

Quarter-Finals – PREVIEWS

After a thrilling climax to the Guinness PRO14 regular season last Saturday, the first stage of the Final Series, the Quarter-Finals get underway this weekend, an all-Ireland derby and a first Italian team at this stage visit Belfast.

The focus is narrowing on the Guinness PRO14 Final on May 25, which will take place at Celtic Park – fans can book their places now by visiting bitly.com/Glasgow2019 to get their hands on the best seats.

Munster v Benetton

Live on Premier Sports 1, Eir Sport 1 & DAZN 15:00

Benetton Rugby made history as the first Italian team to qualify for the Guinness PRO14 Final Series – their reward is a trip to Thomond Park to take on a Munster side that finished the season on a high. Johann van Graan's side won nine of their last ten Guinness PRO14 encounters and completed an unbeaten regular season at home by seeing off fellow Final Series qualifiers Connacht on the final day of the campaign.

The Limerick-based side are looking to reach a third final in five seasons, but you have to go back to 2011 for their last title, something of which Van Graan, Peter O'Mahony and the rest of the Munster squad will be acutely aware.

For Benetton, a bonus-point win over Zebre clinched a spot in the post-season and a quarter-final in Limerick, with Kieran Crowley determined to show that the Leoni are ready to seize the opportunity and book a semi-final date with Leinster.

After seeing off their Italian rivals in Parma, the head coach said: "I'm very proud of everything we have done off the pitch. The medical staff, the physios, the other coaches, and everyone who works behind the scenes to help the 15 on the pitch.

"We don't want to stop here. We have nothing to lose because nobody expected us to get here."

Keeping their season alive for a further week will not be easy against a Munster side who have had the edge in recent meetings, most notably a 37-28 win in Treviso last month.

Victory at the Stadio Monigo made it 22 in a row for Munster against Italian opposition – you have to go back to 2013 for Benetton's last win over the Irish province.

But with the attacking talents of the likes of Monty Ioane and Iliesa Ratuva Tavuyara out wide, and Tommaso Allan pulling the strings, Benetton arrive in Ireland looking to upset the odds once again.

Ulster v Connacht

Live on Premier Sports 1, Eir Sport 1 & DAZN 17:35

What a difference a year makes for both Ulster and Connacht.

The two Irish provinces have been revitalised this Guinness PRO14 season with new men at the helm and now a clash in Belfast to return to the semi-final stage.

Dan McFarland's arrival at the Kingspan has brought the Ulstermen back into the Final Series and the European knockout rounds for the first time since 2016.

And with Rory Best and Darren Cave bidding farewell to Belfast this weekend before retirement, have all the motivation they need to extend their season.

But a semi-final trip to Glasgow Warriors is certainly not beyond Connacht who have been a side reborn under Andy Friend.

Last year they ended up down in sixth in Conference A, fast forward a year under the Australian and they were third and back in the Final Series for the first time since their fairy-tale title win under Pat Lam.

Recent history is also on Connacht's side, they did the regular season double over Ulster in the inter-provincial derbies including a first win in Belfast back in round six since 1960.

It is worth noting that victory owed much to a Matty Rea red card for the hosts, but make no mistake about it, Connacht will not fear their provincial rivals.

They have won three in a row against Ulster for the first time since the 1950s, have a fly-half in Jack Carty in career best form – according to former Ulster scrum-half Paul Marshall.

“I think Jack Carty is probably the key man for Connacht at the minute. He is in superb form, playing so well,” he said.

“He can find chinks in a defence and certainly he will be a key man to try and put pressure on.

“What we have seen from Ulster however is a team that has been building character and resolve and consistency throughout the season so hopefully that can continue on Saturday.”

As it Stands - Guinness PRO14 Final Series

Quarter-Final 1: Munster (A2)* v Benetton Rugby (B3)

Quarter-Final 2: Ulster (B2)* v Connacht (A3)*

Semi-Final 1: Leinster (B1)* v Munster* or Benetton

Semi-Final 2: Glasgow Warriors* (A1) v Ulster* or Connacht*

*Qualified for Final Series

Champions Cup Play-Off: Ospreys (A4, 58 pts) v Scarlets (B4, 52 pts)

Opta Top Performers – Round 21

Most tackles: 33 Will Connors (Leinster)

Most carries: 24 Ian Nagle (Ulster)

Defenders Beaten: 7 Jimmy O’Brien (Leinster)

Offloads: 3 Multiple Players

Clean Breaks: 4 Shaun Venter (Cheetahs)

Metres made: 110 Dries Swanepoel (Cheetahs)

Turnovers Won: 3 Multiple Players

Lineout Steals: N/A

Opta Top Performers – Overall

Most tackles: 277 Tienie Burger (Kings)

Most Carries: 290 Bill Mata (Edinburgh)

Defenders Beaten: 70 Johnny McNicholl (Scarlets)

Offloads: 31 Monty Ioane (Benetton)

Clean breaks: 34 Sibhale Maxwane (Toyota Cheetahs)

Metres made: 1299 Dan Evans (Ospreys)

Turnovers won: 26 Ollie Robinson (Cardiff Blues)

Lineout Steals: 9 Tadhg Beirne (Munster)

Saturday 4 May

MUNSTER RUGBY v BENETTON RUGBY

At Thomond Park, Limerick, 3pm.

Live on

Referee: Nigel Owens (WRU, 179th competition game)

Assistant Referees: Ben Whitehouse, Dan Jones (both WRU)

TMO: Ian Davies (WRU)

Citing Commissioner: Edie Walsh (IRFU)



PREMIER SPORTS

HEAD TO HEAD - RECENT CHAMPIONSHIP MEETINGS

Date	Venue	M	B	Munster scorers	Benetton Rugby scorers
Sat 5 Sep 15	Irish Independent Park	18	13	CJ Stander(2T) Ian Keatley(C/2P)	Jayden Hayward(C/2P) Dean Budd(T)
Sun 28 Feb 16	Stadio Monigo	16	13	Ian Keatley(2P) Gerhard van den Heever(T) Francis Saili(T)	Robert Barbieri(T) Jayden Hayward(C/2P)
Sat 26 Nov 16	Thomond Park	46	3	Darren O'Shea(T) Andrew Conway(2T) Tyler Bleyendaal(3C/P) Ronan O'Mahony(2T) Robin Copeland(T) Ian Keatley(C) Alex Wootton(T)	Ian McKinley(P)
Sat 29 Apr 17	Stadio Monigo	34	14	Jack O'Donoghue(T) Darren Sweetnam(2T) Tyler Bleyendaal(3C/P) Alex Wootton(T) Simon Zebo(T)	David Odiete(T) Ian McKinley(C) Jean-Francois Montauriol(T) Tito Tebaldi(C)
Fri 1 Sep 17	Irish Independent Park	34	3	Darren Sweetnam(T) Andrew Conway(T) Tyler Bleyendaal(T/2C) Jean Kleyn(2T) Alex Wootton(T)	Marty Banks(P)
Fri 12 Apr 19	Stadio Monigo	37	28	Dan Goggin(T) Rhys Marshall(T) JJ Hanrahan(4C/3P) Alby Mathewson(T) Shane Daly(T)	Tommaso Allan(C/3P) Tommaso Benvenuti(T) Monty Ioane(T) Penalty Try(T)

Overall Guinness PRO14 head to head record:

Played 16, Munster won 13, Benetton won 3.

Did you know?

- Munster Rugby, who are attempting to reach their fourth semi-final in the last five years, have lost just once in the Guinness PRO14 in 2019: 6-10 at Scarlets in round 17.
- The Munstermen have not been defeated at home in any competition since Leinster won at Thomond Park in December 2017.
- This is Benetton Rugby's first appearance in the play-offs in their 9th season of involvement in the PRO14.
- The Italians have lost just twice in their last thirteen first team fixtures, both in the Guinness PRO14, away to Connacht in round 18 and at home to Munster in round 20.
- Munster have won their last eleven encounters against Benetton in all tournaments whilst all three Italian victories in this fixture were in the Guinness PRO14 at Stadio Monigo, in 2011, and twice in 2013.
- No Italian side has ever been victorious at Thomond Park in any tournament.

COMPARISON	Munster	Benetton Rugby
Last 3 PRO14 results:	5 Apr - Cardiff Blues (H) W 45-21	6 Apr - Leinster (A) D 27-27
	12 Apr - Treviso (A) W 37-28	12 Apr - Munster (H) L 28-37
	27 Apr - Connacht (H) W 27-14	27 Apr - Zebre (A) W 25-11
PRO14 2018/19	Conf A: 2nd - W16 D0 L5 - 77pts	Conf B: 3rd - W11 D2 L8 - 57pts
PRO14 form	wlWWW (24pts)	WWlLw (16pts)
Top try scorer	6 - Rhys Marshall, Andrew Conway	6 - Luca Sperandio, Monty Ioane
Top points scorer	75 - Joey Carbery	95 - Tommaso Allan

Saturday 4 May

ULSTER RUGBY v CONNACHT RUGBY

At Kingspan Stadium, Belfast, 5.35pm.

Live on

Referee: Andrew Brace (IRFU, 46th competition game)

Assistant Referees: John Lacey, George Clancy (both IRFU)

TMO: Oilly Hodges (IRFU)

Citing Commissioner: Eugene Ryan (IRFU)

PREMIER SPORTS



HEAD TO HEAD - RECENT CHAMPIONSHIP MEETINGS

Date	Venue	U	C	Ulster scorers	Connacht scorers
Fri 7 Oct 16	Sportsground	25	30	Craig Gilroy(T) Paddy Jackson(2C/2P) Rory Best(T) Jared Payne(T)	Jack Carty(T/2C/2P) James Connolly(T) Cian Kelleher(2T)
Fri 23 Dec 16	Kingspan Stadium	23	7	Paddy Jackson(2C/3P) Stuart McCloskey(T) Clive Ross(T)	Jack Carty(T/C)
Fri 6 Oct 17	Kingspan Stadium	16	8	Jacob Stockdale(T) John Cooney(C/3P)	Jack Carty(P) Tom McCartney(T)
Sat 23 Dec 17	Sportsground	16	44	Craig Gilroy(T) Rob Lyttle(T) John Cooney(2P)	Tiernan O'Halloran(T) Jarrad Butler(T) Jack Carty(4C/2P) Eoghan Masterson(T) Bundee Aki(T) Ultan Dillane(2T)
Fri 5 Oct 18	Kingspan Stadium	15	22	Jacob Stockdale(T) Nick Timoney(T) John Cooney(C/P)	Tiernan O'Halloran(T) Jack Carty(C/P) Bundee Aki(T) Penalty Try(T)
Fri 28 Dec 18	Sportsground	12	21	Angus Kernohan(T) John Cooney(C) Jordi Murphy(T)	Caolin Blade(T) Jack Carty(3C) Bundee Aki(T) Shane Delahunt(T)

Overall Guinness PRO14 head to head record:

Played 32, Ulster won 24, Connacht won 7 with 1 game drawn.

Did you know?

- Ulster Rugby have made it to the play-offs for the first time since 2016 and have lost just one of their last eight Guinness PRO14 matches: 7-30 at Glasgow in round 19.
- Ulster's only reversal at Kingspan Stadium in any tournament since February 2018 was to Connacht in the Guinness PRO14 in October.
- This is only the second time that Connacht Rugby have reached the play-offs since they were re-introduced in 2010, previously it was in season 2015/16 when they won the title.
- Connacht's 14-27 defeat at Munster on Saturday ended a four-game winning streak in the Guinness PRO14.
- Connacht have won just twice away from home in 2019: at Bordeaux in round 6 of the European Challenge Cup and at Zebre in round 19 of the Guinness PRO14.
- Connacht have won their last three matches against Ulster since the Ulstermen's 16-8 victory at Kingspan Stadium in October 2017, a run which included their first victory in Belfast for over 57 years.

COMPARISON	Ulster	Connacht
Last 3 PRO14 results:	5 Apr - Glasgow (A) L 7-30	6 Apr - Zebre (A) W 6-5
	12 Apr - Edinburgh (A) W 29-7	13 Apr - Cardiff Blues (H) W 29-22
	27 Apr - Leinster (H) W 14-13	27 Apr - Munster (A) L 14-27
PRO14 2018/19	Conf B: 2nd - W13 D2 L6 - 63pts	Conf A: 3rd - W12 D0 L9 - 61pts
PRO14 form	WwWlwW (24pts)	lWWwWI (19pts)
Top try scorer	7 - Rob Herring	6 - Tom Farrell
Top points scorer	89 - John Cooney	149 - Jack Carty

HOW THEY FINISHED

GUINNESS PRO14		Record				Points			Attack					Defence								
Pos	CONFERENCE A	P	W	D	L	TB	LB	Tot	T	C	PG	DG	For	T	C	PG	DG	Agst	TB	LB	PD	
1	Glasgow Warriors (1)	▶	21	16	0	5	15	2	81	83	67	23	1	621	48	31	26	0	380	4	3	241
2	Munster (2)	▶	21	16	0	5	11	2	77	82	57	28	0	612	44	35	18	0	348	3	5	264
3	Connacht (3)	▶	21	12	0	9	7	6	61	60	44	26	1	475	55	37	14	1	394	5	4	81
4	Ospreys (4)	▶	21	12	0	9	6	4	58	53	38	30	4	445	47	38	28	1	404	4	4	41
5	Cardiff Blues (5)	▶	21	10	0	11	7	7	54	60	45	35	0	497	58	46	21	2	451	6	5	46
6	Toyota Cheetahs (6)	▶	21	8	1	12	9	3	46	80	63	5	0	541	80	62	26	0	606	11	3	-65
7	Zebre (7)	▶	21	3	0	18	5	2	19	35	22	13	0	260	86	61	27	1	640	13	1	-380

GUINNESS PRO14		Record				Points			Attack					Defence								
Pos	CONFERENCE B	P	W	D	L	TB	LB	Tot	T	C	PG	DG	For	T	C	PG	DG	Agst	TB	LB	PD	
1	Leinster (1)	▶	21	15	1	5	12	2	76	95	70	17	0	672	49	39	20	0	385	6	4	287
2	Ulster (2)	▶	21	13	2	6	6	1	63	58	41	21	0	441	54	37	24	0	424	5	6	17
3	Benetton Rugby (3)	▶	21	11	2	8	6	3	57	63	36	27	0	474	55	40	24	0	431	6	6	43
4	Scarlets (5)	▲	21	10	0	11	7	5	52	68	49	24	0	510	54	46	34	2	470	6	4	40
5	Edinburgh Rugby (4)	▼	21	10	0	11	6	5	51	52	43	27	0	431	59	39	21	0	436	6	2	-5
6	Dragons (7)	▲	21	5	1	15	1	3	26	37	28	31	1	339	84	52	25	0	599	12	4	-260
7	Isuzu Southern Kings (6)	▼	21	2	1	18	5	7	22	54	37	13	0	385	107	77	12	0	735	16	1	-350
TOTALS			147	143	4	143	103	52	743	880	640	320	7	6703	880	640	320	7	6703	103	52	

Key:

Home Semi-final	Play-off place
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2018/19 ABBREVIATED RULES

The Championship will be played in two stages, the League Stage and the Knock-Out Stage, as set out below.

The Conference Stage:

For the Conference Stage, Celtic Rugby will have divided the Clubs into two conferences of seven Clubs each, Conference A and Conference B, at Celtic Rugby's discretion. Each conference will be made up of two Clubs from each of Ireland and Wales, and a single Club from each of Scotland, Italy and South Africa.

Each Club will play:

- against each of the other six Clubs in the same conference twice (once at home, once away, i.e. 12 Matches in total);
- against each of the seven Clubs in the other conference once (i.e. seven Matches in total, Celtic Rugby will in its discretion determine whether these Matches will be home or away); and
- two further Matches against Clubs from the same Union to ensure that (i) the Irish and Welsh Clubs will play home and away matches against all clubs from their Union and (ii) the Italian, Scottish and South African clubs play a further two matches between the clubs from the same Union, either two home matches and one away match or two away matches and one home match.

In all matches in the Conference Stage, four league points shall be awarded for a win and two league points shall be awarded for a draw. One bonus league point shall be awarded to a Team scoring four or more tries and one bonus league point shall be awarded to a Team losing by seven points or less.

The positions of the Clubs in the Conference Stage will be based on the following, in order:

- the number of League Points awarded to each Club;
- if unresolved, the number of Matches won by each Club in the League Stage;
- if unresolved, the difference between the total points scored and the total points conceded on the field of play for each Club in all Matches in the League Stage;
- if unresolved, the number of tries scored by each Club in all Matches in the League Stage;
- if unresolved, the number of points scored on the field of play by each Club in all Matches in the League Stage;
- if unresolved, the difference between the number of tries scored and the number of tries conceded by each Club in all Matches in the League Stage;

- (g) if unresolved, the number of Players suspended by a Disciplinary Committee or Appeal Committee for incidents taking place in the League Stage;
- (h) if unresolved, the number of yellow cards received by Players for each Club in all Matches in the League Stage;
- (i) if unresolved, the toss of a coin or as otherwise determined by Celtic Rugby in its absolute discretion.

For the purposes of this clause 3.1.4, what qualifies as a yellow card will be determined by Celtic Rugby in its absolute discretion.

The Knock-Out Stage

- The Clubs that rank in the top three positions in each of Conference A and Conference B respectively will qualify for the Knock-Out Stage.
- The Knock-Out Stage will be divided into two Quarter-Final Matches, two semi-final Matches and a Final Match.
- The Quarter-Final Matches will be knock-out, each played over one Match:
- the Club ranked second in Conference A will play at home against the Club ranked third in Conference B (QF1); and
- the Club ranked second in Conference B will play at home against the Club ranked third in Conference A (QF2).
- The winners of the Quarter-Final Matches will proceed to the Semi-Final Matches. The Semi-Final Matches will be knock-out, each played over one Match:
- the Club ranked first in Conference A will play at home against the winner of QF2; and
- the Club ranked first in Conference B will play at home against the winner of QF1.
- The winners of the semi-final Matches will proceed to the Final Match. The Final Match will be knock-out, played over one Match, at a venue designated by Celtic Rugby.
- Based on their final ranking at the end of the Championship some Clubs may be eligible to participate in European Professional Club Rugby tournaments (South African teams are ineligible for EPCR tournaments).
- Seven European Clubs will be eligible to participate in the Heineken Cup organised by EPCR.
- All other European Clubs will participate in the Challenge Cup organised by EPCR.
- The top three European clubs in each Conference will be eligible to participate in the Heineken Cup. The final 7th Heineken Cup place will be decided by way of a play-off match between the highest placed non-qualifying European club in Conference A and the highest placed non qualifying European club in Conference B.
- EPCR has a further Heineken Cup place available through the Challenge Cup. In the event that this place is allocated to Celtic Rugby; Celtic Rugby will confirm the arrangements for allocating the addition eighth Heineken Cup place.

ROUND 21 MICROCOSM

SATURDAY 27 APRIL			
MUNSTER (17)27		CONNACHT (7)14	
Tyler Bleyendaal(2C/2P)		Conor Dean(2C)	
Tadhg Beime(31)		Finlay Bealham(24)	
Mike Haley(37)		Eoin McKeon(71)	
JJ Hanrahan(75/C)		Att: 19,999	
(b) CARDIFF BLUES (13)23		OSPREYS (16)26	
Gareth Anscombe(6/2C/3P)		Sam Davies(2C/4P)	
Josh Turnbull(48)		Cory Allen(30)	
		Nicky Smith(45)	
(B) DRAGONS (6)34		SCARLETS (17)32 (B/b)	
Jason Tovey(C)		Leigh Halfpenny(2C/P)	
Matthew Screech(48/ 79)		Ioan Nicholas(19)	
Jack Dixon(53)		Johnny McNicholl(26/ 64)	
Josh Lewis(56/3C/2P)		Gareth Davies(30)	
Att: 51,297		Jonathan Davies(61)	
ZEBRE (6)11		BENETTON RUGBY (12)25 (B)	
Maicol Azzolini(2P)		Tommaso Allan(C/P)	
Mattia Bellini(78)		Luca Morisi(21)	
Att: 4,450		Toa Halafahi(40)	
		Sebastian Negri da Ollegio(61)	
		Monty Ioane(69)	
(B) TOYOTA CHEETAHS (28)61		ISUZU SOUTHERN KINGS (13)25	
Tian Schoeman(8C)		Masixole Banda(2C/2P)	
Abongile Nonkontwana(9)		Harlon Klaasen(35/ 47)	
Walt Steenkamp(18)		Bjorn Basson(51)	
Joseph Dweba(29)		Att: 4,698	
Shaun Venter(40/ 64)			
Louis Fouche(42)			
Benhard Janse van Rensburg(56)			
Malcolm Jaer(71)			
Boan Venter(80)			
ULSTER (7)14		LEINSTER (13)13 (b)	
Johnny McPhillips(C)		Ross Byrne(P)	
Peter Nelson(C)		Jimmy O'Brien(30)	
Dave Shanahan(32)		Fergus McFadden(40)	
Marcus Rea(61)		Att: 17,358	
(B) GLASGOW WARRIORS (20)34		EDINBURGH RUGBY (3)10	
Adam Hastings(4C/2P)		Simon Hickey(C/P)	
Sam Johnson(8)		Duhan van der Merwe(79)	
Ali Price(19)		Att: 10,000	
Nikola Matawalu(59)			
Tommy Seymour(75)			

Key: winning team shown in green, losing team in red, a draw marked in amber

Note: (B) denotes a try bonus point and (b) a losing bonus point

GUINNESS PRO14 ROUND 21 MILESTONES

DEBUTS (6)

Conor Dean (Connacht), Courtney Winaar (Isuzu Southern Kings), Ryan Baird (Leinster), Craig Casey (Munster), Boan Venter (Toyota Cheetahs), Marcus Rea (Ulster)

100 GAMES

Michael Bent, Stuart McNally, Tommy Seymour

FAIRPLAY LEAGUE

FAIRPLAY LEAGUE						
Pos	Team	YC	CCW	RC	PC	Pts
1	Connacht	3	0	1	0	6
2	Edinburgh	4	0	1	0	7
3	Munster	6	2	0	0	8
3	Cardiff Blues	8	0	0	0	8
5	Leinster	6	0	1	0	9
6	Glasgow Warriors	5	2	1	0	10
7	Ospreys	10	2	0	0	12
8	Dragons	10	0	1	0	13
9	Benetton Rugby	8	0	1	1	14
10	Zebre	12	1	1	0	16
11	Ulster	9	2	1	1	17
12	Scarlets	10	3	0	2	19
12	Toyota Cheetahs	10	0	1	2	19
14	Isuzu Southern Kings	28	0	2	1	37
TOTALS		129	12	11	7	195

RED CARDS (11)

Irne Herbst (Benetton Rugby at Scarlets, 15 Sep) banned for two weeks.

Pierre Schoeman (Edinburgh at Leinster, 22 Sep) banned for a period of four weeks.

Dominic Robertson-McCoy (Connacht v Leinster, 29 Sep) banned for a period of six weeks,

Matty Rea (Ulster v Connacht, 5 Oct) banned for four weeks.

Alex Allan (Glasgow Warriors v Scarlets, 1 Dec) banned for a period of three weeks.

Lloyd Fairbrother (Dragons at Cardiff Blues, 21 Dec) banned for a period of three weeks,

James Lowe (Leinster at Munster, 29 Dec) banned for a period of two weeks,

Justin Basson (Toyota Cheetahs v Zebre, 26 Jan) banned for a period of three weeks.

CJ Velleman (Isuzu Southern Kings v Toyota Cheetahs, 2 Feb) banned for a period of three weeks

Carlo Canna (Zebre v Glasgow Warriors, 2 Mar)

Tertius Kruger (Isuzu Southern Kings at Ulster, 23 Mar)

PROVEN CITINGS (7)

Uzair Cassiem (Scarlets v Isuzu Southern Kings, 29 Sept) banned for a period of two weeks

Kieron Fonotia (Scarlets v Ospreys, 6 Oct) banned for a period of three weeks,

Robert Baloucoune (Ulster v Munster, 21 Dec) banned for a period of two weeks.

Pieter Scholtz (Isuzu Southern Kings @ Edinburgh, 5 Jan) banned for a period of three weeks.

Nico Lee (Toyota Cheetahs @ Connacht, 16 Feb) banned for a period of 13 weeks, he is free to play from midnight, Sunday 21 July 2019.

Ox Nche (Toyota Cheetahs @ Leinster, 1 Mar) banned for a period of 8 weeks, he is free to play from midnight Sunday 19 May 2019.

Tommaso Benvenuti (Benetton Rugby v Munster, 12 Apr), banned for a period of 2 weeks.

CITING COMMISSIONERS WARNINGS (12)

Callum Gibbins (Glasgow Warriors v Munster, 7 Sept)

James Cronin (Munster at Glasgow Warriors, 7 Sept)

Tom Prydie (Scarlets v Benetton Rugby, 15 Sept)

Andrea Lovotti (Zebre @ Dragons, 22 Sept)

Iain Henderson (Ulster v Connacht, 5 Oct)

Adam Ashe (Glasgow Warriors @ Munster, 27 Oct)

Sam Hidalgo-Clyne (Scarlets @ Edinburgh, 2 Nov)

James Hume (Ulster @ Scarlets, 23 Nov)

Johnny Kotze (Ospreys@ Leinster, 23 Nov)
George North (Ospreys v Scarlets, 22 Dec)
Tom Phillips (Scarlets v Munster, 2 Mar)
Tadhg Beirne (Munster v Cardiff Blues, 5 Apr)

YELLOW CARDS (129*)

Benetton (8)	Robert Barbieri, Marco Barbini, Tommaso Benvenuti, Hame Faiva, Michele Lamaro, Giovanni Pettinelli, Iliesa Ratuva, Luca Sperandio
Blues (8)	Olly Robinson(2), Nick Williams(2), Seb Davies, Rhys Gill, Dillon Lewis, Brad Thyer
Connacht (3)	Jarrad Butler, James Cannon, Ultan Dillane
Cheetahs (10)	Charles Marais(3), Luan de Bruin, Aranos Coetzee, Joseph Dweba, Malcolm Jaer, Nico Lee, Tian Meyer, Ox Nche*, William Small-Smith
Dragons (10)	Hallam Amos, Leon Brown, Lewis Evans, Lloyd Fairbrother, Zane Kirchner, Brandon Nansen, Ross Moriarty, Matthew Screech, Dan Suter, Rhodri Williams
Edinburgh (4)	Grant Gilchrist, Simon Hickey, James Johnstone, Fraser McKenzie
Kings (28)	Tienie Burger(2), Justin Forwood(2)*, Stephan Greeff(2), Tertius Kruger(2), Lupumlo Mguca(2), Andy Ntsila(2), Masixole Banda, Bjorn Basson, Henry Brown, Bobby de Wee, Schalk Ferreira, Berton Klaasen, Ruaan Lerm, Michael Makase, Godlen Masimla, Meli Rokoua, Schalk Oelofse, Yaw Penxe, Meli Rokoua, Alulutho Tshakweni, Alandre van Rooyen, CJ Velleman
Leinster (6)	Ross Byrne, Oisín Dowling, Cian Healy, Dan Leavy, Josh Murphy, Tadhg Furlong
Munster (6)	Chris Cloete(3), Keith Earls, Jeremy Loughman, Darren Sweetnam
Ospreys (10)	Adam Beard(2), Cory Allen, Sam Cross, Bradley Davies, Dan Evans, Jordan Lay, Rob McCusker, Giorgi Nemsadze, Justin Tipuric
Scarlets (10)	David Bulbring(2), Simon Gardiner, Marc Jones, Ed Kennedy, Samson Lee, Johnny McNicholl, Ken Owens, Tom Phillips, Lewis Rawlins
Ulster (9)	Louis Ludik(2), Alan O'Connor(2), John Andrew, Robert Baloucoune*, Darren Cave, Marcell Coetzee, Rob Herring, Rob Lyttle
Warriors (5)	Alex Dunbar, Callum Gibbins, Adam Hastings, Oli Kebble, Nikola Matawalu
Zebre (12)	George Biagi(3), Tommaso Boni, James Brown, Massimo Cecilian, Marco Ciccio, Oliviero Fabiani, Johan Meyer, Roberto Tenga, Jimmy Tuivaiti, Giosue Zilocchi

*Note: Justin Forwood received two technical yellow cards in the same game (Isuzu Southern Kings at Benetton Rugby, 6 Oct) and was subsequently sent off.

Carlo Canna received two yellow cards in the same game (Zebre v Glasgow Warriors, 2 Mar) and was subsequently shown a red card.

The subsequent proven citing of Ulster's Robert Baloucoune means the yellow card he received for the same incident on 21 Dec does not count in the Specsavers table.

The subsequent proven citing of Cheetah's Ox Nche means the yellow card he received for the same incident on 1 Mar does not count in the Specsavers table.

TOP GUINNESS PRO14 ACCUMULATORS

Rank	Name	Team	Apps	Mins	Try	Conv	PG	DG	Points
1	Jack Carty	Connacht	15+2	1173	4	30	22	1	149
2	Sam Davies	Ospreys	15+4	1319	1	27	26	4	149
3	Gareth Anscombe	Cardiff Blues	11+1	907	3	28	24	0	143
4	Tian Schoeman	Toyota Cheetahs	20+1	1567	2	59	2	0	134
5	Adam Hastings	Glasgow Warriors	12+3	944	2	38	10	0	116
6	Masixole Banda	Isuzu Southern Kings	17+4	1400	3	32	12	0	115
7	Josh Lewis	Dragons	12+5	972	3	15	17	1	99
8	Tommaso Allan	Benetton Rugby	11+1	850	2	17	17	0	95
9	Ross Byrne	Leinster	11+2	803	1	35	6	0	93
10	John Cooney	Ulster	12+1	824	2	14	17	0	89
11	Simon Hickey	Edinburgh Rugby	9+6	826	0	20	15	0	85
12	Carlo Canna	Zebre	14+1	1085	3	19	10	0	83
13	Jaco van der Walt	Edinburgh Rugby	12+3	876	1	21	12	0	83
14	Leigh Halfpenny	Scarlets	10	785	0	24	10	0	78
15	Joey Carbery	Munster	6+2	498	3	18	8	0	75
16	Rabs Maxwane	Toyota Cheetahs	20	1557	14	0	0	0	70
17	JJ Hanrahan	Munster	9+4	666	2	14	7	0	59
18	Dan Jones	Scarlets	13+4	982	0	14	10	0	58
19	Ciaran Frawley	Leinster	4+7	547	1	19	5	0	58
20	Brandon Thomson	Glasgow Warriors	4+5	395	1	11	10	0	57
21	Pete Horne	Glasgow Warriors	10+4	836	4	15	2	0	56
22	Johnny McNicholl	Scarlets	20	1471	11	0	0	0	55
23	Jarrod Evans	Cardiff Blues	9+3	724	1	13	7	0	52

Best in a PRO Rugby Season: 287pts by Felipe Contepomi (Leinster) in 2005/06

TOP GUINNESS PRO14 TRY SCORERS

Rank	Name	Team	Apps	Mins	Tries	Home	Away	1st H	2nd H
1	Rabs Maxwane	Toyota Cheetahs	20	1557	14	5	9	8	6
2	Johnny McNicholl	Scarlets	20	1471	11	5	6	6	5
3	Dan Evans	Ospreys	18	1367	10	6	4	5	5
4	Shaun Venter	Toyota Cheetahs	12+8	1057	10	9	1	3	7
5	Duhan van der Merwe	Edinburgh Rugby	18	1418	9	6	3	4	5
6	Bjorn Basson	Isuzu Southern Kings	17	1327	8	3	5	6	2
7	George Horne	Glasgow Warriors	8+6	651	8	3	5	4	4
8	Owen Lane	Cardiff Blues	14+1	1138	8	5	3	6	2
9	Rey Lee-Lo	Cardiff Blues	19	1432	8	5	3	2	6
10	Yaw Penxe	Isuzu Southern Kings	18	1398	8	4	4	5	3
11	Kieran Hardy	Scarlets	8+7	641	7	3	4	2	5
12	Rob Herring	Ulster	14+1	980	7	5	2	5	2
13	Luke Morgan	Ospreys	10+6	891	7	4	3	2	5
14	Ioan Nicholas	Scarlets	12+4	1066	7	4	3	2	5

Best in a PRO Rugby Season: 14 by Tim Visser (Edinburgh) 2010/11 and Rabs Maxwane (Cheetahs) in 2018/19.

BEST GUINNESS PRO14 KICKERS 2018/19

Rank	Name	Team	Good	Att	Kick%	Last 10 kicks	Conv	PG	Streak
1	Johnny Sexton	Leinster	16	17	94.12%	2c22/3322/32	12/13	4/4	Last 8
2	Kyle Godwin	Connacht	9	10	90.00%	c2/233222/22	7/8	2/2	Last 9
3	Ciaran Frawley	Leinster	24	27	88.89%	2c2/3c3/3222	19/22	5/5	Last 5
4	Jaco van der Walt	Edinburgh Rugby	33	38	86.84%	2/p22/p3223/p	21/23	12/15	Missed last 1
5	Joey Carbery	Munster	26	30	86.67%	23333/22232	18/22	8/8	Last 13
6	Adam Hastings	Glasgow Warriors	48	56	85.71%	c222/322322	38/46	10/10	Last 9
7	Gareth Anscombe	Cardiff Blues	52	61	85.25%	232c/23323p	28/32	24/29	Missed last 1
8	Bill Johnston	Munster	11	13	84.62%	2/223/33/3c/33	4/6	7/7	Last 2
9	Simon Hickey	Edinburgh Rugby	35	43	81.40%	22c2c2/2/2/32	20/25	15/18	Last 5
10	Rhys Patchell	Scarlets	13	16	81.25%	2/3cc2/33p3/2	9/11	4/5	Last 2
11	Brandon Thomson	Glasgow Warriors	21	26	80.77%	333/232222c	11/13	10/13	Missed last 1
12	Jack Carty	Connacht	52	66	78.79%	2/33/p22p32c	30/39	22/27	Missed last 1
13	Masixole Banda	Isuzu Southern Kings	44	56	78.57%	2/2/cc/2/3322c	32/43	12/13	Missed last 1
14	Tyler Bleyendaal	Munster	14	18	77.78%	322222/3223	11/14	3/4	Last 10
15	John Cooney	Ulster	31	40	77.50%	22/2c/2/32c22	14/19	17/21	Last 2
16	Leigh Halfpenny	Scarlets	34	44	77.27%	2222/2ccc23	24/33	10/11	Last 2
17	Tian Schoeman	Toyota Cheetahs	61	79	77.22%	2/2222c2222	59/73	2/6	Last 4
18	Billy Burns	Ulster	16	21	76.19%	2/2/22c/c/2/222	13/18	3/3	Last 4
19	Dan Jones	Scarlets	24	32	75.00%	3cc/p232/2c/2	14/20	10/12	Last 1
20	Jason Tovey	Dragons	18	24	75.00%	2/3/2/2/c/2323/2	10/14	8/10	Last 5
21	Josh Lewis	Dragons	32	43	74.42%	p323/332p22	15/17	17/26	Last 2
22	Sam Davies	Ospreys	53	72	73.61%	3/cc/332p323	27/38	26/34	Last 3
23	Steve Shingler	Cardiff Blues	8	11	72.73%	2/3c3222/3pc	4/6	4/5	Missed last 2
24	JJ Hanrahan	Munster	21	29	72.41%	c/2/2233322/2	14/22	7/7	Last 9
25	Luke Price	Ospreys	13	18	72.22%	3c2/22/22c22	9/12	4/6	Last 2
26	Ross Byrne	Leinster	41	58	70.69%	2c2/22c/pc3c	35/49	6/9	Missed last 1
27	Antonio Rizzi	Benetton Rugby	12	17	70.59%	2cc222/23/22	9/12	3/5	Last 7
28	Tommaso Allan	Benetton Rugby	34	50	68.00%	3233c/2c3cc	17/30	17/20	Missed last 2
29	Carlo Canna	Zebre	29	43	67.44%	2/22cc/3/c2pp	19/28	10/15	Missed last 2
30	Rory Scannell	Munster	8	12	66.67%	32c/2c2c2c2	5/9	3/3	Last 1
31	Ian McKinley	Benetton Rugby	17	26	65.38%	232/2c323/3c	10/18	7/8	Missed last 1
32	Jarrold Evans	Cardiff Blues	20	31	64.52%	pc2/2c2/2c22	13/20	7/11	Last 2
33	Pete Horne	Glasgow Warriors	17	27	62.96%	3222p22/222	15/21	2/6	Last 5
34	Bader Pretorius	Isuzu Southern Kings	6	10	60.00%	c22/2c/c22/3c	5/9	1/1	Missed last 1

Qual: 10 place kicks at goal

Under Streak, "Last 4" means has kicked last four place kicks in a row successfully. Under "Last 10 kicks" 3 denotes a penalty goal, 2 a conversion, p is a missed penalty and c a missed conversion, whilst separate matches are divided with forward slashes.



GILBERT GOLDEN BOOT

Once 10 players have attempted 30 or more kicks then that will be the sole criteria to contest this award

Rank	Name	Team	Good	Att	Kick%	Last 10 kicks	Conv	PG	Streak
1	Jaco van der Walt	Edinburgh Rugby	33	38	86.84%	2/p22/p3223/p	21/23	12/15	Missed last 1
2	Joey Carbery	Munster	26	30	86.67%	23333/22232	18/22	8/8	Last 13
3	Adam Hastings	Glasgow Warriors	48	56	85.71%	c222/322322	38/46	10/10	Last 9
4	Gareth Anscombe	Cardiff Blues	52	61	85.25%	232c/23323p	28/32	24/29	Missed last 1
5	Simon Hickey	Edinburgh Rugby	35	43	81.40%	22c2c2/2/2/32	20/25	15/18	Last 5
6	Jack Carty	Connacht	52	66	78.79%	2/33/p22p32c	30/39	22/27	Missed last 1
7	Masixole Banda	Isuzu Southern Kings	44	56	78.57%	2/2/cc/2/3322c	32/43	12/13	Missed last 1
8	John Cooney	Ulster	31	40	77.50%	22/2c/2/32c22	14/19	17/21	Last 2
9	Leigh Halfpenny	Scarlets	34	44	77.27%	2222/2ccc23	24/33	10/11	Last 2
10	Tian Schoeman	Toyota Cheetahs	61	79	77.22%	2/2222c2222	59/73	2/6	Last 4
11	Dan Jones	Scarlets	24	32	75.00%	3cc/p232/2c/2	14/20	10/12	Last 1
12	Josh Lewis	Dragons	32	43	74.42%	p323/332p22	15/17	17/26	Last 2
13	Sam Davies	Ospreys	53	72	73.61%	3/cc/332p323	27/38	26/34	Last 3
14	Ross Byrne	Leinster	41	58	70.69%	2c/22c/pc3c	35/49	6/9	Missed last 1
15	Tommaso Allan	Benetton Rugby	34	50	68.00%	3233c/2c3cc	17/30	17/20	Missed last 2
16	Carlo Canna	Zebre	29	43	67.44%	2/22cc/3/c2pp	19/28	10/15	Missed last 2
17	Jarrold Evans	Cardiff Blues	20	31	64.52%	pc2/2c2/2c22	13/20	7/11	Last 2

Qual: 30 place kicks at goal

GUINNESS PRO14 RECORD CENTRE INDIVIDUAL GAME RECORDS

	All-Time	Best in 2018/19
Most points	32 - Stephen Jones (Llanelli RFC @ Swansea, 4 Oct 02)	24 – Brandon Thomson (Warriors v Scarlets, 1 Dec)
Most tries	4 - Mike Mullins (Munster @ Caerphilly, 11 Sep 01)	4 – Dan Evans (Ospreys v Dragons, 23 Mar)
	4 - Lee Abdul (Blues v Ospreys, 25 Oct 03)	
	4 – Jamie Robinson (Blues v Borders, 27 Feb 04)	
	4 – Tommy Seymour (Warriors v Leinster, 10 Sep 16)	
	4 – Alex Wootton (Munster v Cheetahs, 9 Sep 17)	
	4 – Dan Evans (Ospreys v Dragons, 23 Mar 19)	
Most conversions	10 – Duncan Weir (Warriors v Zebre, 29 Apr 16)	8 – Tian Schoeman (Cheetahs v Zebre, 26 Sep)
		<i>8 – Tian Schoeman (Cheetahs v Kings, 27 Apr)</i>
Most penalty goals	9 – Luciano Orquera (Aironi v Benetton, 23 Dec 11)	5 by four players
Most drop goals	4 – Dan Parks (Glasgow v Ulster, 16 Apr 10)	2 – Sam Davies (Ospreys v Scarlets, 22 Dec)
Fastest try	10 secs – Dougie Fife (Edinburgh @ Connacht, 23 Mar 18)	47 secs – Louis Ludik (Ulster v Benetton, 25 Jan)
Quickest bonus point try	17 mins 43 secs – Tommy Bowe (Ulster v Reivers, 12 May 06)	26 mins – Hanno Dirksen (Ospreys @ Kings, 12 Apr)

TEAM RECORDS

	All-Time	Best in 2018/19
Most points in a home game	75-7 Ospreys v Benetton (Liberty Stadium, 16 Feb 14)	64-7 Munster v Ulster (Thomond Park, 29 Sep)
Most points in an away game	67-15 Ulster @ Caerphilly (Virginia Park, 5 Oct 02)	59-10 Leinster @ Dragons (Rodney Parade, 1 Dec)
Highest aggregate of points in game	98pts - Caerphilly 32, Edinburgh 66 (Virginia Park, 21 Sep 02)	89pts – Cheetahs 61, Zebre 28 (Toyota Stadium, 26 Jan)
Biggest home win	68pts – Ospreys 75, Benetton 7 (Liberty Stadium, 16 Feb 14)	57pts – Munster 64, Ulster 7 (Thomond Park, 29 Sep)
Biggest away win	57pts – Dragons 3, Glasgow 60 (Rodney Parade, 15 Feb 13)	49pts – Dragons 10, Leinster 59 (Toyota Stadium, 15 Sep)
Best attendance (regular season)	68,262 – “Judgement Day IV” (Principality Stadium, 30 Apr 16)	<i>51,297 – “Judgement Day” (Principality Stadium, 27 Apr)</i>

Note: 2018/19 Season bests set or equalled this past round shown in *italics*.

APPROACHING CAREER MILESTONES

POINTS SCORING	
1,500 points:	Ian Keatley (1,428)
1,000 points:	Johnny Sexton (796), Gavin Henson (727), Rhys Patchell (724)
500 points:	Leigh Halfpenny (481), James Hook (450)
Record:	1,585 points – Dan Biggar (Ospreys)
TRY SCORING	
50 tries:	Tom James (45), Dan Evans (45)
Record:	67 tries – Tommy Bowe (Ulster & Ospreys)
MATCHES PLAYED	
200 games:	Ian Keatley (196), John Barclay (194)
150 games:	Rory Best (143)
100 games:	Matthew Morgan (99), Nic Cudd (98), Grant Gilchrist (98)
Record:	254 games – John Muldoon (Connacht)

CAREER TOP TENS

MOST POINTS		MOST GAMES		MOST MINS PLAYED		MOST TRIES	
Dan Biggar	1585	John Muldoon	254	John Muldoon	18030	Tommy Bowe	67
Dan Parks	1582	Ross Ford	206	Dan Evans	13265	Tim Visser	58
Ian Keatley	1428	Matthew Rees	202	John Barclay	13242	DTH van der Merwe	57
Ronan O’Gara	940	Phil John	196	Tommy Bowe	12625	Craig Gilroy	51
Jason Tovey	919	Ian Keatley	196	Ross Ford	11909	Andrew Trimble	50
Felipe Contepomi	877	John Barclay	194	Ian Keatley	11809	Tom James	45
Duncan Weir	854	Michael Swift	184	Josh Turnbull	11791	Dan Evans	45
Chris Paterson	810	Dan Evans	183	Alastair Kellock	11767	Shane Horgan	39
Johnny Sexton	796	Darren Cave	178	Andrew Trimble	11755	Nick Williams	38
David Humphreys	786	Isaac Boss/ Josh Turnbull	175	Dan Parks	11400	Fionn Carr/ Simon Zebo/ Tommy Seymour	37

Active players in GUINNESS PRO14 marked in grey

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