

## Strathmore 49, West 18

The run of losses for West continued, this time in Forfar against a strong Strathmore RFC. This time it was partly the excessive number of penalties against West given by the referee which gave the home side some of the platform for their win.

Strathmore put West under pressure from the kick off with this pressure finally resulting in a penalty for the home side – Then another penalty gave them a kick at goal, duly converted by their full back Butcher. From the restart West moved into the Strathmore half but another penalty stopped their



progress and Strathmore cleared to touch. West however regained the ball from the throw in and an excellent weaving run by full back Sean Cardin saw him touch down out wide. The conversion was missed but West were in the lead at 3 – 5. From the restart Strathmore turned over a West ruck ball and moved the ball out wide to score in the corner. The conversion was missed but Strathmore were back in the lead. The restart from this saw West attack into the home side but a penalty to Strathmore allowed them to clear to touch. From the throw in and drive Strathmore moved the ball through the hands to touch down again. With the conversion again missed the score moved to 13 – 5.

It was then West's turn to steal a ruck ball and a rare penalty awarded to them was put to touch resulting in a good attacking move by West only stopped illegally. Cardin converted this to make the score a more respectable 13 – 8. However a series of three penalties against West, much disputed by the travelling support, including a West prop being sent off for a seemingly offside decision, gave Strathmore the opportunity to convert one penalty and touch down after another – this time converted. Score now not so respectable at 23 – 8. This was added to shortly after with another attack on the West line and another touch down out wide (conversion missed).

Just before half time West managed good attack into the home 22 and a line-out throw and drive for the line was only stopped illegally. West had to console themselves with the converted penalty taking the half time score to 28 -11.

The second half started fairly evenly but it was the home side that ended this when a concerted attack on the West line ended up with a touch down, duly converted and West had a mountain to climb with the score now 35 – 11. But West heads did not go down and a good attack into the home 22 was only stopped by an deliberate knock on. The Strathmore centre got 10 minutes in the bin for his indiscretion.

West continued to attack but this was again stopped illegally by a foul tackle on West replacement



Rory Cuthbertson with the offending player yellow carded. West took quick advantage of their numerical advantage with a drive on the Strathmore line resulting in a touch down. This was converted to bring the score back a little to 35 -18. The remainder to the third quarter saw no real advantage for either side but moving into the final quarter a mistake by West when a penalty clearance was kicked into touch-in-goal gave the home side some impetus. From the resulting scrum Strathmore moved the ball well along the line and breached the tiring West defence to score – duly converted. This was repeated just before the final whistle with a break through the middle seeing a touch down between the posts, converted to take the final score to 49 – 18.

Not a good day for West but the score did not reflect their effort. Although Strathmore fully deserved their win a less penalty strewn game may have seen a closer result. This Saturday West host Greenock Wanderers for a 3 pm KO.

**West team:** 1.Dan York, 2 Dylan Dawson, 3. Andrew Love, 4. Ronan McLare, 5. J Geddes, 6. Drew Readie, 7. Tom Smith, 8. Mark Zoma, 9. Jamie Carruth, 10. Andrew Little, 11.Greg Wallace, 12. Blair Smith, 13 Calum Booth, 14.Martin Wallace, 15.Sean Cardin.

**Subs** 16. Peter Rhodes, 17. C Don, 18. Rory Cuthbertson, 19. Fraser Brand