

West of Scotland Ladies were looking for revenge over Garioch Ladies in the wind and rain at Burnbrae. Despite the conditions, an excellent crowd had turned out for a match that promised a great deal. West started well, the forwards already looking the more powerful. It was the visitors, though, who would score first. The Garioch backs, who would look sharp all afternoon despite a poor supply of ball, took advantage of a West turnover and full back



Lorna Young scored after six minutes. It took ten minutes for West to draw level. No 8 Alex Watson picked up at the back of the scrum, the forwards drove and scrum half Katie Wilson went over for her first try of the season. Centre Alexa Smith added the conversion. With the West pack by now dominating and providing plenty of good ball, it was no surprise when the Burnbrae side increased their lead. Watson broke and looked sure to score before being brought down by a superb tackle by Young. From the ensuing ruck, left wing Bex Francis touched down. West were playing excellent rugby at pace but the visitors' defence held firm until right on half-time. Blind side Amanda Paterson picked up loose ball at the back of the Garioch scrum, lock Erinn Foley was in support to go over. West led 17-5 at the interval. The gap could easily have been wider.

Almost immediately on the restart, Garioch scored. Left wing Quitiere Dujonchay took advantage of West losing the ball on their own 22 to sprint to the line. A poor score to concede. Five minutes later, Paterson secured West's try bonus, scoring after many phases of play, the Garioch line eventually succumbing. Smith was successful with the kick. On the hour mark, the visitors, through Alana Davidson, again brought themselves back into a game West had complete control of. Alisha Ross' conversion made it 24-17. West restored their two scores lead through Foley's second try and Smith's third conversion. Garioch would not give up, Dujonchay's second score gave them their try bonus. Watson's brilliant solo try finally secured the victory with four minutes left. There was still time for Young to get her second try. Ross kicked the goal to give Garioch a losing bonus point. The final margin of victory was seven points. It should have been much greater. West played superbly against a side that have looked unbeatable this season. Next Sunday, West travel to Castle Douglas to face their rivals for a promotion play-off spot, Stewartry.