

Selkirk v Edinburgh Accies 24.09.22

Saturday's game was set up to be a competitive tussle as Selkirk, who were sitting 3rd in the league table, hosted Edinburgh Accies, who were just above them in 2nd place.

The Souters came out of the starting blocks quick, putting the Edinburgh side under continuous pressure in their own half. Accies' scramble defence was holding out the dominant Selkirk attack but giving away a number of penalties at the scrums, gave the home side easy territory. However, as one set piece was to be marvelled, the other didn't go a smooth. As lineouts misfired, giving Accies the ball and opportunities to clear easing the pressure.

The first quarter of the match continued in this scrappy frame, as both teams coughed up possession with poor handling and penalties. It wasn't until Selkirk's Captain Luke Pettie took charge and opened the scoring by burrowing under the Accies defence touching down over the line with Matt Reid adding the extras.

With a 7-0 lead, and Edinburgh Accies down to 14 men as flanker Matt Walker was sent to the bin, the home side seemed to settle in to their game structure. A half break by Matt Reid took the Souters deep into the Accies half and looking to keep the ball alive offloaded to Ryan Cottrell who found winger Josh Welsh, gaining his 150th cap, on his shoulder. Not wanting to miss out on the action centre Ryan Godsmark looped round Welsh as he stepped back inside and got the offload in space on far side to go under the posts. Another successful conversion by Reid doubling the home sides lead for half time, 14-0.

Half time break seemed to come at the perfect time for Accies as they came out revitalised and keen to get a foothold in the game. They finally got some points on the scoreboard when Jake Mills strolled over the whitewash after regathering possession from Selkirk. Vincent Hart was unable to give the visiting side maximum points as his conversion strayed wide of the posts, making the scoreboard read 14-5. Accies seemed to find their rhythm, playing more upbeat rugby and putting the pressure on the home side. Despite going down to 14 men for a second time when Clem Lacour seen yellow for a high tackle, Accies were on the front foot. After being awarded a penalty, Accies captain Ruairi Campbell took the initiative and went quickly. Following a quick ruck, the ball was swung out to the backs, eventually finding Harvey Cameron-Barr, showing some silky skills by collecting his own chip over the top of Lachlan Ferguson, to score.

The momentum was certainly with the visiting side now and Cameron-Barr was only too happy to capitalise on a wayward pass from Selkirk and run in over the try line in the corner. Up stepped a change in kicker in Ben Appleson who slotted the touchline conversion pulling his team level at 17-17.

Selkirk regained the lead with a Matt Reid penalty in the final quarter but the home side's ill-discipline gave Accies easy possession and territory. They used this to their advantage as prop Cole Imrie scrambled over the line and with Appleson's successful conversion, Accies were now four points in the lead which they held onto until the final whistle.

Photos: Grant Kinghorn

