



# RUGBY FOCUS

A round-up of news from the clubs, schools and women's circuits



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## Team of the Month Colchester

**H**OME-GROWN IS the order of the day at Colchester. Of the 36 players who have represented the first XV this season, 30 have come through the club's youth section, which is one of the largest in the country. Seven teenagers are part of the squad, too, including No 8 James McRae, 18, and scrum-half Matt Wadling, 17.

"As youth chairman my proudest achievement is seeing so many boys graduate through the club to the first team," says Ross Cowie. "There's an inclusive one-club atmosphere, so

the seniors come to support the older youth teams on a Sunday, and we run as many sides as there are players. We'd rather send out a second team with 13 players than have people sitting on the bench and not playing."

The club's policy is paying off, with Colchester winning 21 straight league games after losing the season opener to Eton Manor and leading the way in London One North. In February alone they racked up 175 points in three games and conceded just 22.

The challenge now for Anthony O'Riordan, who took over as head coach last summer, is to help his side

equal the feats of the club's second, third and fourth teams, who have all won their respective leagues. The race for promotion to the National Leagues is likely to come down to the final game, when Colchester visit title rivals Eton Manor this month.

Colchester, who are also launching a sevens academy (see P92), are our February Team of the Month and will receive a certificate. If you think your side merits our March award – open to amateur teams in Europe – email [rugbyworldletters@timeinc.com](mailto:rugbyworldletters@timeinc.com) to tell us why. Mark entries 'Team of the Month' and include a high-res pic.



### CONTACT

Email your club's news stories and photos to *Rugby World Clubs* Editor Michael Austin at [michael.austin@freelance.timeinc.com](mailto:michael.austin@freelance.timeinc.com) or call him on 01400 282 189.