

Currie Chieftains 2nd XV v Selkirk 2nd XV

Selkirk 'A' finished off their season at Malleny Park on Saturday versus Currie Chieftain 2nds in the Tennent's East Reserve League Division 1. But there was no final fanfare as the Souters succumbed to a mighty Currie team 74-26. As so often this season, Selkirk leaked an early try in the first minutes of the game to go behind 7-0. But the response was swift, and a pass out of the tackle by Declan Broatch gave Callum Turnbull his first try of the season for the Philiphaugh men, with Cameron Easson's conversion just fading wide.



Again, it was Selkirk on the attack, using the ball wisely and when Captain Frazer Easson was illegally tackled while running for the line, the referee had no option but to award the penalty try to put Selkirk in front 7-12. Three further tries however by the Balerno boys swung momentum the other way and increased the home teams lead to 28-12 on the half hour mark to give them their try bonus point. But the boys in blue hit back and after a series of carries by the pack, that man Frazer Easson once again claimed the try from the pile of bodies with his brother slotting the conversion. A try just before half time completed the scoring for a pulsating first half, with the hosts leading the way 33-19 But there was no coming back for the young Selkirk team with a further 6 tries being run in by the Chieftains to take the score to 74-19 with time ticking away.



But in the final play of the match, Thomas Martin, returning from injury darted over the line to claim Selkirks try bonus point, with Easson converting, giving them some comfort from the game, with the final score 74-26 'Tough, really tough' was the disparaging words from coach Darren Clapperton. 'Just not good enough. We leaked too many easy tries which is disappointing. We lacked fitness and were totally outmuscled in the pack. It's been a hard season, but we have picked up points which have been crucial to avoid us finishing bottom of the league. We've used 53 players altogether in our team this year, which shows how hard it has been to get any continuity going, with several players playing out of position. But we'll regroup and come again next season.' Plus marks for Selkirk was the return of Craig Bruce who was injured back in August at Hawick 7s and also of Thomas Martin who had been sidelined for several weeks.

Report and photos from Bryan Hoggan