

Wilkes' performances set him apart from the rest

DESCRIBED as 'a beast of a rugby player', Fraser Wilkes has been tipped to go all the way as he progresses towards making his senior debut.

Still just 16, the talented No. 8 will be able to play senior rugby when he turns 17 and, according to one of his Colts coaches, that will happen as soon as allowed.

Chris Monk has seen Wilkes develop first hand over the last few years and now as a first year Colts player, the teenager is very much one of his side's indispensable players.

'Fraser has picked up more man-of-the-match awards for us than anybody else, he is a quite outstanding player for us,' explained Monk.

'His commitment and attitude is absolutely phenomenal and when he crosses that white line for a game, he is a beast of a rugby player and somebody who will never leave one of his team-mates in trouble.

'In terms of his technical skills, his handling is exceptional and so is his reading of the game, which means that whether it be in defence or attack, he will always be the first on the scene whenever there is a breakdown.

'Physicality is a big part of his game and

when he runs into gaps to try and make something happen, it will usually take at least a couple of opposition players to stop him.'

Looking forward, keen musician Wilkes has ambitions of joining the Royal Marines and their band, where Monk believes that rugby could continue to play a big part in his life.

He also believes that the youngster could excel in multiple positions in the senior game.

'If Fraser does join the Royal Marines like he hopes, then I can see him comfortably playing at Combined Services level, which is a very strong level of rugby.

'He has already had his assessment ahead of playing senior rugby when he turns 17 and although it is a big jump, he is somebody I see handling it well.

'Where he plays in the senior game is interesting because although he could remain as a No. 8, where he has played his whole career so far, he could play at any one of No. 7, 8 or 9 I think.

'He is one of the most coachable players I have ever come across and is always listening to advice and wanting to get better, so he will be a fine player.'



Hard to stop: Fraser Wilkes hands off an opposing player during a match at Footes Lane.

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HALFTIME TALK

This week rugby player **Fraser Wilkes** answers our questionnaire...

Name: Fraser Wilkes
Age: 16
Nickname: Farmer
School: Elizabeth College
Brothers or sisters: One brother – Finlay
What would you like to be in adult life: Royal Marine
Favourite TV show: Everybody Loves Raymond
Favourite music: Jazz
Favourite film: Invictus
Favourite food: Steak and chips
Favourite teacher: Mr Brown
Sports: Rugby
Position: No. 8
Clubs: Guernsey Colts
Best friend in sport: Matt Armstrong
Sporting hero: Sergio Parisse
Sporting hero locally: Harry Finch

Local sportsperson to watch out for: Alfie Penney
Least favourite professional sportsperson: Wayne Rooney
Favourite local coach: Chris Monk
Favourite local sports arena: KGV
Sporting highlight: Winning from 12 points down
Sporting lowlight: Losing Siam Cup 70-0
Sports ambition: To play rugby to the best of my ability
Funniest moment in sport: When the All Blacks got knocked out of the 2007 Rugby World Cup
What would you like done to improve our sport: More rugby in school
Teams supported: Drybrook RFC, Gloucester Rugby, England