

Highfield U-18's come out on top V Old Christians away.

At 12:30 in Rathcooney, two teams, which were hard to separate three weeks ago, took to the same pitch once again. Conditions were damp, grey and misty as both teams engaged in a series of aggressive rucks and chases before Old Christians were awarded an offside penalty under the posts following a ruck. Niall Downing, Jack Fitzgerald, and Salvador Patricio we're visibly dominating the upfront physical battle.

After twenty bruising minutes, Old Christians were awarded a penalty when the referee thought he saw a Highfield man playing the ball on the ground. Dave O' Hea and Don Keogh's coaching of the back five forwards of Darren Jones, William Power, Stephen Murphy, Sean O'Regan and Sean Fahy was becoming the obvious difference, as they were clearly the more mobile of the two packs. The deserved breakthrough came when number eight Sean Fahy went over the Old Christians line in the twenty ninth minute. Dave O'Shea converted to bring Highfield ahead by 7 to 3. After thirty mins, following a scrum when Old Christians kicked the ball dead from their ten yard line, another ruck resulted in a converted penalty and yellow card against Highfield to bring the score to Old Christians 6 Highfield 7. Open Forward play by Salvador Patricio forced a scrum against Old Christians. Soon after, the Old Christians tight head prop was sent to the bin for an infringement. The Highfield half back pair of Mathew Murphy and David O'Shea, with support from the speedy Sean O'Toole, Ian Kearney and Ross O' Donavan were unlucky not to break through the Old Christians line before half time.

After the prolonged break while play was well underway, Highfield opted for a scrum penalty

following a high tackle infringement in the fifty second minute. With some lightning quick hands from Mathew Murphy, skipping to 1st centre Tadhg O' Corrain and with the support interplay of superb Ian Kearney, a drive from Niall Downey put him over for a try to put Highfield 12 - Old Christians 6 points. O'Shea was again on the mark with the conversion. Eventually, with the longest yellow card finally expired, Highfield kicked down the files and Old Christians made a return maul drive for forty meters resulting in a penalty against Highfield. Loose ball ensued and Cian Cunningham picked the ball and made a spectacular run on the left wing, only to slip and tumble head over heels without losing control of the ball, just short of the line. Highfield picked from scrum and Darren Jones went over for a 64 minute try. With a score of a conversion by Dave O'Shea, Highfield were 21- 6 the better. More Old Christians work was upset again by William Power and Zane Yil when they forced a penalty following a contested ruck. Another tackle by Sean Dylan following a long kick down filed from O'Shea resulted in a second penalty being awarded to Highfield. Sean Dylan was justly rewarded on 70 mins when he was to touchdown after lovely work by Cormac O'Driscoll and Ian O'Keefe. The score board was now reading Highfield 28 -Old Christians 6 Highfield were deemed to foul and were reduced to 14 following a yellow card. Despite the superb efforts of Darragh O' Donoghue, Conor Murphy and Emmett Downey, Old Christians justly went over for a try following persistent pressure. A final score of Highfield 28 - Old Christians 13, sets up a mouth-watering prospect next week for the Woodleigh Park men at home to Cork Constitution.