

Match Report: DWPC/M'Hill Ladies v Stirling/Western Scottish League 2024/25

Tuesday 3rd December 2024 - Carnegie Centre Dunfermline.

Very well done to DWPC/M'Hill Senior Ladies who in a very exciting and fluctuating game have won their first fixture of the new 2024/25 Scottish season against Western/Stirling (WS) 16-15. With 5 of our Scottish Cup winning team unavailable, we fielded a very young team with only Caitlin O'Malley over 19.

Per 1: The team made a fast start going 2-0 up through goals by Ava and Kayleigh before WS came back strongly with 2 goals to draw level. A goal by Lucy put us 3-2 up but 3 goals without reply had the visitors ahead **5-3 at the period end.**

Per 2: At the start of this period Bea went in goal allowing Zara to play outfield. This did not pay dividends immediately as WS scored twice to lead 6-3 and then 7-4 with Lucy scoring when man-up in between. However, as Bea gained confidence making some good saves and Zara lent weight to our attack, we scored 4 without reply through Caitlin, 2 more from Lucy and one from Zara again at man-up to lead 8-7. WS equalised near the end of the period for a **5-3 scoreline and a tied 8-8 game at the halfway stage.**

Per 3: This period started badly with 2 losses of possessions due to inaccurate passing allowing WS to counter and score twice to lead 10-8. Despite missing two 6v5 situations, goals from Lucy and Ava brought us level at 10-10. Western led again at 11-10 but then strong press defence and controlled attack allowed us to gain ascendancy in the game and score 4 goals without reply through Millie, Lucy (Penalty) and 2 from Kayleigh for a **6-3 period scoreline and a 14-11 lead at the three-quarter stage.**

Per 4: WS fought hard in the last period and scored two early goals to reduce arrears to 13-14 despite us being man-up at one of them. A goal by Ava stretched our lead to two but a quick reply from the dangerous Zoe Cherrie with her 3rd goal of the period reduced our lead to one again. Lucy scored her 2nd penalty to lead 16-14 but a quick reply from WS reduced our lead again. The last 1 min 45 secs were nail biting as the game moved from end to end. Chances were missed and possession lost and gained at both ends, but despite a last 30 secs opposition time out our defence held firm to post an **excellent 16-15 victory (Per 4 score 2-4)**

Reflections:

With a very young team and many of our players inexperienced at Senior level this was a very good victory. At times we played very well, maintaining possession patiently and making good passes into our CF who either scored or gained exclusion. To gain 11 exclusions and 2 penalties and concede only 1 exclusion in return is a great effort. We did though only score 3 of our 6v5 situations so this is definitely an area for improvement. We worked hard to create many chances too, which is positive, but a lack of composure and sometimes taking the wrong option meant we didn't score as many as we could have. An area to work on.

We lost 40% of our possessions when under pressure with inaccurate passing and body position on reception enabling WS to steal the ball and counter against us. An important aspect of the game to work on in training.

Switching from a drop to press defence in the second half of the game also helped us to apply more pressure on the opposition reducing their attacking options.

Next up is a game v Kirkintilloch on Tuesday 10th December. This will be a big challenge but one to look forward to.

Match summary:

1. **Team: Goals():** Bea Meldrum GK (per 2, 3 &4), Erin Livie, Ava Thornton (3), Gracie Thomson Grieve, Millie Wishart (1), Kayleigh Roy (1), Amelia Paton, Lucy MacNair (7) Catlin O'Malley (1), Zara Christie GK (per 1) (1)
2. **Exclusions/Penalties:** Millie (1 exc)
3. **Man-up:** 3 scored from 11 attempts (27%) - **Penalties:** 2 from 2 scored
4. **Man-down:** 0/1 saved
5. **Possession lost before shot:** 20/50 - 40%
6. **Possession Gained before opposition shot:** 16/49 - 33%