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Glasgow Hawks



19
(7)

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24
(0)



GHA RFC

1BP

1BP

E. Muirhead	15		E. Cunningham	
S. Graham	14	1T	L. Bardelli	
C. Elliot	13	1T	C. Lonergan	
K. Yule	12	1T	M. MacFarlane	
R. Darroch	11		A. Caqusau	
D. McCartney	10	2C	T. Lonergan	
E. Davey	9	1T, 2C	G. Baird	
M. Downer	1		E. Cavan	
(c) I. Totic	2		A. Falconer	
G. Strain	3		M. Fox	
R. Hart	4		A. Kerr	
Os. Baird	5		K. Watt	
S. Hastings	6		W. Graham	
D. Sweeney	7	1T	D. Ewing (c)	
R. Sweeney	8		L. McCutcheon	
Ob. Baird	16		L. Barron	
I. Carmichael	17		J. Low	
M. Crumlish	18		R. Hay	
E. McAra	19		F. Johnston	
J. Thompson	20		C. King	

REFEREE: Mr. F. Brown

COMPETITIVE HEAD-TO-HEAD RECORD								AWAY HEAD-TO-HEAD RECORD							
PI	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	%	PI	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	%
13	4	0	9	223	347	-124	30.77	8	3	0	5	128	221	-93	37.50

GHA TRADE BRAIDHOLM TURMOIL FOR BALGRAY JOY

GHA Match 454: Saturday 19th November 2022

2022/23 Tennent's Premiership – Balgray, Glasgow

The saying “Change the coach, change the story” seemed very apt for GHA at Balgray. The Braidholm side rode the disruption of not only losing Head Coach Trevor Carmichael during the week but also doing it at the same time as his replacement Calum Forrester was away in South Africa. Temporary control was handed to Jamie McCarthy and Andrew Gillman who witnessed their beleaguered troops produce a bonus-point victory over Glasgow Hawks.

To be fair, onlookers were treated to some desperate stuff at times. The hosts dominated the opening stanza but were met by some sterling defence from GHA. It was a particularly disjointed display by the Hawks backline but the hosts' were eventually rewarded when Gary Strain injected some much-needed pace into the attack. The tighthead prop initiated some clever interplay that ended with Kevin Yule going over for the opening score after thirty-five minutes. McCartney added the extras to round off the first-half scoring.

GHA hit back with a '50-22' giving them an attacking lineout inside the home teams red zone. After patiently pummeling the home goal line, George Baird snipped over for a score which he himself converted. There was an element of luck about the visitors second score. An attempted midfield kick from the hosts' rebounded off one of their own players before GHA Captain Dario Ewing scooped up the ball and raced away under the posts. Baird slotted the simple conversion to put the Braidholm side seven-points ahead. The hosts got themselves back into the contest when Ross Darroch finished off some patient play inside the visitors red zone, touching down in the corner for an unconverted score. However, the visitors continued to pile on the pressure and grabbed their third score when Luke McCutcheon employed an audacious offload to Luca Bardelli. The young winger pinned back his ears and cantered over the line. Hawks were now panicking and trying to force the issue. Their harem-scarem tactics proved fatal as Charlie Longeran intercepted and raced home unchallenged from thirty metres. With GHA securing a bonus-point, it was the hosts' who got the final word. Some superb handling saw the ball moved the full-length of the pitch before flanker Daniel Sweeney bagged the touchdown. It was, however, far too late to influence the result.

The two sides will go at it again next weekend when the reverse fixture at Braidholm will give a clear indication as to whether GHA have truly turned a corner.

GHA's victorious Assistant Coach Jamie McCarthy summarised afterwards:

“The boys were brilliant, we had a clear game plan and stuck to it. Defence was key for us, with everyone putting a huge amount into that. It is nice to be in a position where we have the double-header derby to head back home with this result. That was a real squad effort. It shows a lot of togetherness with the boys, it has been tough, for obvious reasons, but they really dug in and showed they wanted to play. Both teams struggled for field position in the first half and defences were on top but we knew eventually space would open up in the second half. We didn't panic, we just stuck to our guns.”

In contrast, Hawks Head Coach Andy Hill was disappointed in this sides disjointed display, saying:

“It's the same story every week, we just didn't come out after half-time. GHA defended well but all their tries came from our mistakes. In the first half we had six entries into their 22m and only got one score. We must make more of our opportunities.”

Report Sources: Lewis Stuart, The Offside Line, Saturday 19th November 2023