

ROUND 17 RE-ARRANGED – PREVIEWS

The two outstanding fixtures from the weather-disrupted Guinness PRO14 Round 17 take place this weekend with Ulster hosting Glasgow Warriors at Kingspan Stadium in Belfast and Ospreys travelling to Italy to take on Zebre in Parma.

Warriors confirmed their home spot in the Final Series Semi-Finals with their emphatic win over Connacht last time out, the only question is who they will play, and Ulster are still in the mix to qualify from Conference B. Ospreys look set for a European Champions Cup Play-Off place, whilst Zebre will be hoping to set a new record for victories in a PRO14 season.

The culmination of the inaugural Guinness PRO14 season is fast approaching along with the showpiece Guinness PRO14 Final at Dublin's Aviva Stadium on May 26 (see www.ticketmaster.ie or www.pro14rugby.org/final).

Guinness PRO14 Final Series – How it Stands

Qualifier 1: Munster* (A2) v Edinburgh (B3)

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

Ulster (B4) take on **Glasgow Warriors (A1)** at Kingspan Stadium (KO 18:05, BBC2 Northern Ireland/BBC2 Scotland). Ulster have to win both their remaining games with bonus points if they are to have any hope of overhauling Edinburgh in third spot of conference B, and that is then dependent on another result going their way. They also need to distance themselves from Benetton Rugby who are only one point behind them in the table, to ensure they qualify for the Champions Cup Play-Off place at the end of the season. Visitors Glasgow Warriors however have the luxury of knowing they have already claimed a home Final Series Semi-final spot

After their relocation to L'Aquila last week, **Zebre Rugby (A7)** welcome **Ospreys (A5)** to their regular home ground, Stadio Sergio Lanfranchi in Parma (KO 18:45 Italy /17:45 UK & IRE, Eurosport). Zebre will be looking for another way to make history this weekend and could record their highest number of victories in a PRO14 season. Ospreys could be looking for the result from Belfast to confirm who they will face in the Champions Cup Play-off.

Opta Top Performers – Round 20

- **Most Tackles:** 25 Cornell Du Preez (Edinburgh)
- **Most Carries:** 24 Sebastian Negri (Benetton)
- **Defenders Beaten:** 7 Duhan van der Merwe (Edinburgh)
- **Offloads:** 4 Rey Lee-Lo (Cardiff Blues) / Uzair Cassiem (Toyota Cheetahs)
- **Breaks:** 5 Duhan van der Merwe (Edinburgh)
- **Metres Made:** 206 Duhan van der Merwe (Edinburgh)
- **Turnovers Won:** 3 Duhan van der Merwe (Edinburgh) / Kieron Fonotia (Ospreys) / Jean Deysel (Ulster)
- **Lineouts Stolen:** 2 Federico Ruzza (Benetton) / Peter O'Mahony (Munster)

Round 17 Rearranged: 21 April 2018

Saturday 21 April

ULSTER RUGBY v GLASGOW WARRIORS

At Kingspan Stadium, Belfast, 6.05pm. *Live on* **BBC SPORT NI** **BBC SPORT Scotland**

Referee: Stuart Berry (SARU, 12th competition game)

Assistant Referees: Nigel Correll, Helen O'Reilly (IRFU)

Citing Commissioner: Eddie Walsh (IRFU)

TMO: Ollie Hodges (IRFU)

HEAD TO HEAD - RECENT CHAMPIONSHIP MEETINGS

Date	Venue	U	G	Ulster scorers	Glasgow Warriors scorers
Sat 16 May 15	Scotstoun Stadium	10	32	Chris Henry(T) Ian Humphreys(C/P)	Stuart Hogg(T) Finn Russell(2T/3C/2P) Richie Vernon(T)
Fri 22 May 15	Scotstoun Stadium (SF)	14	16	Chris Henry(T) Ruan Pienaar(3P)	Stuart Hogg(P) Finn Russell(C/2P) DTH van der Merwe(T)
Fri 12 Feb 16	Kingspan Stadium	13	10	Paddy Jackson(C/P) Callum Black(T) Ruan Pienaar(P)	Taqele Naiyaravoro(T) Lee Jones(T)
Fri 25 Mar 16	Scotstoun Stadium	17	27	Paddy Jackson(2C/P) Iain Henderson(T) Stuart McCloskey(T)	Stuart Hogg(T/P) Finn Russell(C/4P) Tommy Seymour(T)
Fri 23 Sep 16	Scotstoun Stadium	22	17	Paddy Jackson(T/2C/P) Darren Cave(T) Penalty Try(T)	Gordon Reid(T) Finn Russell(2C/P) Tommy Seymour(T)
Sat 18 Feb 17	Kingspan Stadium	37	17	Sean Reidy(T) Jacob Stockdale(2T) Tommy Bowe(T) Ruan Pienaar(T/3C/2P)	Scott Cummings(2T) Brandon Thomson(T/C)

Overall Guinness PRO14 head to head record:

Played 31, Ulster won 16, Warriors won 14 with 1 game drawn.

Did you know?

- Ulster have won their last two matches, against Edinburgh and Ospreys, but have not won three in a row since September.
- The Ulstermen have lost just twice in Belfast this season, both in the Guinness PRO14, to Leinster in round 7 and Edinburgh in round 15.
- Glasgow Warriors last five matches have all been won by the home side on the day, the Scotsmen's only away win in any tournament since November was on their trip to Zebre in round 13 of the PRO14.
- The Scotsmen have won on just one of their last seven visits to an Irish province: 18-12 in Connacht in the opening game of this season.
- Ulster's only defeat in their last four fixtures with Glasgow was 17-27 at Scotstoun in March 2016.
- Glasgow's only victory over Ulster in Belfast since 2009 was by the narrowest of margins in September 2013, although the Scotsmen did take the PRO14 title at the venue, beating Munster there in 2015.

COMPARISON	Ulster	Warriors
Last 3 PRO14 results:	24 Mar - Cardiff Blues (A) L 17-35	23 Mar - Zebre (H) W 68-7
	6 Apr - Edinburgh (A) W 32-20	7 Apr - Scarlets (A) L 8-26
	13 Apr - Ospreys (H) W 8-0	13 Apr - Connacht (H) W 35-22
PRO14 2017/18	Conf B: 4th - W11 D1 L7 - 55pts	Conf A: 1st - W15 D1 L3 - 75pts
PRO14 form	WLLlW (15pts)	dWlWlW (17pts)
Top try scorer	8 - Craig Gilroy	9 - George Horne
Top points scorer	144 - John Cooney	69 - Finn Russell

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Saturday 21 April

ZEBRE RUGBY v OSPREYS RUGBY

At Stadio Sergio Lanfranchi, Parma, 6.45pm. *Live on* **EUROSPORT**

Referee: Lloyd Linton (SRU, 20th competition game)

Assistant Referees: Keith Allen (SRU), Andrea Piardi (FIR)

Citing Commissioner: Roberto Carra (FIR)

TMO: Charles Samson (SRU)

HEAD TO HEAD - RECENT CHAMPIONSHIP MEETINGS

Date	Venue	Z	O	Zebre scorers	Ospreys scorers
Sat 28 Mar 15	Liberty Stadium	22	53	Alberto Chillon(T) Dion Berryman(T) Gonzalo Garcia(P) Giulio Toniolatti(T) Mirco Bergamasco(2C)	Sam Davies(5C/2P) Dan Baker(2T) Scott Baldwin(T) Dan Biggar(C) Josh Matavesi(T) Hanno Dirksen(T) Penalty Try(T) Rhys Webb(T)
Sat 7 Nov 15	Liberty Stadium	3	36	Carlo Canna(P)	Sam Davies(C) Dan Biggar(2C) Josh Matavesi(T) Sam Parry(T) Justin Tipuric(T) Eli Walker(2T) Jonathan Spratt(T)
Sun 6 Dec 15	Stadio Sergio Lanfranchi	22	39	Edoardo Padovani(C) Marcello Violi(T/C) Carlo Canna(P) Kayle van Zyl(2T)	Sam Davies(4C/2P) Jeff Hassler(T) Justin Tipuric(2T) Eli Walker(T) Jonathan Spratt(T)
Fri 2 Sep 16	Liberty Stadium	5	59	Tommaso d'Apice(T)	Dafydd Howells(T) Sam Davies(8C/P) Ashley Beck(T) Ben John(2T) Sam Parry(3T) Lloyd Ashley(T)
Fri 10 Feb 17	Stadio Sergio Lanfranchi	10	40	Guglielmo Palazzani(C/P) Tommaso Boni(T)	Dafydd Howells(T) Luke Price(5C) Ashley Beck(T) Sam Parry(T) Dan Evans(3T)
Sat 2 Sep 17	Liberty Stadium	13	22	Carlo Canna(T/C/2P)	Sam Davies(C) Keelan Giles(2T) Ma'afu Fia(T) James Hook(C/P)

Overall Guinness PRO14 head to head record:

Played 11, Zebre won 1, Ospreys won 10.

Did you know?

- Zebre's 34-32 victory at home against Dragons last weekend was their fifth of the PRO14 campaign, tying their best ever tally of wins set in 2013/14 and 2015/16.
- Zebre's two other PRO14 wins in Parma this season were against Ulster in round 5 and Connacht in round 10.
- Ospreys 0-8 defeat in Ulster last weekend ended a four game winning run in the Guinness PRO14 and was only the second time they had been 'nilled' in the Championship.
- The Welshmen have won just once away from home in the PRO14 since beating Edinburgh in March 2017, against Dragons at Rodney Parade on New Year's Eve.
- Ospreys only defeat to Zebre was 27-30 in Parma in May 2014.

COMPARISON	Zebre	Ospreys
Last 3 PRO14 results:	23 Mar - Glasgow (A) L 7-68	24 Mar - Leinster (H) W 32-18
	7 Apr - Leinster (A) L 6-41	6 Apr - Connacht (H) W 39-10
	14 Apr - Dragons (H) W 34-32	13 Apr - Ulster (A) L 0-8
PRO14 2017/18	Conf A: 7th - W5 D0 L14 - 27pts	Conf A: 5th - W8 D0 L11 - 40pts
PRO14 form	lwLIW (10pts)	lWWWWI (19pts)
Top try scorer	5 - Mattia Bellini	5 - Dan Evans
Top points scorer	120 - Carlo Canna	86 - Dan Biggar