

West 38 – 28 Caithness

Caithness made the long journey down from Thurso to play West at a sunny but not a warm Burnbrae. Last week's visit to Perthshire was cancelled due to weather conditions so the team had a break. Some of West's players were showing their versatility by playing in unaccustomed positions, with Mark Sim playing at 10 for the second match in a row.

West started well, passing fluently. Scott Cochrane ran in at a good angle and he finished under the posts after hardly any opposition. Mark Sim converted and West were 7-0 up.

Caithness hit back, however, when they turned over the ball and after a strong run from their prop he released centre Jordon Miller who scored easily, converted by Marc Anderson. All square at 7-7.



West pushed back into it and nearly scored before Dylan Matthews broke to release Alexander Fiskien who touched down, converted by Mark Sim.

Caithness missed a penalty shot before a try flurry from West. First Drew Reddie, playing at flanker but having turned out more often on the wing, broke through to pass to out half Mark Sim (who normally plays fullback) who neatly switched the ball to Calum Booth who stormed in to score. No conversion but some excellent handling.

Dylan Matthews broke again to release Alexander Fiskien again who scored, Mark Sim converting this time.

Another minute, another try from West. Gareth Hopkins passed to Calum Booth who passed back inside to Mark Sim who scored but failed to convert his own try. This was rapid fire passing out of the top drawer and West had their try bonus at 31-7, and the score stayed that way to half time.

The second half started with a yellow card for Calum Booth, taking the man out in the air after a high ball, and Caithness capitalised from the player advantage when prop Hamish Coghill crashed through to score, converted by Marc Anderson.

Defences improved for most of the second half until a complete lapse in the West defence allowed Jordon Miller through again to score easily, Marc Anderson converting. Caithness were hitting back and the West win was not a certainty.



West put more daylight on the scoreboard when a strong scrum saw Angus Thomson score off the base, Mark Sim converting. Caithness struck back however after Craig McCall was yellow carded for a breakdown offence, prop Hamish Coghill bursting through again to score the visitor's try bonus, converted by Marc Anderson for a final score of 38-28.

Some good stuff from West but the win was hard fought in the end, and West are now 3rd in the league. Next week sees a showdown for 3rd place away to Ardrossan, with the rescheduled Perthshire game finishing the season on 5th April.

West team: 1. Ronan Southcott, 2 Hamish Clark, 3. Pete Rhodes, 4. Scott Cochrane, 5. James Harley
6. Drew Reddie, 7. Craig McCall, 8. Angus Thomson, 9. Robert Osborne, 10. Mark Sim,
11. Dylan Matthews, 12. Nicky Sutcliffe, 13. Gareth Hopkins, 14. Calum Booth,
15. Alexander Fiskien.
Subs 16. Stuart Hendry, 17. Lewis Jamieson, 18. Mikey Heron, 19. Donovan Douglas