

Edinburgh Accies 2nd XV v Selkirk 2nd XV

Selkirk 'A' travelled to the city to face Edinburgh Accies 2nds who had never lost at home this season. And it was the Souters who nearly sneaked the win but in the end came up short, losing 26-22. A break by centre Blake Cullen in the first 5 minutes took play into the Accies half. Finlay Wheelans then kicked the ball through to put pressure on the Accies line. From the resulting ruck, scrum half Liam Davidson spotted a gap and wriggled over for the first try of the day. The home team were quick to reply and scored a converted try of their own through centre Ian Watt. A further try just before half time against the run of play put the Edinburgh outfit 12-5 up at the 40 minute mark as the teams drew breath after a pulsating first half, with the Souters pack outplaying the more physical unit of Accies and the Selkirk back line asking numerous questions of Edinburghs defence. Once again it was the Souters to score first as the second half started. A series of pick and drives resulted in veteran number 8 Robert Cook scoring just left of the uprights to bring the game level 12-12. Accies response was swift, and some lazy defending left a hole in Selkirks defensive line for the home team once more to score and take the lead 19-12. But the Philiphaugh men wouldn't line down, and some enterprising play brought a try for winger Archie Penman who outstripped his opposite man to score in the corner to bring the score to 19-17. With time ticking away Accies scored their bonus point try after a driven lineout to increase their lead to 26-17 with only minutes to spare. A final push by the Souters gave them a losing bonus point and try bonus too when Cook scored once more to complete the scoring with the match finishing 26-22 to the hosts. 'Outstanding' was the reflective thoughts of 'A' team Manager Bryan Hoggan. 'No one gave us much hope of achieving anything up here today against one of the strongest teams in the league. However the 15 boys that came here today showed grit and determination, mixed with some attractive rugby to nearly win this match.'

Once again Captain Liam Cassidy led from the front ably assisted by hooker Matthew Stanners and Rhuariadh Murray. While the whole back line for the young Souters, especially scrum half Davidson and experienced centre Lewis Martin easily outmatched the home teams efforts. Also special mention must go to Guy Mallin who was ever present throughout while playing out of position in the forwards, earning him man of the match.

Report by Bryan Hoggan