**Lisburn Rugby**

**Lisburn Overcome UUC in Vital League Game**

**Lisburn 31 – UUC 0**

At Blaris last Saturday Lisburn faced the challenge of escaping from the bottom rung of the Ulster Rugby Championship Division 2 and faced with a must win game they eventually came through by the comfortable margin of 31 points to nil, scoring five tries in the process against a game student XV. The Connect Telecom backed Lisburn repelled the early student pressure and declining early opportunities to kick penalties went for tries from the outset through their dominant pack where the front row of Frazer, Press and Dickson, and later Gilkinson, were in the ascendancy. However, despite all the pressure and possession, it was not until the 30th minute that Lisburn made the break through. A drive from prop Frazer eventually broke the stalemate and he put centre Kenny McCombe through for the opening try. Lisburn continued to make all the running in the final ten minutes of the half and just on the whistle a great burst through the UUC defence by flanker Chris O’Brien, going at full tilt, allowed him to give outhalf Matthew Arneil the simple scoring pass. Kenny McCombe converted both of these tries to give Lisburn a 14-0 halftime lead.

The second period started in the same vein with Lisburn on the attack and it was flanker O’Brien who again drove over for the next try after gaining possession near the student’s line. The bonus point came five minutes later after big flanker Andy Barron had made some of the hard yards. Hooker Michael Press, who was having a cracking game following his return from a lengthy injury spell, got possession and scored. While neither of these tries were converted, Lisburn were now in a healthy 24-0 lead.

Half backs Neil Kilpatrick and Matty Arneil were controlling the game beautifully for Lisburn and with centres McCombe and Bebbington stopping all of the student’s thrusts, it was never going to be easy for them to gain any foothold in Lisburn territory. Alan Hughes and Jonny Davis ensured continuing possession for the home team and Captain and Number 8, Matt Edgar, consolidated rucks and mauls with close quarter leadership of his pack to great effect. In the closing minutes another strong scrum saw the ball popped out the backline where winger Nick Kennedy had the simple job of running in the final try on an overlap. Another great conversion from McCombe gave Lisburn the 31-0 victory and room to breathe again pending their next game against fellow strugglers Donaghadee next Saturday.