

Aisea another Fisilau at Beacon Park

KENI FISILAU may be used to running out at Beacon Park, but tonight it will be his younger brother's turn.

Aisea Fisilau will start on the wing for OPMs at Beacon Park this evening as they look to win the Lockie Cup.

The 19-year-old joined OPMs in January when he arrived in England to spend some time with his older brother after finishing his studies.

Aisea has been a regular try scorer for OPMs and will no doubt be hoping to become the second Fisilau to score at Beacon Park this year.

Plymouth Albion star Keni has said he will be in the stands cheering him on.

"It will only be the second time I've watched him play in England," said Keni, who added that his brother is still learning the game.

BROTHERLY WELCOME: Keni Fisilau (right) is looking forward to seeing his brother Aisea play at Beacon Park

RUGBY: Saltash and OPMs to meet twice at Beacon Park

Cup final rivals in double vision

RUGBY fans may think they're seeing double if they turn out to watch tonight's Lockie Cup and Ellis Trophy finals at Beacon Park.

After last Wednesday's RNEC and Pedrick Cup finals at The Rectory, OPMs and Saltash square up for the remaining two Plymouth and District Rugby Combination trophies, in the first double-header for several years.

Saltash II meet OPMs II - the Jesters - in the Ellis Trophy (6.00), before their first teams battle it out for the Lockie Cup (7.30).

The finals are expected to be a showpiece evening for combination rugby, pitching sides from Cornwall One and Devon One against each other.

Entry to Beacon Park tonight is £3.

LOCKIE CUP

OPMs consider themselves favourites to lift the Lockie Cup after finishing second in Devon One this season, but are missing four influential players from their final line-up.

Scrum-half Sammy Matts, Paul Gregg, Darren Clarke

by ALAN MANSELL and ANDY PHILLIPS

and John Halton are all unavailable due to holidays and injury.

Graham Pascoe starts at scrum-half, while Olly Wilford moves into the second row, and Paddy Trinder is fit again after recovering from the London Marathon.

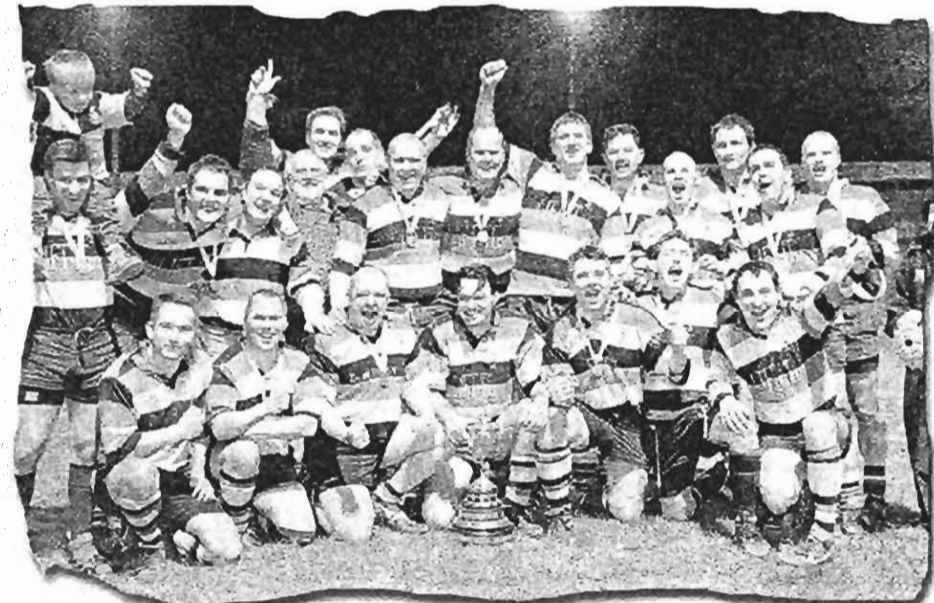
OPMs could also have one eye on their final game of the season this Saturday - where they take on Mounts Bay in a play-off for a place in the Cornwall and Devon League.

But OPMs spokesman Pete Bellamy was full of confidence.

He said: "Matches against Saltash are always keenly fought, and with the ground conditions we expect an open flowing game where our faster backs will put us in a winning position.

"We look forward to a fair and highly competitive game - and to lifting the trophy at the end."

But fellow finalists Saltash will be no pushover. Ashes defeated a Devonport Services



FLASHBACK: Saltash celebrate after winning the Lockie Cup two years ago, when they beat OPOs at Beacon Park

side 25-15 to take their place in the final against OPMs.

The Cornwall One side are bringing plenty of support with them over the Tamar Bridge thanks to Darley Ford Coaches who are bringing coachloads of fans, plus the players, from Moorlands Lane.

Only Nick Venn (work) and Simon Watson (knee injury) are missing from Ashes' line-up, with prop James Rich, wing Martin Nicholas and flanker Steve Hall all returning from injury.

But the final means even more to Ashes winger Ian Davis - as he is retiring at the end of the season.

OPMs: M Wells, A Fisilau, P Trinder, L Thomas, N Bellamy, H Turner, G Pascoe, S Parker, A Heard, J Cowd, O Wilford, D Inman, M Glastonbury, R Phillips, G Rule. Replacements: R Light, D Matthews, P Hague, M Portass.

Saltash: P Keene, I Davis, S Ryan, D Harrison, M Nicholas, N Owen, J Forde, N Rich, J Woodward, J Rich, P Masters, K

Webb, S Hall, J Oakes, P Congo. Reprs: R Saxby, S Cruikshanks, S Watson.

ELLIS CUP

IN THE run-up to the Ellis Trophy final, Jesters met rivals OPOs II, and inflicted a third semi-final defeat on the unfortunate Oaks in as many weeks.

OPOs other cup run - to the semi-finals of the Powergen Vase - meant that they were unable to defend the Lockie Cup which they won last season.

OPMs Jesters are captained by Lazslo Nozkay - a former Saltash player - and hoping to capture the Ellis Trophy to add to the RNEC Cup they won at Beacon Park last year.

A strong OPMs II features veteran half-back partnership of Steve Luffman and Tim Smale, while Aisea Fisilau - brother of Plymouth Albion star Keni - also starts on the wing.

OPMs II prop Dave Hooper, who could be another player

retiring at the end of the season, will be looking to finish on a high note.

Meanwhile, Saltash II welcome back Steve O'Melia from a spell with the first team, with club-coach Dave Honey filling a gap in the second row, and fly-half Kevin Noyce is back after a knee injury.

OPMs II: M Busby, L LeMarquand, N Crump, A Gannaway, N Woodmansey, S Luffman, T Smale, D Hooper, J Evens, D Wilding, A Moorman, S Matthews, R Shelly, L Nozkay, D Law. Reprs: M Pickaver, A Lawrence, T Rutherford, G Howarth.

Saltash II: R Allen, P Hurrell, B Charwood, S Richardson (c), J Sherrell, K Noyce, B Jones, M Evans, D Dell, S O'Melia, D Honey, S Moss, J Westaway, J Gallimore, P Copeland. Reprs: F Tucker, M Sadler, S Gale, G Brettell.

Don't miss tomorrow's Herald Sport for full coverage of both finals



SCRUM ON DOWN: OPMs front row prepare to go head to head with DHS Old Boys in the Lockie Cup semi-final