



Exeter Chiefs Academy – November 2021

U23s Programme

We have been busy putting together a new U23s Academy side over the past few months. The U23s programme has been put together to give players that have been in our pathway up to 18 years old and then gone onto pursue different avenues like university or work. It's an opportunity for late developing players to showcase their attributes in order to gain a professional contract.

Players have travelled from across the Country from as far as Darlington and Scarborough to Penzance and everywhere in between in order to play in the first two games.

The first game saw us travel to Cambridge to take on Cambridge University Varsity side. Having not trained together as a squad the players put up a spirited fight going down 29-14. After going two quick scores down the team did well to stay in the fight and make a competitive game against a team who were more experienced in age and physical development. Our second game was a one-sided affair against the Royal Navy U23s side at Sandy Park. Chiefs U23s coming out on top 83-0.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our stakeholders (Cornish Pirates RFC, Redruth RFC, Plymouth Albion RFC, Darlington Mowden Park RFC, Scarborough RFC, Taunton RFC, Blackheath RFC, Cardiff Met University, Loughborough University & Hartpury University) who have backed the programme and released their players to represent Chiefs U23s.

Exeter College Update

Exeter College; After a good pre-season and 120 players in the Exeter College Rugby Academy, the college have managed to put out 4 teams each week since the fixtures have started.

In the ACE league Exeter College started well winning their first two games but then fell away with regards the results. On a plus side some 1st year college students gained some exposure to ACE rugby and the standard of that league as they played against the Bristol, Bath, Gloucester, Harlequins & London Irish college and school teams.

Exeter College enjoyed success at the AOC regional 7's tournament winning the event scoring 135 points and conceding 12 and in turn progressing to the National finals later in the season.

International U18s & U20s Camps

Congratulations to Joe Bailey who has recently attended an England U18s national camp in October half term. Also selected to attend an England U18s South camp later this month is Ed Spurway, Joe Bailey, Tom Gulley, Louie Drennan, Charlie Groves and Ellis Kershaw.

Huge Congratulations to Christ Tshionza who made his Wales full debut on Saturday in a winning performance against Fiji at the Millennium stadium.

Called into the England U20s camp we have – Frankie Nowell, Bailey Williams, Charlie McCaig, Kian Gentry, William Becconsall, Ben Hammersley, Archie Hill and Tom Cairns.

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Lastly, congratulations to Iwan Jenkins who has been called up to the Wales U20s training squad

Congratulations and we wish them all the luck.

Upcoming U18s Season

The Academy U18s season is almost upon us. We will be naming our squad this week with six games coming up with our home games being played at Truro College.

- V Saracens @ Truro College – 18th December 11.30 KO
- V Bath @ Marlborough College – 8th January 13.00 KO
- V Harlequins @ Truro College – 15th January 12.00 KO
- V Gloucester @ Truro College – 22nd January 14.00 KO
- V London Irish @ Hazlewood – 5th February 13.30 KO
- V Bristol @ Dings Crusaders – 12th February 13.00 KO

DPP Update

Our U16s DPP programme is fully up and running across the region. Engagement has been high across the board and the standard has been very good which is great to see.

Devon DPP will be travelling down to Cornwall on Sunday 5th December to play in three DPP games across the day. Over 150 players playing in one day is great for local rugby and provides an opportunity for players to push themselves at a level that is right in their current development.

U15s DPP will be starting in the New Year. Nomination forms will be sent out via our regional leads in the coming months.

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