

## DURHAM UNIVERSITY RUGBY – CLUB NEWS

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### MATCH REPORT 02/09/23 Durham & Northumbria Counties 3 (A)

DURFC 87 Winlaton Vulcans 0

A mixture of fresh faces ran out with club returners this Saturday against Winlaton, marking a historic first match for this new Palatinate side, with aim of progressing up the Saturday leagues. The boys were keen to make a statement in the first league fixture, and were off to a flying start with running rugby. Excellent kicking from Robinson (C) allowed Durham to not just dominate territory, but create tries and convert them. However, powerful running and playing wide was the spirit of the day - with Durham running in 49 points by half time. Despite spirited opposition, the boys did not look back. At the final whistle the scoreboard read 87-0. It was a performance to be proud of, but thanks go to Winlaton Vulcans for hosting the beginning of Durham Student's league campaign. Tries: Reid (3), Bailey (2), Chapman (2), Horton (2), Springett (2), Thompson, Hughes Cons: Robinson (8), Donald MOTM: Robinson

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### MATCH REPORT 09/09/23 Durham & Northumbria Counties 3 (H)

DURFC 57 Gosforth RFC 7

Under the scorching sun, DURFC showcased their determination to make a mark in their first league game at home on the hallowed turf of Hollow Drift. The match began well, with Oscar Simmons' early line break and an easy offload to Alfie Chapman resulting in the opening try. Exploiting the wide expanse of the pitch, DURFC consistently found gaps in Gosforth's rush defence, creating opportunities that were capitalized on by the likes of Jack Dennis, Alfie Chapman, Will Sands, Simmo, and Julius Turley during the first half. Despite Gosforth's formidable scrum, DURFC's lineout proficiency, led by Jack Dennis, ensured they maintained a competitive edge. The visitors did manage to breach DURFC's defence just before the end of the half, capitalizing on high tackle penalties and a good line from the Gosforth no.12, sneaking a try under the posts. At halftime, wise words from Brooksey and a referee warning about high tackles set the tone for the second half. Gosforth's lock saw

a yellow card in the first play of the second half for a high tackle, giving the Palatinates the advantage, which they used to unleash pitch-long line breaks. However, the match's balance was restored when Elliot Wilson received a yellow for a high tackle. During the third quarter, Gosforth's defence tightened, reducing DURFC's try count. But the final nail in the coffin was hammered by Will Sands, who showcased his strength with an outstanding carry past multiple defenders for the last try of the game. With the heat of the day lingering, Vice Captain Pat accepted the Gosforth captain's offer to finish the game 10 minutes early. In summary, it was a decent first home run for the Saturday Squad and a memorable opportunity to play on Hollow Drift. MOTM - Julius Turley.