

## **Van Dijk in team of the month**

Sept 1, 2006, 1:20pm

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Celtic Crusaders' scrum half Jace Van Dijk has been named in the LHF Healthplan National League Two team of the month.

Van Dijk is the only player to be named in September's team that was announced in Rugby League World magazine this weekend, but Tony Duggan, Luke Young and Michael Ryan almost made it. All three came second in their relative positions and just missed a place in the mythical side.

## **Crusaders named Team of the Week**

Sept 5, 2006, 9:45am

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Celtic Crusaders have been named "Team of the Week" for the very first time in the national rugby league newspaper, "Rugby Leaguer and League Express" for their 28-16 win over Gateshead Thunder last Sunday. It is an especially pleasing award for the Crusaders to win as this particular award is normally given to a Super League club and is the first time that a National League Two side has won it since July 10th. Crusaders Operations Manager Gerald McCarthy said: "It was one of best wins of the season. I know the scoreline wasn't our biggest by a long chalk but we had to make a 15-hour round trip on the coach in order to play the match – the longest journey in the whole of the National Leagues. We're now guaranteed fourth spot in the league and can get third if we beat Featherstone at the Brewery Field this Sunday."

## **Crusaders supporter wins award**

Sept 6, 2006, 3:03pm

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Celtic Crusaders Supporters Club chairman, Andy Burns, has been named as one of the Rugby Football League's Volunteers of the Year.

Andy, who lives in Chepstow, was elected as the Supporters Club's inaugural chairman earlier this season and has done an outstanding job in helping to double the Crusaders' support at both home and away matches.

Crusaders' Operations Manager Gerald McCarthy said: "I can't think of anyone better than Andy to have led the Supporters Club in its first year. He has done a fantastic job, gives up hours of his time and money to help the Crusaders and deserves recognition from the Rugby Football League. His wife Lou also deserves credit for forming and running the first ever junior supporters club, the Junior Cru. The whole Burns family are a credit to the club."

Andy will be recognised on the pitch at half-time at Celtic Crusaders crucial final National League Two match of the season against Featherstone Rovers at the Brewery Field on Sunday. He has already received a complimentary day out at the recent Powergen Challenge Cup Final at Twickenham as a reward from the RFL.

Andy is actually one of two Crusaders fans to receive awards from the RFL. Phil Cole, who travels from Bristol to watch Crusaders matches, was the Rugby League Conference Volunteer of the Year for his work as Chairman of Bristol Sonics Rugby League Club.

## **Duggan and Van Dijk up for award**

Sept 25, 2006, 4:22pm

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Celtic Crusaders are celebrating the inclusion of two players in the shortlist for the LHF Healthplan National League Two player of the year award which will be presented in Leeds on Tuesday 3rd October.

Both full-back Tony Duggan and stand-off Jace Van Dijk have been nominated for this award and both are expected to also be in the Team of the Year that will be announced on the same night.

Duggan and Van Dijk have both had outstanding seasons for the promotion hopefuls whose next match is Final Eliminator against Swinton Lions on Sunday at the Brewery Field. Duggan is the country's top try scorer with 36 in all competitions this season while Van Dijk has been a creator supreme from his half-back position and has also notched up nine tries and 49 goals of his own.

Crusaders' Operations Manager Gerald McCarthy said: "It's been a delight to both work with and watch both Tony and Jace play this season. They're both fantastic players, their attitude has been a great example to the rest of the squad. I hope they can lead us to the Grand Final on Sunday and that one of them walks off with the award two days later."

Tony Duggan will be talking about the Crusaders season as well as his own personal achievements in an exclusive interview on BBC Radio Wales' "Sportstime" show on Tuesday 26th September from 8pm.