

## ROUND 9 – PREVIEWS

After Round 8 produced more thrilling rugby and a total of 44 tries, the Guinness PRO14 resumes this weekend with games taking place in Italy, Ireland, South Africa and Wales. The race to reach the Guinness PRO14 Final in Dublin's Aviva Stadium on May 26 is really starting to take shape with Glasgow Warriors in control of Conference A while defending champions Scarlets are just ahead of the chasing pack in Conference B.

Round 9 will see some new faces enter the Championship with Johann van Graan taking charge of his first game at Munster when they travel to Zebre while Edinburgh's new signing Jaco van der Walt arrives just in time to join their touring party to his native South Africa. Meanwhile, Leinster will hope that former Crusaders star James Lowe can make an instant impact after his recent arrival in Dublin.

### What's at Stake

On Friday night Ulster take on Benetton in Conference B where the province will face a tough proposition at Kingspan Stadium as the hosts aim to stay hot on the heels of Scarlets. The Italians are in contention for the Champions Cup Play-Off position with Edinburgh, who will begin their tour to South Africa in Bloemfontein when they take on the Toyota Cheetahs – also on Friday night.

Friday's other game see Cardiff Blues entertain Connacht, who are separated by just one point in Conference A, while in Conference B, Leinster welcome Bernard Jackman's Dragons to the RDS. The 2014 champions are third in the table, seven points off leaders Scarlets, and victory in Dublin will be vital to stay in touch.

Like Edinburgh, Scarlets begin a two-game tour of South Africa this weekend with the Southern Kings first up. The Kings earned their first two Championship points of the season in their highly-entertaining fixture with Ulster in Round 8 where they came up just short in a 43-36 loss.

Glasgow Warriors will attempt to maintain their unbeaten start to the season when they travel to Ospreys on Sunday afternoon. It's a case of top versus bottom in Conference A and although both teams have supplied a number of players to the Scottish and Welsh national teams during this current Test window, each club has a tremendous reputation for producing world-class talent and this game at Liberty Stadium will showcase their pedigree in this department.

### Pick of the Round

### Zebre v Munster Rugby

Eurosport and Sky Sports will broadcast live from Parma as three-time champions Munster face a potentially tricky trip to Zebre who have been showing signs of positive improvement this season. The Italian side feature consistently across the Opta Team Rankings released this week, sitting in the Top Five for Turnovers Won (52), Breaks (90), Offloads (103), Defenders Beaten (172) and Metres Gained (3,746).

For Munster, head coach Johann van Graan makes his first appearance in the coaches' box since taking over from Rassie Erasmus. Munster are second in Conference A and if they are to keep in touch with Glasgow Warriors then they cannot afford to slip up in this game. Zebre have already beaten Ulster at the Stadio Lanfranchi this season but Munster travel having never lost to their Italian opponents, while their last Championship loss in Italy came back in 2013 to Benetton.

### Opta Top Performers – Round 8

- **Tackles made:** 23 Lloyd Ashley / Olly Cracknell (both Ospreys)
- **Carries:** 18 Max Deegan (Leinster)
- **Defenders beaten:** 8 Charles Piutau (Ulster) / Nico Lee (Cheetahs) / Willis Halaholo (Cardiff Blues)
- **Offloads:** 4 Charles Piutau (Ulster) / Tom Farrell (Connacht)
- **Breaks:** 4 Andrew Trimble (Ulster) / Olly Robinson (Cardiff Blues)
- **Metres made:** 159 Niko Matawalu (Glasgow Warriors)
- **Turnovers won:** 3 Derrick Minnie (Zebre)
- **Lineout steals:** 2 Tim Swinson (Glasgow Warriors) / Scott Fardy (Leinster) / Damian Welch (Cardiff Blues)

Friday 24 November

## CARDIFF BLUES v CONNACHT RUGBY

At Cardiff Arms Park, 7.35pm .

Live on



Referee: Craig Evans (WRU, competition debut)

Assistant Referees: Simon Rees, Adam Jones (WRU)

Citing Commissioner: John Charles (WRU)

TMO: Jon Mason (WRU)

### HEAD TO HEAD - RECENT CHAMPIONSHIP MEETINGS

Date	Venue	CB	Co	Cardiff Blues scorers	Connacht scorers
Fri 6 Mar 15	Cardiff Arms Park	18	17	Rhys Patchell(C/2P) Joaquin Tuculet(2T)	Jake Heenan(T) Aly Muldowney(T) Craig Ronaldson(2C/P)
Sat 3 Oct 15	Sportsground	31	36	Rhys Patchell(3C/P) Aled Summerhill(T) Gareth Davies(C) Dan Fish(T) Sam Hobbs(T) Josh Turnbull(T)	Tiernan O'Halloran(T) Danie Poolman(T) Nepia Fox-Matamua(T) Jack Carty(4C/P) Kieran Marmion(T) Aly Muldowney(T)
Fri 4 Dec 15	Cardiff Arms Park	20	16	Rhys Patchell(2C/2P) Tom James(T) Manoa Vosawai(T)	Ian Porter(T/P) Eoin McKeon(T) Jack Carty(P)
Fri 25 Nov 16	Sportsground	7	18	Steve Shingler(C) Tom James(T)	John Cooney(T/C/2P) Bunde Aki(T)
Sun 12 Feb 17	Cardiff Arms Park	13	19	Gareth Anscombe(C/2P) Nick Williams(T)	Matt Healy(T) Tiernan O'Halloran(D) John Cooney(C/2P) Craig Ronaldson(P)
Sat 23 Sep 17	Sportsground	17	15	Willis Halaholo(2T) Steve Shingler(C/P) Jarrod Evans(C)	Shane Delahunt(T) Darragh Leader(T/C) Craig Ronaldson(P)

### Overall Guinness PRO14 head to head record:

Played 29, Blues won 21, Connacht won 6 with 2 games drawn.

### Did you know?

- Cardiff Blues' last four matches in the Guinness PRO14 have all been won by the home side on the day.
- The Blues have won their last two games at Cardiff Arms Park in the Championship but have not won three in a row at the venue since April 2016.
- The Welshmen have beaten an Irish province just once in their last ten such encounters, against today's opponents, Connacht, in round 4 this season.
- Connacht Rugby have won their last four matches in all competitions since their 8-16 reversal at Ulster in round 6 of the Guinness PRO14.
- The Irishmen have not won away from home in the Championship since a visit to Edinburgh in April.
- Connacht have lost all three matches they have played against Welsh regions this season, whilst their only victory in Wales since February 2016 was when they visited Cardiff Arms Park in round 14 last season.
- Blues beat Connacht 17-15 in Galway in September and have not achieved a season's double over them since 2013/14.

COMPARISON	Blues	Connacht
<b>Last 3 PRO14 results:</b>	6 Oct - Dragons (H) W 43-29	6 Oct - Ulster (A) L 8-16
	28 Oct - Scarlets (A) L 17-30	27 Oct - Munster (H) W 20-16
	4 Nov - Zebre (H) W 37-8	4 Nov - Cheetahs (H) W 23-15
<b>PRO14 2017/18</b>	Conf A: 5th - W3 D0 L5 - 15pts	Conf A: 4th - W3 D0 L5 - 16pts
<b>PRO14 form</b>	LwWlW (15pts)	lLlWlW (10pts)
<b>Top try scorer</b>	4 - Willis Halaholo	3 - Tiernan O'Halloran
<b>Top points scorer</b>	44 - Steve Shingler	52 - Jack Carty

Round 9: 24-26 November 2017

Friday 24 November

## LEINSTER RUGBY v DRAGONS

At RDS Arena, Dublin, 7.35pm.

Live on **TG4**

Referee: Sam Grove-White (SRU, competition debut)

Assistant Referees: Dunx McClement, Bob Nevins (SRU)

Citing Commissioner: John Cole (IRFU)

TMO: Andrew McMenemy (SRU)

### HEAD TO HEAD - RECENT CHAMPIONSHIP MEETINGS

Date	Venue	L	D	Leinster scorers	Dragons scorers
Sun 12 Apr 15	Rodney Parade	22	25	Ben Te'o(2T) Jimmy Gopperth(T/2C/P)	Jack Dixon(T) James Benjamin(2T) Jason Tovey(C/P) T.Rhys Thomas(T)
Sat 3 Oct 15	RDS Arena	37	13	Cathal Marsh(T) Garry Ringrose(T) Fergus McFadden(3C/3P) Isa Nacewa(2T/C)	Jason Tovey(C/2P) Sarel Pretorius(T)
Fri 29 Jan 16	Rodney Parade	13	23	Fergus McFadden(C/2P) Luke McGrath(T)	Jason Tovey(T/2C/D/2P) Ashton Hewitt(T)
Sat 3 Dec 16	RDS Arena	28	15	Jack Conan(T) Peter Dooley(T) Joey Carbery(T) Ross Molony(T) Isa Nacewa(4C)	Angus O'Brien(C/P) Pat Howard(T) Sarel Pretorius(T)
Fri 24 Feb 17	Rodney Parade	54	22	Jack Conan(2T) Ross Byrne(7C) James Tracy(T) Jamison Gibson-Park(T) Luke McGrath(2T) Ross Molony(T) Hayden Triggs(T)	Matthew Screech(T) Dorian Jones(2C/P) Adam Hughes(T) Sarel Pretorius(T)
Sat 2 Sep 17	Rodney Parade	39	16	Ross Byrne(2C/2P) Cathal Marsh(T/C) Jamison Gibson-Park(T) Jordan Larmour(T) Dan Leavy(T) Penalty Try(T)	Gavin Henson(3P) Penalty Try(T)

### Overall Guinness PRO14 head to head record:

Played 29, Leinster won 20, Dragons won 9.

### Did you know?

- Leinster Rugby's five game winning run in all competitions ended when they were beaten in Glasgow in round 8 of the Guinness PRO14.
- The Leinstermen have not lost a regular season Championship home match since Dragons visited the RDS Arena in February 2015; their only defeats to a Welsh region anywhere since then were both to Scarlets in Llanelli in November 2016 and at the RDS Arena in last season's semi-final.
- Dragons have lost their last three Guinness PRO14 fixtures since beating Southern Kings at Rodney Parade in round 5.
- Dragons have lost their last twenty-eight away games, an unwanted Championship record, since beating Treviso in March 2015.
- Honours have been almost even in the last seven encounters between the two sides, with Leinster prevailing by four wins to three; however the Irishmen have won the last three in a row.

COMPARISON	Leinster	Dragons
<b>Last 3 PRO14 results:</b>	7 Oct - Munster (H) W 23-17 28 Oct - Ulster (A) W 25-10 3 Nov - Glasgow (A) L 21-31	6 Oct - Cardiff Blues (A) L 29-43 27 Oct - Ospreys (A) L 14-28 3 Nov - Munster (A) L 6-49
<b>PRO14 2017/18</b>	Conf B: 3rd - W6 D0 L2 - 27pts	Conf B: 6th - W2 D0 L6 - 10pts
<b>PRO14 form</b>	wlWWwl (17pts)	WlWlll (10pts)
<b>Top try scorer</b>	4 - Barry Daly, Rory O'Loughlin	5 - Elliot Dee
<b>Top points scorer</b>	40 - Ian Keatley	60 - Gavin Henson

Friday 24 November

## TOYOTA CHEETAHS v EDINBURGH RUGBY

At Toyota Stadium, Bloemfontein, 7.30pm. *Live on*  
 Referee: Quinton Immelman (SRU, 5<sup>th</sup> competition game)  
 Assistant Referees: Archie Sehlako, Jaco Kotze (SARU)  
 Citing Commissioner: Marius van Rensburg (SARU)  
 TMO: Johan Greeff (SARU)



### Overall Guinness PRO14 head to head record:

*First PRO14 meeting between the two teams.*

### Did you know?

- Toyota Cheetahs have lost two of their last three Guinness PRO14 matches, at home to Glasgow Warriors and away in Connacht.
- Cheetahs defeat to Warriors in round 6 of the Championship spoiled their 100% maximum point winning record in Bloemfontein this season.
- Edinburgh Rugby have won their last five matches in all competitions since tripping up at Leinster in round 5 of the Guinness PRO14.
- Edinburgh have won their last three away games, at London Irish and Krasny Yar in the European Challenge Cup, and at Treviso in the PRO14. They have not won four in a row on their travels in the same season since 2003/04.
- The two sides have never met before, whilst this is Edinburgh's first fixture against a South African side in the PRO14.

COMPARISON	Cheetahs	Edinburgh
<b>Last 3 PRO14 results:</b>	6 Oct - Glasgow (H) L 26-29	6 Oct - Zebre (H) W 16-15
	28 Oct - Zebre (A) W 24-23	28 Oct - Treviso (A) W 24-13
	4 Nov - Connacht (A) L 15-23	4 Nov - Ospreys (H) W 37-10
<b>PRO14 2017/18</b>	Conf A: 3rd - W4 D0 L4 - 20pts	Conf B: 4th - W5 D0 L3 - 23pts
<b>PRO14 form</b>	WWWLwl (20pts)	LIWwW (14pts)
<b>Top try scorer</b>	8 - Makazole Mapimpi	3 - Blair Kinghorn, Chris Dean
<b>Top points scorer</b>	72 - Ernst Stapelberg	47 - Jason Tovey

Friday 24 November

## ULSTER RUGBY v BENETTON RUGBY

At Kingspan Stadium, Belfast, 7.05pm. *Live on* **BBC SPORT NI**  
 Referee: Mike Adamson (SRU, 15<sup>th</sup> competition game)  
 Assistant Referees: Leo Colgan, Shane Kierans (IRFU)  
 Citing Commissioner: Eddie Wigglesworth (IRFU)  
 TMO: Peter Fitzgibbon (IRFU)

### HEAD TO HEAD - RECENT CHAMPIONSHIP MEETINGS

Date	Venue	U	B	Ulster scorers	Benetton Rugby scorers
Fri 13 Feb 15	Kingspan Stadium	43	3	Craig Gilroy(2T) Stuart McCloskey(T) Andy Warwick(T) Mike Allen(T) Penalty Try(T) Ruan Pienaar(5C/P)	Joe Carlisle(P)
Fri 2 Oct 15	Kingspan Stadium	48	7	Craig Gilroy(2T) Stuart McCloskey(3C/P) Sean Reidy(T) Pete Browne(T) Dan Tuohy(T) Paul Marshall(T) Peter Nelson(2C) Lewis Stevenson(T)	Sam Christie(T) Jayden Hayward(C)
Sat 30 Jan 16	Stadio Monigo	32	13	Rory Scholes(T) Stuart Olding(T/C) Sean Reidy(T) Darren Cave(T) Ian Humphreys(2C/2P)	Braam Steyn(T) Jayden Hayward(C/2P)
Sat 10 Sep 16	Stadio Monigo	22	11	Rob Herring(T) Luke Marshall(T) Ruan Pienaar(T/2C/P)	Tommaso Allan(2P) Tommaso Benvenuti(T)
Fri 3 Mar 17	Kingspan Stadium	19	7	Sean Reidy(T) Charles Piutau(T) Jared Payne(T) Ruan Pienaar(2C)	Ian McKinley(C) Filo Paulo(T)
Sat 9 Sep 17	Stadio Monigo	21	14	Jacob Stockdale(T) John Cooney(3C) Andrew Trimble(2T)	Federico Ruzza(T) Ian McKinley(T/2C)

### Overall Guinness PRO14 head to head record:

Played 15, Ulster won 13, Benetton won 1 with 1 game drawn.

### Did you know?

- Ulster Rugby's last six matches in all competitions have been evenly split with three wins and three defeats.
- The Ulstermen's ten game unbeaten run in Belfast was ended by Leinster in round 7 of the Guinness PRO14.
- Ulster were defeated 23-27 at Zebre in round 5 but have never lost successive matches to Italian opponents.
- Benetton Rugby have a won three lost three record in the last six rounds of the Guinness PRO14, whilst their only victory away from home this season came at Edinburgh in round 3.
- The Italians have lost their last eleven encounters with Irish provinces since beating Connacht in Treviso in April 2016.
- Ulster's only defeat to Benetton in twenty-one previous fixtures in all competitions was 12-23 in Belfast in October 2011.

COMPARISON	Ulster	Benetton
<b>Last 3 PRO14 results:</b>	6 Oct - Connacht (H) W 16-8	7 Oct - Southern Kings (H) W 31-3
	28 Oct - Leinster (H) L 10-25	28 Oct - Edinburgh (H) L 13-24
	4 Nov - Southern Kings (A) W 43-36	3 Nov - Scarlets (A) L 8-20
<b>PRO14 2017/18</b>	Conf B: 2nd - W6 D0 L2 - 28pts	Conf B: 5th - W3 D0 L5 - 14pts
<b>PRO14 form</b>	WWIWLw (19pts)	wWIWLI (13pts)
<b>Top try scorer</b>	4 - Andrew Trimble, Jacob Stockdale	5 - Angelo Esposito
<b>Top points scorer</b>	57 - John Cooney	45 - Ian McKinley

Sunday 26 November

## OSPREYS RUGBY v GLASGOW WARRIORS

At Liberty Stadium, Swansea, 1pm

Referee: Ian Davies (WRU, 68<sup>th</sup> competition game)

Assistant Referees: Gareth John, Elgan Williams (WRU)

Citing Commissioner: Dennis Jones (WRU)

### HEAD TO HEAD - RECENT CHAMPIONSHIP MEETINGS

Date	Venue	O	G	Ospreys scorers	Glasgow Warriors scorers
Fri 8 May 15	Liberty Stadium	21	10	Dan Biggar(C/2P) Ben John(T) Dan Evans(P) Rhys Webb(T)	Chris Fusaro(T) Duncan Weir(C/P)
Sun 1 Nov 15	Scotstoun Stadium	19	31	Dan Baker(T) Dan Biggar(C/4P)	Duncan Weir(C/3P) Taquele Naiyaravoro(T) Alex Allan(T) Greg Peterson(T) Sean Lamont(T)
Sun 31 Jan 16	Liberty Stadium	20	20	Sam Davies(2C/2P) Eli Walker(T) Dan Evans(T)	Duncan Weir(2C/2P) Gordon Reid(T) Rory Hughes(T)
Fri 25 Nov 16	Scotstoun Stadium	22	5	Tom O'Flaherty(T) Dan Baker(T) Ashley Beck(T) Tom Habberfield(T) Josh Matavesi(C)	Junior Bulumakau(T)
Sun 26 Feb 17	Liberty Stadium	26	15	Tyler Ardron(T) Luke Price(3C) Keelan Giles(T) Josh Matavesi(T) Kieron Fonotia(T)	Corey Flynn(T) Peter Murchie(T) Brandon Thomson(C/P)
Sat 9 Sep 17	Scotstoun Stadium	10	31	Sam Davies(C/P) Dan Evans(T)	Leo Sarto(T) Finn Russell(4C/P) Adam Ashe(T) Alex Dunbar(2T)

### Overall Guinness PRO14 head to head record:

Played 30, Ospreys won 14, Warriors won 13 with 3 games drawn.


### Did you know?

- Ospreys Rugby's only two victories in the Guinness PRO14 this season were both at home, to Zebre in round 1 and Dragons in round 7.
- Last season Osprey had a perfect played four won four record against Scottish opponents but this campaign has been a different story with two defeats, both on trips north of the border.
- Glasgow Warriors have won all eight Guinness PRO14 matches this season (the last five with maximum points). Only Leinster in 2001/02 (10 wins) and Ulster in 2012/13 (11 wins) have had a better start to a new season.
- The Warriors only defeat on their travels in any tournament this season came on a visit to English champions Exeter Chiefs in the European Champions Cup.
- Glasgow beat Ospreys in round 2 of the PRO14 and have not achieved a season's double over them since 2013/14, which was also the last time that Warriors won at Liberty Stadium.

COMPARISON	Ospreys	Warriors
<b>Last 3 PRO14 results:</b>	7 Oct - Scarlets (H) L 18-19 27 Oct - Dragons (H) W 28-14 4 Nov - Edinburgh (A) L 10-37	6 Oct - Cheetahs (A) W 29-26 27 Oct - Southern Kings (H) W 43-13 3 Nov - Leinster (H) W 31-21
<b>PRO14 2017/18</b>	Conf A: 7th - W2 D0 L6 - 11pts	Conf A: 1st - W8 D0 L0 - 38pts
<b>PRO14 form</b>	LILLWI (7pts)	wWWWwWW (29pts)
<b>Top try scorer</b>	2 - Dan Evans, Ma'afu Fia, Keelan Giles	4 - Nick Grigg
<b>Top points scorer</b>	44 - Dan Biggar	47 - Finn Russell

Sunday 26 November

## SOUTHERN KINGS v SCARLETS

At Nelson Mandela Bay Stadium, Port Elizabeth, 3pm. *Live on*   
 Referee: Stuart Berry (SARU, 5<sup>th</sup> competition game)  
 Assistant Referees: Stephen Geldenhuys, Rodney Boneparte (SARU)  
 Citing Commissioner: Nomsebenzie Tsotsobe (SARU)  
 TMO: Marius Jonker (SARU)

### HEAD TO HEAD - RECENT CHAMPIONSHIP MEETINGS

Date	Venue	SK	Sc	Southern Kings scorers	Scarlets scorers
Sat 2 Sep 17	Parc y Scarlets	10	57	Yaw Penxe(T) Kurt Coleman(C/P)	Johnny McNicholl(2T) Rhys Patchell(T/4C) Jake Ball(T) Steff Evans(T) Hadleigh Parkes(T) Emyr Phillips(T) Leigh Halfpenny(T/3C/P)

### Overall Guinness PRO14 head to head record:

Played 1, Scarlets won 1.

### Did you know?

- Southern Kings have lost all eight matches they have played in the Guinness PRO14, although they did pick up their first two league points in gaining a try and losing bonus in their defeat to Ulster at Wolfson Stadium in round 8.
- Reigning champions, Scarlets, only defeat in the Guinness PRO14 since March was 20-27 away to Ulster on 15 September.
- Scarlets top the Conference B pool table with seven wins out of eight so far this season.
- The two sides have met once before, in the opening fixture of the 2017/18 campaign, with Scarlets running out 57-10 victors in Llanelli.

COMPARISON	Kings	Scarlets
<b>Last 3 PRO14 results:</b>	7 Oct - Treviso (A) L 3-31	7 Oct - Ospreys (A) W 19-18
	27 Oct - Glasgow (A) L 13-43	28 Oct - Cardiff Blues (H) W 30-17
	4 Nov - Ulster (H) L 36-43	3 Nov - Treviso (H) W 20-8
<b>PRO14 2017/18</b>	Conf B: 7th - W0 D0 L8 - 2pts	Conf B: 1st - W7 D0 L1 - 34pts
<b>PRO14 form</b>	LLIIL (2pts)	IWWwWW (24pts)
<b>Top try scorer</b>	3 - Berton Klaasen, Yaw Penxe	5 - Johnny McNicholl
<b>Top points scorer</b>	18 - Pieter-Steyn de Wet	56 - Leigh Halfpenny

## Sunday 26 November

### ZEBRE RUGBY v MUNSTER RUGBY

At Stadio Sergio Lanfranchi, Parma, 2.30pm. *Live on* **EUROSPORT**

Referee: Lloyd Linton (SRU, 16<sup>th</sup> competition game)

Assistant Referees: Keith Allen (SRU), Vincenzo Scipani (FIR)

Citing Commissioner: Giovanni Romani (FIR)

TMO: Neil Paterson (SRU)

#### HEAD TO HEAD - RECENT CHAMPIONSHIP MEETINGS

Date	Venue	Z	M	Zebre scorers	Munster scorers
Fri 19 Sep 14	Thomond Park	5	31	Samu Vunisa(T)	Dave Kilcoyne(T) Andrew Smith(T) JJ Hanrahan(3C) Simon Zebo(3T)
Sat 10 Jan 15	Stadio Sergio Lanfranchi	7	31	Oliviero Fabiani(T) Luciano Orquera(C)	CJ Stander(T) Conor Murray(T) Felix Jones(T) Ian Keatley(4C/P) Simon Zebo(T)
Sat 30 Jan 16	Stadio Sergio Lanfranchi	12	16	Kelly Haimona(4P)	Mark Chisholm(T) Ian Keatley(C/D/2P)
Fri 25 Mar 16	Thomond Park	0	47		CJ Stander(T) Johnny Holland(5C) Conor Murray(T/C) Ronan O'Mahony(T) Penalty Try(2T) Simon Zebo(2T)
Sat 1 Oct 16	Thomond Park	5	49	Gabriele di Giulio(T)	CJ Stander(2T) Darren Sweetnam(T) Conor Murray(T) Tyler Bleyendaal(4C) Stephen Archer(T) Ian Keatley(3C) Penalty Try(T) Simon Zebo(T)
Sat 25 Mar 17	Stadio Sergio Lanfranchi	14	50	Serafin Bordoli(C) Marcello Violi(C) Lloyd Greeff(T) Derick Minnie(T)	James Cronin(2T) Niall Scannell(T) Tyler Bleyendaal(4C/P) Ronan O'Mahony(2T) Rory Scannell(T/2C) Tommy O'Donnell(T)

#### Overall Guinness PRO14 head to head record:

Played 10, Munster won 10.

#### Did you know?

- Zebre Rugby's two victories in the Guinness PRO14 this season came in successive matches, at Southern Kings and at home to Ulster, in rounds 4 and 5.
- Zebre have won their last two matches against Irish provinces, having also beaten Connacht in April - doubling their previous tally of successes against Irish opponents.
- Johann van Graan takes over from fellow South African Rassie Erasmus as Munster head coach for his first game in charge.
- Munster Rugby may have lost three of their eight games in the Guinness PRO14 this season but they are the Championship's top try scorers and have conceded the equal fewest number of tries.
- The Munstermen's only victory away from home this season was at Ospreys in round 3.
- Munster have won all ten previous matches they have played against Zebre, whilst their most recent defeat in Italy came on a trip to Treviso in September 2013.

COMPARISON	Zebre	Munster
<b>Last 3 PRO14 results:</b>	6 Oct - Edinburgh (A) L 15-16	7 Oct - Leinster (A) L 17-23
	28 Oct - Cheetahs (H) L 23-24	27 Oct - Connacht (A) L 16-20
	4 Nov - Cardiff Blues (A) L 8-37	3 Nov - Dragons (H) W 49-6
<b>PRO14 2017/18</b>	Conf A: 6th - W2 D0 L6 - 12pts	Conf A: 2nd - W5 D0 L3 - 26pts
<b>PRO14 form</b>	lwWILI (12pts)	wlWIIW (16pts)
<b>Top try scorer</b>	4 - Mattia Bellini	5 - Alex Wootton
<b>Top points scorer</b>	61 - Carlo Canna	40 - Ian Keatley