



EUROPEAN RUGBY
CHALLENGE
— CUP —

Challenge Cup 2017/18

Final: Cardiff Blues v Gloucester Rugby



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Match Facts

Friday, 11 May

Kick-off: 21:00. San Mamés Stadium, Bilbao

Referee: Jérôme Garcès (Fra)

Assistant Referee 1: Romain Poite (Fra)

Assistant Referee 2: Pascal Gauzère (Fra)

TMO: Philippe Bonhoure (Fra)

Citing Commissioner: Maurizio Vancini (Ita)

TV: BT Sport / Sky Sports / beIN SPORTS / FR4

- This will be the second meeting between the clubs in the Challenge Cup. Gloucester won last season's quarter-final clash 46-26.
- The last three Challenge Cup finals have all been decided by a single figure margin, a sequence that started with Gloucester's 19-13 win over Edinburgh in 2015.
- Gloucester are bidding to equal Harlequins' record of three Challenge Cup titles having won in 2006 and 2015.
- Cardiff Blues are the only Welsh side to have won a European title beating RC Toulon 28-21 in the 2010 Challenge Cup final. Gethin Jenkins and Taufua'ao Filise both started that match in Marseille while Scott Andrews was on the bench.
- The Blues have averaged 16.9 points and 1.9 tries per game on their way to the final. Only Oyonnax (1.8) have averaged fewer tries in the competition this season and only Enisei (15.2) have averaged fewer points.
- Conversely only Edinburgh (5.7 tries, 41.1 points) have averaged more tries and points than Gloucester this season (5.6, 39.9).
- Gloucester have won a competition high 98% of their own scrums this season, losing just one of 58 against the head.
- Jake Polledri has beaten 28 defenders in his seven appearances, the most of any forward this season. He has also completed 95% of his 65 tackles and won eight turnovers, while his total of 323 metres is the second most by a forward and the most by any player in the Gloucester squad.
- Thirty-seven year-old Gethin Jenkins, who played in a losing Challenge Cup final with Pontypridd in 2002, and who captained the Cardiff Blues to victory in 2010, could become the first player to lead a winning side in two finals.



2017/18 Results and Standings

Pool 2

Pos	Team	Pl	W	D	L	PF	PA	Diff	TF	TA	TB	LB	Pts
1	Q Cardiff Blues	6	5	0	1	99	95	4	12	10	1	0	21
2	Toulouse	6	2	1	3	117	120	-3	14	13	2	2	14
3	Sale Sharks	6	2	1	3	110	102	8	12	11	0	2	12
4	Lyon	6	2	0	4	121	130	-9	13	17	0	3	11

Date	Round	Home	Score	Away
13/10/2017	1	Cardiff Blues	29-19	Lyon Rugby
20/10/2017	2	Toulouse	15-17	Cardiff Blues
09/12/2017	3	Sale Sharks	24-0	Cardiff Blues
17/12/2017	4	Cardiff Blues	14-6	Sale Sharks
14/01/2018	5	Cardiff Blues	18-13	Toulouse
20/01/2018	6	Lyon Rugby	18-21	Cardiff Blues
31/03/2018	QF	Edinburgh Rugby	6-20	Cardiff Blues
21/04/2018	SF	Cardiff Blues	16-10	Pau

Pool 3

Pos	Team	Pl	W	D	L	PF	PA	Diff	TF	TA	TB	LB	Pts
1	Q Pau	6	6	0	0	207	125	82	28	16	5	0	29
2	q Gloucester Rugby	6	4	0	2	253	139	114	37	18	4	1	21
3	Zebre Rugby Club	6	1	0	5	133	257	-124	16	37	2	2	8
4	Agen	6	1	0	5	148	220	-72	20	30	2	0	6

Date	Round	Home	Score	Away
12/10/2017	1	Pau	27-21	Gloucester Rugby
19/10/2017	2	Gloucester Rugby	61-16	Agen
09/12/2017	3	Zebre Rugby Club	26-33	Gloucester Rugby
16/12/2017	4	Gloucester Rugby	69-12	Zebre Rugby Club
12/01/2018	5	Agen	24-45	Gloucester Rugby
19/01/2018	6	Gloucester Rugby	24-34	Pau
31/03/2018	QF	Connacht Rugby	28-33	Gloucester Rugby
20/04/2018	SF	Gloucester Rugby	33-12	Newcastle Falcons



Challenge Cup Records Compared

	Cardiff Blues	Gloucester Rugby
Played	31	83
Wins	23	65
Draws	0	1
Losses	8	17
Total Points For	909	3004
Total Points Against	579	1472
Total Tries For	114	378
Total Tries Against	63	166

2017/18 Points Scorers

Cardiff Blues:

Player	Points
Jarrold Evans	43
Gareth Anscombe	22
Tomos Williams	15

Gloucester Rugby:

Player	Points
Billy Twelvetrees	37
Ollie Thorley	30
Ben Vellacott	20
Henry Purdy	20

Head-to-head record

Cardiff Blues	Team	Gloucester Rugby
1	Played	1
0	Wins	1
1	Losses	0
0	Draws	0

Date	Home	Score	Away
01/04/2017	Gloucester Rugby	46-26	Cardiff Blues



2017/18 Performance Data

Cardiff Blues v Gloucester Rugby – Team Averages

	Cardiff Blues	Gloucester Rugby
Points	16.9	39.9
Tries	1.9	5.6
Goalkicking %	77%	81%
Carries	107.0	111.4
Metres	355.4	410.0
Breaks	8.0	11.9
Defenders Beaten	16.5	19.9
Offloads	6.0	7.4
Passes	142.6	152.9
Kicks from Hand	25.1	14.6
Tackles	138.0	159.1
Missed Tackles	18.5	20.6
Tackle %	88%	89%
Penalties Conceded	11.0	10.5
Turnovers Conceded	14.0	14.6
Turnovers Won	8.6	7.1
Lineout %	86%	81%
Lineout Steals	0.9	1.4
Scrum %	96%	98%
Scrums against the head	0.0	0.0
Ruck %	96%	97%
Time in Possession (mm:ss)	16:31	16:21



Cardiff Blues v Gloucester Rugby – Leading Scorers - Challenge Cup 2017/18

Points

Rank	Player	Team	Matches	Tries	Cons	PGs	DGs	Points
1	Owen Williams	Gloucester Rugby	7	2	18	3	0	55
2	Jarrold Evans	Cardiff Blues	7	0	11	7	0	43
3	Billy Twelvetrees	Gloucester Rugby	8	0	11	5	0	37
4	Ollie Thorley	Gloucester Rugby	3	6	0	0	0	30
5	Gareth Anscombe	Cardiff Blues	6	2	0	4	0	22
6	Ben Vellacott	Gloucester Rugby	7	4	0	0	0	20
6	Henry Purdy	Gloucester Rugby	6	4	0	0	0	20
8	Billy Burns	Gloucester Rugby	6	1	6	0	0	17
9	Tomos Williams	Cardiff Blues	8	3	0	0	0	15
10	9 Players	-	-	-	-	-	-	10

Tries

Rank	Player	Team	Matches	Tries
1	Ollie Thorley	Gloucester Rugby	3	6
2	Ben Vellacott	Gloucester Rugby	7	4
2	Henry Purdy	Gloucester Rugby	6	4
4	Tomos Williams	Cardiff Blues	8	3
5	Callum Braley	Gloucester Rugby	6	2
5	David Halaifonua	Gloucester Rugby	3	2
5	Gareth Anscombe	Cardiff Blues	6	2
5	Henry Trinder	Gloucester Rugby	5	2
5	Jake Polledri	Gloucester Rugby	7	2
5	Macauley Cook	Cardiff Blues	5	2
5	Motu Matu'u	Gloucester Rugby	6	2
5	Owen Williams	Gloucester Rugby	7	2
5	Richard Hibbard	Gloucester Rugby	5	2
5	Ruan Ackermann	Gloucester Rugby	4	2
5	Tom Marshall	Gloucester Rugby	3	2

Goalkicking %

Rank	Player	Team	Matches	PGs	Cons	Attempts	%
1	Steve Shingler	Cardiff Blues	4	1	0	1	100%
2	Billy Burns	Gloucester Rugby	6	0	6	7	86%
3	Owen Williams	Gloucester Rugby	7	3	18	25	84%
4	Jarrold Evans	Cardiff Blues	7	7	11	22	82%
5	Billy Twelvetrees	Gloucester Rugby	8	5	11	21	76%
6	Gareth Anscombe	Cardiff Blues	6	4	0	7	57%



Cardiff Blues v Gloucester Rugby – Top Performers - Challenge Cup 2017/18

Carries

Rank	Player	Team	Matches	Carries
1	Mark Atkinson	Gloucester Rugby	6	68
2	Gareth Anscombe	Cardiff Blues	6	61
2	Jake Polledri	Gloucester Rugby	7	61
4	Jarrod Evans	Cardiff Blues	7	55
5	Rey Lee-Lo	Cardiff Blues	7	53
6	Henry Purdy	Gloucester Rugby	6	52
7	Garyn Smith	Cardiff Blues	7	51
8	Ed Slater	Gloucester Rugby	5	44
8	Josh Navidi	Cardiff Blues	7	44
8	Nick Williams	Cardiff Blues	6	44

Metres

Rank	Player	Team	Matches	Metres
1	Gareth Anscombe	Cardiff Blues	6	347
2	Jake Polledri	Gloucester Rugby	7	323
3	Jason Woodward	Gloucester Rugby	5	310
3	Tomos Williams	Cardiff Blues	8	310
5	Rey Lee-Lo	Cardiff Blues	7	287
6	Henry Purdy	Gloucester Rugby	6	251
7	Charlie Sharples	Gloucester Rugby	5	243
8	Matthew Morgan	Cardiff Blues	4	206
9	Jarrod Evans	Cardiff Blues	7	204
9	Mark Atkinson	Gloucester Rugby	6	204

Breaks

Rank	Player	Team	Matches	Breaks
1	Henry Purdy	Gloucester Rugby	6	13
2	Ollie Thorley	Gloucester Rugby	3	8
2	Rey Lee-Lo	Cardiff Blues	7	8
4	Charlie Sharples	Gloucester Rugby	5	7
4	Gareth Anscombe	Cardiff Blues	6	7
4	Jake Polledri	Gloucester Rugby	7	7
7	Jason Woodward	Gloucester Rugby	5	6
7	Tomos Williams	Cardiff Blues	8	6
9	Ben Vellacott	Gloucester Rugby	7	5
9	Billy Burns	Gloucester Rugby	6	5
9	David Halaifonua	Gloucester Rugby	3	5
9	Jarrod Evans	Cardiff Blues	7	5
9	Matthew Morgan	Cardiff Blues	4	5
9	Owen Lane	Cardiff Blues	5	5



Defenders Beaten

Rank	Player	Team	Matches	Defenders Beaten
1	Jake Polledri	Gloucester Rugby	7	28
2	Jarrold Evans	Cardiff Blues	7	18
3	Rey Lee-Lo	Cardiff Blues	7	17
4	Jason Woodward	Gloucester Rugby	5	13
5	Mark Atkinson	Gloucester Rugby	6	11
5	Matthew Morgan	Cardiff Blues	4	11
5	Willis Halaholo	Cardiff Blues	5	11
8	David Halaifonua	Gloucester Rugby	3	10
8	Tomos Williams	Cardiff Blues	8	10
10	Garyn Smith	Cardiff Blues	7	9
10	Nick Williams	Cardiff Blues	6	9
10	Ollie Thorley	Gloucester Rugby	3	9

Offloads

Rank	Player	Team	Matches	Offloads
1	Rey Lee-Lo	Cardiff Blues	7	8
2	Freddie Clarke	Gloucester Rugby	7	5
2	Garyn Smith	Cardiff Blues	7	5
2	Jason Woodward	Gloucester Rugby	5	5
2	Owen Williams	Gloucester Rugby	7	5
6	Gareth Anscombe	Cardiff Blues	6	4
6	Jake Polledri	Gloucester Rugby	7	4
6	Jarrold Evans	Cardiff Blues	7	4
6	Mark Atkinson	Gloucester Rugby	6	4
10	7 Players	-	-	3

Tackles

Rank	Player	Team	Matches	Tackles	Missed Tackles
1	Josh Navidi	Cardiff Blues	7	96	7
2	Freddie Clarke	Gloucester Rugby	7	75	6
3	Josh Turnbull	Cardiff Blues	7	70	10
3	Tom Savage	Gloucester Rugby	6	70	5
5	Ed Slater	Gloucester Rugby	5	68	7
6	Lewis Ludlow	Gloucester Rugby	7	64	5
6	Mark Atkinson	Gloucester Rugby	6	64	10
8	Jake Polledri	Gloucester Rugby	7	62	3
9	Nick Williams	Cardiff Blues	6	59	12
10	Ellis Jenkins	Cardiff Blues	4	55	4
10	Josh Hohneck	Gloucester Rugby	8	55	4
10	Motu Matu'u	Gloucester Rugby	6	55	5
10	Rey Lee-Lo	Cardiff Blues	7	55	4
10	Tomos Williams	Cardiff Blues	8	55	10



Lineouts

Rank	Player	Team	Matches	Lineouts Won (inc. steals)	Lineout Steals
1	Josh Turnbull	Cardiff Blues	7	19	1
2	Seb Davies	Cardiff Blues	6	18	1
3	Jeremy Thrush	Gloucester Rugby	4	17	1
4	Maccauley Cook	Cardiff Blues	5	16	1
5	Damian Welch	Cardiff Blues	5	15	2
5	Ed Slater	Gloucester Rugby	5	15	5
7	Mariano Galarza	Gloucester Rugby	3	14	3
8	Lewis Ludlow	Gloucester Rugby	7	10	1
8	Tom Savage	Gloucester Rugby	6	10	0
10	Freddie Clarke	Gloucester Rugby	7	8	0

Turnovers

Rank	Player	Team	Matches	Turnovers
1	Josh Navidi	Cardiff Blues	7	10
2	Jake Polledri	Gloucester Rugby	7	8
2	Nick Williams	Cardiff Blues	6	8
4	Josh Turnbull	Cardiff Blues	7	7
5	Ellis Jenkins	Cardiff Blues	4	6
6	Lewis Ludlow	Gloucester Rugby	7	5
6	Mark Atkinson	Gloucester Rugby	6	5
8	Jarrold Evans	Cardiff Blues	7	4
9	Ben Vellacott	Gloucester Rugby	7	3
9	Dillon Lewis	Cardiff Blues	5	3
9	Garyn Smith	Cardiff Blues	7	3
9	Jacob Rowan	Gloucester Rugby	2	3
9	Kristian Dacey	Cardiff Blues	5	3
9	Ollie Thorley	Gloucester Rugby	3	3
9	Olly Robinson	Cardiff Blues	4	3
9	Rey Lee-Lo	Cardiff Blues	7	3
9	Seb Davies	Cardiff Blues	6	3