

West of Scotland 37 Ardrossan Academicals 10.

After eighteen months, competitive rugby returned for Scottish clubs on Saturday. At Burnbrae, West of Scotland were hosts to Ardrossan Academicals in National League, Division 3.

It was an overcast day but conditions were perfect for rugby as West kicked off. West fielded nine debutants, many of whom had come through the ranks of the club. The home side were quickly in to their stride, the forwards dominating their opponents. They went ahead after fourteen minutes, Dru Nicholson slotting home a penalty from thirty metres. A few minutes later, debutant Callum McCormack just failed to get to a chip ahead from scrum half Jamie Carruth, the ball rolling into touch. McCormack would look sharp all afternoon.

It took West twenty-four minutes to get the try their play deserved. With the referee playing advantage, Carruth kicked wide to McCormack on the right. The forwards turned the ball back inside to the supporting Carruth who went over. The conversion was unsuccessful.



Nicholson converted to make it 15-0 at half-time.

Within three minutes of the restart, another powerful break by Lawrence saw him under the posts again. Nicholson made it full value. Five minutes later, a momentary lack of concentration saw West go offside. Ardrossan kicked to the corner and from the line-out, hooker Scott Campbell scored. The conversion was missed. The visitors then had their best spell of the match but rarely threatened the West line. They did score again with about fifteen minutes to go. The try was almost identical to the first. A needless penalty conceded by West, a kick to the corner and this time it was Jamie Thompson who finished. It was now 22-10.

After half an hour, Ardrossan made their first foray into the West 22, via a penalty. They kicked for touch but from the resulting line-out, the home side regained possession and cleared their line. Good defence turned to good attack. Grady Lawrence made a superb break and fed Nicholson who was held up over the line. The centre would get his reward a few minutes later. The forwards took one against the head (Google it, children) and Lawrence went over under the posts.



West moved three scores ahead again three minutes later. Skipper Scott Cochrane, a superb leader throughout, broke and fed supporting No 8 Tiaan Wright. The very promising youngster's reward was a penalty about forty metres out. Nicholson made the game safe with a fine kick. With five minutes left, another West penalty after another great carry by Cochrane saw the ball kicked to touch.

Cochrane secured the try bonus point, driving over from the line-out. Nicholson put over the difficult conversion from wide on the right. Two minutes later, McCormack got his debut try, scoring in the corner after the ball had passed through many West hands. It rounded off a fine afternoon for the West supporters.

West have another home game this Saturday against Hillhead/Jordanhill. Kick off 3pm.

West Team: 1.Peter Rhodes; 2.Connor Moran-Smith; 3.Andrew Love; 4.Scott Cochrane (C);
5.Ga Reth 6.Marc Zoma; 7.John Vasconcelos; 8. Tiaan Wright. 9.Jamie Carruth; 10.Owen
Hourston; 11.Calum McCormack; 12.Nicky Sutcliffe; 13.Lestyn Humphreys; 14. Calum
Booth; 15. Dru Nicholson
Subs: Jordan Mitchell; Conor Fleming; Ronan McLaren; Grady Lawrence