

Daily Mail/RBS U18 Cup: Whitgift beat the freeze and show they're hot stuff

By [Sportsmail Reporter](#) Last updated at 6:56 PM on 14th January 2010

Whitgift were the only team to beat the big freeze this week and took another major step on the road to Twickenham in the Daily Mail RBS U18 Cup.

The Croydon school, their pitches snowbound, were lagging behind after the sixth round home tie against Chislehurst & Sidcup Grammar was postponed before Christmas because players were on England duty.



Cutting loose: Whitgift fly-half Rob White

So, Chris Wilkins, the former Wasps, Blackheath and Esher No 8 and now Whitgift's head of rugby, used his connections and Blackheath pulled out all the stops to clear the state-of-the-art 3G artificial pitch, installed at their Well Hall training ground last summer.

Wilkins' players, hungry for action after their long lay-off, ran in eight tries during a 58-0 victory, which sends out another warning to every other team in the last 16. Chis & Sid have had a decent season, reaching the last 32 for the first time, and made Whitgift work hard for their points, but were no real match.

'They could go all the way,' said Phil Obee, the Chis & Sid coach, who once had Wilkins under his wing at Blackheath. 'They have a nice balance - very powerful and physical, good teamwork and they keep the ball moving to supply some exceptional finishers.'



On the charge: Whitgift's Jack Munnery releases England U18 winger Marland Yarde

All eight tries came from the backs. Two from England's Marland Yarde and James Canty, one apiece from Chris Crane and George Smith, and two more for 19 stone winger Lawrence Okoye, giving a fair impression of Jonah Lomu. England centre Elliott Daly kicked five conversions and Tom Nicholls one.

The win sets up a mouthwatering game at St Benedict's, Ealing on Saturday, January 30. Both teams have lost just once this season, Whitgift 15-13 to John Fisher, who were beaten 23-20 by Bennies in the last game before Christmas. One thing is for sure, it won't be 58-0!

Spare a thought for Brighton College, who almost got their U15 Vase game on against Perins from Alresford at Brighton Blues rugby club on their 3G pitch.

Despite the combined efforts of the club, Brighton & Hove Albion's staff and the College players and coaches, Tuesday night's snowfall ruined all their efforts.

'We had to start again and fell 20m short,' said Nic Buoy, the College's Director of Rugby and the Brighton Blues full back. 'We're hoping Perins can play on Saturday.'

Find this story at www.dailymail.co.uk/sport/rugbyunion/article-1243184/Daily-Mail-RBS-U18-Cup-Whitgift-beat-freeze-theyre-hot-stuff.html

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