

Defence the Key for West Ladies

Oban Lorne Ladies 19 West of Scotland Ladies 29

Excellent defence in a second half dominated by a well-organised Oban Lorne pack let West of Scotland Ladies return from their trip to Argyll with a try bonus point victory. It was a fine win with a number of players still missing for a variety of reasons. Amanda Paterson was forced to return from retirement to take a place on the bench.

West was much the better side in the first half and really should have been further ahead at the interval. It did take them almost twenty minutes to go ahead and that was a penalty try. It was an easy decision for the referee after a deliberate knock on almost on the home line when West looked certain to score. This was quickly followed by a try from Lindsey Smith, the tight head powering to the try line after exchanging passes with her support runners. Alexa Smith slotted an excellent conversion from close to the touchline.

It was somewhat surprising when the hosts drew themselves back into the game when their impressive loose-head prop, Julie Campbell, drove over. Two quick tries from West extended their lead to nineteen points. The first was a fine solo effort by stand off Smith. This was followed by a debut try from centre Claire Nielson. Her delight in scoring was shared by her teammates. Kirsty Sinclair's try and Ellie MacNiven's conversion just before the interval reminded West they still had a battle on their hands.

West created little in attack in the second half. That was almost entirely down to the work of the home eight who were on the front foot almost throughout. The Burnbrae side held firm, though, with a penalty try all Oban had to show for their efforts. Rowan Todd's try had secured the points for West. MacNiven received a "team" yellow card in the dying embers of the game.

A good five points for the Burnbrae side. Next Sunday they travel to Stranraer to face Wigtownshire.

West of Scotland Ladies: Amber Johnston; Rowan Todd, Jade Scott, Claire Nielson, Kim Toland; Alexa Smith, Katie Wilson; Ciera Campbell, Alice Masson, Lindsey Smith; Louise Wilson, Holly MacDonald; Caitlin Reilly, Bex Francis, Rosie Broadhurst.

Replacements: Pamela Duffy, Rebecca Schaschke, Louise Skilling, Ellen Forsyth, Lauren Stuart, Amanda Paterson.