

Another Bonus Point Win for West

A superior back division in a match that saw two well-matched packs gave West of Scotland a try bonus point win by 31-24 over old foes, and friends, Greenock Wanderers at Fort Matilda on Saturday. The five points secured consolidated West's third place in the National League Division 3 table.

West kicked-off with what little wind there was in their favour. Their hosts were first on the scoreboard, in two minutes, with a penalty from Michael Frizzel. It took the Burnbrae men only sixty seconds to take the lead. Skipper Scott Cochrane charged down an attempted clearance and followed up to score. Dru Nicholson was successful with the conversion as he was a few minutes later. His penalty goal gave West a 1-0-3 lead after only seven minutes. Within another five minutes,



the Burnbrae side had moved further ahead when tight head Andrew Love gathered from a poorly thrown Wanderers' line-out ball and drove over. Nicholson again converted. It was poor reward for a superb cover tackle by Wanderers' full back Aaron Purewal as the West wing looked certain to score in the corner.

The home back division had failed to impress up till now but just before the mid-point of the half, after their pack won scrum ball in front of the West posts, they finally got the ball through the hands leaving left wing Andrew Arnott to score in the corner. Frizzel's excellent conversion followed. The home pack were solid in the set scrum, providing good ball for their backs but the try apart, they rarely threatened. Indeed, it look as if West had moved further ahead when, from a five metres scrummage, the forwards drove over and Cochrane touched down for what appeared to be his second try of the game. The referee, though, ruled the ball had been held up. West did get their third try of the afternoon just before half time with a superb score. Purewal, showing great skill, kicked ahead with the outside of his right foot. West gathered and Nicholson was on hand to collect and go over. His successful conversion gave West a half-time lead of 24-10.

The wind had got up by now and the Milngavie men knew they would be in for a battle during the second forty minutes. After some solid defending in the opening ten minutes, a fine break and good linking work between forwards and backs saw Purewal go under the posts. Nicholson kicked his easiest goal of the afternoon. The game looked safe for West now but the home pack continued to battle and West continued to defend well. The coaching staff will be disappointed in the manner in which the West line was finally breached, loosehead Louie Hoodless going through a gap in the defence from five metres. This gave Wanderers seven minutes in which to secure a losing bonus point. This they did when Hoodless again went over from short range. Frizzel was left with the kick to get the bonus point and this he did. The home pack deserved it for their efforts.



Another good win for West of Scotland. Many thanks to all at Greenock Wanderers for the excellent hospitality and to referee Ali Steven. Without a referee there would be no game. Next Saturday, 9 October, Murrayfield Wanderers will be the visitors to Burnbrae. The kick-off is three o'clock. We would be delighted to see a good crowd in attendance.

West of Scotland: Alex Fiskien; Callum McCormack, Calum Booth, Rory Cuthbertson, Aaron Purewal; Dru Nicholson, Jamie Carruth; Peter Rhodes, Dylan Dawson, Andrew Love; Scott Cochrane, Dan York; Marc Zoma, Connar Moran-Smith, John Vasconcelos.

Replacements: Max Bowie, Ronan McLaren, Donald Morrison, Fraser Leslie.