

Kelso Sharks v Selkirk A – 17.11 23

A gritty second half performance by Selkirk 'A' couldn't stop Kelso Sharks 55-21 victory in the Junior Border League on Friday night.

Sharks went ahead after 5 minutes before Selkirk responded with a try of their own. A typical run up the park by prop Ross MacFadzen created the platform for Cameron Easson to release Ruaridh Murray to crash over under the posts for a converted try with Easson adding the extras after 10 minutes. However, that would be the only try of the half for the Souters as the Poynder Park outfit ran in a further 6 tries without response in the first 40 minutes. Although it wasn't all one-way traffic as the depleted visitors on occasions threatened the Sharks line, with captain Sam Clark leading the charge. But a resilient Kelso defence along with a yellow card for Murray, was to keep them out, with the half finishing 41-7. The game shifted in the second half and Selkirk played the best of the rugby. The forwards, with Connor Ward in particular, gaining the heavy yards, started dictating play. And when Easson shifted right and gave the ball to Alan Rutter, he cleverly drew his man to release newly returned Jack Elliot to run in on the corner to claim the first points of the half.

A neat backline by Kelso split the Selkirk defence to bring them their first points of the half. However, Selkirk bounced back, and a scrum 10 metres out gave MacFadzen the chance to pick from the back of the scrum at number 8 to go blind. A neatly timed pass gave Easson the space to glide in to bring the score to 48-21. A final score on the whistle by the Tweedsiders finished a pulsating game off with the score on the boards 55-21 in the end.

Considering the call offs this week due to injury and illness - 10 boys missing from last week's game - Selkirk battled hard for the duration of the game and produced at times pulsating passages of play which augurs well for the remainder of the season. Special mentions must go to Aaron Cairney, who played out of position at 9 but coped admirably, and to Hamish Reid who played his first game for Selkirk at prop, and battled hard throughout. Alan Rutter continues to improve each week after a long layoff, with Rocky Davidson hitting form after months off with an injury. Connor Ward deservedly took Man of the Match following a game storming 80 minutes both in defence and attack, with the whole of the pack deserving special mention for not giving up and working hard even though often on the back foot.

Report by Bryan Hoggan