

## West 72 – 0 Haddington

West's first match of 2019 saw them face old acquaintances Haddington who were propping up the table. A drizzly gloomy day wasn't ideal for running rugby, but the main pitch was in good condition so there was no need to use the 4G.

West took a while to get going, strong in the scrum despite two giant Haddington props, but the passing moves weren't initially going to hand.

That all changed after West won a penalty, kicked to touch and set up a catch & drive. The maul rolled forwards 20m when a surprised Marc Zoma realised he was over the line and touched down for the unconverted opener.

West pressed again against the Haddington line and a strong scrum looked like a pushover but instead Alexander Fiskén snuck in off the base, this time converted by Dru Nicholson.



Then Jamie McAulay burst through the defence to release Gareth Hopkins who wrestled the ball over the line, Dru Nicholson converting. The taps were now open and West were outpacing the East Lothian visitors, a classic wide passing move finding Angus Thomson on the overlap, Dru Nicholson converting. The try bonus was in the bag before the interval.

Things got worse for Haddington with a yellow card and an injury to a prop seeing a 51 year old replacement – full points for effort from the visitors even if there were none on the scoreboard. A West passing move saw Dru Nicholson make a looping pass to Nicky Sutcliffe who scored unconverted in the corner to make it 31-0 at the break.

West quickly struck again after the break, a pushover seeing Jamie McAulay score off the base, Dru Nicholson adding the extras.

Scrum were now uncontested and a rapid passing move saw Drew Reddie score, unconverted. Another passing move saw Jamie McAulay finish off the move, unconverted.

Then Dru Nicholson chipped over the Haddington defence for Nicky Sutcliffe to collect, he didn't quite get over the line but Gareth Hopkins obliged for an unconverted try which brought the score to 53-0.



Another overlap saw Angus Thomson score easily, this time converted by Dru Nicholson. A tap penalty was then passed along to Donovan Douglas who scored, the conversion hitting the post.

Alexander Fiskien scored the final and 12<sup>th</sup> try when he picked the pocket of a Haddington attacker and ran in easily to score, Lewis Jamieson converting to finish the scoring at 72-0. The visitors had finished with 12 players so it wasn't much of a contest by that stage.

A short away trip to local rivals Hillhead/Jordanhill follows next Saturday, West are now 3<sup>rd</sup> in the league on points difference. A spirited if unsuccessful Haddington side are no longer bottom after St Boswells failed to field enough players in their match.

**West team:** 1. Peter Rhodes, 2. Hamish Clark, 3. Andy Love, 4. James Harley, 5. Marc Zoma, 6. Angus Thomson, 7. Craig McCall, 8. Jamie McAulay, 9. Alexander Fiskien, 10. Dru Nicholson, 11. Donovan Douglas, 12. Nicky Sutcliffe, 13. Gareth Hokins, 14. Drew Reddie, 15. Mark Sim.  
Subs 16. Daniel O'Connell, 17. Dylan Dawson, 18. Kieran Grant, 19. Lewis Jamieson.