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unassailable-looking 26 points lead at the break. A bit of complacency from Aldridge at the beginning of the second half provided Stone with some optimism and their best spell of the match, which led to winger Rob Eccles scoring in the corner. Aldridge's lethargy was temporary, however, and they soon regained control. A slick three-

quarter movement was finished off in style by man-of-the-match Yates, who went over between the posts. Another barging run from Reed right on the final whistle gave him his second try, and further contributions of a conversion from no 10 Tony Jago and a conversion and a penalty from Yates completed the scoring.



Florence Bell.

Ski star takes GB team spot

Streetly ski ace Florence Bell has been selected for the British Children's Ski Team. The 13-year-old King Edward VI Grammar School Handsworth student, who competes in the slalom, giant slalom and super-G disciplines, has been training alongside the senior team as they prepare for the 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympics.

21 years of hurt at an end

Midlands 2 West (South) Spartans 17 v Old Laurentians 5

SPARTANS ripped up the form book, and ended 21 years of hurt, as they claimed a fine win against a powerful OL side that they last beat in 1988.

Gradually Spartans edged the early territory, and from a lineout, Michael Foulds grunted over to give Spartans the lead. Revelling in the moment, Foulds added another on the stroke of half-time from a scrum, and Old Laurentians were not a happy bunch.

The second half saw Spartans facing an onslaught from the pre-season title favourites, but an excellent break from a scrum by Tom Brown saw new boy Stuart Smith support well, and power over for his first score in a black shirt. Not to be outdone, Old Laurentians hit back yet again and only a magnificent try-saving tackle by young Jamie Parker kept them out. The last few seconds finally saw the visitors add a decent, face-saving try, to have the last say.

Veseyan victory sealed

Veseyans RFC 18 v Tamworth RFC 15

LEAGUE leaders on points difference Veseyans started Saturday's game with vigour, and took the game to the visitors.

A strong front-five surge from the Vs' pack heaped pressure on the Tamworth half-backs, and Vs' scrum-half Max Adkins pounced and touched down his counterpart's fumble. Veseyans took the lead 5-0. Tamworth's strong running and swift recycling wore down the resolute Veseyan defence, and a charging maul yielded Tamworth's first and much-deserved try, narrowing the V's lead to within one score. A Tamworth penalty try was duly converted to level the scores at 15-15. As Sammy Irvine stepped up to the long range effort the baying crowd were silenced, and as his boot struck the ball, his composure was rewarded, and the Veseyan victory was sealed.