

## ROUND 16 – PREVIEWS

Round 16 of the Guinness PRO14 comes swiftly on the heels of an entertaining weekend which saw plenty of tries scored all across Europe and three impressive away wins. Those victories came on the road for Ulster Rugby at Ospreys, Leinster Rugby at Zebre, and Glasgow Warriors' lung-busting 38-34 victory at Cardiff Arms Park.

Ulster and Leinster's victories contributed to an excellent round for the Irish provinces, as all four registered victories to advance their claims ahead of the Guinness PRO14 Finals Series.

In the Conference tables, Munster Rugby hold a slight advantage over Glasgow Warriors in Conference A, while Leinster are still reigning supreme in Conference B. 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](http://bitly.com/Glasgow2019) to get their hands on the best seats.

### What's at stake?

The weekend kicks off on Friday night with a triple header of action that involves **Glasgow Warriors (A2)** hosting **Connacht (A3)** at Scotstoun in an intriguing battle at the top end of Conference A (live on Free Sports 19:35). If Connacht have any designs on overhauling second-placed Glasgow then this match would be the perfect place to start, with Connacht in good form following their 25-17 victory over the Toyota Cheetahs on Saturday. The Warriors though are in good form themselves after their scintillating Saturday night win at Cardiff Blues, and have only been defeated at home by Edinburgh this season, at the end of December.

Slightly later on Friday night it's top versus bottom in Conference B as **Leinster (B1)** host the **Isuzu Southern Kings (B7)** at RDS Arena (live on Premier Sports, eir Sport 1 and TG4, 19:55). The Dublin-based province have won all three previous encounters between these two sides but the Kings pushed them close in November, losing just 38-31. Leinster have won their last five in all competitions, while the Kings' two victories this season have both been against Scottish opposition.

The Saturday lunchtime kick-off sees **Dragons (B6)** travel to **Benetton Rugby (B3)** (live on DAZN, S4C, Premier Sports 1 and eir Sport 1, 13:00). Dragons have performed well in recent rounds, losing out 34-17 at in-form Edinburgh last time out and only being pipped 8-7 by Munster in Round 14. The Welsh region face a tough challenge though with Benetton currently flying – the Italian outfit have picked up 23 Championship points from their last six encounters, with only Leinster and Munster having tallied more. Scarlets led three times against Benetton at the weekend, but tries from Toa Halafihī, Luca Sperandio and Federico Ruzza maintained Benetton's red-hot form.

Meanwhile, in one of two late kick-offs on Saturday evening, hosts **Edinburgh (B2)** will look to consolidate their position in Conference B when they face **Cardiff Blues (A5)** at BT Murrayfield (Premier Sports, 19:35). Richard Cockerill's men bounced back from Round 14 defeat away to Southern Kings by beating Dragons 34-17 last weekend - thanks in part to more wing wizardry from Duhan van der Merwe - and will hope to pull clear of third-placed Benetton this weekend. Visitors Cardiff Blues, by contrast, were on the wrong end of a thrilling encounter against Glasgow Warriors, but are still firmly in the hunt for a place in the Guinness PRO14 Final Series. Despite defeat at Arms Park, head coach John Mulvihill will be buoyed by star performances from the likes of Aled Summerhill and Owen Lane - both of whom will be crucial to the Welsh side's hopes on Saturday.

In the other late kick-off on Saturday, **Ulster (B4)** welcome **Zebre (A7)** to the Kingspan Stadium (Premier Sports, DAZN, 19:35). Narrow victors away to Ospreys in Round 15, Dan McFarland's men come into the clash off the back of a four-game unbeaten streak and have tasted defeat just once in Belfast over the past 12 months. With just two points separating Ulster from Edinburgh in second, the hosts will look to take a big step towards Final Series qualification against the Italians. Zebre, for their part, have gone without a win since Round 7, but can at least point to one positive omen ahead of the match; the men from Parma taking bragging rights the last time the two teams met back in 2017.

Round 16's final game sees **Scarlets (B5)** take on **Toyota Cheetahs (A6)** on Sunday (Premier Sports, eir Sport, Super Sport, 13:00). The hosts have won just one of their last six matches, yet can rely upon a formidable home record that has seen them lose just once since the opening round of the 2016/17 campaign. Visitors Cheetahs saw their own winning run come to an end in Connacht and will need to improve on their form outside of South Africa if they are to take the spoils in south Wales. Franco Smith's team have tasted glory just three times on their travels since joining the Guinness PRO14.

## Pick of the Round – Ospreys (A4) v Munster (A1)

Round 16's standout fixture is an intriguing Friday night match-up under the lights between Conference A leaders **Munster (A1)** and **Ospreys (A4)** at the Liberty Stadium (Premier Sports, eir Sport, TG4, 19:35). Nilled for the first time ever at home last weekend, a wounded Ospreys will be eager to make amends in front of their own fans but face one of the Guinness PRO14's in-form sides in Munster, who have won their last six matches in all competitions.

Spurred on by a superb Andrew Conway display, Johann van Graan's team roared to a 43-0 success against Southern Kings last Friday and have also tasted victory in four of their last five trips to the Liberty Stadium. Another win here would send out a serious statement of intent to the rest of their Conference A rivals.

## Opta Top Performers – Round 15

**Most tackles: 25** Harrison Keddie (Dragons)

**Most carries: 20** Andrew Conway (Munster)

**Defenders Beaten: 7** Matthew Morgan (Cardiff Blues), Duhan van der Merwe (Edinburgh), Jarrod Evans (Cardiff Blues), Conor O'Brien (Leinster)

**Offloads: 4** Johnny McNicholl (Scarlets)

**Clean Breaks: 4** Aled Summerhill (Cardiff Blues), Ali Price (Glasgow Warriors)

**Metres made: 115** Johnny McNicholl (Scarlets)

**Turnovers Won: 3** Denis Buckley (Connacht), Chris Cloete (Munster), Tomas Baravalle (Benetton), Liam Belcher (Cardiff Blues)

**Lineout Steals: 1** Samuele Ortis (Zebre)

## Opta Top Performers – Overall

**Most tackles: 188** Olly Cracknell (Ospreys)

**Most Carries: 205** Bill Mata (Edinburgh)

**Defenders beaten: 57** Duhan van der Merwe (Edinburgh)

**Offloads: 24** Tom Farrell (Connacht)

**Clean breaks: 26** Sibhale Maxwane (Toyota Cheetahs)

**Metres made: 996** Malcolm Jaer (Toyota Cheetahs)

**Turnovers won: 22** Olly Robinson (Cardiff Blues)

**Lineout Steals: 7** Junior Pokomela (Toyota Cheetahs)

## Friday 22 February

### GLASGOW WARRIORS v CONNACHT RUGBY

At Scotstoun Stadium, Glasgow, 7.35pm.

Live on

**FREE** SPORTS

Referee: Ben Whitehouse (WRU, 54<sup>th</sup> competition game)

Assistant Referees: Lloyd Linton (SRU), Elgan Williams (WRU)

TMO: Charles Samson (SRU)

Citing Commissioner: Graeme Marshall (SRU)

#### HEAD TO HEAD - RECENT CHAMPIONSHIP MEETINGS

Date	Venue	G	C	Glasgow Warriors scorers	Connacht scorers
Sat 21 May 16	Sportsground (SF)	11	16	Duncan Weir(2P) Leone Nakarawa(T)	AJ MacGinty(C/3P) Niyi Adeolokun(T)
Sat 3 Sep 16	Sportsground	41	5	Henry Pyrgos(3C/P) Stuart Hogg(T) Sila Puafisi(T) Rory Clegg(C) Tim Swinson(T) Tommy Seymour(2T) Sean Lamont(T)	Niyi Adeolokun(T)
Sat 25 Mar 17	Scotstoun Stadium	35	24	Pete Horne(P) Ali Price(T) Finn Russell(T/3C/2P) Corey Flynn(T) Sean Lamont(T)	John Cooney(P) Niyi Adeolokun(T) John Muldoon(T) Craig Ronaldson(C/3P)
Sat 2 Sep 17	Sportsground	18	12	Pete Horne(C/2P) Ali Price(T) Lee Jones(T)	Jack Carty(4P)
Fri 13 Apr 18	Scotstoun Stadium	35	22	Henry Pyrgos(T) Pete Horne(3C/3P) Stuart Hogg(T) Alex Dunbar(T) Fraser Brown(T)	Caolin Blade(T) Jack Carty(C/P) Finlay Bealham(T) Penalty Try(T)
Sat 1 Sep 18	Sportsground	27	26	Pete Horne(C) Ryan Wilson(T) Stuart Hogg(C/D) Adam Ashe(T) George Turner(T) Tommy Seymour(T)	Jack Carty(2C/4P) Finlay Bealham(T) Cian Kelleher(T)

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

Played 34, Warriors won 22, Connacht won 9 with 3 games drawn.

#### Did you know?

- Glasgow Warriors have won their last two Guinness PRO14 matches since their defeat in Treviso on 5 January.
- The Warriors only home defeat in the Championship this season was to Edinburgh in the 1872 Cup match at the end of December.
- Glasgow have not been defeated by an Irish province at Scotstoun in the PRO14 since Munster were the visitors in December 2016.
- Connacht beat Toyota Cheetahs in Galway last weekend to end a pair of successive defeats in the Guinness PRO14.
- Connacht have lost their last two away games in the Championship but have already won three times on the road this season; at Ulster and in South Africa against both Kings and Cheetahs.
- Connacht's most recent victory over a Scottish opponent was against Edinburgh at BT Murrayfield in April 2017.
- Glasgow have won their last five encounters with Connacht since the Irishmen's victory in Galway in the 2016 semi-final whilst Connacht's most recent victory on Glasgow soil was 19-17 at Firhill in Sept 2010.

COMPARISON	Warriors	Connacht
<b>Last 3 PRO14 results:</b>	5 Jan - Treviso (A) L 17-20	5 Jan - Munster (H) L 24-31
	25 Jan - Ospreys (H) W 9-3	26 Jan - Cardiff Blues (A) L 7-8
	16 Feb - Cardiff Blues (A) W 38-34	16 Feb - Cheetahs (H) W 25-17
<b>PRO14 2018/19</b>	Conf A: 2nd - W10 D0 L5 - 51pts	Conf A: 3rd - W8 D0 L7 - 42pts
<b>PRO14 form</b>	WILIWw (14pts)	wIWLIW (16pts)
<b>Top try scorer</b>	6 - George Horne	5 - Cian Kelleher, Tom Farrell
<b>Top points scorer</b>	57 - Adam Hastings	119 - Jack Carty

## Friday 22 February

### OSPREYS RUGBY v MUNSTER RUGBY

At Liberty Stadium, Swansea, 7.35pm.

Live on

PREMIER SPORTS

Referee: Stuart Berry (SARU, 21<sup>st</sup> competition game)

Assistant Referees: Adam Jones (WRU), Manuel Bottino (FIR)

TMO: Ian Davies (WRU)

Citing Commissioner: John Charles (WRU)



#### HEAD TO HEAD - RECENT CHAMPIONSHIP MEETINGS

Date	Venue	O	M	Ospreys scorers	Munster scorers
Fri 4 Nov 16	Irish Independent Park	0	33		Dave Kilcoyne(2T) Darren Sweetnam(T) Tyler Bleyendaal(4C) Ronan O'Mahony(T) Robin Copeland(T)
Sat 18 Feb 17	Liberty Stadium	23	25	Sam Davies(2C/3P) Hanno Dirksen(T) Kieron Fonotia(T)	Dave Kilcoyne(T) Jack O'Donoghue(T) Tyler Bleyendaal(2C/2P) Francis Saili(T)
Sat 20 May 17	Thomond Park (SF)	3	23	Dan Biggar(P)	Andrew Conway(T) Tyler Bleyendaal(C/2P) Francis Saili(T) Simon Zebo(T)
Sat 16 Sep 17	Liberty Stadium	16	21	Sam Davies(C/3P) James Hook(T)	Darren Sweetnam(T) Tyler Bleyendaal(C/3P) Jean Kleyn(T)
Sat 2 Dec 17	Irish Independent Park	10	36	Jeff Hassler(T) Will Jones(T)	Jack O'Donoghue(T) Darren Sweetnam(T) Sammy Arnold(T) Rory Scannell(T) Chris Cloete(T) Ian Keatley(4C/P)
Fri 14 Sep 18	Irish Independent Park	13	49	Luke Morgan(T) Sam Davies(C/2P)	James Cronin(T) Darren Sweetnam(T) Rhys Marshall(2T) Arno Botha(T) Joey Carbery(T/5C) Ian Keatley(C) Penalty Try(T)

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

Played 35, Ospreys won 15, Munster won 19 with 1 game drawn.

#### Did you know?

- Ospreys only victory in the last four rounds of the Guinness PRO14 was 20-11 over Cardiff Blues at Liberty Stadium on 5 January.
- The Welshmen were nilled for the first time ever at home last weekend when Ulster visited Bridgend and won 8-0.
- Ospreys have lost only once at Liberty Stadium in the Guinness PRO14 since November 2017: 20-29 to Glasgow last November.
- Munster have won their last six matches in all competitions since Ulster beat them in Belfast in round 11 of the Guinness PRO14.
- Munster's record on their last nine visits to Wales in won six, lost three, with all three defeats being to the Blues at the Cardiff Arms Park.
- Munster have won their last six matches against Ospreys since the Welshmen's 21-17 victory in Cork in February 2016.
- The Munstermen have won on four of their last five visits to Liberty Stadium.

COMPARISON	Ospreys	Munster
Last 3 PRO14 results:	5 Jan - Cardiff Blues (H) W 20-11 25 Jan - Glasgow (A) L 3-9 15 Feb - Ulster (H) L 0-8	5 Jan - Connacht (A) W 31-24 26 Jan - Dragons (A) W 8-7 15 Feb - Southern Kings (H) W 43-0
PRO14 2018/19	Conf A: 4th - W8 D0 L7 - 38pts	Conf A: 1st - W11 D0 L4 - 53pts
PRO14 form	WWIWIL (15pts)	WIWwwwW (24pts)
Top try scorer	7 - Luke Morgan	5 - Keith Earls, Andrew Conway
Top points scorer	124 - Sam Davies	75 - Joey Carbery

Friday 2 February

## LEINSTER RUGBY v ISUZU SOUTHERN KINGS

At RDS Arena, Dublin, 7.55pm.

Live on

PREMIER SPORTS

Referee: Sam Grove-White (SRU, 4<sup>th</sup> competition game)

Assistant Referees: George Clancy (IRFU), Ian Kenny (SRU)

TMO: Colin Stanley (IRFU)

Citing Commissioner: John Cole (IRFU)



### HEAD TO HEAD - RECENT CHAMPIONSHIP MEETINGS

Date	Venue	L	I	Leinster scorers	Isuzu 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)
Fri 23 Feb 18	RDS Arena	64	7	James Lowe(T) Ciaran Frawley(T/7C) Barry Daly(2T) Bryan Byrne(2T) Dave Kearney(T) Nick McCarthy(2T) Jordan Larmour(T)	Martin du Toit(C) Mike Willemse(T)
Sun 4 Nov 18	NMU (Madibaz) Stadium	38	31	Noel Reid(3C) Adam Byrne(T) Max Deegan(T) Bryan Byrne(T) Jamison Gibson-Park(T) Dan Leavy(T) Penalty Try(T)	Masixole Banda(3C) Yaw Penxe(T) Lupumlo Mguca(T) Stefan Ungerer(2T) Dries van Schalkwyk(T)

### Overall Guinness PRO14 head to head record:

Played 3, Leinster won 3.

### Did you know?

- Leinster Rugby have won their last five matches in all competitions, four of those with maximum points.
- The Leinstermen's only defeat in the Guinness PRO14 since round 2 was away at Munster on 29 December.
- The Leinstermen have won their last eleven home games at all venues since Benetton Rugby beat them in the Guinness PRO14 at the RDS Arena last April.
- Isuzu Southern Kings two victories this season have both been against Scottish opponents at Madibaz Stadium in Port Elizabeth.
- Kings are yet to record an away win since they joined the Guinness PRO14 at the start of last season and have lost on all four previous visits they have made to play an Irish province.
- Leinster have met South African opponents on four occasions in the Guinness PRO14 winning all three they played against Southern Kings but losing to Cheetahs in Bloemfontein in September 2017.

COMPARISON	Leinster	Kings
Last 3 PRO14 results:	5 Jan - Ulster (H) W 40-7 25 Jan - Scarlets (H) W 22-17 16 Feb - Zebre (A) W 40-24	26 Jan - Edinburgh (H) W 25-21 2 Feb - Cheetahs (A) L 36-40 15 Feb - Munster (A) L 0-43
PRO14 2018/19	Conf B: 1st - W13 D0 L2 - 63pts	Conf B: 7th - W2 D0 L13 - 19pts
PRO14 form	wWlWw (24pts)	LlLWll (8pts)
Top try scorer	5 - Max Deegan, Conor O'Brien, James Lowe, Jamison Gibson-Park, Sean Cronin, Bryan Byrne	7 - Yaw Penxe
Top points scorer	68 - Ross Byrne	96 - Masixole Banda

## Saturday 23 February

### BENETTON RUGBY v DRAGONS

At Stadio Monigo, Treviso, 2pm Live on  
 Referee: Quinton Immelman (SARU, 18<sup>th</sup> competition game)  
 Assistant Referees: Andrea Piardi, Gianluca Gnechi (both FIR)  
 TMO: Alan Falzone (FIR)  
 Citing Commissioner: TBC

**PREMIER SPORTS**



#### HEAD TO HEAD - RECENT CHAMPIONSHIP MEETINGS

Date	Venue	B	D	Benetton Rugby scorers	Dragons scorers
Fri 19 Feb 16	Stadio Monigo	19	17	Jayden Hayward(2C) Angelo Esposito(T) Ludovico Nitoglia(T) Filo Paulo(T)	Hallam Amos(T) Angus O'Brien(2C/P) Cory Hill(T)
Fri 23 Sep 16	Stadio Monigo	27	11	Tommaso Allan(3C/2P) Tommaso Benvenuti(T) Marco Fuser(T) Filo Paulo(T)	Angus O'Brien(2P) Rynard Landman(T)
Fri 6 Jan 17	Rodney Parade	8	26	Tommaso Allan(P) Tito Tebaldi(T)	Angus O'Brien(C/D/3P) Dorian Jones(C) Lewis Evans(T) Sarel Pretorius(T)
Sun 18 Feb 18	Rodney Parade	18	15	Marty Banks(2P) Monty Ioane(T) Ian McKinley(C) Alberto Sgarbi(T)	Liam Belcher(2T) Jared Rosser(T)
Sat 7 Apr 18	Stadio Monigo	29	27	Tommaso Allan(T/3C) Monty Ioane(T) Federico Ruzza(T) Tito Tebaldi(T/P)	Arwel Robson(3C/2P) Connor Edwards(T) Jared Rosser(T) Cory Hill(T)
Sat 1 Sep 18	Rodney Parade	21	17	Braam Steyn(T) Tommaso Allan(2P) Alessandro Zanni(2T)	Rhodri Williams(T) Dafydd Howells(T) Gavin Henson(C/P) Josh Lewis(C)

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

Played 17, Benetton won 10, Dragons won 7.

#### Did you know?

- Benetton Rugby's only defeat in their last ten matches in all competitions was 9-20 to Harlequins at Twickenham Stoop in round 4 of the European Challenge Cup.
- Benetton have picked up 23 league points from their last six encounters, only Irish giants Leinster and Munster have tallied more with 24 apiece.
- The Italians have not been defeated at Stadio Monigo in any competition since Ulster were the visitors in the Guinness PRO14 in early November.
- Dragons' only victory in the last six rounds of the Guinness PRO14 was by a single point at home to Ospreys on 30 December.
- Dragons most recent away victory in the Championship came at Stadio Monigo in March 2015.
- Benetton's only defeat in their last five contests with Dragons was 8-26 at Rodney Parade on January 2017.

COMPARISON	Benetton	Dragons
<b>Last 3 PRO14 results:</b>	5 Jan - Glasgow (H) W 20-17 25 Jan - Ulster (A) D 17-17 16 Feb - Scarlets (H) W 25-19	5 Jan - Scarlets (A) L 13-22 26 Jan - Munster (H) L 7-8 15 Feb - Edinburgh (A) L 17-34
<b>PRO14 2018/19</b>	Conf B: 3rd - W8 D1 L6 - 41pts	Conf B: 6th - W4 D0 L11 - 19pts
<b>PRO14 form</b>	wwWWdW (23pts)	LlWlLl (6pts)
<b>Top try scorer</b>	4 - Braam Steyn, Hame Faiva, Luca Sperandio	4 - Jared Rosser
<b>Top points scorer</b>	67 - Tommaso Allan	63 - Josh Lewis

## Saturday 23 February

### EDINBURGH RUGBY v CARDIFF BLUES

At BT Murrayfield, Edinburgh, 7.35pm.

Live on

**PREMIER SPORTS**

Referee: Frank Murphy (IRFU, 22<sup>nd</sup> competition game)

Assistant Referees: Keith Allen (SRU), Eddie Hogan-O'Connell (IRFU)

TMO: Andrew McMenemy (SRU)

Citing Commissioner: John Kirk (SRU)

#### HEAD TO HEAD - RECENT CHAMPIONSHIP MEETINGS

Date	Venue	E	C	Edinburgh Rugby scorers	Cardiff Blues scorers
Sun 1 Mar 15	Cardiff Arms Park	15	21	Tom Heathcote(C/P) Roddy Grant(T) Tim Visser(T)	Rhys Patchell(T/3C) Ellis Jenkins(T) Lloyd Williams(T)
Sat 30 Jan 16	Cardiff Arms Park	3	10	Nathan Fowles(P)	Rhys Patchell(C/P) Dan Fish(T)
Sat 7 May 16	BT Murrayfield	17	21	Tom Brown(T) Matt Scott(T) Jason Tovey(C) Hamish Watson(T)	Rey Lee-Lo(T) Gareth Anscombe(3C) Cam Dolan(T) Garyn Smith(T)
Sat 3 Sep 16	Cardiff Arms Park	16	34	Duncan Weir(C/3P) Junior Rasolea(T)	Gareth Anscombe(2C) Tomos Williams(T) Steve Shingler(T/2C/2P) Nick Williams(T) Penalty Try(T)
Fri 24 Feb 17	Myreside	17	18	Rory Scholes(2T) Neil Cochrane(T) Sam Hidalgo-Clyne(C)	Sion Bennett(T) Steve Shingler(C/2P) Lloyd Williams(T)
Fri 1 Sep 17	Cardiff Arms Park	20	10	Duncan Weir(2C/2P) Chris Dean(T) Blair Kinghorn(T)	Josh Navidi(T) Jarrod Evans(C/P)

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

Played 29, Edinburgh won 11, Blues won 18.

#### Did you know?

- Edinburgh Rugby's only reversal in their last nine matches in all tournaments was to Southern Kings in Port Elizabeth 26 January.
- The Scotsmen have lost only twice at home in Guinness PRO14 under Richard Cockerill: 17-20 to Benetton at Myreside in September 2017 and 20-32 to Ulster at BT Murrayfield last April.
- Cardiff Blues only victory in their last seven away games in all competitions was 34-5 over Scarlets in Llanelli in round 12 of the Guinness PRO14.
- The Blues have not overcome a Scottish opponent in the PRO14 since beating Edinburgh at Myreside by the narrowest of margins in February 2017.
- Cardiff Blues have lost just once to Edinburgh in their last six Championship meetings: 10-20 at Cardiff Arms Park in September 2017.
- Blues have won on six of their last seven visits to Edinburgh in the Guinness PRO14.

COMPARISON	Edinburgh	Blues
<b>Last 3 PRO14 results:</b>	5 Jan - Southern Kings (H) W 38-0	5 Jan - Ospreys (A) L 11-20
	26 Jan - Southern Kings (A) L 21-25	26 Jan - Connacht (H) W 8-7
	15 Feb - Dragons (H) W 34-17	16 Feb - Glasgow (H) L 34-38
<b>PRO14 2018/19</b>	Conf B: 2nd - W8 D0 L7 - 41pts	Conf A: 5th - W7 D0 L8 - 38pts
<b>PRO14 form</b>	IWwWIW (19pts)	IWwIWL (16pts)
<b>Top try scorer</b>	8 - Duhan van der Merwe	7 - Rey Lee-Lo
<b>Top points scorer</b>	76 - Simon Hickey	96 - Gareth Anscombe

## Saturday 23 February

### ULSTER RUGBY v ZEBRE RUGBY

At Kingspan Stadium, Belfast, 7.35pm. *Live on*  
 Referee: Mike Adamson (SRU, 30<sup>th</sup> competition game)  
 Assistant Referees: Lloyd Linton, Sam Grove-White (SRU)  
 TMO: Ken Henley-Willis (IRFU)  
 Citing Commissioner: Eddie Walsh (IRFU)

PREMIER SPORTS



#### HEAD TO HEAD - RECENT CHAMPIONSHIP MEETINGS

Date	Venue	U	Z	Ulster scorers	Zebre scorers
Sat 27 Sep 14	Stadio Sergio Lanfranchi	6	13	Ian Humphreys(2P)	Kelly Haimona(C/D/P) Dario Chistolini(T)
Fri 4 Mar 16	Kingspan Stadium	32	0	Paddy Jackson(3C/2P) Pete Browne(T) Paul Marshall(T) Nick Williams(2T)	
Sat 16 Apr 16	Stadio Sergio Lanfranchi	47	17	Craig Gilroy(T) Paddy Jackson(3C) Stuart Olding(C) Tommy Bowe(2T) Jared Payne(3T) Ruan Pienaar(T/2C)	Guglielmo Palazzani(T) Carlo Canna(2C/P) Ulrich Beyers(T)
Sun 26 Feb 17	Stadio Sergio Lanfranchi	40	17	Stuart Olding(T) David Busby(T) Jacob Stockdale(T) Chris Henry(T) Ruan Pienaar(T/5C) Robbie Diack(T)	Guglielmo Palazzani(T/2C/P) Mattia Bellini(T)
Sat 11 Mar 17	Kingspan Stadium	68	21	Craig Gilroy(T) Stuart Olding(T/3C) Jacob Stockdale(T) Luke Marshall(2T) Charles Piutau(2T) John Andrew(T) Paul Marshall(T) Ruan Pienaar(T/6C)	Andrea de Marchi(T) Guglielmo Palazzani(2C) Guillermo Roan(T) Serafin Bordoli(C) Lloyd Greeff(T)
Sat 30 Sep 17	Stadio Sergio Lanfranchi	23	27	John Cooney(C/3P) Darren Cave(T/C) Andrew Trimble(T)	Mattia Bellini(T) Marcello Violi(2C) Carlo Canna(C/2P) Renato Giammarioli(T) Giovanni Licata(T)

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

Played 11, Ulster won 9, Zebre won 2.

#### Did you know?

- Ulster Rugby are unbeaten in their last four matches in all competitions since their defeat to Leinster at the RDS Arena in round 13 of the Guinness PRO14.
- The Ulstermen have lost only once in Belfast in the last twelve months: 15-22 to Connacht in the Championship in October.
- Zebre Rugby have not been victorious in the Guinness PRO14 since round 7 when they overcame Edinburgh in Parma 34-16.
- The Italians have achieved five previous victories over Irish opponents in the Championship; two at home to Ulster and two at home and one away against Connacht.
- Zebre beat Ulster 27-23 in Parma the last time they met in September 2017 but have never won in five previous visits to Belfast.

COMPARISON	Ulster	Zebre
Last 3 PRO14 results:	5 Jan - Leinster (A) L 7-40 25 Jan - Treviso (H) D 17-17 15 Feb - Ospreys (A) W 8-0	6 Jan - Cheetahs (H) L 12-27 26 Jan - Cheetahs (A) L 28-61 16 Feb - Leinster (H) L 24-40
PRO14 2018/19	Conf B: 4th - W8 D2 L5 - 39pts	Conf A: 7th - W3 D0 L12 - 18pts
PRO14 form	WWIIDw (14pts)	ILILIL (3pts)
Top try scorer	5 - Dave Shanahan	3 - Francois Brummer, Carlo Canna, Apisai Tauyavuca
Top points scorer	65 - John Cooney	78 - Carlo Canna



Saturday 16 February

## SCARLETS v TOYOTA CHEETAHS

At Parc y Scarlets, Llanelli, 1pm.

Live on

PREMIER SPORTS

Referee: John Lacey (IRFU, 77<sup>th</sup> competition game)

Assistant Referees: Adam Jones (WRU), Chris Busby (IRFU)

TMO: John Mason (WRU)

Citing Commissioner: Ray Wilton (WRU)



### HEAD TO HEAD - RECENT CHAMPIONSHIP MEETINGS

Date	Venue	S	T	Scarlets scorers	Toyota Cheetahs scorers
Sat 2 Dec 17	Toyota Stadium	21	28	James Davies(T) Tom Prydie(P) Dan Jones(C/2P) Ioan Nicholas(T)	William Small-Smith(T) Fred Zeilinga(2C/3P) Craig Barry(2T)
Sat 5 May 18	Parc y Scarlets	43	8	Rhys Patchell(3C) Steff Evans(2T) James Davies(T) Jonathan Evans(T) Tom Prydie(T) Leigh Halfpenny(T/2C/P)	Johan Goosen(P) Clayton Blommetjies(T)

### Overall Guinness PRO14 head to head record:

Played 2, Scarlets won 1, Cheetahs won 1.

### Did you know?

- Scarlets only victory in the last six rounds of the Guinness PRO14 was 22-13 at home to Dragons on 5 January.
- Scarlets solitary defeat at Parc y Scarlets in the PRO14 since the opening round of the 2016/17 campaign was 5-34 to Cardiff Blues on 29 December 2018.
- The Welshmen's record against South African opponents in the PRO14 is won five lost one.
- Toyota Cheetahs winning run in the Guinness PRO14 ended in Connacht last weekend.
- Cheetahs have won only three times outside of South Africa since they joined the Guinness PRO14, beating Zebre twice in Parma and the Dragons in Newport.
- The two sides have met just twice before with each team winning its respective home game. The only previous meeting at Parc y Scarlets was in last year's play-offs where the home side ran out 43-8 victors.

COMPARISON	Scarlets	Cheetahs
<b>Last 3 PRO14 results:</b>	5 Jan - Dragons (H) W 22-13 25 Jan - Leinster (A) L 17-22 16 Feb - Treviso (A) L 19-25	26 Jan - Zebre (H) W 61-28 2 Feb - Southern Kings (H) W 40-36 16 Feb - Connacht (A) L 17-25
<b>PRO14 2018/19</b>	Conf B: 5th - W7 D0 L8 - 36pts	Conf A: 6th - W6 D1 L8 - 36pts
<b>PRO14 form</b>	lLLWll (7pts)	LwwWWl (20pts)
<b>Top try scorer</b>	7 - Johnny McNicholl	11 - Rabs Maxwane
<b>Top points scorer</b>	56 - Dan Jones	86 - Tian Schoeman