

Gala A v Selkirk A – 10.11.23

Selkirk 'A' have struggled this season to get over the whitewash for tries, with only 6 touch downs over 5 games. However even though the young Souters scored 4 tries on a cold November evening under the lights at Netherdale, it was Gala 'A' who secured the win 34-24 to claim full points in this Border Junior League match.

A dominant Selkirk line out from 5 metres out created the first try of the night and it was flanker Frazer Easson who received the plaudits as he flopped over, with his brother narrowly missing the conversion to make it 0-5. However, Gala hit back with a try of their own from a lineout to level the scores once again. The game was not short of enterprising play with both teams looking to get the ball wide. But it was up the middle that the next try was created. Secure lineout ball, which was constant for the entire game, was quickly shifted to midfield, where Frazer Easson evaded several challenges to scorch in from 30 metres out for a great individual try, with his brother converting to take the lead 5-12. But this was the last of the scoring for the visitors, with the maroons running in a brace of unconverted tries before half time to make the score 20-12 at the interval with Robert Cook being sent to the sin bin just before half time for a high tackle.



The second half started the same as the first with Selkirk on the attack and this time it was the back line producing the goods with winger Craig Bruce bursting over on the right wing to bring the score line ever closer to 20-17. A yellow card for Gala reduced the Netherdale outfit to 14 men but poor decision making by the Souters led to a break away try for Gala to increase their lead to 27-17. 10 minutes left was signalled by the Dutch referee and after another successful lineout Declan Broatch once again, as in previous weeks, barged over for a converted try by Easson to claw the game back to 27-24. With time ticking the game could have went either way but it was the home team that claimed the full points with a converted try in the dying minutes to complete the scoring 34-24 Disappointed' was the reaction of forwards coach Neil Darling. 'Games are won and lost on fine margins, and today we just created too many mistakes and errors which let Gala score some easy tries.' The pick of the pack was Ruaridh Murray who was a constant threat both in attack and defence, with his partner in the second row Connor Ward putting in a tireless shift for the entire match. Scrum half Ryan Legge's pinpoint passing gave the backs that extra yard, with Craig Bruce returning to form after injury.



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