

Match report by John Goodall

Rugby fans in Glenrothes were treated to an enjoyable ten try contest on Saturday as the home team faced Alloa with both clubs looking to extend their 100% winning run.

The visitors opened the scoring early in proceedings when flanker Matt Pope burst through the flatfooted defence to place the ball behind the posts. The conversion added to the lead. This setback wakened the Glens up and Ross Davidson showed his pace with two quickly taken tries sprinting up the left wing. Shaun Gray converted both of these and added a penalty to take the Reds into a 17-7 lead.

Alloa scored their second try when, following a scrum on the Glens 10m line, the ball was moved right and Sean Hume was left facing two attackers with Fraser Smith touching down near the uprights. The conversion sailed over.

Gray added another penalty but it was Alloa who had the final say of the half driving a scrum to the goal line and Martin MacKenzie receiving the ball from his number 8 to score by the posts. The conversion gave the visitors a 20-21 lead at the interval.

In the second period, the Glens had the slope and the elements in their favour so the home fans were fairly optimistic about their chances. The early exchanges were evenly contested if somewhat scrappy. A breakdown midway between Alloa's 22m line and halfway was contested by both teams but Cammy Goodall came away with the ball and raced down the right wing stepping out of tackles to score in the corner. Gray's conversion attempt came back off the uprights but he soon made up for his disappointment. He fielded a ball in his own half, beat the first defender and put a grubber kick down the left wing which Alloa took into touch. Nathan Mackenzie tidied the overthrown ball and it zipped along the backline to Gray to score in the right corner. His conversion stretched the lead to 32-21.

Gray's try was the Glens fourth, earning them a try scoring bonus and the next score was Alloa's fourth. They were pressurising the Reds goal line when referee Steve Mellon awarded them a penalty to the left of the goal posts. They took a quick tap and Cammy Nimmo dived over for the try which was converted to reduce the Glens lead to four points. Young Dylan Hall replaced Hume on the right wing midway through the half for his senior debut. Alloa were penalised in their own half and compounded their woes by talking back to the official giving Gray the opportunity to kick another three pointer. Glenrothes too fell foul of Mr Mellon when man of the match Stevie Dean was yellow carded for a reckless tackle resulting in head to head contact with just over ten minutes to go.

Alloa took advantage of their numerical superiority moving the ball across the park and despite tigerish tackling, Martin MacKenzie found space on the left wing to run in their fifth try. A missed conversion had Glenrothes in a nail biting two point lead but Alloa were unable to add to their tally

Glenrothes however were not content to settle for such a narrow victory. Macgregor Simpson went close and Ross Wiggins had a good break down the left wing. As full time approached, Dean rejoined the fray and scrum half Scott Cairns was replaced by Ross McGhie with Glenrothes having been awarded a scrum in the shadow of the posts. Dean picked up from the base of the scrum and barged to the line, being stopped just short however McGhie grabbed the ball and dived over for the winning try. Gray's successful conversion was the final action of the day and made the final score 42-33.

Following last season's disappointing results, the Glens appear to have turned a corner and are enjoying their current run of success. All areas of the team are playing well and numbers

at training and making themselves available for selection have improved. Next week's game will be another tough test with the team travelling over the Tay to face Dundee's second fifteen.

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