

West of Scotland 8 Lasswade 50

It was second v first at Burnbrae on Saturday. In the end, West of Scotland were soundly beaten by a very efficient, very powerful Lasswade side. The Milngavie men, though, will look back on a first half in which they dominated for long spells but were unable to finish off some excellent rugby.

West had got off to a good start with an Owen Hourston penalty after only two minutes. It took a further ten minutes before the visitors made the first foray into the West 22. From their line-out, the Lasswade forwards drove to the West line. The ball was recycled before open side Liam Greig scored.



Despite the setback, West continued to have the greater share of possession but could not turn it into points. Hourston failed with a penalty attempt before Rory Cuthbertson was held up after a superb break. If he had given the pass to one of his supporting runners, West must surely have scored. Two minutes later, another chance was missed. Left wing Aaron Perewal broke, Iestyn Humphreys and Donald Morrison supported before, just short of the Lasswade line, the ball was knocked on. Eventually the try did come. It was similar to Lasswade's, Scott Simpson scoring after a West line-out. West led again but for only a matter of minutes. A pattern was developing. Another line-out, another

drive, another try. Loose head Graeme Cook was on hand to touch down, Daniel Sutherland converting. At half-time, the visitors led by 12-8.

The wind, of no consequence in the early part of the match, was now to Lasswade's advantage. They made full use of it in a second half in which they completely dominated throughout. From a five metres scrummage, quick ball was taken by stand off Matthew Smith who had a simple job to score. West did have a chance a few minutes later when Humphreys showed great skill to pick up a pass at ankle height. He made ground but was held up just short of the Lasswade line. Within two minutes, Charles Griffiths scored the best try of the afternoon, the ball going through the hands of the Lasswade backs before reaching the left wing. That secured the try bonus point. It was one way traffic from then on. A Sutherland penalty was followed by a simple try from his centre partner, Kyle Smith. A Lasswade scrum about ten metres out and Smith took namesake Matthew's pass to score. The coaches would have been delighted with that one. Two late tries took the visitors to fifty points. No 8 Dale Robertson scored from a five metres scrum before scrum half Russell Gladstone finished off a fine move, scoring in the corner. Sutherland's excellent afternoon within the boot continued to the final whistle.



It will be another tough afternoon for West next Saturday as they head south of the border to face Berwick.