

Broughton Women win University Challenge in 9 try romp



Broughton Women made it 5 out of 5 to stay top of the Scottish Women's Rugby Premier C competition with one game left before the split.

Broughton Women travelled to Peffermill for the return clash against Edinburgh University, with the Wardie outfit winning the previous fixture 43-7.

With hardly a cloud in the sky but an Autumn chill in the air, both sides were afforded the luxury of playing on the main pitch, with the visitors cheered on by an impressive following.

Nuala Deans started off where she finished in Glasgow a week earlier – behind the posts with a try. The find of the season so far ran in unopposed in the 3rd minute after the Broughton forwards worked hard to turnover the ball in midfield. Deans converted her own try to put Broughton 0-7 up.

Amy 'Mad Dog' Neill almost doubled the lead as she ran towards the corner pursued by two Uni backs. The pint-sized winger run out of gas 5 metres from the line but she had the support of Deans on her shoulder and she offloaded to put the centre in for score despite the attentions of the Uni No.18.

It was a 10 minute hat-trick for the dynamic Deans as she outpaced the entire Uni side from deep inside her own half following a scrum, taken under the fantastic backdrop of Arthur Seat. After regaining her breath, up she got to slot the two extra points and it was Edinburgh Uni 0 – 19 Deans.

Ivana McConnell was unlucky not to add to the scoreboard moments later. Her soccer skills wouldn't have looked out of place at Hampden but as she was tackled a metre out, her valiant attempts to stretch out over the whitewash were penalised by the Ref for a double movement.

A bonus point try wasn't far away though. A Broughton line out 10 metres out from the Uni line was collected and the pack was simply unstoppable from that range. Badger McFarlane popping up with the ball over the line to record the fourth try of the day to make it 0-24.

The next Broughton score had a touch of class about it. Stretching the Uni defence across the pitch allowed 'JoLa' Laing to run in for a score. Cooper set up a ruck on the stand-side, Billie 'Boom Boom' Birt took the ball on with three Students hanging off of her and the ball was recycle through the hands of McConnell, Deans, Lynn and McFarlane before the ball made its way out to Laing. A fantastic team score. 0-29.

The Students gave themselves a glimmer of hope on the stroke of half-time with a converted try born out of slack Broughton defence. 7-29.

Broughton looked as if they had lost their way somewhat and it was no surprise to see the Students grab another try a couple of minutes after the restart. The strong running No.8 battling off some average tackling to score. 12-29.

This double set-back seemed to spur the Broughton side and it didn't take long before they reclaimed the momentum. Tack McConnell fell inches short of the line after some determined play following a ruck. As the ball became available, McFarlane bulldozed her way over for second of the day. Deans converted. 12-36.

Ciara Ni Choinneain was so close to grabbing a try but as she tried to capitalise on a Uni error, she just managed to knock

the ball on whilst trying to ground it.

The 5 metre scrum was won by Galloway and the Broughton pack pushed the Students all the way back over their own line, allowing McFarlane to grab her hat-trick. Deans converted. 12-43.

Deans came ever so close to grabbing another but was tackled three metres out. The forwards were on hand to protect the ball and Ivana McConnell scored what is likely to be the easiest try of her career so far. Deans brought up the half century with another conversion. 12-50.

McFarlane finished the scoring on the final whistle, polishing off a move which saw Deans almost make it on one wing and the ball working its way across the wide Peffermill pitch to allow her to run in despite the attentions of the Uni prop.

Full Time: Edinburgh University 12 – 55 Broughton Women

Submitted by [Mark Brown](#)