

Nomadic Wandies take on Aberdeen

Tuesday, 24 February 2009

The nomadic Wandies were back in action on Sunday after several weeks off, this time taking on Aberdeen at a pitch near the Gyle. The reporter didn't arrive until a few minutes after kick off, thanks to Benny's somewhat vague directions. However thankfully she was in time to witness a quite spectacular opening try by front-row speedster Beth Dickens. Some great interplay between backs (all 3 of them who were playing) and forwards resulted in Beth the Dick finding herself on the end of an offload and scooting through a gap, beating at least 4 defenders on her 20 metre charge to the line.

The spectators didn't have to wait long for the next try, scored by Katy 'SFD' Green, showing just why she has been called up to the Scotland team this season. Fellow internationalists Ruthie and Lana followed suit with further scores to secure the bonus point well before half time.

Lana, whose primary purpose is to entertain the spectators, followed up her try with a quite spectacular mid-air-flying - matrix-style-tackle, definitely not a textbook tackle but very effective nonetheless.

Half time approached and reporter Zulfi and accompanying cripple Dr G went in search of a nice latte. Incidentally, many thanks to the lovely staff at David Lloyd gym who allowed us in to their Costa coffee shop, I would definitely recommend the mini chocolate cake- just the right size- Starbucks take note. Worried that their places in the team was in jeopardy due to the outstanding performance put in by everyone on the pitch, Dr G and Zulfi cunningly bought coach Jules a cake in a blatant attempt at bribery. Time will tell if this ploy works.

There was another try scored at the beginning of the second half but unfortunately the reporter and Dr G were discussing which coffee had the shot of hazelnut syrup in and missed it. Sorry about that. Shank the tank took over conversion duties, and landed a few, as well as stepping up to play stand off as the number of available backs declined over the course of the week prior to the game. In fact, the home team's usual No. 8, 7 and 6 were playing 9, 10 and 12 respectively. The fact that Wanderers put together such an assured performance with people playing out of position shows that the hard work being put in at training, and particularly by coach Jules (the flattery continues.) is paying dividends.

Good running by Emma 'Bates' Masters gave the Aberdeen defence problems, and Shona showed some of her 'Chabal' form, popping up everywhere, in both attack and defence. Aberdeen struggled to contain the energy of the home team as every single player really stepped up and posed a threat. The next try saw SFD score an outstanding solo effort, where she showed great pace and finishing skills to score from practically her own try line. Ruthie, revelling in her new found role at scrum half then replicated the Green one's heroics by scoring a not dissimilar try.

Wandies were firing on all cylinders by this point, with even Lana 'Windae Licker' Blyth, not famed for her subtle skills, selling an outrageous dummy, in homage to the absent Laura 'Tange' Steven. She was so impressed with herself that she didn't notice the approaching Aberdeen defender line her up and smash her into the ground. However she managed to keep the ball alive, and after a period of sustained pressure, with some great offloads from Katy and Shona, Wenche the Swede crashed over for her second try in as many games.

Aberdeen tackled well, and it is testament to the work rate and commitment of the home team that they managed to rack up such an impressive scoreline. Special mention should go to pocket rocket Amy Rennie, playing out of position at inside centre, who always looked a threat with the ball in hand and ensured the backline was always going forward.

Final score Murrayfield Wanderers 53- Aberdeen 0