

ROUND 16 – PREVIEWS

After a weekend of great drama in the Guinness PRO14 the battle to reach the Final Series has reached a fierce intensity. Glasgow Warriors have secured their place in the Guinness PRO14 Final Series thanks to their record-setting pace which has returned 65 points in their first 15 games – beating the previous mark of 58 after 15 rounds. Edinburgh have now put themselves in the mix after their late win over Ulster while it was a terrific weekend for the Italians who both won away from home in the same round – a first-ever for Benetton and Zebre. The Guinness PRO14 Final takes place at Aviva Stadium on May 26 (see www.ticketmaster.ie or www.pro14rugby.org/final).

Guinness PRO14 Final Series – How it Stands

Semi-Final Qualifier 1: Munster (A2) v Edinburgh (B3)

Semi-Final Qualifier 2: Scarlets (B2) v Toyota Cheetahs (A3)

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

Semi-Final 2: Glasgow Warriors* (A1) v Scarlets or Toyota Cheetahs

**Qualified for Final Series*

What's at Stake

In a move to reach out across the Gwent region **Dragons** will welcome **Edinburgh** (KO 19.35) to Ebbw Vale's Eugene Cross Park on Friday night. Bernard Jackman's team are looking to reclaim some form, but Richard Cockerill's Edinburgh team have been incredibly resolute of late and Dragons will need a vocal support here.

Leinster were one of the first side to visit the **Southern Kings** in September and now the South Africans make their first appearance in the RDS Arena (KO 19.35 UK/21.35 SA, live on TG4 and SuperSport). Leinster came out on top in a tight contest against Scarlets last weekend while Kings came close to their first win against Ospreys. Both teams like to spread the ball and the visitors will bring plenty of confidence from their last outing.

On Saturday **Benetton** take on **Connacht** in Treviso (KO 13:00 Italy /12:00 IRE/UK, live on Eurosport & TG4). Connacht were undone at home last weekend by Zebre, while Benetton come into this game in their best-ever run of form in the Championship after five consecutive wins.

Ospreys play their final fixture of the season against South African opposition as the **Toyota Cheetahs** come to Swansea (KO 17:30). The Cheetahs are in need of a win after two consecutive defeats but Ospreys have won three of their last four Championship fixtures which will provide a renewed confidence for the men in black.

Scarlets aim to get back on track against **Ulster** (KO 19:35, live on S4C and BBC NI) after back-to-back losses to Benetton and Leinster. The visitors were rocked by Edinburgh's late drop-goal victory last weekend and a trip to Llanelli is hardly ideal for Ulster who need to keep up with the Scottish side who hold third place in Conference B.

Sunday's only fixture sees **Zebre** face **Cardiff Blues** (KO 14:00 Italy/ 13:00 UK live on Eurosport) with both teams buoyed by recent results. Michael Bradley's team won convincingly against Connacht last week while Cardiff Blues have stitched impressive wins together against Cheetahs and Munster as they set a late charge for the Final Series.

Pick of the Round

Munster Rugby v Glasgow Warriors

Live on Sky Sports Action (Ch 407) on Friday night, Munster have to take their chance to close the gap on Glasgow Warriors who are 12 points ahead of them in Conference A. If the three-time Championship winners are to have any chance of reeling in Dave Rennie's team they must win here in Cork, however, Warriors have been playing scintillating rugby in the Guinness PRO14 this season and this appears to be a fascinating encounter.

Opta Top Performers – Round 16

- **Most tackles:** 28 Nick Timoney (Ulster Rugby)
- **Most Carries:** 20 James Lowe (Leinster Rugby)
- **Defenders Beaten:** 8 Nick Grigg (Glasgow Warriors)
- **Offloads:** 4 Johan Meyer (Zebre)
- **Breaks:** 4 Gabriele di Guilio (Zebre)
- **Metres Made:** 128 James Lowe (Leinster)
- **Turnovers Won:** 5 Tadhg Beirne (Scarlets) / Josh Murphy (Leinster Rugby)
- **Lineouts Won:** 10 Ross Molony (Leinster Rugby)

Friday 23 February

DRAGONS v EDINBURGH RUGBY

At Eugene Cross Park, Ebbw Vale 7.30pm.

Referee: George Clancy (IRFU, 98th competition game)

Assistant Referees: Kieran Barry (IRFU), Simon Rees (WRU)

Citing Commissioner: Jeff Mark (WRU)

HEAD TO HEAD - RECENT CHAMPIONSHIP MEETINGS

Date	Venue	D	E	Dragons scorers	Edinburgh Rugby scorers
Fri 8 May 15	Rodney Parade	19	5	Tom Prydie(P) Jason Tovey(C/3P) Hugh Gustafson(T)	Stuart McInally(T)
Fri 27 Nov 15	BT Murrayfield	13	32	Dorian Jones(C/2P) Nic Cudd(T)	Tom Brown(T) Matt Scott(T) Willem Nel(T) Alasdair Dickinson(T) Sam Hidalgo-Clyne(2C/2P) Blair Kinghorn(C)
Sun 27 Mar 16	Rodney Parade	15	16	Hallam Amos(2T) Dorian Jones(C/P)	Sam Hidalgo-Clyne(C/2P) Blair Kinghorn(P) Hamish Watson(T)
Sun 27 Nov 16	Rodney Parade	27	19	Angus O'Brien(T/3C/2P) Carl Meyer(T) Sam Hobbs(T)	Duncan Weir(C) Chris Dean(T) Viliame Mata(T) Jason Tovey(C) Nasi Manu(T)
Fri 28 Apr 17	Myreside	20	24	Angus O'Brien(2C/2P) Carl Meyer(T) Pat Howard(T)	Grant Gilchrist(T) Jason Tovey(3C/P) Damien Hoyland(T) Blair Kinghorn(T)
Fri 8 Sep 17	Myreside	18	35	Gavin Henson(D/5P)	Duncan Weir(3C/3P) Junior Rasolea(T) Sam Hidalgo-Clyne(T) Blair Kinghorn(T) Robbie Fruean(T)

Overall Guinness PRO14 head to head record:

Played 29, Dragons won 13, Edinburgh won 15 with 1 game drawn.

Did you know?

- This is the first Guinness PRO14 encounter to be played at Eugene Cross Park since Edinburgh beat Ebbw Vale there on 5 October 2002.
- Dragons are without a victory in the Championship since beating Southern Kings at Rodney Parade at the end of September.
- Edinburgh Rugby have won their last three matches in the Guinness PRO14, whilst their only defeat in the last six rounds was at Glasgow in the 1872 Cup game at Christmas.
- Edinburgh Rugby are the equal second-best team in the Championship on current form having gleaned 23 points from their last six encounters.
- The Scotsmen's only loss in their last five fixtures with Dragons was 19-27 at Rodney Parade in November 2016.
- Edinburgh have made five previous visits to Ebbw Vale in all tournaments, winning twice, in the European Cup October 1998 and PRO14 four years later.

COMPARISON	Dragons	Edinburgh
Last 3 PRO14 results:	5 Jan - Scarlets (A) L 13-47	5 Jan - Southern Kings (H) W 37-7
	9 Feb - Glasgow (H) D 15-15	9 Feb - Leinster (H) W 29-24
	18 Feb - Treviso (H) L 15-18	16 Feb - Ulster (A) W 17-16
PRO14 2017/18	Conf B: 6th - W2 D2 L11 - 17pts	Conf B: 3rd - W10 D0 L5 - 46pts
PRO14 form	DLLIDL (7pts)	wWlWWw (23pts)
Top try scorer	5 - Elliot Dee	6 - Sam Hidalgo-Clyne
Top points scorer	77 - Gavin Henson	56 - Sam Hidalgo-Clyne

Round 16: 23-25 February 2018

Friday 23 February

LEINSTER RUGBY v SOUTHERN KINGS

At RDS Arena, Dublin, 7.35pm.

Live on



Referee: Dan Jones (WRU, 14th competition game)

Assistant Referees: Rhys Thomas (WRU), Ken Imbusch (IRFU)

Citing Commissioner: John Cole (IRFU)

TMO: Peter Fitzgibbon (IRFU)

HEAD TO HEAD - RECENT CHAMPIONSHIP MEETINGS

Date	Venue	L	S	Leinster scorers	Southern Kings scorers
Sat 16 Sep 17	Nelson Mandela Bay	31	10	Noel Reid(T) Jack Conan(T) Ross Byrne(3C) Joey Carbery(T) Dave Kearney(T) Rory O'Loughlin(T)	Ntabeni Dukisa(C) Masixole Banda(P) Jacques Nel(T)

Overall Guinness PRO14 head to head record:

Played 1, Leinster won 1.

Did you know?

- Leinster's only defeat in any tournament since early November was 24-29 at Edinburgh in round 14 of the Guinness PRO14.
- The Leinstermen have not been defeated at home in a regular season Championship fixture for over three years, when Dragons were the visitors.
- Southern Kings have not been victorious since beating The Bulls 31-30 in Pretoria in Super Rugby last July.
- This is the South African's third visit to an Irish Province, having lost at Connacht in September and at Ulster earlier this month.
- The two sides' only previous meeting was at Port Elizabeth in September with Leinster winning 31-10.

COMPARISON	Leinster	Kings
Last 3 PRO14 results:	6 Jan - Ulster (H) W 38-7	20 Jan - Cheetahs (A) L 24-45
	9 Feb - Edinburgh (A) L 24-29	9 Feb - Ulster (A) L 10-59
	17 Feb - Scarlets (H) W 20-13	16 Feb - Ospreys (A) L 12-26
PRO14 2017/18	Conf B: 1st - W12 D0 L3 - 57pts	Conf B: 7th - W0 D0 L15 - 4pts
PRO14 form	wwWWIW (25pts)	LILIII (0pts)
Top try scorer	7 - Barry Daly	5 - Yaw Penxe
Top points scorer	96 - Ross Byrne	25 - Yaw Penxe

Friday 23 February

MUNSTER RUGBY v GLASGOW WARRIORS

At Irish Independent Park, Cork, 7.00pm. *Live on*

Referee: Marius Mitrea (FIR, 76th competition game)

Assistant Referees: Andrea Piardi, Manuel Bottino (FIR)

Citing Commissioner: Eddie Wigglesworth (IRFU)

TMO: Matteo Liperini (FIR)

HEAD TO HEAD - RECENT CHAMPIONSHIP MEETINGS

Date	Venue	M	G	Munster scorers	Glasgow Warriors scorers
Sat 30 May 15	Kingspan Stadium (TF)	13"	31	Andrew Smith(T) Ian Keatley(C/2P)	Henry Pyrgos(T) Duncan Weir(P) Finn Russell(T/4C) Rob Harley(T) DTH van der Merwe(T)
Fri 2 Oct 15	Thomond Park	23	21	Dave O'Callaghan(T) BJ Botha(T) Ian Keatley(2C/3P)	Rory Clegg(D/6P)
Fri 19 Feb 16	Rugby Park	24	27	Dave Kilcoyne(2T) Mike Sherry(T) Ian Keatley(3C/P)	Duncan Weir(T/2C/P) Sila Puafisi(2T) Glenn Bryce(T)
Fri 2 Dec 16	Scotstoun Stadium	16	15	Andrew Conway(T) Ian Keatley(C/D/2P)	Pete Horne(P) Ali Price(T) Mark Bennett(T) Rory Clegg(C)
Sat 8 Apr 17	Irish Independent Park	10	7	James Cronin(T) Tyler Bleyendaal(C) Rory Scannell(P)	Stuart Hogg(T) Finn Russell(C)
Fri 22 Sep 17	Scotstoun Stadium	10	37	Chris Farrell(T) Rory Scannell(T)	Leo Sarto(T) Finn Russell(4C/3P) Scott Cummings(T) Nick Grigg(T) Lee Jones(T)

Overall Guinness PRO14 head to head record:

Played 31, Munster won 18, Warriors won 12 with 1 game drawn.

Did you know?

- Munster Rugby's only two victories in the last five rounds of the Guinness PRO14, both came in their last two home games at Thomond Park, against Connacht and Zebre.
- The Munstermen have won their last six matches in Cork since their single point reversal there to Cardiff Blues in September 2016.
- Glasgow Warriors only defeat in the Guinness PRO14 this campaign was by the narrowest of margins to Edinburgh at BT Murrayfield on 23 December.
- The Warriors have been victorious just once on visits to Irish provinces since the opening round last season, 18-12 at Connacht in round 1 this season.
- Glasgow beat Munster 37-10 at Scotstoun in round 4 but have not achieved a PRO14 regular season double over the Irishmen since 2005/06.
- The Scotsmen have not beaten Munster on their own soil since a 22-5 win at Thomond Park in April 2014, whilst their only previous victory in Cork was 21-18 in May 2008.

COMPARISON	Munster	Warriors
Last 3 PRO14 results:	6 Jan - Connacht (H) W 39-13	6 Jan - Zebre (A) W 40-20
	10 Feb - Zebre (H) W 33-5	9 Feb - Dragons (A) D 15-15
	17 Feb - Cardiff Blues (A) L 18-25	16 Feb - Cheetahs (H) W 37-23
PRO14 2017/18	Conf A: 2nd - W9 D0 L6 - 49pts	Conf A: 1st - W13 D1 L1 - 65pts
PRO14 form	WLIWWI (18pts)	WIWwdW (22pts)
Top try scorer	7 - Alex Wootton	8 - George Horne
Top points scorer	85 - Ian Keatley	69 - Finn Russell

Saturday 24 February

BENETTON RUGBY v CONNACHT RUGBY

At Stadio Monigo, Treviso, 1pm.

Live on



Referee: Lloyd Linton (SRU, 18th competition game)

Assistant Referees: Eddie Hogan-O'Connell, Oisín Quinn (IRFU)

Citing Commissioner: Alberto Recalchini (FIR)

TMO: Stefano Roscini (FIR)

HEAD TO HEAD - RECENT CHAMPIONSHIP MEETINGS

Date	Venue	B	C	Benetton Rugby scorers	Connacht scorers
Fri 10 Oct 14	Stadio Monigo	6	9	Jayden Hayward(2P)	Craig Ronaldson(3P)
Sun 1 Mar 15	Sportsground	5	53	Sam Christie(T)	Matt Healy(2T) Tiernan O'Halloran(T) Danie Poolman(T) Denis Buckley(T) Jake Heenan(T) Aly Muldowney(T) Craig Ronaldson(6C/2P)
Fri 6 Nov 15	Sportsground	19	33	Edoardo Gori(T) Jayden Hayward(2T/2C)	Matt Healy(T) Robbie Henshaw(T) Tom McCartney(T) Craig Ronaldson(3C/4P)
Fri 29 Apr 16	Stadio Monigo	22	21	Braam Steyn(T) Jayden Hayward(2C/P) Luca Morisi(T) Penalty Try(T)	Rory Parata(T) John Cooney(3C) Fionn Carr(T) Peter Robb(T)
Sat 3 Dec 16	Sportsground	8	47	Braam Steyn(T) Ian McKinley(P)	Danie Poolman(T) Dave Heffernan(T) Denis Buckley(T) John Cooney(T/4C) Marnitz Boshoff(C) Jack Carty(T/C) Tom McCartney(2T)
Sun 26 Feb 17	Stadio Monigo	19	34	Luca Sperandio(T) Andrea Buondonno(T/C) Tito Tebaldi(C) Andrea Praticchetti(T)	Tiernan O'Halloran(T) Caolin Blade(T) Jack Carty(C) Finlay Bealham(T) Craig Ronaldson(T/3C/2P)

Overall Guinness PRO14 head to head record:

Played 14, Benetton won 4, Connacht won 9 with 1 game drawn.

Did you know?

- Benetton Rugby have set a new Italian record with five straight Guinness PRO14 victories, and are the equal second-best team in the Championship on current form having tallied 23 league points from their last six encounters.
- Benetton have won their last three home games in the PRO14 since their defeat to Leinster in round 10.
- The Italians have not beaten an Irish province since a home win by a single point over today's opponents, Connacht, in April 2016.
- Connacht Rugby's two victories in the last seven rounds of the PRO14 were both at home, to Ulster in round 11 and Ospreys in round 14.
- The Irishmen have not won on the road in the PRO14 since a trip to Edinburgh in April.
- Connacht have lost just once to Benetton since October 2013: 21-22 in Treviso in round 21 of the 2015/16 campaign.

COMPARISON	Benetton	Connacht
Last 3 PRO14 results:	6 Jan - Cheetahs (H) W 27-21	6 Jan - Munster (A) L 13-39
	11 Feb - Scarlets (H) W 22-12	9 Feb - Ospreys (H) W 26-15
	18 Feb - Dragons (A) W 18-15	16 Feb - Zebre (H) L 11-19
PRO14 2017/18	Conf B: 5th - W8 D0 L7 - 38pts	Conf A: 5th - W5 D0 L10 - 28pts
PRO14 form	LWwWWW (23pts)	WIIWL (10pts)
Top try scorer	7 - Angelo Esposito	4 - Tom Farrell, Tiernan O'Halloran
Top points scorer	55 - Marty Banks	91 - Jack Carty

Round 16: 23-25 February 2018

Saturday 24 February

OSPREYS RUGBY v TOYOTA CHEETAHS

At Liberty Stadium, Swansea, 5.30pm

Referee: Ben Whitehouse (WRU, 42nd competition game)

Assistant Referees: Dewi Phillips, Rob Price (WRU)

Citing Commissioner: Paul Thomas (WRU)

HEAD TO HEAD - RECENT CHAMPIONSHIP MEETINGS

Date	Venue	O	T	Ospreys scorers	Toyota Cheetahs scorers
Fri 29 Sep 17	Toyota Stadium	25	44	Dan Biggar(2C/2P) Kieron Fonotia(T) Dan Evans(T) Rhys Webb(T)	Torsten van Jaarsveld(2T) William Small-Smith(C) Makazole Mapimpi(2T) Francois Venter(T) Paul Schoeman(T) Ernst Stapelberg(3C/2P)

Overall Guinness PRO14 head to head record:

Played 1, Cheetahs won 1.

Did you know?

- Ospreys Rugby's only loss in the last four rounds of the Guinness PRO14 was 15-26 at Connacht in round 14.
- Just one South African side has visited Liberty Stadium in the PRO14 with Southern Kings going down 12-26 last weekend.
- Toyota Cheetahs have lost their last two matches, both away from home, at Cardiff and at Glasgow. Their two away wins this campaign came against Zebre in Parma in round 7 and Southern Kings in Port Elizabeth in round 7.
- The two sides met in round 5 in Bloemfontein with Cheetahs victorious 44-25.

COMPARISON	Ospreys	Cheetahs
Last 3 PRO14 results:	6 Jan - Cardiff Blues (H) W 29-28 9 Feb - Connacht (A) L 15-26 16 Feb - Southern Kings (H) W 26-12	20 Jan - Southern Kings (H) W 45-24 10 Feb - Cardiff Blues (A) L 20-25 16 Feb - Glasgow (A) L 23-37
PRO14 2017/18	Conf A: 6th - W5 D0 L10 - 26pts	Conf A: 3rd - W8 D0 L7 - 41pts
PRO14 form	llwWlW (15pts)	Wlwwl (16pts)
Top try scorer	3 - Jeff Hassler, Rhys Webb	10 - Makazole Mapimpi
Top points scorer	60 - Dan Biggar	79 - Fred Zeilinga

Saturday 24 February

SCARLETS v ULSTER RUGBY

At Parc y Scarlets, Llanelli, 7.35pm.

Live on



Referee: Ian Davies (WRU, 71st competition game)

Assistant Referees: Adam Jones, Elgin Williams (WRU)

Citing Commissioner: John Charles (WRU)

TMO: Sean Brickell (WRU)

HEAD TO HEAD - RECENT CHAMPIONSHIP MEETINGS

Date	Venue	S	U	Scarlets scorers	Ulster scorers
Fri 27 Feb 15	Kingspan Stadium	20	25	Steve Shingler(2C/2P) Kristian Phillips(T) John Barclay(T)	Craig Gilroy(T) Luke Marshall(T) Ruan Pienaar(T/2C/2P)
Sat 12 Sep 15	Parc y Scarlets	22	12	Dan Jones(C/4P) Hadleigh Parkes(T) Aled Thomas(P)	Rory Scholes(T) Stuart McCloskey(C) Penalty Try(T)
Sun 21 Feb 16	Kingspan Stadium	21	20	Mike Collins(2T) Aled Thomas(C/3P)	Craig Gilroy(T) Paddy Jackson(2C/D/P) Luke Marshall(T)
Fri 16 Sep 16	Kingspan Stadium	8	19	Rhys Patchell(P) Will Boyde(T)	Paddy Jackson(3P) Iain Henderson(T) Louis Ludik(T)
Fri 6 Jan 17	Parc y Scarlets	16	13	Dan Jones(C/3P) Penalty Try(T)	Paddy Jackson(C/2P) Jacob Stockdale(T)
Fri 15 Sep 17	Kingspan Stadium	20	27	Johnny McNicholl(T) Jonathan Davies(T) Leigh Halfpenny(2C/2P)	Jacob Stockdale(T) John Cooney(4P) John Andrew(T) Christian Leali'ifano(C/P)

Overall Guinness PRO14 head to head record:

Played 30, Scarlets won 12, Ulster won 16 with 2 games drawn.

Did you know?

- Scarlets have lost their last two Guinness PRO14 matches but have not lost three in a row in the tournament since the start of last season.
- The Welshmen have won their last seventeen home games in the Championship at Parc y Scarlets since Munster beat them there on 3 September 2016.
- Ulster have won just two of their last six Guinness PRO14 fixtures, both at home, to Munster in round 12 and Southern Kings in round 14.
- The Ulstermen's only away win in the Championship since September was 43-36 over Southern Kings in Port Elizabeth in round 8.
- The last six matches between the two sides have been evenly split with three wins apiece and 14 league points each.
- The Ulstermen have not won at Parc y Scarlets since December 2012.

COMPARISON	Scarlets	Ulster
Last 3 PRO14 results:	5 Jan - Dragons (H) W 47-13	6 Jan - Leinster (A) L 7-38
	11 Feb - Treviso (A) L 12-22	9 Feb - Southern Kings (H) W 59-10
	17 Feb - Leinster (A) L 13-20	16 Feb - Edinburgh (H) L 16-17
PRO14 2017/18	Conf B: 2nd - W11 D0 L4 - 54pts	Conf B: 4th - W9 D1 L5 - 46pts
PRO14 form	lWwWll (15pts)	dlWlWl (14pts)
Top try scorer	6 - Johnny McNicholl	8 - Craig Gilroy
Top points scorer	65 - Dan Jones	107 - John Cooney

Round 16: 23-25 February 2018

Sunday 25 February

ZEBRE RUGBY v CARDIFF BLUES

At Stadio Sergio Lanfranchi, Parma, 2pm. *Live on*

Referee: Frank Murphy (IRFU, 12th competition game)



Assistant Referees: Eddie Hogan-O'Connell (IRFU), Cláirín Munnion (FIR)

Citing Commissioner: Roberto Carra (FIR)

TMO: Alan Falzone (FIR)

HEAD TO HEAD - RECENT CHAMPIONSHIP MEETINGS

Date	Venue	Z	C	Zebre scorers	Cardiff Blues scorers
Sat 16 May 15	Cardiff Arms Park	5	29	Valerio Bernabo(T)	Rhys Patchell(T/2C) Alex Cuthbert(2T) Gethin Jenkins(T) Garyn Smith(T)
Sun 6 Sep 15	Cardiff Arms Park	13	61	Ulrich Beyers(T/C) Maicol Azzolini(2P)	Rhys Patchell(3T/C) Aled Summerhill(2T) Gareth Davies(C) Josh Navidi(2T) Dan Fish(C) Tom James(T) Josh Turnbull(3T)
Sat 31 Oct 15	Stadio Sergio Lanfranchi	26	15	Johan Meyer(T) Carlo Canna(3C) Kayle van Zyl(T) Dries van Schalkwyk(2T)	Rhys Patchell(C/P) Tom James(T) Adam Thomas(T)
Sat 24 Sep 16	Stadio Sergio Lanfranchi	21	23	Guglielmo Palazzani(T) Edoardo Padovani(P) Giovanbattista Venditti(T) Carlo Canna(P) Giulio Bisegni(T)	Steve Shingler(C/2P) Matthew Morgan(T) Tom James(T) Blaine Scully(T)
Fri 28 Apr 17	Cardiff Arms Park	24	30	Guglielmo Palazzani(C) Carlo Canna(2C/P) Maxime Mbanda(T) Penalty Try(T) Dries van Schalkwyk(T)	Gareth Anscombe(T/3C/3P) Aled Summerhill(T) Tomos Williams(T)
Sat 4 Nov 17	Cardiff Arms Park	8	37	Guglielmo Palazzani(T) Carlo Canna(P)	Willis Halaholo(T) Steve Shingler(3C/2P) Matthew Morgan(T) Lloyd Williams(T) Tom James(T) Matthew Rees(T)

Overall Guinness PRO14 head to head record:

Played 11, Zebre won 10, Blues won 8.

Did you know?

- Zebre beat Connacht 19-11 at the Sportsground last weekend, the first time they have achieved two away wins in the same season.
- The Italians only victory over a Welsh region since the start of last season was: 29-14 at home to Dragons on 8 April.
- Cardiff Blues have won their last two Guinness PRO14 matches but have not won three in a row in the Championship since the end of last season.
- Blues have won twice away from home in the Championship this season, at Connacht in round 4 and Dragons in round 11.
- Cardiff Blues have won their last six matches against Italian opponents since their 7-13 reversal in Treviso in February 2016.
- Cardiff have lost just one of their last seven encounters with Zebre: 15-26 in Parma in October 2015.

COMPARISON	Zebre	Blues
Last 3 PRO14 results:	6 Jan - Glasgow (H) L 20-40 10 Feb - Munster (A) L 5-33 16 Feb - Connacht (A) W 19-11	6 Jan - Ospreys (A) L 28-29 10 Feb - Cheetahs (H) W 25-20 17 Feb - Munster (H) W 25-18
PRO14 2017/18	Conf A: 7th - W4 D0 L11 - 21pts	Conf A: 4th - W7 D0 L8 - 33pts
PRO14 form	WILLlw (9pts)	lwLIWW (14pts)
Top try scorer	5 - Mattia Bellini	4 - Willis Halaholo, Tom James, Matthew Morgan
Top points scorer	93 - Carlo Canna	81 - Jarrod Evans