

Another Full House for West Ladies

Annan Warriors 12 West of Scotland Ladies 27

Despite the simply appalling conditions at Violetbank on Sunday, West of Scotland Ladies played some excellent rugby to be rewarded with a try bonus point victory. The win keeps the Burnbrae side in third place in West Division One.

Natasha Burge returned to the starting XV and it was the tight-head who would set up West's opening try after only five minutes. From clean line-out ball, Burge used her pace to go through a gap in the home defence before drawing the full back and sending in Amber Johnston with a perfectly timed pass. It was Burge's fellow prop Vanessa Reid-Phelps who created the opportunity for Laura Martin to double the West lead on the quarter hour. Reid-Phelps' chip over the rush defence saw Martin come off her wing to collect and touch down. Johnston's second try just before the interval came after lock Ciera Campbell's powerful drive into the home 22. She found her second row partner Megan Scullion before the latter gave the scoring pass. At the interval, West led by fifteen points. They had looked potent in attack and solid in defence with the back row of Holly Macdonald, Bex Francis and Louise Wilson not missing a tackle. The centre pairing of Jade Scott and Rowan Todd were likewise.

Early in the second half, Megan Cother's try after good work by her pack gave Annan some hope but that was soon quashed when Johnston completed her hat-trick. Hooker Pamela Duffy's break from her own 22 over halfway was supported by Ellen Forsyth and then Emily Shave. The debutant set up the ruck just short of the Annan line. Katie Wilson's quick feed let her full back run in unopposed to secure the try bonus point. West would score again before the end and it was the try of the game. Ashley Blair's perfectly executed cross kick set Rachael Millar free. Alice Masson supported before her outrageous dummy gave her the time and space to send in Jade Scott. Alexa Smith converted. Niamh Ross' try and conversion at the death was but consolation for the hosts.

On a day of heavy rain and ankle high mud, this was a fine display by the full nineteen player West squad. Next Sunday, West will be at home to Biggar who sit second in the table. This will be a much sterner challenge but one they look forward to. Kick-off is two o'clock.

West of Scotland Ladies: Amber Johnston; Laura Martin, Jade Scott, Rowan Todd,
Ellen Forsyth; Alexa Smith, Katie Wilson; Vanessa Reid-Phelps,
Pamela Duffy, Natasha Burge; Ciera Campbell, Megan Scullion;
Holly Macdonald, Bex Francis, Louise Wilson.

Replacements: Alice Masson, Ashley Blair, Rachael Millar, Emily Shave.