

5 star Pup takes the lead for Lismore Ladies

Thursday, 02 April 2009

Lismore Ladies welcomed a slightly unknown quantity that were Grangemouth to Wardie, with the team from the industrial town only having completed 5 games prior to this fixture compared to the 9 that the home side had played. With a couple of guests from Premiership outfit Kirkcaldy in the Grangemouth side, a tough test was certainly on the cards for the promotion seeking Lismore team. The match was played as a double-header giving the fixture congestion caused by the inclement weather over the festive period.

Lismore kicked off playing up the hill with the breeze blowing down the field, which was in contrast to the direction of the wind just 24 hours earlier at Wardie.

It didn't take long for the home side to open their account though and from a well controlled rolling maul, orchestrated by the vocal Simmonite, Captain Lyth came up trumps with the opening score. 5-0.

Almost from the restart, Neary took the ball for a run and made a solid 30 metres before being brought to ground but not before she managed to push the ball into the path of Kinghorn who showed the kind of skills that wouldn't have looked out of play in Amsterdam the night before. Sorry, for complete clarity, I mean soccer skills for the Scotland Football Team who were playing Holland....c'mon, get your mind out of the gutter....!!

Her kick and chase followed by a neat pick up saw her flop over the try line to double the lead. 10-0.

Grangemouth were determined not to give a good account of themselves and they were unlucky not to get reward for a bursting move through the middle of the Lismore defence however it was the typically cool and calculated Callaghan who eyed up her opposite number and waited until the correct moment before making her tackle.

This seemed to spur Lismore and they were back up on the front foot with industrious Lynn being put into space on the wing following a sound foundation being laid by the pack. The flying winger put down the ball for what she thought was a score, only to realise it was the 5 metre line. Quick as a flash however, the Ulsterlass was back up and secured the ball a second time to go in for the score. 15-0.

Neary opened up her account in the 25th minute after a scrum on the Grangemouth 5 metre line saw the teenage dynamo be put into space by a delightfully weighted Simmonite pass and she dived over beside the posts. After she dusted herself down, Pup got back up to kick the conversion. 22-0.

Callaghan once again saved a certain score on the half hour, bringing Doc to a stop on the edge of the home 22 and with the trio of Kinghorn, Heard and Neary in close proximity, the danger was cleared.

There was one final score of the first half and this was the finest of the game so far. Lyth took a quick tap penalty following a high tackle and the Scotland cap showed great strength and determination to run in 30 metres despite the best attentions of 4 Grangemouth players. 27-0 at half-time.

Now, if this was Crufts, there would only be one prize on offer for best on show and it was the home grown Pup who was to set the second half on fire.

Within 3 minutes of the restart, Heard was within 5 metres of the line after making a great break, but the unselfish Selkirk lass produced a neat pop pass to Neary who glided in under the posts to set up an easy conversion attempt. 34-0.

Neary made it a personal hat-trick in the 48th minute when she was on the end of a Lyth pass from a penalty tap from Simmonite on the Grangemouth 5 metre line and she ran in for a try. 39-0.

It was a first try for the Club for Chowanec in the 55th minute when the powerful 2nd rower came off the back of a ruck and no-one was going to stop her claiming from opening her account. Neary converted to make it 46-0.

Coach McClure rung the changes to bring on some fresh legs with Smith, Durand and Fraser going on.

Smith was unlucky when she cut back inside from a Heard pass inside the Grangemouth 22, but the American was eventually wrestled to the ground 10 metres out.

Neary grabbed her 4th try on the hour when she took a wide run round the tired Grangemouth defence after the forwards set up the ball for a textbook backline move. The conversion was in off the right upright to make the score 53-0.

The final score was somewhat fittingly scored by five star Neary who was on the receiving end of a lovely pass from Nelson at the back of the scrum to run in unopposed for the try which unsurprisingly saw her awarded the Player of the

Match from the opposition.

The Lismore players chose Greer as their star player of the day