

Leaders power away from dogged students

VOLLEYBALL

WONFORD Betablockers stay top of the Exeter & District League thanks to a 4-1 victory against Exeter University.

Wonford were pushed all the way by the students after winning the first set at a canter, but the closest the University got was a 25-23 defeat in the fourth set before they picked up a consolation point.

Player of the match Phil Schmid and setter Pecka Mehtala steered their team to a 15-10 victory in the fifth.

Torexe Breezers hold down second place after a 4-1 win against Friends Provident Wanderers.

Wanderers were in the match after two sets and performed reasonably well in the third, but when they reorganised, Breezers took advantage in the final two sets for a comfortable win.

Nick Maye was player of the match for Breezers, narrowly beating team-mates Hakan Bengsson and Tim Goddard.

A good all-round performance by Friends Provident Vikings was enough to see off Exeter Birdmen 4-1 in Division 2.

Birdmen took the opening set 25-21, but they began to fall apart in the second.

Vikings trailed for most of the set before levelling it at 24-24 and the strong serving of player of the match Jacob Zeman gave them a 27-25 win.

Steve Popham also performed well as Vikings finished strongly to clinch the match.

Wonford Panthers were edged out 3-2 in a close game against fancied Torexe Tornados that went to the final set.



WONFORD PANTHERS:

They play in Division 2 of the Exeter League. Wonford have teams in three divisions of the league, including ladies, and train at St Peter's School, Exeter on Tuesdays (6-30-8.30pm). New players and beginners are welcome

Tornados took the opening set 25-23, Panthers levelled at 1-1 with a 25-19 score in the second set and both sides threw away winning leads.

Tornados took the third 26-24 and Panthers the fourth 25-23 with player of the match Rachel Trippett (Wonford) starring before Tornados took the match.

Denbury Eagles made an ominous start to the season with a 5-0 win over Space Hoppers.

Vakasavunaqa was Denbury's top player and they dominated to such an extent that it was an achievement for Space Hoppers to get back into the match in the middle stages.

Friends Provident Jacks are level at the top of Division 3 after their 5-0 win over ADDS Evolution.

FP were well organised and came out fighting to take the opening sets with ease. ADDS fought back in the next two, going down 28-26 and 25-22 before Jacks finished it off.

Promising Evolution youngster Jamie Halse took the player of the match award.

● Torexe's National League side produced a heroic performance in defeat against top flight outfit Portsmouth Mayfield in the EVA Knockout Cup last Sunday.

They matched Portsmouth — the second best team in the country on current league form — point for point before going down 16-25, 16-25, 18-25.

Omar Bencherki produced a strong serving display but Portsmouth fielded a tall side with a lot of international experience that included 6ft 11in middle hitter Marcus Russell.

Twenty four hours earlier Torexe went down 3-0 away against unbeaten Milton Keynes.

Torexe stepped up a gear from the previous week's defeat but lost out 25-14, 25-18, 25-15 to the National Division 2 leaders.

Tomorrow the South West Men's team are back in action against Plymouth Vets and Bath at the Riverside Leisure Centre in Exeter from 11am to 5pm.