

Ardrossan 24-7 West

West travelled to the coast to play Ardrossan Academicals. It always seems to be windy when West travel there, and this game was no exception with a strong breeze changing direction several times and a transversely sloping pitch to cope with. The surface was good at least, and the rain held off during the match.

Early encounters were fairly even, neither side making great inroads and defences were on top.



Ardrossan opened the scoring however, when an excellent passing move reached centre R. Anderson who found a narrow gap to score, unconverted, and it was 5-0.

Both sides were using the wind well, long range touchfinders from Dru Nicholson, Jamie Carruth and the home side's out half S Lewis frequently leading to lineouts. However, the wind seemed to be affecting the throw ins as neither side could get the lineout to work well.

Ardrossan increased their lead when West at first defended a move down the left hand side but the ball was passed right and winger H Macdonald just about managed to touch down in the right hand corner. It was not a good day for kicking and the conversion went awry, 10-0, which was the score at the break.

West were on top in the scrums at least, and the breakdown was ferocious on both sides. Ardrossan suffered a yellow card. It was a day when margins were tight, and West made the extra player work when they passed wide off a scrum and Sean Carden found the overlap to score in the corner. Dru Nicholson converted and it was now close at 10-7.

Both sides pegged away but it was Ardrossan who made the breakthrough, no. 8 S. Lamont finding an overlap, powered down the wing and touched down under the posts. S. Lewis converted to make it 17-7.



Ardrossan wanted the try bonus and got it when they found an overlap on the right, winger H Macdonald touching down for his second and the Ayrshire side's 4th. S Lewis managed the difficult conversion and it finished 24-7.

This was a tighter match than the scores suggest. Ardrossan are a well drilled team, who will give a lot of sides serious trouble this season. West continue their forays to Ayrshire next week with a trip to Maybole side Carrick.

West team: 1. Peter Rhodes, 2 Dylan Dawson, 3. Andrew Love, 4. Scott Cochrane, 5. Mark Zoma, 6 John Vasconcelos, 7. Max Bowie, 8 Tom Smith., 9. Jamie Carruth, 10. Dru Nicholson, 11. Fraser Brand, 12. Grant Bowie, 13. Sean Carden, 14. Drew Reddie, 15 Martin Wallace.

Subs: 16. Dan York, 17. Ronan McLaren 18. Graham Wallace, 19. A Snedden.