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	

Northumberland U17 – End of Season Report

Objective

The objective of the County U17 Management & Coaching team is to review eligible playing resource from across Northumberland County with a view to identifying talented players who the coaching team believe have the potential to represent the County at u18 level the following year.

Calendar

Date	Activity
22/04/2025	Training @ Whitley Bay Rockcliff
29/04/2025	Training @ Whitley Bay Rockcliff
06/05/2025	Training @ Whitley Bay Rockcliff
11/05/2025	Internal Match
13/05/2025	Training @ Whitley Bay Rockcliff
18/05/2025	Match vs Cumbria (A) – Lost 31-19
21/05/2025	Match vs Durham (A) – Lost – 41-5
25/05/2025	Match vs Yorkshire (H) @ Whitley Bay Rockcliff – Lost 10-43

Although results may not have gone our way on the pitch the standard of rugby has been excellent and has really impressed the coaching team.

The programme has met the coaching and management teams objective of reviewing eligible playing resource from across Northumberland County, with 40+ boys having opportunity to represented Northumberland. For many this will be the highest level of rugby they every reach and we hope they enjoyed the experience.

Positives/Negatives

Positive	Negative
All training sessions well attended – player commitment really good	3 fixtures in a week was probably too much – in future need to ensure wider spread
Internal match provided Coaching team an opportunity to watch players in a match environment – great to have proper referee engaged	Not enough kit for 40+ players (only available for 35) – warm up t-shirts went missing during day out for 1st match - disappointing