

## Melrose Storm v Selkirk 2<sup>nd</sup> XV 26.11.22

Selkirk 'A' travelled the small distance up the road to the Greenyards to take on Melrose Storm a week after hosting them at Philiphaugh. And once again the 'Rose were successful in putting the young Souter team away, winning the game 45-25. Like so often this season, Selkirk leaked a try early on when turnover ball produced a score between the sticks after 10 minutes, converted by Alexander Ramage. An infringement on the ground gave the Souters a chance to take 3 points, and Cameron Easson pitched up to stroke the ball neatly over to make the score 7-3.



Two further tries by Melrose in quick succession, against the run of play, increased the homes team lead to 19-3. Another successful penalty kick by Easson narrowed the gap but sloppy defence by Selkirk gave Melrose another chance to cross the line to increase their lead, 24-6 But the Selkirk pack were not short of fire power, and increased pressure on the Melrose goal line produced a try for the ever productive Declan Broatch just before the half time whistle, leaving the score 24-11 at the break.



The second half was a much brighter start for the 'A's. Sam Clark and Callum Turnbull created yards deep into the Melrose 22' before Scott Clark side stepped his way over for a fantastic individual try, converted by Easson to take the score to 24-18. Melrose hit back scoring a converted try to once again put space between the teams, 31-18 With in air urgency, Selkirk once again threw forward their pack to grind down the Melrose defence. And after being held up short, Connor Ward emerged from a pile of bodies to score for Selkirk, making the score 31-25 With 10 minutes to go, the game was on a knife edge, but it was the home team that rallied better, scoring two late tries to finish the score 45-25. The return of Sam Cockburn, Scott Clark and Lewis Martin were a welcome site for the Philiphaugh men, but once again lack of composure in key areas sadly let the 'A's down but no one could question their desire and energy on the day.



**Report by Bryan Hoggan**

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