



MATCH REPORT

Women's IRB XV's Test Match Switzerland – Finland, Unterägeri, Switzerland, March 8th, 2014

Women's Friendly Match Switzerland II – Finland II, Zurich, Switzerland, March 9th, 2014

Switzerland – Finland

On International Women's Day, the Swiss and the Finnish Women's XV's National Teams met for the 2nd ever Women's Test Match between those two nations. On a gloriously sunny springlike day, with a backdrop of white-capped Swiss Mountains, the teams met in Unterägeri, Kanton Zug, in Switzerland. The teams' first encounter, in October of 2012 in Helsinki, ended with a 15-05 victory for Switzerland, clutched with a last-second try by the visitors.

This time around, the Swiss team started strongly out of the gate, pressuring the Finns deep in their own half right from the kick-off. The initial effort paid off quickly, when Switzerland scored three quick opening tries, with winger Isabella Bauer touching down at the 3rd minute, and fullback Carole Casparis at the 4 and 8-minute mark. The visitors then slowly started to find their way into the game, but the Swiss kept exploiting their greater strength in the set pieces, and their greater speed in the backline. Inside Center Rahel Bosshardt scored at 15 minutes, off a break through the centers, and fullback Casparis again from a play off a set piece. Before the first half was over, the Swiss team had scored three more tries, with each of the previous scorers touching town for one more, making the halftime score 46-0.

After the break, the guests came out strongly and partially succeeded to get the Swiss off their game. Nevertheless, Patricia Cartier, making her debut start on the wing for Switzerland, touched down for a try 6 minutes into the 2nd half. Despite fighting hard and never giving up through the end, the Finns never looked to seriously threaten the Swiss defence, and kept suffering ball losses in most of the scrums and lineouts. Thanks to so much ball possession, and a patient, hard-working tight game by their forward pack, the Swiss soon capitalized again, with inside center Rahel Bosshardt completing her hatrick at the 50th minute. Despite giving away a large number of penalties and even suffering the temporary loss of a front-row forward due to yellow-carding, the Swiss team scored two more tries through outside center Simone Haymoz. Full back Carole Casparis then completed her own double-hatrick by touching down two more times at the 76th and 80th minute, making the final score 80-0 for Switzerland.

Switzerland II – Finland II

Switzerland's and Finland's Second teams met the following day in a friendly match in Zurich, Switzerland, marking historic first-ever appearances for both countries' development squads, important steps towards the development of U19 Women's programmes for both countries. In the Swiss side, 18 new players made their first appearances for Switzerland. The morning saw the players engaged in a training camp, familiarising them with the playing system of the Swiss National team, in simplified version. All the new players worked very hard to process great amounts of new information, and to put it into practice on the training pitch as well as in the afternoon's game.

Switzerland II kicked off on Sunday, March 9th, at 15:00 against a very spirited Finnish 2nd team. In a closely-contested match, neither side was willing to give up nor to grant the opponent even a millimetre of advantage. The newly-minted Swiss 2nd team pulled together a close and hard-fought victory in the end, beating the guests 2 tries to 1.

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