

MATCH REPORT

Australia Schools v England Under 19 Regional Academy

Lymm RFC, Chesire 2 pm

09 December 2009

The Australian Schoolboys have suffered a 27-12 loss against a strong and physical Under 19 RFU Regional Academies side in their midweek tour match at Lymm Rugby Football Club in Cheshire, England on Wednesday. A well preserved pitch, which had not being used for several weeks in anticipation of the match, offered the opportunity for the Australians to unleash their skilful backline.

The Academies side scored first points seven minutes into the match when Jonathan Joseph crossed for the opening try by injecting himself into the backline from a five metre scrum and fly-half Jake Sharp converted making the score 7 – 0.

After a period of midfield play and several kicking duels the schoolboys managed to get themselves into an attacking position only to give a penalty away for the Academy side to relieve the pressure. Jake Sharp claimed the second Academies try after 19 minutes and converted his own score for a 14-0 lead.

It was not until the 29th minute that centre Matthew Garland gave the schoolboys their first points to take the score to 14 – 5. From a midfield scrum, Garland found a huge gap in the Academies' defence and crossed their line showing a great turn of speed. The half time remained 14 – 5 in favour of the home team.

A third try scored by Earl Collins five minutes into the second half with the Academies sending the ball through the hands, opened up the lead to 19 – 5. Once again the schoolboys rallied in the 17th minute with a try by flanker Jack de Guingand after two phases from a quick penalty awarded 15 metres out from the home side line. Scrum-half and Captain Matthew Lucas converted to bring the score to 19 - 12.



Shortly after the restart the Schoolboys conceded a penalty within kicking range and the Academies team seized the opportunity, kicking the penalty to take the score to 22 – 12, making it very difficult to come back into the game.

With seven minutes to go the Regional Academy winger, Marcus Watson, crossed the line for their fourth and final try and with the conversion took the score to 29 – 12. Although the Schoolboys lifted in the final minutes and threatened to reduce the deficit, time ran and the final score remained at 29 - 12.

Schoolboys assistant coach Tim Wallace said the intensity of tour matches are in line with what the players have been experiencing during 'Tests'. "There are no real midweek games over here, the

English have got so many quality players at this level and all the teams we are playing are extremely strong," Wallace said.

REGIONAL ACADEMIES 27 (Marcus Watson 2, Earl Collins, Jake Sharp tries; Sharp 2 cons, pen) **def AUSTRALIA 12** (Chris Feauai, Jack De Guingand tries, Matt Lucas con).



AUSTRALIA (15-1): Chris Feauai, Tom Kingston, Matthew Garland, Rodney Esekia, Kimami Sitauti, Kyle Godwin, Matthew Lucas (captain), Nathan Paila, Jack De Guingand, Matthew Ika, Angus Hamilton, Curtis Browning, Joe Welch, Ross Marias, Marcus Heather. Replacements: Jack Kimmince, Hugh Roach, Paul Alo-Emile, Luke Jones, Liam Gill, Ruka Hanlon, Rohan Saifoloi, Jacob Woodhouse, Jordan Tuapou, Tyson Frizell, Joel Faulkner.

U19 REGIONAL ACADEMIES (from): Forwards: Harry Allen (Saracens), Peter Austin (London Irish), Joe Barker (Leeds Carnegie), Ryan Bower (Leicester Tigers), Rob Buchanan (Harlequins), Matthew Everard (Leicester Tigers), Ben Glynn (Bristol Rugby), Alex Gray (Newcastle Falcons), Tom Hicks (Northampton Saints), Sam Jones (London Wasps), Charlie Matthews (Harlequins), Henry Thomas (Sale Sharks), Mako Vunipola (Bristol Rugby). Backs: Joe Cobden (Leicester Tigers), Earl Collins (Worcester Warriors), Owen Farrell (Saracens), Ryan Glynn (Sale Sharks), Jonathan Joseph (London Irish), Jake Sharp (Saracens), Andy Short (Worcester), Sam Stuart (Harlequins), Marcus Watson (London Irish).

