

3/10/09 Yorkshire League Division 3 Northallerton 10 vs Garforth 32

Garforth took a leap in the right direction in both performance and league position on Saturday with a comprehensive victory at Northallerton.

The East Leeds outfit had never won on their travels to North Yorkshire, however, all this was to change as coach Jonny Fallas demanded no less than two points after the disappointment of not winning against Halifax Vandals the previous week.

The match literally started with a bang. Within 30 seconds punches were being traded by the forwards as a scrum broke down after strange coconut shy-like noises emitting from the Garforth front row. The Northallerton hooker obviously didn't fancy a day opposite Captain Adam Brown and the Horwell brothers, instead electing for an early shower.

Despite Garforth's early physical dominance it was Northallerton who were the first to cross the try line. Using the strong wind at their backs they were able to keep Garforth in their own 22 metre zone and eventually fell over the line after repeated forward drives.

The mighty 'forth soon replied in the form of their winger Des "Gelding" Claxton. The dark destroyer took the ball forty metres out and after disposing of several would be tacklers, crossed in the right hand corner.

The conditions were helping Northallerton win the territorial battle and they managed a second try that was cut from the same silk as their first with positional kicking giving them a good platform for their forwards to drive over.

All was soon once again level when the ball found Prop Adi Horwell out wide who drew his man well then put winger Bobby "The ultimate athlete" Taylor through down the left wing. The winger showed his pace and strength to finish the try well.

With the wind making kicking extremely difficult the half ended 10-10 with no conversions.

Garforth were quick to capitalise on the swirling wind with several bombs forcing errors from the Northallerton full back. It was one of these errors that resulted in the first try of the half. Winger Bobby Taylor was able to pounce on a misfielded kick and after showing good football skills grounded the ball over the try line.

Garforth were beginning to click and even prop forward Adam "The fend" Brown was trying to take quick taps, granted he did look like a bulldog trying to tap dance.

An attempted "Gary Owen" by the Northallerton full back was greatly overrun by the North Yorkshire outfit and eventually landed in the hands of Garforth's oriental inside centre who jogged through under the sticks and eventually put the ball down after a four letter tirade from his team mates.

A sexy truffle shuffle and offload from number eight Alex Gomerson put Baldwin through for his second of the match taking the result beyond Northallerton. A well taken penalty and two conversions kept the scoreboard ticking over with final score a comfortable 10 – 32.

Man of the match went to Bobby Taylor on the wing who was a constant threat and chipped in with two tries despite starting the game with a knee injury.

Coaches comments: "very happy"