

## West 25-17 Carrick

The league season got off to a sunny start as West faced South Ayrshire side Carrick at Burnbrae. The West team was stronger than last week with some stalwarts returning.

West made a bright start and some of the issues from the previous week looked to have been ironed out right from the start. The scrum was much stronger, and the passing slicker.



West went into the lead when Scott Cochrane powered through the Carrick defence to release Graeme Wallace on the wing who scored unconverted, 5-0.

West were passing well but allowed Carrick to start a foot race which scrum half Conor Turnbull won, equalising at 5-5 with no conversion.

West were making good moves but not converting them to points. An attempted offload in an attacking position went straight to Carrick who went down the pitch in a near repeat of their first try, Conor Turnbull grounding again, this time converted by John Fulton for 5-12.

Not the score West wanted but they were having none of it. A driving maul went forward 10 metres, it was passed out, then passed in, Scott Cochrane sneaking over to score. Sean Cardin converted and the scores were level at 12-12.

Just before half time another powerful maul saw Scott Cochrane score off the base, Sean Cardin again converting and the score was 19-12.

Things were much tighter after the break, Carrick nearly scoring when their winger dropped the ball when about to score. Carrick had a player yellow carded for dissent, West had a penalty in front of the posts which Sean Cardin converted to make it 22-12.

Near the end Carrick pegged a try back when winger Russell McCulloch scored unconverted. Things were tight at 22-17 so when West won a penalty for a high tackle, Sean Cardin took the shot and scored to make the final score 25-17. No bonus point, but a hard won win against determined opponents. There was a bit of early season rust but this side does have potential.



**West team:** 1. Dan York, 2. Dylan Dawson, 3. Andrew Love, 4. Scott Cochrane, 5. James Harley, 6. Max Bowie, 7. Craig McCall, 8. Marc Zoma, 9. Jamie Carruth, 10. Rory Cuthbertson, 11. Fraser Brand, 12. Nicky Sutcliffe, 13. Calum Booth, 14. Graeme Wallace, 15. Sean Cardin.

**Subs** 16. Peter Rhodes, 17. Fraser Smeaton, 18. Thomas Smith, 19. Mark Jenkinson