

ROUND 13 – PREVIEWS

Entering into the first weekend of action in 2019 it looks like another busy weekend at the turnstiles with close to 150,000 fans taking in Guinness PRO14 derby action during Rounds 11 & 12. It has been all change in Conference A with five teams now battling it out for Final Series positions while Benetton Rugby are up to third in Conference B as they aim to become the first Italian club to reach the knock-out stages.

With eight rounds left to play 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 available.

What's at stake?

Benetton Rugby (B3) have reached third position Conference B after a run of victories in South Africa and back-to-back wins over Zebre, but they face a stern test in the shape of **Glasgow Warriors (A1)** who visit Treviso (DAZN 15:00, SuperSport 1, 16:00, Premier Sports 2, 14:00). But the visitors will also face a tough examination as they attempt to recover from their double 1872 Cup defeats to Edinburgh which has allowed Munster and Connacht to close the gap on the Warriors.

Dave Rennie's team boast an impeccable record against Italian opposition with 27 consecutive wins, however, in front of a buoyant crowd in the refurbished Stadio Monigo, Benetton have an opportunity to get a true measure of themselves against one of the top teams in the Guinness PRO14 and see where they stand in the reckoning of Final Series contenders.

Defending champions **Leinster (B1)** are licking their wounds from only their second Championship defeat of the season against Munster in Round 12 as **Ulster (B2)** are challenged to chip into their opponents' 16-point lead at the top of the Conference (live on eir sport 1, Premier Sports 2, 17:15 and SuperSport 1, 19:15).

Leinster are a fearsome force at the RDS Arena and you have to go back to 2013 for their last loss at the hands of an Irish province, that it was Ulster will provide little comfort to the visitors as they begin life without Henry Speight, the Australian international who joined the province on a short-term contract in the summer. Dan McFarland has steadied the ship during his first season in Belfast, but coming off a tough loss to Connacht against a Leinster team eager to right their own wrongs will require a hard day's work at the office.

Scarlets (B4) are in need of a result to kick-start their season but **Dragons (B6)** are starting to pick up form which means that nothing is certain in Llanelli (live on Premier Sports 1 & eir sport 2, 17:15). Cardiff Blues' victory over the men in red in Round 12 brought to an end Scarlets' 27-month, 26-match, unbeaten home record in the Guinness PRO14 at Parc y Scarlets – a run of form that was on course to set a new Championship record.

Dragons' will be buoyed by their narrow loss in Cardiff and their win over Ospreys last weekend, but they have not won an away game in the Championship in their last 38 attempts. Champions in 2017, Scarlets have lost ground to Benetton in Conference B as they bid to reach the Final Series and they will be desperate to get back to winning ways in this one.

The Sportsground will be full to capacity in Galway as **Munster (A2)** arrive to face **Connacht (A3)** where a win for the home team would see them leap frog the two-time European champions in the Conference table (live on TG4, eir sport 1 & Premier Sports 2 19:35).

Connacht were in second place before their opponents' win over Leinster in Round 12 and there are plenty of positive signals that Andy Friend's team may make a return to the knock-out stages for the first time since 2016. Their derby form in the past couple of weeks has been strong, even if their late, late loss to Leinster will be rued in years to come, however, Connacht showed strong character to bounce back against Ulster last weekend.

Munster will want to solidify their place in the top end of Conference A, particularly after Glasgow's recent slips have left just two points between the two sides, however, Johann van Graan's men will not overlook Connacht on their own patch where they won all three of their derby games last season.

Round 13: 5 & 6 Jan 2019

Edinburgh (A5) will bounce into their game at BT Murrayfield against the **Isuzu Southern Kings (B7)** (live on Premier Sports 1, SuperSport 1 & eir sport2, 19:35) knowing that if results go their way in Round 13 they could slingshot into second place behind Leinster.

Richard Cockerill's men struggled for consistency earlier in the campaign coming off the back of their first-ever Guinness PRO14 Final Series appearance last season. However, Scotland's capital team have bounced back in the Guinness PRO14 and the Champions Cup and their back-to-back wins over Glasgow Warriors have set them up for a good 2019. The Isuzu Southern Kings are playing their first game since their winter break and an away win the Guinness PRO14 still remains elusive for Deon Davids' team.

Zebre (A7) will be eager to regain some momentum with the **Toyota Cheetahs (A6)** arriving in Parma (live on DAZN 14:00, SuperSport 1, 15:00, Premier Sports 1 & eir sport 2, 13:00).

However, after their month-long break, the South Africans should leave be refreshed and rejuvenated coming into this game. The Cheetahs' most obvious issue since joining the Guinness PRO14 has been their failure to consistently win on the road, but one of their two away wins last season did come in Stadio Lanfranchi against Zebre. Chilly, but dry conditions are expected and this should be a close contest between two teams who love to throw the ball around.

Pick of the Round – Ospreys v Cardiff Blues

Ospreys (A3) have strong form at home this season with only Glasgow Warriors winning at the Liberty Stadium, but **Cardiff Blues (A4)** have been resurgent of late and their comprehensive win over Scarlets in Round 12 means that they will travel west once more with renewed confidence.

It is a vital fixture for both sides' aspirations to reach the knock-out stages. Ospreys lost ground in Conference A after their loss to Dragons, but Glasgow's recent skid means Allen Clarke's team trail the leaders by eight and third-placed Connacht by just three. Blues, meanwhile, have finished 2018 strongly and sit just one point behind their hosts ahead of this game (live on Premier Sports 1 & eir sport 2, 15:00). Their upcoming fixtures include Conference A rivals Connacht and Glasgow so this is a crucial run of games to see if they can reach the Guinness PRO14 Final Series for the very first time.

Opta Top Performers – Round 12

Most tackles: 24 Nick Williams (Cardiff Blues)
Most Carries: 22 Tommaso Castello (Zebre Rugby Club)
Defenders Beaten: 8 Colby Fainga'a (Connacht Rugby)
Offloads: 3 Multiple Players
Breaks: 3 George North (Ospreys) / Rey Lee-Lo (Cardiff Blues)
Metres Made: 126 Keith Earls (Munster Rugby)
Turnovers Won: 4 Josh Navidi (Cardiff Blues)
Lineouts Steals: 1 Multiple Players

Opta Top Performers – Overall

Most tackles: 146 Josh Turnbull (Cardiff Blues)
Most Carries: 154 Bill Mata (Edinburgh Rugby)
Defenders Beaten: 40 Duhan van der Merwe (Edinburgh Rugby)
Offloads: 19 Tom Farrell (Connacht Rugby)
Breaks: 16 Duhan van der Merwe (Edinburgh Rugby)
Metres Made: 700 Jordan Williams (Dragons)
Turnovers Won: 19 Olly Robinson (Cardiff Blues) / Marcell Coetzee (Ulster)
Lineouts Steals: 7 Junior Pokomela (Toyota Cheetahs)

Saturday 5 January

BENETTON RUGBY v GLASGOW WARRIORS

At Stadio Monigo, Treviso, 3pm.

Live on



PREMIER SPORTS

Referee: Joy Neville (IRFU, 3rd competition game)

Assistant Referees: Frank Murphy (IRFU), Gabriel Chirnoga (FIR)

TMO: Alan Falzone (FIR)

Citing Commissioner: TBC

HEAD TO HEAD - RECENT CHAMPIONSHIP MEETINGS

Date	Venue	B	G	Benetton Rugby scorers	Glasgow Warriors scorers
Fri 31 Oct 14	Scotstoun Stadium	9	17	Jayden Hayward(3P)	Pete Horne(4P) Nikola Matawalu(T)
Fri 27 Nov 15	Scotstoun Stadium	6	13	Jayden Hayward(2P)	Duncan Weir(C/P) Finn Russell(P) Adam Ashe(T)
Sat 2 Apr 16	Stadio Monigo	16	38	Jayden Hayward(C/3P) Angelo Esposito(T)	Grayson Hart(T) Pete Horne(T) Stuart Hogg(T) Finn Russell(4C) Jonny Gray(T) James Malcolm(T) Simone Favaro(T)
Fri 28 Oct 16	Scotstoun Stadium	14	31	Tommaso Allan(C) Davide Giazzon(T) Ian McKinley(C) Penalty Try(T)	Rory Hughes(2T) Finn Russell(3C) Jonny Gray(T) Mark Bennett(T) Alex Dunbar(T)
Sat 31 Dec 16	Stadio Monigo	28	35	Luca Sperandio(T) Tommaso Allan(C/2P) Ian McKinley(C/P) Dean Budd(2T)	Stuart Hogg(T/5C) Adam Ashe(T) Rory Clegg(T) Nick Grigg(T) Tommy Seymour(T)
Fri 29 Sep 17	Scotstoun Stadium	21	37	Marco Lazzaroni(T) Marty Banks(C/3P) Federico Ruzza(T)	Pete Horne(T/3C/2P) Sam Johnson(T) Rob Harley(T) Tommy Seymour(T) Brandon Thomson(C/P)

Overall Guinness PRO14 head to head record:

Played 15, Benetton won 2, Warriors won 13.

Did you know?

- Benetton Rugby's only defeat in their last five matches was to Harlequins at Twickenham Stoop in round 4 of the European Challenge Cup.
- The Italians have lost their last three fixtures against Scottish opponents since beating Edinburgh at Myreside in September 2017.
- Glasgow Warriors have lost their last two matches, both against Edinburgh, to end a five-game winning run in all competitions.
- The Warriors only win in their last four away games in Guinness PRO14 was over Ospreys at Liberty Stadium in round 8.
- Glasgow have won their last twenty-seven matches against Italian opponents since they were defeated by Benetton at Firhill in September 2011.
- The Warriors only defeat at Stadio Monigo in the Championship was 16-19 in April 2011.

COMPARISON	Benetton	Warriors
Last 3 PRO14 results:	1 Dec - Southern Kings (A) W 22-19	1 Dec - Scarlets (H) W 29-20
	23 Dec - Zebre (A) W 10-8	22 Dec - Edinburgh (A) L 7-23
	29 Dec - Zebre (H) W 28-10	29 Dec - Edinburgh (H) L 8-16
PRO14 2018/19	Conf B: 3rd - W6 D0 L6 - 31pts	Conf A: 1st - W8 D0 L4 - 41pts
PRO14 form	LLlwwW (15pts)	lwWWWL (16pts)
Top try scorer	4 - Hame Faiva	5 - Nikola Matawalu, George Horne
Top points scorer	62 - Tommaso Allan	50 - Adam Hastings

Round 13: 5 & 6 Jan 2019

Saturday 5 January

OSPREYS RUGBY v CARDIFF BLUES

At Liberty Stadium, Swansea, 3pm.

Live on

PREMIER SPORTS



Referee: Ben Whitehouse (WRU, 52nd competition game)

Assistant Referees: Elgan Williams, Dewi Phillips (both WRU)

TMO: Ian Davies (WRU)

Citing Commissioner: Jeff Mark (WRU)

HEAD TO HEAD - RECENT CHAMPIONSHIP MEETINGS

Date	Venue	O	C	Ospreys scorers	Cardiff Blues scorers
Sat 28 Nov 15	Liberty Stadium	13	6	Sam Davies(C/2P) Alun Wyn Jones(T)	Jarrod Evans(2P)
Sat 30 Apr 16	Principality Stadium	40	27	James King(T) Sam Underhill(T) Dan Biggar(5C) Hanno Dirksen(2T) Rhys Webb(2T)	Gareth Anscombe(C/5P) Aled Summerhill(T) Josh Navidi(T)
Fri 7 Oct 16	Liberty Stadium	46	24	Sam Davies(3C/P) Dan Biggar(C) Ben John(T) Josh Matavesi(T) Eli Walker(2T) Dimitri Arhip(T) Alun Wyn Jones(T) Dan Evans(T)	Rey Lee-Lo(T) Gareth Anscombe(3C/P) Kristian Dacey(T) Tom James(T)
Sat 15 Apr 17	Principality Stadium	17	35	Sam Davies(2C/P) Paul James(T) Dan Evans(T)	Gareth Anscombe(T/5C) Kristian Dacey(T) Lloyd Williams(T) Nick Williams(T) Taufua'ao Filise(T)
Sat 6 Jan 18	Liberty Stadium	29	28	Jeff Hassler(T) Dan Biggar(3C/P) Justin Tipuric(T) Rhys Webb(2T)	Gareth Anscombe(2C/3P) Owen Lane(T) Nick Williams(T) Garyn Smith(T)
Sat 28 Apr 18	Principality Stadium	26	23	Dan Biggar(T/2C/D/3P) Alun Wyn Jones(T)	Gareth Anscombe(T/2C/3P) Garyn Smith(T)

Overall Guinness PRO14 head to head record:

Played 30, Ospreys won 21, Blues won 8 with 1 game drawn.

Did you know?

- Ospreys Rugby's last six matches in all tournament have all been won by the home side on the day.
- The only team to have beaten Ospreys at Liberty Stadium in the Guinness PRO14 since October 2017 has been Glasgow (twice) in November 2017 and November 2018.
- Cardiff Blues have won their last two matches, against Dragons and Scarlets, and are therefore going for a regional clean sweep.
- The Blues have won just twice away from home in Guinness PRO14 this season, at Dragons in round 6 and at Scarlets last weekend.
- Ospreys have lost just once to The Blues in the Championship since 2010: 17-35 at Principality Stadium on 'Judgement Day' 2017.
- Blues only previous victory at Liberty Stadium in Guinness PRO14 was in December 2005.

COMPARISON	Ospreys	Blues
Last 3 PRO14 results:	30 Nov - Zebre (H) W 43-0	1 Dec - Ulster (A) L 12-16
	22 Dec - Scarlets (H) W 19-12	21 Dec - Dragons (H) W 19-16
	30 Dec - Dragons (A) L 22-23	29 Dec - Scarlets (A) W 34-5
PRO14 2018/19	Conf A: 4th - W7 D0 L5 - 33pts	Conf A: 5th - W6 D0 L6 - 32pts
PRO14 form	WLIWWI (15pts)	IWIIWw (15pts)
Top try scorer	7 - Luke Morgan	7 - Rey Lee-Lo
Top points scorer	111 - Sam Davies	90 - Gareth Anscombe

Saturday 5 January

LEINSTER RUGBY v ULSTER RUGBY

At RDS Arena, Dublin, 5.15pm.

Live on

PREMIER SPORTS



Referee: Andrew Brace (IRFU, 41st competition game)

Assistant Referees: George Clancy, Kieran Barry (both IRFU)

TMO: Olly Hodges (IRFU)

Citing Commissioner: Eddie Walsh (IRFU)

HEAD TO HEAD - RECENT CHAMPIONSHIP MEETINGS

Date	Venue	L	U	Leinster scorers	Ulster scorers
Sat 30 Apr 16	Kingspan Stadium	6	30	Johnny Sexton(2P)	Paddy Jackson(T/2C/3P) Paul Marshall(C) Jared Payne(T) Penalty Try(T)
Fri 20 May 16	RDS Arena (SF)	30*	18	Sean Cronin(T) Jamie Heaslip(T) Johnny Sexton(3C/3P) Isa Nacewa(T)	Craig Gilroy(2T) Paddy Jackson(C/2P)
Sat 31 Dec 16	RDS Arena	22	7	Luke McGrath(T) Rory O'Loughlin(2T) Isa Nacewa(2C/P)	Charles Piutau(T) Ruan Pienaar(C)
Sat 6 May 17	Kingspan Stadium	13	17	Joey Carbery(C/2P) Penalty Try(T)	Paddy Jackson(2C/P) Andrew Trimble(T) Roger Wilson(T)
Sat 28 Oct 17	Kingspan Stadium	25	10	Ross Byrne(C/2P) Cathal Marsh(C) Jordan Larmour(T) Luke McGrath(2T)	Sean Reidy(T) Christian Leali'ifano(C/P)
Sat 6 Jan 18	RDS Arena	38	7	Ross Byrne(3C) Barry Daly(T) Jordan Larmour(2T) Fergus McFadden(2T) Johnny Sexton(T/C)	Jacob Stockdale(T) John Cooney(C)

Overall Guinness PRO14 head to head record:

Played 35, Leinster won 26, Ulster won 7 with 2 games drawn.

Did you know?

- Leinster Rugby's 9 game winning run in Guinness PRO14 ended with their defeat at Munster last weekend.
- The Leinstermen's only home defeat in any tournament since the 2017 Guinness PRO14 semi-final was to Benetton in the Championship last April.
- The last Irish province to defeat Leinster at the RDS Arena was Ulster in March 2013
- Ulster's four game winning run in all tournaments ended with their defeat in Connacht on Friday.
- The Ulstermen have won just twice on the road in Guinness PRO14 this season, at Isuzu Southern Kings in round 3 and at Benetton in round 8.
- The Ulstermen are without a win in their last eight away games against fellow Irish provinces since beating Connacht in Galway in December 2015.
- Leinster's only loss in their last five fixtures with Ulster was in Belfast in May 2017.
- The only time that Ulster have beaten Leinster in Dublin in the Championship was at the RDS Arena in March 2013. Overall the two provinces have met on 154 previous occasions with Leinster having the edge by 79 wins to 60 and 15 games drawn since they first met in 1875.

COMPARISON	Leinster	Ulster
Last 3 PRO14 results:	1 Dec - Dragons (A) W 59-10	1 Dec - Cardiff Blues (H) W 16-12
	22 Dec - Connacht (H) W 33-29	21 Dec - Munster (H) W 19-12
	29 Dec - Munster (A) L 17-26	28 Dec - Connacht (A) L 12-21
PRO14 2018/19	Conf B: 1st - W10 D0 L2 - 49pts	Conf B: 2nd - W7 D1 L4 - 33pts
PRO14 form	wwWwWI (25pts)	WwWwWI (17pts)
Top try scorer	5 - Bryan Byrne	5 - Dave Shanahan
Top points scorer	53 - Ross Byrne	68 - Simon Hickey

Saturday 5 January

SCARLETS v DRAGONS

At Parc y Scarlets, Llanelli, 5.15pm.

Live on

PREMIER SPORTS



Referee: Craig Evans (WRU, 5th competition game)

Assistant Referees: Adam Jones, Mike English (both WRU)

TMO: Tim Hayes (WRU)

Citing Commissioner: Chris Morgan (WRU)

HEAD TO HEAD - RECENT CHAMPIONSHIP MEETINGS

Date	Venue	S	D	Scarlets scorers	Dragons scorers
Fri 30 Oct 15	Parc y Scarlets	25	15	James Davies(2T) Phil John(2T) Aled Thomas(C/P)	Jason Tovey(T/C/P) Sarel Pretorius(T)
Sat 30 Apr 16	Principality Stadium	34	20	Steve Shingler(T/4C/2P) Steff Evans(T) Gareth Davies(T) Scott Williams(T)	Adam Warren(T) Angus O'Brien(2C/2P) Adam Hughes(T)
Sat 8 Oct 16	Parc y Scarlets	31	27	Rhys Patchell(4C/P) Steff Evans(2T) Jonathan Evans(T) Liam Williams(T)	Adam Warren(2T) Hallam Amos(T) Angus O'Brien(C) Nick Macleod(C/P) Sarel Pretorius(T)
Sat 15 Apr 17	Principality Stadium	21	16	Jonathan Davies(T) Dan Jones(2P) Liam Williams(T/C/P)	Angus O'Brien(C/3P) Adam Hughes(T)
Fri 5 Jan 18	Parc y Scarlets	47	13	Aaron Shingler(T) Rhys Patchell(2C) Aled Davies(T) James Davies(T) Tom Prydie(T) Will Boyde(T) Geraint Rhys Jones(T) Dan Jones(T/4C)	Angus O'Brien(C) Carl Meyer(P) Arwel Robson(P) Sarel Pretorius(T)
Sat 28 Apr 18	Principality Stadium	33	8	Ryan Elias(T) Steff Evans(T) Tadhg Beirne(2T) Penalty Try(T) Leigh Halfpenny(3C)	Arwel Robson(P) Jared Rosser(T)

Overall Guinness PRO14 head to head record:

Played 30, Scarlets won 25, Dragons won 5.

Did you know?

- Scarlets have lost their last five matches in all competitions since their home win over Ulster in round 9 of the Guinness PRO14.
- Scarlets 27-month, 26 match, unbeaten home record in the Championship ended with their reversal to Cardiff Blues on Saturday.
- Dragons single point victory at home to Ospreys on Sunday ended a four-game losing streak in all tournaments. It was their first victory over a fellow Welsh region for four years.
- Dragons are in the midst of the worst away run ever in the history of Guinness PRO14 with 38 successive away defeats since beating Benetton at Treviso in March 2015.
- Scarlets have won their last nine encounters with Dragons in Guinness PRO14 whilst their only defeat in the Championship to the Men from Gwent since New Year's Day 2008 was at Rodney Parade in September 2013.
- Dragons have never won in 11 previous visits to Parc y Scarlets in all tournaments, but they were victorious on their final visit to Stradey Park in September 2007.

COMPARISON	Scarlets	Dragons
Last 3 PRO14 results:	1 Dec - Glasgow (A) L 20-29	1 Dec - Leinster (H) L 10-59
	22 Dec - Ospreys (A) L 12-19	21 Dec - Cardiff Blues (A) L 16-19
	29 Dec - Cardiff Blues (H) L 5-34	30 Dec - Ospreys (H) W 23-22
PRO14 2018/19	Conf B: 4th - W6 D0 L6 - 30pts	Conf B: 6th - W4 D0 L8 - 18pts
PRO14 form	wIWILL (11pts)	IIWLIW (9pts)
Top try scorer	5 - Johnny McNicholl	4 - Jared Rosser
Top points scorer	39 - Leigh Halfpenny	48 - Josh Lewis

Round 13: 5 & 6 Jan 2019

Saturday 5 January

CONNACHT RUGBY v MUNSTER RUGBY

At The Sportsground, Galway, 7.35pm.

Live on



Referee: Mike Adamson (SRU, 28th competition game)

Assistant Referees: Ben Blain (SRU), Paul Haycock (IRFU)

TMO: Simon McDowell (IRFU)

Citing Commissioner: Wayne Sheridan (IRFU)

PREMIER SPORTS

HEAD TO HEAD - RECENT CHAMPIONSHIP MEETINGS

Date	Venue	C	M	Connacht scorers	Munster scorers
Sat 28 Nov 15	Thomond Park	18	12	Tiernan O'Halloran(T) Bundee Aki(T) Craig Ronaldson(C/2P)	Niall Scannell(T) Ian Keatley(C) Penalty Try(T)
Sat 16 Apr 16	Sportsground	35	14	Finlay Bealham(T) Shane O'Leary(3C/3P) Niyi Adeolokun(2T) Penalty Try(T)	Johnny Holland(2C) Mike Sherry(T) Simon Zebo(T)
Sat 31 Dec 16	Sportsground	9	16	Jack Carty(3P)	Rhys Marshall(T) Ian Keatley(C/D/2P)
Sat 6 May 17	Thomond Park	14	50	Naulia Dawai(T) Cian Kelleher(T) Craig Ronaldson(2C)	James Cronin(T) Jack O'Donoghue(T) Andrew Conway(2T) Francis Saili(T) Keith Earls(T) Ian Keatley(6C/P) Conor Oliver(T)
Fri 27 Oct 17	Sportsground	20	16	Tiernan O'Halloran(T) Tom Farrell(T) Jack Carty(C/2P) Craig Ronaldson(C)	JJ Hanrahan(P) Ian Keatley(C/2P) Simon Zebo(T)
Sat 6 Jan 18	Thomond Park	13	39	Jack Carty(2P) Tom McCartney(T) Craig Ronaldson(C)	Darren O'Shea(T) Andrew Conway(T) Conor Murray(2T) Keith Earls(T) Ian Keatley(4C/2P)

Overall Guinness PRO14 head to head record:

Played 32, Connacht won 5, Munster won 26 with 1 game drawn.

Did you know?

- Connacht Rugby's only defeat in their last seven matches in all competitions was 29-33 to Leinster at the RDS Arena on 22 December.
- Connacht's only two home defeats this season were both in the Guinness PRO14, by a solitary point to Glasgow Warriors in round 1 and 3-20 to Leinster in round 5.
- Munster's only defeat in the last six rounds of the Guinness PRO14 was 12-19 to Ulster in Belfast in round 11.
- The Munstermen have won just twice away from home in the Championship this season, at Toyota Cheetahs in round 8 and at Zebre in round 9.
- Munster have lost their last six away games against fellow Irish provinces.
- The two provinces have met on 95 previous occasion since the first in 1934 with Munster winning 82, Connacht 9 and four games drawn. In recent times Connacht have won three of their last four matches against Munster in Galway.

COMPARISON	Connacht	Munster
Last 3 PRO14 results:	1 Dec - Cheetahs (A) W 21-17	30 Nov - Edinburgh (H) W 44-14
	22 Dec - Leinster (A) L 29-33	21 Dec - Ulster (A) L 12-19
	28 Dec - Ulster (H) W 21-12	29 Dec - Leinster (H) W 26-17
PRO14 2018/19	Conf A: 3rd - W7 D0 L5 - 36pts	Conf A: 2nd - W8 D0 L4 - 39pts
PRO14 form	IWwwIW (21pts)	WwwWIW (24pts)
Top try scorer	4 - Cian Kelleher	5 - Keith Earls
Top points scorer	95 - Jack Carty	59 - Joey Carbery

Saturday 5 January

EDINBURGH RUGBY v ISUZU SOUTHERN KINGS

At BT Murrayfield Stadium, Edinburgh, 7.35pm.

Live on

PREMIER SPORTS

Referee: John Lacey (IRFU, 74th competition game)

Assistant Referees: Jonny Erskine (IRFU), Hollie Davidson (SRU)

TMO: Andrew McMenemy (SRU)

Citing Commissioner: Gary Gordon (SRU)



HEAD TO HEAD - RECENT CHAMPIONSHIP MEETINGS

Date	Venue	E	I	Edinburgh Rugby scorers	Isuzu Southern Kings scorers
Fri 1 Dec 17	Nelson Mandela Bay	48	21	Jaco van der Walt(2C/P) Viliame Mata(T) Dougie Fife(T) Grant Gilchrist(T) Sam Hidalgo-Clyne(3T/3C) Fraser McKenzie(T)	Harlon Klaasen(T) Kurt Coleman(C/3P) Dries van Schalkwyk(T)
Fri 5 Jan 18	Myreside	37	7	Duhan van der Merwe(T) Jaco van der Walt(3C/2P) Dougie Fife(T) Grant Gilchrist(T) Cameron Fenton(T) Blair Kinghorn(T)	Ntabeni Dukisa(T/C)

Overall Guinness PRO14 head to head record:

Played 2, Edinburgh won 2.

Did you know?

- Edinburgh Rugby have won their last four matches in all tournaments since going down in Munster in round 10 of the Guinness PRO14 at the end of November.
- The Scotsmen have won their last nine fixtures at BT Murrayfield in all tournaments since Ulster beat them there in April.
- Edinburgh's only defeat to a South African opponent in Guinness PRO14 was against Cheetahs in Bloemfontein in November 2017.
- Isuzu Southern Kings solitary victory this season was 38-28 against Glasgow in Port Elizabeth in round 4 – their only victory over a Scottish opponent in the Championship.
- The two sides have met just twice before with Edinburgh running out easy bonus point victors on both occasions.

COMPARISON	Edinburgh	Kings
Last 3 PRO14 results:	30 Nov - Munster (A) L 14-44	4 Nov - Leinster (H) L 31-38
	22 Dec - Glasgow (H) W 23-7	25 Nov - Connacht (H) L 14-31
	29 Dec - Glasgow (A) W 16-8	1 Dec - Treviso (H) L 19-22
PRO14 2018/19	Conf B: 5th - W6 D0 L6 - 30pts	Conf B: 7th - W1 D0 L9 - 12pts
PRO14 form	IVIIWw (14pts)	IIIIII (5pts)
Top try scorer	6 - Duhan van der Merwe	5 - Yaw Penxe
Top points scorer	68 - Simon Hickey	70 - Masixole Banda

Sunday 6 January

ZEBRE RUGBY v TOYOTA CHEETAHS

At Stadio Sergio Lanfranchi, Parma, 2pm. *Live on*
 Referee: Dan Jones (WRU, 22nd competition game)
 Assistant Referees: Aled Evans (WRU) Gianluca Gnechi (FIR)
 TMO: Stefano Roscini (FIR)
 Citing Commissioner: TBC

PREMIER SPORTS



FREE SPORTS



HEAD TO HEAD - RECENT CHAMPIONSHIP MEETINGS

Date	Venue	Z	T	Zebre scorers	Toyota Cheetahs scorers
Sat 16 Sep 17	Toyota Stadium	39	54	Guglielmo Palazzani(C) George Fabio Biagi(T) Mattia Bellini(T) Johan Meyer(T) Faialaga Afamasaga(T) Marcello Violi(2C) Carlo Canna(C/2P) Giulio Bisegni(T)	Torsten van Jaarsveld(2T) William Small-Smith(T) Makazole Mapimpi(2T) Tian Meyer(T) Luther Obi(T) Sergeal Petersen(T) Ernst Stapelberg(7C)
Sat 28 Oct 17	Stadio Sergio Lanfranchi	23	24	Carlo Canna(2C/3P) Oliviero Fabiani(T) Matteo Minozzi(T)	Makazole Mapimpi(2T) Fred Zeilinga(C/P) Ernst Stapelberg(3P)

Overall Guinness PRO14 head to head record:

Played 2 Cheetahs won 2.

Did you know?

- Zebre Rugby have slipped to five straight Guinness PRO14 defeats, with their only success since round 3 being at home to Edinburgh at the end of October.
- Zebre have faced South African opponents on four occasions in the Championship, beating Kings twice and losing to Cheetahs twice.
- Toyota Cheetahs only two victories in the Guinness PRO14 this season have both been in their last four matches, and both at home, to Cardiff Blues and Benetton.
- The South Africans have won only twice outside the Republic since they joined the Guinness PRO14, at Zebre in October 2017 and at Dragons in March 2018.

COMPARISON	Zebre	Cheetahs
Last 3 PRO14 results:	30 Nov - Ospreys (A) L 0-43 23 Dec - Treviso (H) L 8-10 29 Dec - Treviso (A) L 10-28	4 Nov - Munster (H) L 26-30 24 Nov - Treviso (H) W 31-25 1 Dec - Connacht (H) L 17-21
PRO14 2018/19	Conf A: 7th - W3 D0 L9 - 16pts	Conf A: 6th - W2 D1 L7 - 17pts
PRO14 form	WILILI (6pts)	IIWLWL (13pts)
Top try scorer	3 - Carlo Canna	7 - Rabs Maxwane
Top points scorer	64 - Carlo Canna	47 - Tian Schoeman