

OPMs honour former hooker Hutton at Newquay Sevens Tournament



RUGBY

by PHIL STONEHAM

Sports Writer

TEAM-MATES of Plymouth Royal Marine Jamie Hutton, tragically killed in a training exercise, paid tribute to him during a rugby sevens tournament.

Members of city outfit OPMs team all wore Hutton's number – two – plus his name on their shirts at the event in Newquay. Hooker Hutton, 23, one of OPMs promotion squad from Devon One to the Cornwall/Devon League last season, died when his Land Rover overturned at Lulworth firing range, near Weymouth, Dorset.

His shocked team-mates, despite the tragedy, decided to go ahead with playing in the tournament.

Club president Simon Adams said it was an emotional day for



the players, as Hutton had originally been picked for the tournament.

He said: "The players wanted to go ahead with it, basically because it's what Jamie would have wanted.

"He would have been very pleased that we had done so and I think he would have enjoyed the fact that our team had his name on the back of their shirts."

OPMs went close to winning the

tournament, but went out in the semi-finals by two points to Cullompton after putting in a good performance.

Adams said Hutton, who was with 42 Commando, always had the club at heart.



PAYING TRIBUTE: OPMs (left) wore number two shirts at a sevens tournament in Newquay in memory of Jamie Hutton (above)

He said: "He was a tough competitor and always played hard, but fair.

"Anyone who met him couldn't help but be touched by his energy and enthusiasm.

"He was well known for his

antics, but even those on the receiving end of them could never be angry at him.

"Jamie was injured at the latter end of the season, but he still got involved by bringing on water for the players during our EDF Cup games.

"He was with us for about two-and-a-half years and played a full part in us getting promoted to the Cornwall/Devon League.

"Everyone who knew him is going to miss him."

Hutton spent much of his youth in Plymouth and attended Hooe Primary School.

Hundreds of people attended Hutton's full military funeral last Friday.

The service was held at St Andrew's Church in the city centre, with tributes paid by family members, friends and commando colleagues.

At least 200 marines from Hutton's Bickleigh-based unit, 42 Commando attended.