

Cardiff add insult to injury in defeat of Connacht

Cardiff 29 Connacht 7

Connacht were handed their first defeat of the Guinness Pro 14 season by Cardiff at Rodney Parade with hugely concerning injuries to Irish internationals Dave Heffernan and Finlay Bealham adding to Connacht's on field woes.

Dave Heffernan suffered a bang to his shoulder while Finlay Bealham failed his HIA with both players forced off just ten minutes into the game. The two Connacht players now face a race against time to be declared fit against Italy in two weeks' time.

The injuries add to Andy Farrell's and Ireland's growing list of casualties ahead of the Six Nations return.

Connacht certainly felt the brunt force of their absence with Hallam Amos running in two tries adding salt to the Connacht injury wounds.

Connacht came out of the blocks slowly with a high tackle from Conor Oliver handing Cardiff fly half Jarrod Evans an elementary three points.

The game was turned on its head after 10 minutes when Dave Heffernan and Finlay Bealham had to be replaced due to injury.

Cardiff capitalised on the injuries and punished Connacht just before half time when Welsh internationals Josh Adams and Hallam Amos combined to leave Connacht trailing by 10 points at the break.

Connacht came out fired up in the second half and were rewarded with a try on 55 minutes from Conor Oliver. Unfortunately, that's about as good as it would get from a Connacht perspective with two quick fire Cardiff tries completely taking the game away from them.

Cardiff got their deserved bonus point in the 74th minute with hooker Krysten Dacy going over on the back of a rolling maul meaning Connacht head back to Galway empty handed.