

St Boswells v West 15/9/18

Final score St Boswells 15; West 22

Although West have travelled down to the Borders many times St Boswells has never been the destination, so this was a first. The ground at Jenny Moores Road was in good condition and the sun was shining.

West started with the brisk wind at their back and it soon became obvious that the referee did not appreciate their aggressive rucking at the breakdown, Three penalties to St Boswells in the first 10 minutes was testament to that. This allowed the home side to keep West in their own half and some stout defending was required. Finally a penalty to West allowed them to clear their lines with a good kick to touch. A take and drive resulted in a further penalty on the 10 m line which West elected to kick. This was successfully converted with an excellent kick by West No.10 Dru Nicholson to put the visitors on the scoreboard.

The St Boswells forwards were using their weight advantage to good effect in both scrum and take and drive and when West winger Raymond Osii was yellow carded for a high tackle the home side continued to rumble the ball up the park. West defence was superb however and after a St Boswells boot was put to a West head in a ruck a scuffle ensued. The result was a penalty to West which was put to touch in the St Boswells half. A good period of play from West ended up with a drive on the home line with West hooker Danny Dineen touching down out wide. The conversion was missed but West had now a 0 – 8 lead. West continued to defend well until the half time whistle stopped play.



Unfortunately the West kick off went straight to touch and St Boswells gained a penalty from the resulting scrum. Surprisingly they elected to kick this for the posts from 46 m out and, with the assistance of the wind, their full back Ponton slotted it through the middle for the 3 points. West replied fairly quickly when they gained a scrum penalty on the home 5 m line and quick thinking by West No.8 Jamie McAulay caught the home side napping and he crossed the line, converted by Nicholson to take the score to 3 – 15.



With the constant defence against the big St Boswells forwards West forwards were beginning to pick up injuries – this finally resulted in them running out of front row and the scrums became uncontested. West at this stage were the better team but

unfortunately were still giving away too many penalties which was keeping the home side in the game. Indeed it was St Boswells who used these penalties to move up the park eventually driving the ball over the West line with their second row Lawor touching down. The conversion was missed but further penalties saw them again driving on the West line with Lawor again touching down. The conversion by Ponton was successful this time and the scoreboard became level at 15 all.

The nerves of the West support were settled somewhat however when a good break from a scrum by McAulay saw him float through the opposition to score between the posts, duly converted by Nicholson to take the score to 15 – 22. Another good break by McAulay almost gained the bonus point with the posts beckoning but the final pass to the support was knocked on. West then defended doggedly to retain their lead until the final whistle.

With good wins also by the 2nd XV and the U18 sides a somewhat successful day for West. West are at home to Carrick RFC this Saturday. K.O. 3 pm.

West Team: Neil Fullarton; Danny Dineen; Andrew Love; Scott Cochrane; James Harley; Marc Zoma; Craig McCall; Jamie McAulay; Jacob Siems; Dru Nicholson; Mark Sim; Nicholas Sutcliffe; Gareth Hopkins; Rowland Osii; Alexander Fiskien.

Subs: Peter Rhodes; Kieran Grant; Dylan Matthews; Harry Brewster.