Northumberland U18 – End of Season Report

Objective

The objective of the County U18 Management & Coaching team was to field the best team available of eligible players to represent Northumberland at u18 level with a view to getting as many players as possible recognised by the North 18 selectors and therefore to be invited to the follow on North u18 Assessment day

Calendar

Date	Activity
24th October	County Trials
31st October	Squad Development evening
21st November	Training
23rd November	Match vs Yorkshire @Lymm RFC – North Festival – Lost 24-31
5th December	Training
7th December	Match vs Lancashire @Preston Grasshoppers RFC – Lost 0-15
19th December	Training
21st December	Match vs Durham @Rockcliff RFC – Won 51-35

Invitees to North U18 Assessment Day

At the conclusion of the u18 County fixtures the following players were invited to attend the North U18 Assessment Day on the 25th January at Keighley RFC.

Nominees			
Ethan Thompson	Tynedale	Gosforth Academy	
Matthew Johnson	Blaydon	Newcastle School for Boys	Withdrew as not able to commit to North dates
Archie Middlemist	Alnwick	Duchess High School	
Nathan Bailey	Tynedale	Gosforth Academy	
Joshua Robertson	Northern	Kings Priory school	
Will Ainsley	Tynedale	Newcastle School for Boys	

Positives/Negatives

Positive	Negative
Positive results on the pitch – great to have so many players invited to Assessment day	Poor weather conditions – particularly for the game vs Lancashire meant opportunity for boys to demonstrate their abilities were limited
Good engagement with North u18 management and selection team	Time of year means sessions are cold & travel can be difficult
Stash supplied to players was well received – players proud to put on Northumberland colours	Numerous pairs of shorts appeared to have gone missing following final fixture – to date calls for return have had limited response

Availability of warm up tops, shorts & sub suits meant team looked very 'professional' during warm up – compared to some counties who didn't provide socks/shorts, etc	
Positive feedback received from parents & players on their experience from participating in the programme	

Coaching Report from Steve Turnbull

Coaching wise I believe we delivered a good constructive set of sessions. One of the earlier sessions both Scotty and Billy couldn't make due to prior commitments, I brought in to help me two Redbull academy coaches (Matty Currie & Andy Neal) along with Rob Parker who helps me at Tynedale. New faces kept it fresh and new drills and ideas worked well. Im very conscious as a coach players get sick of hearing the same voice every session and I find bringing in guest coaches keeps the momentum going. All three would be keen to help out again in the U17 campaign, should we need them.

Although two of the results didn't go our way we played a really good standard of rugby throughout the three games and we were all pleased with how the players conducted themselves on and off the pitch. Its interesting to look at the Durham game, 6mth ago Durham gave our u17's a lesson in how to play at the DMP stadium, almost all the same players on both teams played the last u18 game at Rockcliff and Northumberland put 51 points on them which clearly shows the improvement our boys have made over 6mths.

All in all a good campaign for Northumberland u18s.