

Match Report, Switzerland vs. Belgium



Bruxelles, 4 September 2011 - The Swiss Women's XV Rugby Team played their first official international Test Match since playing under the flag of the Fédération Suisse de Rugby (FSR). After thorough preparation and a nervous wait, the Swiss Team kicked-off the match at 3pm and immediately leapt to a strong start. After regaining possession of the kickoff ball, the Swiss played through a series of well-executed phases, ending the opening sequence with a try by left winger Carole Casparis after only 64 seconds of play. Christa Herrmann's conversion made the score 7:0. The Belgian team reacted strongly by applying exceeding pressure to the Swiss offense with its well-organised defence, and through some tactical kicks which were equally well-timed as they were well-placed by Belgian fly-half Claire Paris. The Belgian forwards managed to turn over a number of balls in their favour in the rucks and mauls, and their efforts paid off after 17 minutes when fullback Margaux Lalli broke through the midfield and scored a try for Belgium, with Celine Storez slotting the conversion for a score tied at 7:7. Subsequently, despite both teams closing in on each others' try lines, the score stayed unchanged going into the halftime break.

In the second half, the Swiss team set out to correct a few tactical errors from the first period of play, and the effort paid off 16 minutes into the second half when the Swiss were awarded a penalty in the opponents' 22 meter zone after a period of strong offensive pressure, and once again Christa Herrmann's kicking proved impeccable. The Swiss team, now leading 10:7, came into a few more close scoring opportunities in the next 15-20 minutes of play, only to be denied at the last instant by the steadfast Belgian defence. However, the Swiss team could not be denied forever: Five minutes from the end replacement flanker Lala Da Silva blocked a Belgian kick in open play, fly-half Sarah McNamara wasted no time in setting up Fabienne Ullmann for a quick dash through the Belgian midfield for a try left of the posts. This time, the conversion kick just missed, making the final score 15:7. "I am very proud of the team's performance" said Swiss Captain Carolin Reischauer after the match, "everyone fought hard and we played together as a unit". Coach Vincent Prébandier added that "the team always has more work to do to improve, but this performance proves that the work we are doing, the effort the players are putting in, is going in the right direction."

The Swiss squad: Atkinson, Bauer, Buob, Casparis, Da Silva, Diener, Hart, Haymoz, Herrmann, Hodel, Huerlimann, Kehl, Kehrli, Mancini, Martinot, Mc Namara, Munstermann, Oriwall, Reischauer (C), Sax, Ullmann, Walti. – Coaches: Muehlhofer, Prébandier.

Scores: Tries: Casparis, Ullmann. – Conversions: Herrmann (1). – Penalties: Herrmann (1).



