

**12/9/09 Yorkshire League Division 3
Thornensians 56 vs Garforth 15**

Garforth suffered their second defeat of the season on Saturday but can take some solace from a spirited second half fight back.

The forward pack was missing key members Chris Nevison, Guy Hawkridge, Jake Dolphin and long term absentee Phil "Paxo" Jackson. This meant that the forwards were always going to struggle to gel and this was apparent in a poor first half showing.

By no means were the forwards alone in a poor first half as several defensive mix ups and a lack of closing down of Thorn's flying left winger by the Garforth backs meant honours were shared when it came to leaking tries.

In summary the less said about the first half the better....

Garforth have been gutted by injuries and retirements this season and have found life hard in Yorkshire Three after being promoted last season. Therefore with morale low and the temperature high it would have been oh too easy for the mighty 'Forth to lay down and allow a cricket score to mount against them but to Garforth's huge credit they came out for the second half fighting.

Garforth had barely had any of the ball during the first half but an increase in the aggression of the pack's rucking meant the ball was being retained for longer periods. Cracks were beginning to appear in the Thorn line with number eight Si Horwell benefitting to make a barnstorming break which eventually lead to Garforth's first league try of the season being scored by Eric "The Badger" Carter. Full back Chris Brown was a constant threat to the Thorn line with jinking runs and excellent positional kicking earning him Garforth's Man of the Match acclaim.

Si "The Monk" Horwell had put in a dogged performance and he was rewarded with a well taken try in the right hand corner and a third try was added when centre James Baldwin showed he's still got his football skills with a cheeky backheel setting Dawson up for Garforth's third try.

Although on the wrong side of the scoreboard, there were plenty of positives to be taken and with several players returning Garforth will be hoping for a much better result against Halifax Vandals at the college in two weeks time.