

## West 29 – 8 Gordonians

West faced unbeaten table toppers Gordonians, whose 20 point lead over West before the match suggested it would be an uphill battle.

Conditions were wet and muddy and the Aberdonian visitors had some big players so all seemed set for a war of attrition.



West started well, with a strong scrum and keeping well to their structures. It was indeed West opening the scoring with a powerful driving maul touched down by James Harley, who seldom scores, no conversion but a good start.

Gordonians tried to hit back with a series of penalties and a driving maul near the West line but West yielded only a penalty, converted by Graeme Crawford. Jamie McAulay was yellow carded for the penalty, however, and West were down to 14, but leading 5-3.

The player deficit wasn't stopping West and good work from Drew Reddie forced a penalty. The resulting catch and drive headed rapidly towards the line, Gordonians brought it down illegally for a penalty try and a yellow card to Andrew McInnes. 12-3.

West then stretched the lead when Angus Thomson broke through the visitors' defence, beat about 5 defenders and released Harry Brewster who scored unconverted in the corner. It was 17-3 at half time and West were looking good.

Gordonians weren't happy at the break and tried to hit straight back but West were putting in good tackles and didn't yield much ground. It was West who struck next after Craig McCall, who if anything scores even less often than James Harley, touched down a driving maul. Dru Nicholson converted this one and it was 24-3, notching up the try bonus.

West were really motoring at this point, patiently pressing the Gordonians line and Jamie McAulay was at the end of an overlap to score unconverted in the corner.

Gordonians managed to cross the line after Gregor Brown managed to force the ball over the line off a driving maul, but it was a consolation. West managed to pick up two more yellow cards in the final stages but despite being down to 13 at one point, the defence mopped up anything Gordonians could throw at it and it ended 29-8 to West.



There is still a lot of ground to gain to make the promotion spots but seasoned observers were saying this was the best West performance in years, overpowering the runaway league leaders. This is now a very good West team playing great rugby.

**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. Harry Brewster, 10. Dru Nicholson, 11. Drew Reddie, 12. Nicky Sutcliffe, 13. Gareth Hokins, 14. Alexander Fiskien, 15. Mikey Heron.  
Subs 16. Daniel O'Connell, 17. Scott Cochrane, 18. Robert Osborne, 19. Lewis Jamieson.