

Comfortable Win for West Ladies

West of Scotland Ladies 43 Cartha Queen's Park 3.

The victory for West of Scotland Ladies was as comfortable as the scoreline suggests, West running in seven tries with their opponents never at any stage threatening the home line. They played some excellent rugby in what were for most of the game, appalling overhead conditions. Underfoot, the 4G surface was perfect. The advantage of having much the superior pack in the set scrum was lost for most of the match as injuries left Cartha with no front row cover and uncontested scrums came into force. Caitlin Bell's penalty from twenty-five metres gave the Dumbreck side an early lead but that was as good as it got for them as West dominated, moving into the lead two minutes later. It was a typical Jade Scott try, the centre taking possession on the Cartha 22, going past three defenders on her way to the line. Alexa Smith added the extras. Although Cartha showed very little in attack, their defence was resolute. West would score only one more try in the first half, Scott repeating her earlier effort. At the interval, West led by twelve points to three.

Rowan Todd's early second half try with Smith's conversion more or less finished the match as a contest. It was a fine score, the centre skipping through the Cartha defence to score under the posts. Holly Macdonald was next on the scoresheet with another fine individual score, the openside breaking numerous tackles on her way to the line. This secured the try bonus point. Louise Wilson got West's fifth try of the afternoon, forcing her way over after more good work by the pack.

West scored twice more before the end, both tries converted by Alexa Smith. Todd, who had a fine game, got the first of them when she finished off to the left of the posts after excellent handling by the backs and a good forward drive. The final score of the game came at the death, replacement tight-head Ashley Blair crashing over to finish off good work from the pack.

West of Scotland Ladies: Amber Johnston; Tia Stevenson-Cook, Jade Scott, Rowan Todd, Ailsa Neilson; Alexa Smith, Katie Wilson; Niamh Farrell-Lewer, Pamela Duffy, Vanessa Reid-Phelps; Anna Campbell, Louise Wilson; Caitlin Reilly, Holly Macdonald, Rosie Broadhurst. Replacements: Rachel Morrison, Ashley Blair, Louise Skilling, Ciera Campbell, Laura Martin, Ellen Forsyth, Lauren Stuart.