



HALE RUGBY PLAYER KIERAN DUNNE EARNS IRISH UNDER-18 SELECTION



Even though St. Ambrose College outside centre Kieran Dunne was born and raised in Hale he feels more and more Irish by the day, having been selected from the under-18 Irish clubs team.

A tough tackling defender but incisive attacking runner, Kieran earned selection through his mother's roots which are firmly based in Kerry in the South West of the Shamrock Isle. He was spotted through the Irish Exiles system which scouts top clubs and schools overseas and is delighted to be selected for their national programme .

"Exposure to national level coaches as well as working with the Sharks can only improve my game and I'm looking forward to playing hopefully in both the tri-nations and five nations and lining up against England."

He added: "I was born and brought up in Hale but am proud of my Irish heritage and ever since I put on the emerald green shirt I have felt more and more Irish by the day."

Kieran learned his rugby at Altrincham Kersal beginning at the age of just six and going through the age ranks, joining St. Ambrose College and then Sale Sharks where he captains the under-18 side.

He added: "Altrincham Kersal is a fantastic family club and I really would like to thank everyone there who gives so much time and care to mini-rugby."

A talented academic with 10 good GCSEs, he is studying Physical Education, Design Technology and Business Studies in the St. Ambrose College Sixth Form and will be delighted to go on to university, though his preferred route would be to gain a professional contract, ideally with the Sharks.

At 6ft 3ins and 84kgs he says: "I still have a lot of work to do on the field and in the gym and want to get bigger but I'm looking forward to the challenge."

St. Ambrose College Rugby Coach Paul Howarth said: "Kieran is a talented player who has been rightfully talent spotted by the eagle eyed Irish." Kieran added: "Regardless of my roots or allegiance, Brian O'Driscoll has always been my favourite player and a true role model for young players both on and off the field."