

## **Solid start for UYSWC men**

York started their BUCS campaign this week with a 9-9 draw against a strong Newcastle side and a narrow 5-4 defeat to Northumbria.

The UYSWC men fielded a relatively inexperienced team for their first outing of the season, evidenced in a game littered with major fouls. Despite this, it took until half way through the first quarter for Newcastle to break through the York defence and open the scoring. They doubled their lead shortly afterwards but York were not easily rattled and continued to press. Jack Jones fired home to put York on the scoreboard and they held on to finish the quarter with a 2-1 deficit.

The second quarter started well for the York men, forcing a foul from Newcastle. Filippo Cocozza took advantage of the man up and found the top corner to level the score. The rest of the quarter was a tight affair, with goals coming thick and fast for both teams. Keeper Young Gawthorpe kept his team in contention with some vital saves whilst Cocozza controlled the game from the other end, scoring another three to go into the second still trailing by one at 6-5.

York's new players were getting into the swing of the game by the third quarter. Matt Chapman and Crispin Halcrow were passing well, helping set up several opportunities for the visitors that flew agonisingly close to their mark. Newcastle were able to pull a further two goals ahead before Jones secured his second of the game. Man of the match Sam Timpany was pivotal in forcing the York play forwards but it was not enough to stem the home side who led 8-6 into the final quarter.

A revitalised York side were determined to rescue what was a very evenly match game, and an early Newcastle goal seem only to spur them on. Cocozza connected well with George Chambers, giving the home side no time on the ball and forcing another mistake. Jones stepped up and found the net for his third goal, motivating the UYSWC men. They were rewarded with a penalty for their efforts after a major Newcastle foul, Cocozza coolly converting. He added another to draw York level, and the visitors played out the final few minutes with their best performances of the game to earn a well-deserved draw.

York's game against Northumbria started positively, the men building on the experience gained from their first match. York took advantage of the strength of their players, Rob Mason and Timpany defending solidly. Northumbria, clearly frustrated, were only able to one past man of the match Gawthorpe in the first quarter.

York were the stronger side in the second quarter, Jones leading the attack and Cocozzo scoring twice to put the visitors in front. Northumbria were able to equalise but not for long, Cocozza hammering the back of the net to put York in front at the halfway point.

The third quarter started evenly matched, both teams setting up several opportunities and an on-form Gawthorpe making some excellent saves. Ryan Jago chalked up his first UYSWC goal, balanced by a Northumbria shot finally finding a way past Gawthorpe. York were starting to wane heading into the final quarter, missing the strength of Cocozza after his dismissal for three majors. Northumbria capitalised and, despite York's best efforts, scored twice to snatch a 5-4 victory.

Captain Young Gawthorpe was optimistic– “a lot of the guys have never played a polo match before so I think we did really well. A few things need tightening up a little but there are definitely lots of positives to take from it”.

YORK: Gawthorpe (c), Cocozza, Jones, Chambers, Jundi, Chapman, Barber-Bany, Timpany, Lawrence, Curtis, Hill, Halcrow, Hollihan Sarmiento, Mason, Jago

Man of the match v Newcastle: Sam Timpany

Man of the match v Northumbria: Young Gawthorpe