

Advertiser Sports Extra

Bank's lack of action

FOOTBALL

FOR THE third week running all three fixtures involving Hesketh Bank senior sides were postponed due to waterlogged pitches.

The first team's match at Turton and reserve team fixture at Slyne-with-Hest failed early morning pitch inspections and the Sunday team's re-arranged fixture against BAE Warton at the Centenary Sports Ground was also called off.

During the week and a little late, the club were informed by the West Lancashire League that the first team had been awarded Team of the Month from last November.

In addition James Smith won the Manager of the Month award.

This is the second time this season that his team have won the award.

They were due to be presented with the awards at Dalton United a couple of weeks ago by league officials but the match was postponed. They will now be presented with them in the near future.

Manager James Smith commented: "Whilst it is good for the team and myself to be recognised with these awards I am more concerned about obtaining promotion to the Premier Division and hoping we can get a game on soon as it is nearly the end of January and we have yet to play this year!"

Hesketh Bank won all four matches played in November without conceding a goal. The three league matches began with a 3-0 win at Furness Rovers, a 5-0 home win against Mill Hill St. Peters and a 4-0 victory at Millom.

They also beat Poulton 2-0 at home in the first round of the Presidents Cup.

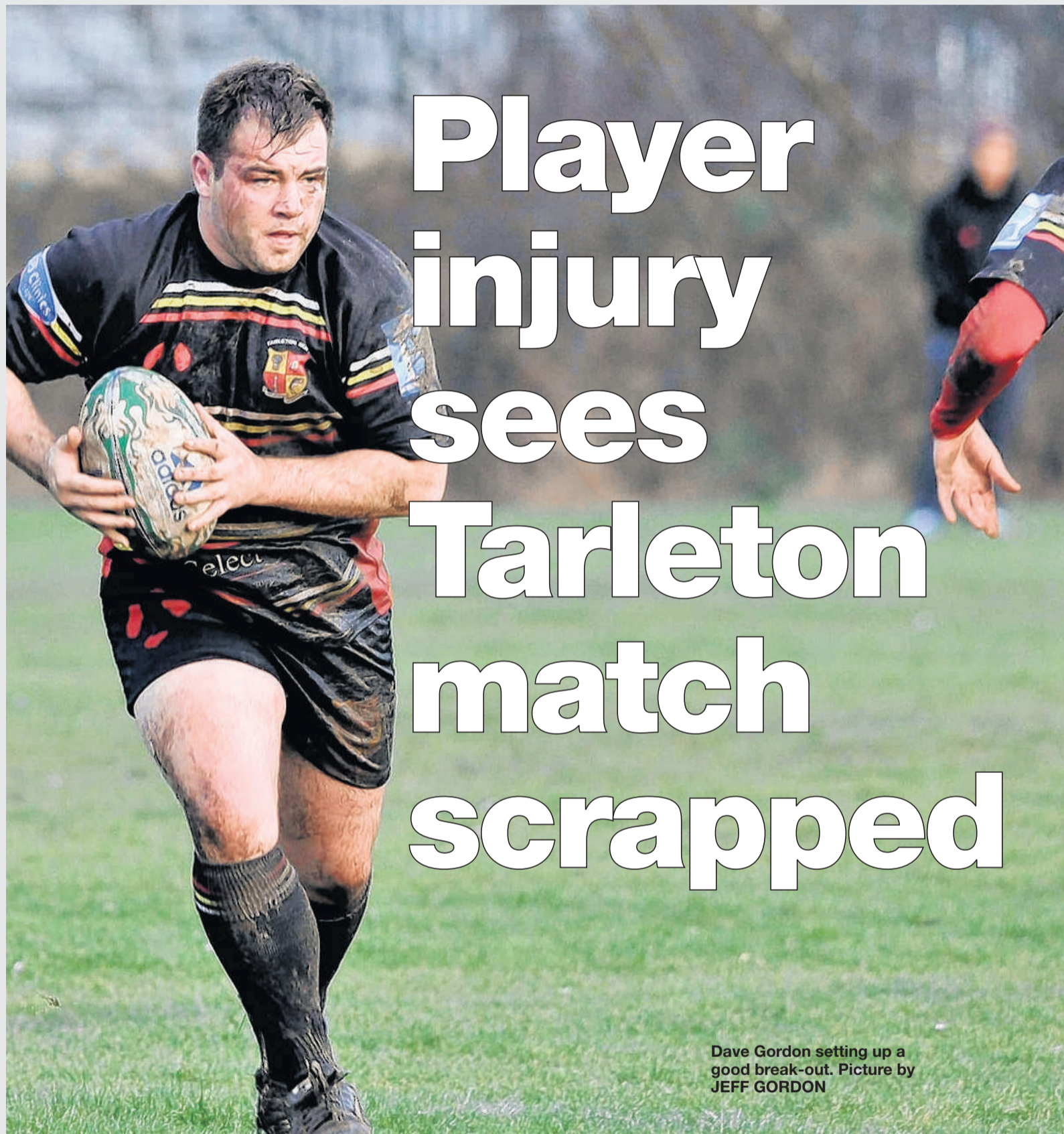
On Saturday they have a mouth-watering fixture at third placed Hurst Green who closed the gap to three points with a 3-0 win at home to BAC/EE Preston although Hesketh Bank have two games in hand.

This was the only match to survive the weather in the First Division. Hurst Green inflicted Hesketh Bank's only league defeat of the season so far by 1-0 last October at the CSG.

Meanwhile the reserves entertain Leyland United who beat them by the odd goal in five earlier in the season. Both these matches kick off at 2pm.

The Sunday team are also at home the day after to Preston based side Hesketh United which kicks off at 11am.

For up to date details and to book a slot at the club's 3G training facility check out the [website](http://www.heskethbankafc.co.uk)



Player injury sees Tarleton match scrapped

Dave Gordon setting up a good break-out. Picture by JEFF GORDON

Dislocated shoulder sees Fleetwood clash called off

RUGBY

TARLETON had one of those weekends that all clubs go through from time to time with a weekend that ended up with no senior rugby being played to completion.

The First XV had a weekend off and the Senior Colts' last competitive home game against Winnington Park was cancelled late on Saturday as Park couldn't raise a team.

This just left the seconds with an

away cup match against Fleetwood RUFC for Tarleton's rugby followers to watch.

Considering that the Seconds had a squad of 29 to choose from last week it needed a lot of last minute ringing around to galvanise a few of them to come along to give them some substitutes for this match and find the required replacement prop for the front row.

The match started early and Tarleton started late, on a wet and boggy surface it was Fleetwood who left the blocks fastest and their game plan was fairly obvious from the start – win the ball and give it to the big fellow (22 stone and 6ft. 8" tall) to crash through.

Tarleton helped Fleetwood's cause by also giving away 15 penalties in just over 18 minutes, allowing Fleetwood

to kick for the corners and put Tarleton under pressure on their line with the 'crash-ball' tactic.

It was from a penalty for a high tackle on Fleetwood's man-monster that their crash-ball tactic saw him crash over to open the scoring. How anyone could high tackle him is a mystery but that's what the referee gave.

Tarleton woke up a little bit from this shock and started to make inroads into the Fleetwood half and following a break by Dave Gordon and Aiden Miller they almost made the corner but a good smothering tackle stopped the chance of points.

From this maul the ball was spun inside and Fleetwood were all offside at the breakdown and Tarleton were awarded their first penalty.

Lee Booth stepped up and struck it

sweetly but the ball hit the upright and was gathered by the Fleetwood full-back who cleared the chance.

In Tarleton's next attack one of Fleetwood's players fell awkwardly and somehow managed to dislocate his shoulder.

The player wasn't up for being moved and an ambulance was called after ten minutes of standing around the match was abandoned and Tarleton lived to fight another day.

They will meet Fleetwood next Saturday in the replay and their league match scheduled against Leigh will be played on the next available wet weather weekend.

The Firsts are at home against Workington RUFC and should be looking for a bonus point win to move them out of the danger area at the bottom of the league.