



Old Iltydian RFC

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MATCH REPORT

7 April 07

Llandaff 10 – Old Iltydians 20

The Illts achieved a hard fought away victory at near neighbours Llandaff to keep their promotion ambitions on track. Although missed chances meant that the game was closer than it could have been, it was a notable victory over a Llandaff side that had beaten the Illts promotion rivals Garndiffaith in recent weeks.

The Illts started positively and were quickly into the hosts 22. Outside half Eugene Williams was narrowly wide with a penalty and a drop goal as the visitors looked to capitalise on the early pressure.

The Illts didn't have to wait much longer for the opening score. From a Llandaff drop out centre Neil Dallimore broke the first line of defence and raced 40 metres before smashing through the home side's full back for a superb individual score. Williams again narrowly missed the touchline conversion, but the Illts had a 5 – 0 lead.

Llandaff fought back strongly, and the Illts were forced to spend the rest of the first half on the back foot, as they were outworked at the breakdown by a very committed home side. The Illts produced a superb defensive display to prevent the home side from crossing their line, with second row Justin Benfield and centres Dallimore and Matthew Taylor to the fore. The Illts' defensive effort was also aided by the props Matt Phillips and Aled Richards, who gave the home side a torrid time in the scrums, pushing them off their own ball on several occasions during the first half. Llandaff kicked one penalty to reduce the score to 5 – 3, but the Illts went in at half time reasonably happy considering the pressure they had been under.

Coach Matthew Lloyd stressed the need for the Illts to up the tempo of the game at half time. The players responded and produced a dominant second half display. Bessie and Phil Morse were stealing increasing amounts of Llandaff's lineout ball, meaning the home side were struggling to gain first phase possession. A touch finder by outside half Williams put the Illts within 10 metres of the home side's line. Bessie stole a lineout against the throw and the Illts forwards drove the home pack over the line for a try by flanker Phil Morse. The conversion was missed but the Illts led 10 -3.

The next 15 minutes was a frustrating period for Illts supporters, as they created numerous chances only to fail to finish the opportunities. Several breaks by centres Dallimore and Taylor and full back Stuart Rees created try scoring opportunities that were wasted by the final pass going to ground or not being given. The Illts were made to pay for their profligacy when Llandaff levelled the scores on a rare visit to the visitors half. A back row move saw the home sides scrum half race over for a try, which was converted



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from out wide to bring the score to 10 all. Llandaff had their tails up, but the Illts responded to the setback superbly. They were soon back in front after the home side were penalised for offside and Williams kicked a penalty to put the Illts 13 – 10 in front.

It was the visitors who were pushing for the clinching score in the closing minutes. A long break by Cai Lewis found Andrew Maunder in support, and he was just held up over the line. Bessie was then controversially denied the winning score, being penalised for a double movement.

With a minute left, the clinching score duly arrived. A powerful burst by replacement Matthew Bater provided quick ball for the Illts. The ball was moved right and a half break by Dallimore was taken on by the forwards. The ball was moved back into midfield and Stuart Rees raced between two forwards to score under the posts. Williams added the conversion to seal a hard fought 20 – 10 victory.

A. Maunder