

## Jedforest v Selkirk 26.11.22

Selkirk looked to continue their unbeaten record away from home when they headed to Riverside Park on the return fixture against Jedforest.

Selkirk got off to a dream start when Monroe Job gathered the kick off and set it up. Hard carries by Ross Nixon and Russell Anderson allowed Ryan Cottrell to make a half break when the ball came to him. As he stormed towards the halfway line, he popped the ball to Allan Ferrie who continued the charge. He then found Ben Pickles on his shoulder who popped it Lachlan Ferguson running down the touchline. He drew the final defender in and offloaded to Jack Hamilton back on the inside who crossed the whitewash after juggling the ball. Craig Jackson stepped up to give the visiting side maximum points, 0 - 7



Jedforest aimed to hit back with an attacking lineout between Selkirk's 10m and 22m and after securing ball and building some momentum through quick phases this looked to be their opportunity. However, a knock on inside the 22, ended this attack and gave Selkirk possession in broken play. Zenon Szwagrak recovered the ball and got it away along the backline where Pickles tried to grubber it through the defensive line, but it rebounded off a Jed leg and was collected by Lewis Young who got his team back on the attack 5m from the try line. From the ruck two long passes across the back line found Robbie Shirra-Gibb on the wing who dotted down in the corner, but Finlay Scott was unable to convert, 5 – 7.

This was quickly followed by Jedforest's second try when a mistimed tackle by Monroe Job on Clark Skeldon at the restart allowed Garry Munro to kick back down into the Souter's half. The forwards worked hard and rumbled up the field gathering pace, then the ball came out to Shirra-Gibb who stepped off his left foot in midfield and found a half gap. As he set the ball back Lewis Young picked it up from the ruck and played a one two with his brother Gregor as he looped round and then found Mason Cullen on the wing who managed to hot foot it across the line in the corner. This time Scott was able to split the uprights giving his team the lead, 12 – 7.

The rest of the half was battled between the two 22m lines and neither team could seem to break down the defence. This looked to change when Craig Jackson gathered a kick inside his own half and charged down the field, steam rolling over Garry Munro and offloaded to Ryan Cottrell who was unfortunately tackled into touch.

The home side were able to get clean ball at their lineout and get a maul set up but the visiting pack were able to defend this well and forced Jedforest to kick the ball away to the awaiting Callum Anderson, who had come on in replacement for Ross Nixon, and went back on the attack passing two or three defenders but some ill-discipline from Selkirk at the ruck allowed Jed to ease the pressure.

A Jed lineout just inside Selkirk's 22 was stolen by Andrew McColm and allowed Selkirk to build some phases which created some space for Pickles to run through. He then put boot to ball and kicked through for Ferguson to chase but the ever-present Mason Cullen was on hand to end this attack. Some ill-discipline from the Riverside men gave Selkirk's Jackson a chance to close the gap heading towards half time and that is exactly what he done by slotting the penalty kick, 12 – 10.

After some toing and froing, it was Allan Ferrie who was next to cross the whitewash and continue his try scoring habit from last week with Jackson slotting the extras and taking back the lead at the half time break, 12 – 17.



It was Jedforest who looked to be first to score in the second half when they won the ball at a lineout seven meters out from the try line and after recycling it well got the ball out to the backline. A missed tackle allowed Gregor Young to make a half break and pass to Ben McNeil, taking advantage of Callum Anderson slipping, glided through the defence and passed to Callum Young aiming to score in the corner. But the hardworking Scott McClymont had other ideas tackling Young just shy of the line. Jed was penalised for a double movement and Selkirk were able to clear their lines.

After getting their maul set up from a successful lineout on their own 22m and it trundling forward up the pitch, Hamilton gets the ball out to Ferguson down the blindside but is brought down at the halfway line. A quick ruck and a perfectly timed run by Jackson on

Aaron McColm's shoulder cutting back against the grain took Selkirk in to Jedforest's half. Another quick recycle of the ball saw Ferrie get his hands on it and trudge up field with Job in support. Dom Buckley took exception to the young Souter clearing him out of the ruck and ensued to land a number of punches in Job's back to which Co-Captain Luke Pettie was not allowing and dragged Buckley off. Players from both sides then ran in but things quickly calmed down. This skirmish however saw both Buckley and Pettie sent to side-lines for 10 minutes.

With the penalty, Selkirk pushed forward and secured their lineout ball on Jed's 5m line. They got their maul set up, but this was illegally brought to ground by the Riverside men so with advantage being played Selkirk had free ball, but Ferrie spied a gap in the defence and dived over for his second try of the match and stretching the lead 12 – 22.

Selkirk's fortunes seemed to get more bleak as Callum Anderson was then sent to the sinbin for 10 minutes as he was deemed to have deliberately knocked the ball forward whilst trying to intercept the pass from Lewis Young to Mason Cullen.

Selkirk's defence has been notably one of the best this season with few teams scoring tries against them however it was going to be a hard task keeping the Riverside men out whilst down to 13 men. It didn't take long for Jed to take advantage of the extra man and space when they had an attacking scrum on the 5m line and Garry Young picked from the base, used referee David Young as a blocker and dragged Ferguson over the try line. Scott converting and closing the gap, 19 – 22.

The visiting side dug deep, and they were once again on the attack. From another clean lineout, Jackson sneaks a pass to Ferrie crashing up in the midfield. The forwards worked round and put in some hard carries gaining momentum, Hamilton switches the play but a sloppy pass in the backline was recovered by Jedforest who were then penalised for rolling to many times on the ground. Once again Jackson stepped up and increased the lead by another three points, 19 – 25.



Entering the final quarter of the match, it was still all to play for, and Robbie Yourston thought he was the man to get his team back on top, but he was stripped of the ball on the try-line and Ryan Cottrell cleared back up field.

A scrum on the 22m was a good platform for another attack for Selkirk. Job picks the ball up from the base of the scrum, burls out of a tackle and offloads to Ethan McVicker, making his first appearance this season, who passes to the supporting forwards. Andrew McColm spotted a gap in the middle of the ruck, but Jedforest slowed the attack down and were penalised for doing so giving Jackson another opportunity to increase the lead and take away any chance of a bonus point from the home side, 19 – 28.

### **Teams -**

**Jed-Forest:** L Young; M Cullen, Gregor Young, R Yourston, R Shirra-Gibb; G Munro, A Bambrick; G Paxton, F Scott, P Ferreira, D Wardrop, C Skeldon©, Garry Young, B McNeil, D Buckley. Subs: G Clarkson, A Sweenie, J MCGough, O Cranston, C Young.

**Selkirk:** Aaron McColm©; L Ferguson, B Pickles, R Nixon R Cottrell; C Jackson, J Hamilton; L Pettie©, B Riddell, Z Szwagrak, A Ferrie, Andrew McColm, R Anderson, S McClymont, M Job. Subs: J Bett, K Thomson, A Cochrane, E McVicar, C Anderson.

**Referee:** David Young

Report by Kelly Mitchell and Photos by Grant Kinghorn