



Stafford Rugby Club

sponsored by



Match Reports

Stafford XV 0–12 Aston Old Ed's

5th December 2009

Midlands West 2 (NORTH) League Fixture

Match sponsored by

Focale Ltd

Stafford 1st XV put up a brave fight against Aston Old Edwardians before going down to a narrow 12–0 defeat last Saturday. Having beaten bottom of the league last week, Stafford were looking for only their second win of the season to lift them out of the bottom two but they were up against an Edwardians side who had yet to drop a point in the league coming into the game. The match started with the visitors having plenty of possession as they attempted to stretch their two point lead at the top of the Midlands 2 West (North) Division. Yet Stafford defended bravely and kept Edwardians out with relative ease for most of the first half. The Castlefields club soon began to stamp their authority in the game, with the front row dominating the scrum and line-out jumpers Tom Williams and Dave Austen securing good ball for the backs. Edwardians then had a player sin-binned for a late tackle, but Stafford couldn't make the most of the numerical advantage. Instead it was the visitors who broke the deadlock three minutes before the break, as a loose Stafford kick was capitalised on by Edwardians as their winger went through to score in the corner.

Only 5–0 down at half time, the home side knew they were still well in the game if they kept up their solid defence and started converting their own pressure into points but Edwardians have conceded the least amount of points in the league and were determined to keep up their impressive defensive record. Their task was made easier when it became Stafford's turn to go down to fourteen men mid-way through the second half. Though, Stafford bravely kept out the visiting forwards, they were powerless to prevent the second try after relentless Edwardian pressure. The game may have

been put beyond the Newport Road side's reach at 12-0, but Stafford weren't going to lose quietly as they pushed for a score of their own. The match ended with the home side inching their way towards the try line, but Edwardians clung onto their clean sheet and extended their lead at the top of the table. Despite the loss, club captain Ben Ryder said he was proud of his players for showing the guts and team-work he had asked for before the match. Stafford will look to return to winning ways with their final home match before Christmas against Bridgnorth on Saturday.

Stafford Third XV 5-7 Burntwood

5th December 2009

Staffordshire Merit Table B South League Fixture

The Thirds went into this fixture hoping to reverse the hammering they got when they visited Burntwood earlier in the season. The signs looked good early on when skipper Jez Price took a quick penalty from 30 metres out to weave his way through the visitors defence to score. After this it was Stafford who were dominant, the forwards neutralising the strong Burntwood pack but again the backs lacked a decisive cutting edge and it was against the run of play that Burntwood scored. During a run of play when the visitors were going nowhere there appeared to be a knock on, the home side responded by waiting for the whistle instead of playing on, allowing the opposition to score. This was a game dominated by Stafford but one which they ultimately lost due to a lack of attacking confidence.

Stafford Veterans XV 7-53 Longton

5th December 2009

Pool Fixture

No Match Report.

Continued...



On Saturday 12th December 2009, Stafford XV host Bridgnorth at Castlefields whilst Third XV play away at St Leonards.