

WANDERERS RETAIN UNDER-18 TITLE

Saturday, 25 April 2009

Murrayfield Wanderers retained the SWRU National under-18 Youth Cup today with a well-worked 46-5 victory over Aboyne / Banchory Academies in front of a 1272 crowd at Murrayfield Stadium.

A convincing first-half from the title holders saw them scorch into a 29-0 lead with five unanswered tries.

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A brace from the formidable second-row Lisa Robertson put the Edinburgh side in the lead after 15 minutes.

Player of the match Ashley Manuel converted the second of the two tries before converting her own fine pick and go score.

Mairi Forsyth and fly-half Rebecca Asquith both crossed the whitewash with unconverted efforts to complete the scoring.

Half time: 29-0

Murrayfield continued as they left off with Robertson crossing for her hat trick which Manuel converted.

Despite the Wanderers dominance of the scoreboard, the Deesiders continued their resolute defensive effort and fought their way into the Wanderers 22.

Aboyne / Banchory continued to pressurise and threatened, on several occasions, to swing the ball out wide before cutting back inside and gaining ground inch by inch.

Inside-centre Millie Earle-Wright evaded three tacklers to great effect to dot down under the posts. Scrum-half Hollie Davidson could not convert.

Two unconverted Wanderers tries followed from the prolific Manuel and full-back Megan Gaffney to complete the scoring for the afternoon to the delight of the deserved winners Murrayfield wanderers.

Full time: 46-5

Murrayfield Wanderers coach, Claire Cruikshank, said: "We didn't know that much about the Aboyne side so we were a wee bit apprehensive but we knew if we could play the game with the intensity that we're used to that the performance would follow."

Aboyne / Banchory coach, David Kirby, added: "I'm really pleased with what the girls have achieved it's our first time here and it won't be our last."

Murrayfield Wanderers1 Sarah Quick CAPTAIN

19 Ashley Hogg

3 Mairi Forsyth

7 Lisa Robertson

5 Cat Syme

6 Ruth Mckelvie

18 Georgina Barker

8 Ashley Manuel7 Caitlin Sedgeworth

10 Rebecca Asquith11 Orla Reid

12 Rachael Murray

17 Cairstiona Hawthorn

14 Wiktor Bartusik

15 Megan GaffneyReplacements

22 Samantha Chalmers Aboyne / Banchory Academy1 Hannah Munro

2 Cara Mccallum (captain)
3 Lauren Anderson
4 Anne Espie
5 Jessica Smith
6 Heather Morris
7 Heather Taylor
8 Rebecca Rainnie9 Hollie Davidson
10 Catherine Mcintosh11 Marlies Nicolai
12 Millie Earle-wright
13 Anna Sheldon
14 Julia Shaw
6 Christina MenziesReplacements
9 Sophie Brooks (scrum-half)
15 Katherine Rowlands
10 Fiona Macdonald
11 Megan Albon