

Rugby – Scotland v Wales, Women's Autumn Internationals

Scotland had two Autumn

International lined up at home for their women with Wales and Japan.

The first of these was Sunday's match against Wales, a match that

also marked the competitive debut of the new coaching set-up.

From the off, Scotland

pressed Wales hard in their half, keeping the visitors pinned and

preventing much progress. After a few minutes of that, the Welsh were

forced to kick to gain ground and escape.

However, Scotland were

penalised for 'not straight' at the subsequent lineout, putting the

Welsh on the front foot with a scrum. This early, packs' encounter

would be a significant pointer to how dominant the Welsh forwards

were to be for the rest of the match.



Wales always seemed to be able to clear the ball under pressure

A further scrum, won by the Scots this time, was wasted as another error gave possession back to the visitors' pack and lead to the opening try.

Just over 10 minutes in a penalty award was kicked to within a few metres of the Scot's line and, ball won, the Welsh forwards steam-rolled their way to the try.

The conversion fell short, but 12 minutes in, it was 0-5 to Wales.

Wales then went on to dominate the following 10 minutes and, although Scotland enjoyed brief periods of possession, they were always on the defensive and being pushed further and further back.

A series of penalties and handling errors during this time did little to help the

situation

and a second Welsh try was always hovering in the background.

And, just after 21

minutes, that background became the foreground as another attack by

Wales went to the boot and a neat cross-field kick from Lauren Smith

was gathered low by Lisa Neumann in the left-field tram lines and the

winger then managed to avoid a tracking Chloe Rollie and squirm over

for the second try. Once again, the kick fell short, but 0-10 was the

score after 22 minutes.



Scotland's Jade Konkell doing her best to fend off the defence

The next 10, or so

minutes, were far more evenly matched. Wales, probably still had the

edge, but Scotland were looking far more dangerous than at any time

before.

A clearing kick was grabbed out of the air by, possibly the best player on the field – when she had the ball – Rollie, and the full back made ground, setting up the best attack of the half for the home side.

Play was advanced down the right wing, before coming infield. A few phases later and Wales were penalised at the ruck, giving a chance for points. Almost 40 metres out, the tee was called for and Helen Nelson lined up and her fine strike saw the ball through the posts for 3-10 after 33 minutes.

The rest of the half was then, once again, fairly evenly matched, but was still played more towards the Scotland end than was comfortable.



Helen Nelson scored Scotland's only points of the match

As the half drew to a close, however, Wales were pounding away at the Scots defence and winning penalties all along the line, one of which cost Emma Wassell a yellow for incorrect entry to a maul.

Down to 14, Scotland could do little to avoid the inevitable which came just on half time via a penalty try to leave the half time score at 3-17 to the visitors.

Starting the second half still with 14 players, Scotland soon lost Megan Kennedy with a serious leg injury, but a penalty and subsequent kick through, put the home side in a dominant attacking position, deep in Welsh territory.



Neither side held back in the tackle area. However, it was all snuffed out when a loose pass was intercepted, bringing the

attack to
a close, but setting Wales up for more possession and
territory.

A couple of Scottish
substitutions around the hour mark shook things up a bit and
the
Scots put in their longest, and most dangerous looking, period
of
attacking play – Rollie, once again, being a driving force.

However, no further
scoring was possible by either side and the Welsh ran out 3-17
winners of a match, in which, they were dominant in almost
every
sphere.

Their pack should take
particular credit, as they had the Scots forwards under
immense
pressure for the whole match, only losing a couple of their
own
scrums due to errors on their part, with the majority of the
rest
going to penalties after pushing their opponents all over the
pitch.



Chloe Rollie in full flow late on
Were they aided by
'getting away with' early pushing? There's a vague
possibility...
But, if that had been the case, then it was up to their
opponents to
get up to speed and mitigate for that. But they didn't, so
fair play
to Wales. Excellent win.

Next up Japan...

[Images from the match will appear here over the next few days.](#)