

## Glasgow Hawks v Selkirk –09.09.23

**FOLLOWING opening round defeats for both sides, against last season's Tennent's Scottish Premiership finalists, it was Glasgow Hawks who kick-started their season with a resounding, bonus-point victory at home.**

"I felt we could have scored a few more early doors but we've obviously built on the performance after last week, which was a bit disappointing one," said Hawks' head coach **Andy Hill**.

One area of the game which allowed Hawks to dominate proceedings was at the breakdown, where they won a number of penalties

"We did a bit of work on jackaling during the week but mainly we focused on targeting the counter-ruck," added Hill. "We felt last week against Hawick, we allowed them to play, particularly in the first-half which allowed them to put tempo into the game, so this week we looked at slowing the ball down – whether that's winning ball or just changing the speed of ruck, so that was part of the plan.

"It was good to get those tries and the bonus point fairly early on which took the pressure off and allowed us to play a bit of rugby, so happy days." Hawks took the lead when an **Adam Cochrane** knock-on turning into an excellent counter-attack score. The hosts moved the ball to the right-flank where **James Pinkerton, Ryan Flett, James Couper** and **Tiaan Wright** all got involved before Pinkerton popped up on the opposite wing to collect **Jacob Adamson's** inside pass. Unfortunately, that turned out to be Flett's last involvement as he went off with what appeared to be an injured leg.

One area Hawks may want to look at in training is the line-out. They'd already had one lucky escape from a defensive throw which saw **Bruce Riddell** gather a loose ball and be held up over the line, then after another mistake on the opposite side of the pitch, **Luke Pettie** managed to burrow his way over, and with **Cameron Easson's** conversion, Selkirk took the lead.

Soon afterwards, Hawks' Couper had his second disallowed try for a forward pass but, from the resulting scrum, the hosts applied more pressure and kept Selkirk pinned in their own territory for the remainder of the half.

It led to, firstly, a maul-try for **Paul Cairncross** and then, with half-time imminent, a quickly taken line-out from a clearing kick saw Couper sprint and step down the left before playing in winger Adamson.

Selkirk were unable to build any momentum, one potentially dangerous break by **Finlay Wheelans** halted when **James Blair** dragged him over the sideline, and with the ball now in Hawks' hands, it wasn't long until the try-bonus was secured.

After multiple phases pulling Selkirk left and right, **James Imrie** spotted the gap at the side of the ruck, burst into the space and found Pinkerton on his right shoulder for the outside-centre to get his second try of the match.



A now rampant and confident Hawks were also getting the breaks, the bounce on a **Liam Brims'** kick making a 50/22, and although Hawks let a few chances slip by when playing with penalty advantage, a tap and go from in-front of the posts eventually saw Cairncross claim his brace of tries.

**Andrew McColm** pulled one back for Selkirk before Couper finally got his try following good charges by the Hawks' pack, in particular tight-head **Marcus Goodwin**. Hawks' discipline started to waiver as we entered the last ten minutes, and it was a surprise that referee **David Young** didn't reach into his pocket after multiple penalties and a warning in their own 22, but Pettie's tap and go charge saved someone from taking a slightly early seat, before **Max Crumlish** finished off the scoring with another close-range burrow.

"The guys are disappointed," said Selkirk coach **Gordon Henderson**. "We seemed to lack a bit of energy today right from the start. Fair play to Hawks, they took advantage of some good running lines and our disorganised defence at times to score some good tries, but we'll have to go back and look at the analysis because we just seemed to be off the pace of the game today.

"We'd had two really good training sessions during the week, sometimes this happens, and we'll just have to regroup, be honest with ourselves and train hard for a massive game against Jed next week. Last week was the first time we had 30 plus players at training so we got a lot more done, but it's going to take time.

"Not great today, got to be honest, but we move forward, learn and get back on the training park."

## **Teams -**

**Glasgow Hawks:** J Couper; R Flett, J Pinkerton, W Burrows, J Adamson; L Brims, J Imrie; K Shanahan, P Cairncross, M Goodwin, S Leckey©, A Syme, L Stewart, JP Thomson, T Wright.  
Subs: A Burgess, D Irvine, M Crumlish, G Cruickshanks, J Blair.

**Selkirk:** F Wheelans; A Penman, C Anderson, A Grant-Suttie, B Cullen; C Easson, Aaron McColm; L Pettie, B Riddell, Z Szwagrzak, A Cochrane, D Nichol, J Turnbull, S McClymont©, Andrew McColm. Subs: F Easson, C Turnbull, R Murray, C Findlater, B Pickles

Report from The Offside Line