

West Ladies Clinch Home Semi-Final

Aberdeenshire Quines 0 West of Scotland Ladies 58

West of Scotland Ladies travelled to face Aberdeenshire Quines at Woodside on Sunday. It was West's fifth and final group game in the National Shield. Having won their first four games, a win would give them a home semi-final. That home tie was never in doubt after an excellent all-round team display.

Stand-off Alexa Smith got her side off to the best possible start with a try after only five minutes. A break down the left touchline saw her skip past the sole Quines' defender to score in the corner. Before the mid-point of the half, West led by seventeen points and the match points more or less secured. Right wing Rachael Millar finished off a good handling move by scoring in the corner before Laura Grant, whose powerful running the home side could not deal with throughout, got the first of what would be a hat-trick of tries, running in from deep. Rowan Todd converted Grant's try. The try bonus was secured with Grant's second score, a near carbon copy of her first. Todd was again successful from the tee. Hannah Foster-Rain, starting at openside in the absence of Fiona Gassner, recorded her sixth try of the campaign before Grant completed the scoring for the first half and her hat-trick. At the interval, West led by thirty-four points to nil. The home side rarely threatened the West line but fought hard in defence.

It took the visitors just six minutes after the restart to increase their lead, No 8 Rosie Broadhurst finishing off more good work by the pack. Todd slotted home her third successful conversion of the afternoon. Co-captain Jade Scott recorded her side's eighth try, the referee being helped by the excellent positioning of the touch judge who confirmed the West centre had grounded the ball.

Replacement Diane Wilson took the lead past the fifty points mark before the other co-captain Amanda Paterson made it a full house for the back row with the final try of the game in the last minute. Todd was again successful with the boot. The whistle sounded for no side and the West women could begin to look forward to a semi-final at Burnbrae. The opponents for and the date of this match have still to be confirmed.