

On Saturday, Perthshire had the advantage of the very strong wind which, combined with heavy rain, suggested it would not be an afternoon for the purists. West were much the stronger side from kick-off. It did, though, take them fifteen minutes to cross their opponents' line. Centre Nicky Sutcliffe went over but the referee ruled the try out for a forward pass. The home side did go ahead a couple of minutes later. Right wing Darren Allan collected a clearance kick on the Perthshire ten metres line, cut infield and went over under the posts with barely a hand laid on him. Stand off Dru Nicholson continued his recent good form with the boot and converted the try. There then followed one of these not infrequent spells that infuriates the West coaching staff. Three penalties conceded, three goals kicked by Perthshire centre Calum Bruce. In a game that West were in control of, they found themselves 7-9 down. It looked as if they would go into half-time still trailing but right on the interval, the visitors' Matthew Jenns received a yellow card for repeated infringements at the ruck by the openside. West took the scrum and No 8 Tiaan Wright, impressive throughout, picked up to score. West led 12-9 and would have the advantage of the wind in the second half.



For the neutral, the second half would have been disappointing viewing. The home line at no time was threatened by their opponents. Within eight minutes of the restart, Wright scored his second try after good work by the forwards. Nicholson increased the lead with the conversion. Five minutes later, replacement Donald Morrison secured the try bonus. It was a



fine try, Nicholson's loop pass to Morrison took out the defence after many phases of play on the Perthshire line. Nicholson's delayed pass and Allan's perfectly angled run gave the wing his second try. Blindside Fraser Smeaton rounded off the scoring with five minutes to go after Wright's pick up from a scrum close to the Perthshire line. There was still time for the visitors' full back, Jonathan Armit, to receive a yellow card for unacceptable language.

It was a comfortable win for West against a poor Perthshire side. The Burnbrae men retain second place in the table. With the start of the Six Nations, West do not play again until 19 February when they travel to face top of the table Lasswade.