

Rugby: Beths Grammar vs Sir Roger Manwood School (Wednesday 8 November)

Strong showing from the 1st XV

A good performance from the 1stXV on Wednesday evening saw them progress into the next round of the Natwest Bowl courtesy of a 38-24 victory over Sir Roger Manwood School.

Beths dominated possession over the 80 minutes and made the most of favourable conditions to pull off some impressive, fluid attacking moves.

After taking the lead Beths never looked back and produced a comfortable defensive display that perhaps wasn't reflected in the score line. Sam Ryan in Year 12 in particular made some very good tackles in crucial moments with the runs by Nathan, Ethan, David and Ediz making Beths a real attacking force.

The home side were very organised in the rucks and mauls meaning they entered the final quarter of the game with a bit of breathing space. This proved to be crucial too as the awarding of a few penalties against Beths late-on narrowed the margin of victory.

Team: Seyi, Max Mason, Sam Boodram, Sam Ryan, Nathan, Ollie, Ediz Chakarto, Miles, James Axon, Dan Mitchell, David, Henry Papworth, Arron, Luke, Ishmael

Try scorers: Max (1), Seyi (2), Arron (1), David (1), Dan (1).

Written by Henry Papworth

Football: Beths Grammar vs Oakwood Grammar (Wednesday 8 November)

2ndXI taste defeat in the cup

A change in competition made little difference for the 2ndXI as they fell to their second defeat in two weeks after a 2-1 defeat away to Oakwood Grammar.

Beths started brightly in Maidstone and went one goal to the good after an impressive strike from Tobi outside the box nestled into the side netting leaving the 'keeper little chance.

After Oakwood levelled proceedings Beths held out for a draw all the way until 5 minutes before the final whistle. They say in football when you're down then things don't go your way and that was proven unfortunately for Beths after a shot from outside the area looped over 'keeper Charley Smith's head into the net.

The boys were arguably the better side in the game and can count themselves unfortunate not to hold out for a draw at the very least. But encouragingly there are a lot of positives to build-on looking forward to the next game.

Football: Beths Grammar vs Maidstone Grammar (Wednesday 8 November)

Disappointment for 1stXI

The 1stXI turned in arguably their worst performance of the season as they fell to a heavy 4-2 home defeat to Maidstone Grammar on Wednesday evening.

Despite having the lead at the interval Beths struggled as an attacking unit. This failed to change in the second-half and Maidstone came out strongly to make them pay in what was a feisty affair.

The boys will need to improve their passing and play in the final third of the pitch to turn it around going into next week's fixture which is a home game against Ravensbourne.

1st XI Goals: Lucas Hart, Alex Pruden



Written by Henry Clark

Darts undone by clinical finishing

A professional and clinical performance from League 2 Swindon Town put pay to Dartford's FA Cup dreams as they ran out 5-1 winners at Princes Park.

Going into the game the National League South side sit top of the league yet still a hefty 44 places below the Robins in the footballing pyramid. Dartford's starting line-up featured Beths old boy Richard Sho-Silva, for whom it was a day to remember in more than one way...

Not only were they going to have to play at their best but would also have to rely on that infamous 'magic' of the FA Cup that carried the likes of Lincoln City and Sutton United to dates with Arsenal in the competition last year.

Tony Burman's side started brightly against their full-time opposition with crosses from Lyle Della-Verde and Ryan Hayes causing havoc in the Swindon box before eventually being cleared away to safety.

The Darts needed to stay in the game for as long as possible to stand a chance of a result but that soon became an uphill battle as an Amine Linganzi cross around the 6-yard line was parried away by Gibraltar international Deren Ibrahim, only to be met emphatically by Timi Elsnik who duly thumped the ball home past Ibrahim.

One soon became two as Donal McDermott slipped the ball into the feet of Millwall-loanee Harry Smith who rifled the ball into the top right corner of the net on the edge of the box before wheeling away in celebration in front of the travelling fans from Wiltshire.

It wasn't long before the game was all but over as ex-West Ham and Portsmouth man Matt Taylor produced perhaps the delivery of the game as his first-time cross was headed in by Elsnik for his second of the game and his side's third.

The Darts were eager to not go down without a fight despite chants of "easy, easy" from the away fans; Ryan Hayes, who was probably Dartford's brightest prospect going forward, put the ball on a plate for Alex Brown who blasted over off-balance from 10 yards out.

That set the tone for the game with the difference being the visitor's clinical finishing in front of goal. Tom Bonner went close before half-time only to be denied by Reice Charles-Cook who was left rooted to the spot minutes later after an audacious 30-yard volley from Lee Noble couldn't quite dip enough in time to find its way under the bar.

As the second-half started the Dartford fans remained in fine voice despite the 3-0 score-line but within 60 seconds they were silenced after a poor clearance from Richard Sho-Silva fell to Linganzi on the edge of the box who chested the ball and then coolly volleyed into the top left corner.

Hayes then flashed a free-kick well wide before Paul Mullin rounded off Swindon's scoring with his sliding finish slotting Goddard's low cross from the right into the net.

The away side had produced a truly professional performance in truth and could be forgiven for taking their foot off the accelerator in the last quarter of the game.

However, this allowed Dartford to give their fans something to shout about with captain Elliot Bradbrook's speculative overhead kick flying just over the bar.

Soon the Darts registered their consolation - a Noble corner came out to substitute Tom Murphy whose shot skimmed along the surface before hitting the left upright and amidst a scramble on the line defender Sho-Silva of all people was there to convincingly fire home from just two yards out.

www.youngsportsjournos.wordpress.com

Written by our Chief Sports Writer: Henry Clark