenated and full strength Dunleath side. It was a close game and one that showed what quality the Captains have in year 10. Joseph nickel scoring 4 tries for Montgomery and Jay Thompson scoring 4 in reply for Dunleath. Matthew Burke scored to take the lead for Montgomery who, minutes from time looked to have the win sewn up, but back came Dunleath through the ever present Kayne McCormick to level the match at the final whistle at 5 tries each and points shared. As a much improved Dunleath's competition drew to a close for this year, they can reflect on what must have been. As for Montgomery they go into the final game with McCormick a point behind and knowing only a win will do to secure the Shield.

Round three saw Dunleath, winless so far, take on Montgomery. The Debutants were back for the Blues and in a hard fought bruising encounter, Dunleath turned on the style! The dancing feet of Scott Cunningham, making surgical runs through the defence eventually paid off with him running away to score. The more direct approach was taken by Lawson Porter, 2 tries, Cameron Barclay and Dylan Murphy, 1try each respectively, using their sheer size and speed to crash through and score. Again, determined not to

give in the Montgomery players combined to put through “the impressive”, Mr Viner’s words, Joel Bunting to score 2 tries. Joel I look forward to seeing you out again next season!

The Senior Shield came down to the last game, McCormick, who were in the lead with 2 points going into the game, and Montgomery, who were just behind with one point. Montgomery struck early and 2 tries from Matthew Burke, using his sheer pace caught the McCormick team flat and napping! Robson Ogg rallied his team by scoring one back. After a series of punching pick and drives, Jack Stewart powered over and scored. I might also say that he now has a bruise to be proud of from that attack on his leg! It had to hurt! Montgomery got themselves back into the lead with further tries from Burke and Mark Patton who did a very good impression of Moses, as the sea of McCormick players did their best to not tackle the big rampaging lad, and simply parted to let him score. However McCormick weren’t to be denied their destiny! A well worked passing move out to Cameron Gallogly saw him put on the afterburners and score in the corner and Elliot McKee’s arcing run got them back to level. On came Matthew Taylor, who ripped the ball out of the hands of the McCormick players and rampaged his way through to score. With minutes to go Montgomery had one final attack in them, Burke breaks free, he’s tackled in a tangle of legs inches from the line, the ball is turned over and Taylor romps the full length of the pitch to score! Whistle goes, Montgomery come so close, but in the end McCormick were just too strong and held out to be this years Senior House Shield Champions.

Well done to all of the players in all of the Houses. Well done to McCormick’s Junior and Senior teams. Big thanks to all of the boys for a great season and thanks to Mr Viner and Mr O’Brien for all of their coaching. Same again next year folks! If any pupils wish to try rugby next year, the door is always open and you would be very welcome!