

ROUND 1 – PREVIEWS

The Guinness PRO14 returns to action 125 days after Leinster Rugby defended their title at Celtic Park against Glasgow Warriors and set a new record of six crowns in front of the largest crowd to ever attend a Championship decider.

Now begins a 152-game marathon that will end on June 20 in Wales when the 2020 Guinness PRO14 Final takes place at Cardiff City Stadium. With new Conference make-ups and a more intense run-in to the end of the season which now finishes in the summer, the Guinness PRO14 promises more drama than ever before.

The campaign will kick-off on South African soil for the first time as the recently crowned Currie Cup champions, Toyota Cheetahs, take on last season's beaten finalists and 2015 champions, Glasgow Warriors, in Bloemfontein on Friday evening. Round 1 will also boast a full slate of neutral referee appointments, a trend that will continue to at least Round 6 after the initial Match Official selections were made.

After recording four successive attendance highs for the Guinness PRO14 Final, tickets will be limited for this year's decider at Cardiff City Stadium and fans are encouraged to take advantage of Early Bird prices to get the best seats at www.pro14rugby.org/final

What's at Stake

FRI – Toyota Cheetahs v Glasgow Warriors

Toyota Stadium, Bloemfontein | KO 19:05 SA / 18:05 UK | Live on Super Sport, Premier Sports, eir Sport & DAZN

Dave Rennie's Warriors' team are the one of only two teams in the Guinness PRO14 to win on both their visits to Bloemfontein, but the Cheetahs are a renewed force after their Currie Cup triumph. The hosts have built steadily into the new season while Glasgow must cope with the loss of several key internationals to the World Cup. Both teams like to play expansive rugby and the high-altitude setting is guaranteed to provide an entertaining affair.

FRI – Ulster Rugby v Ospreys Rugby

Kingspan Stadium, Belfast | KO 19:35 UK | Live on Premier Sports & DAZN

Dan McFarland has only lost a handful of players to Ireland's World Cup campaign and will sense an opportunity to immediately build on last season's Semi-Final appearance. Ospreys boast a strong record on opening day with one loss in their last six, however, that was away to Ulster at a venue where they have not posted a win since 2013. Allen Clarke's team required a Play-Off victory to earn a place in this season's Champions Cup and a positive result here will be needed if they are to rise up into the automatic qualification places this time around.

SAT – Munster Rugby v Dragons

Thomond Park, Limerick | KO 15:00 UK | Live on TG4, eir Sport, Free Sports, DAZN

Another team eager to progress beyond the final four are the three-time champions from Ireland's southern province and Munster will hope their young talent can see off the challenge of Dragons who arrive with a new Director of Rugby in Dean Ryan. It is almost four years since the Welsh region recorded a victory away from Rodney Parade in the Guinness PRO14 and although Thomond Park has seen a handful of surprise raids in its history, it will take a special effort from Ryan's men to upset the hosts here.

SAT – Isuzu Southern Kings v Cardiff Blues

NMB Stadium, Port Elizabeth | KO 16:00 SA /15:00 UK | Live on Super Sport, eir Sport, Premier Sports, DAZN

The Kings return to the Nelson Mandela Bay Stadium for the opening of the 2019/20 season in a run of three home fixtures to kick off their campaign. The hosts have retained their squad from last year and added some new faces but will rely on Director of Rugby Robbi Kempson to mastermind a victory against a Cardiff Blues team eager to avoid their poor away form from early last season. Indeed, John Mulvihill's team will want to reach this year's Guinness PRO14 Final in Cardiff and picking up points in South Africa will be key to the start of that mission.

Round 1: 27 & 28 Sept 2019

SAT – Scarlets v Connacht Rugby

Parc y Scarlets, Llanelli | KO 17:15 UK | Live on S4C, Premier Sports, TG4, DAZN

The champions of 2017 host the title winners of 2016 and in a World Cup year fans of both teams are hoping they can take full advantage of unsettled opponents to charge ahead in the race to reach the knock-out stages come May. Brad Mooar takes charge of his first Guinness PRO14 game for Scarlets and goes up against second-year coach Andy Friend at Connacht, who enjoyed a very positive debut campaign in Galway. Both coaches will place their faith and attacking game plans in the hands of young players eager to make their mark.

SAT – Benetton Rugby v Leinster Rugby

Stadio Monigo, Treviso | KO 18:15 ITA / 17:15 UK | Live on DAZN, Premier Sports, eir Sport

Expectancy shadows the hosts after they became the first Italian team to reach the Guinness PRO14 Final Series and their strong showings at the Stadio Monigo will force their guests to show plenty of respect when it comes to their line-ups. Leinster are without a host of international players, but despite Benetton's positive results at the RDS in the past two seasons the champions are renowned for the strength of their squad. Interestingly, both Benetton and Leinster are joined by Glasgow Warriors in picking up the most points during Test windows last season despite giving up the highest amount of players to international squads.

SAT – Edinburgh v Zebre Rugby Club

BT Murrayfield, Edinburgh | KO 19:35 UK | Live on Premier Sports & DAZN

The success of Edinburgh's first season under Richard Cockerill did not translate into a second appearance in the knock-out stages of the Guinness PRO14 last season, however, some canny recruitment this summer should allow the team to perform better when their squad restricted by Scotland call-ups. Zebre have developed a reputation for playing a daring style of rugby with young players trusted by Head Coach Michael Bradley but the forward power offered by the home team will prove a stiff hurdle to overcome.

NEW GUINNESS PRO14 CONFERENCES

Conference A

Glasgow Warriors, Leinster Rugby, Ulster Rugby, Ospreys Rugby, Dragons Rugby, Zebre Rugby Club, Toyota Cheetahs.

Conference B

Edinburgh Rugby, Munster Rugby, Connacht Rugby, Cardiff Blues, Scarlets, Benetton Rugby, Isuzu Southern Kings.

Round 1: 27 & 28 Sept 2019

Friday 27 September

TOYOTA CHEETAHS v GLASGOW WARRIORS

At Toyota Stadium, Bloemfontein, 7.05pm

Live on

Referee: Dan Jones (WRU, 25th competition game)

Assistant Referees: Ben Crouse, Griffin Colby (both SARU)

Citing Commissioner:

TMO: Lourens van der Merwe (SARU)



PREMIER SPORTS

HEAD TO HEAD - RECENT CHAMPIONSHIP MEETINGS

Date	Venue	T	G	Toyota Cheetahs scorers	Glasgow Warriors scorers
Fri 6 Oct 17	Toyota Stadium	26	29	Rosko Specman(T) Sergeal Petersen(T) Ernst Stapelberg(2C/4P)	Henry Pyrgos(T) Callum Gibbins(2T) Finn Russell(3C/P) Rob Harley(T)
Fri 16 Feb 18	Scotstoun Stadium	23	37	Malcolm Jaer(T) Clayton Blommetjies(T) Niel Marais(2C/3P)	Henry Pyrgos(T) Adam Hastings(3C/2P) Nikola Matawalu(T) Siua Halanukonuka(T) George Horne(T) Ruaridh Jackson(T)
Sat 15 Sep 18	Toyota Stadium	24	52	William Small-Smith(T) Tian Schoeman(C) Nico Lee(T) Malcolm Jaer(2T) Benhard Janse van Rensburg(C)	Callum Gibbins(T) Ali Price(2T) Adam Hastings(T/7C/P) DTH van der Merwe(T) Tommy Seymour(T) George Horne(T)
Sat 23 Mar 19	Scotstoun Stadium	17	35	William Small-Smith(2T) Tian Schoeman(C) Joseph Dweba(T)	Pete Horne(3C) Callum Gibbins(T) Adam Hastings(2C) Kyle Steyn(T) Rory Hughes(T) Scott Cummings(T) Stafford MacDowell(T)

Overall Guinness PRO14 head to head record:

Played 4, Warriors won 4.

Did you know?

- The nineteenth season of Guinness PRO14 rugby begins in Bloemfontein where Toyota Cheetahs welcome Glasgow Warriors.
- Toyota Cheetahs won their last two games of the 2018/19 campaign beating Dragons and Isuzu Southern Kings at Toyota Stadium.
- The South African's only defeat in their last five home games was to Ospreys in round 19 last season.
- Cheetahs have yet to win their opening game of a PRO14 season.
- Glasgow Warriors were last year's losing finalist in the Guinness PRO14 whilst their most recent defeat in the regular season came in round 13 on a trip to Benetton Rugby in January.
- The Warriors only defeat in round 1 since 2012 was at home to Scarlets in 2015.
- The two sides have met on four previous occasions in Guinness PRO14 with the Scotsmen victorious in each instance, although Glasgow have been defeated in South Africa, 28-38 to the Southern Kings in Port Elizabeth in September 2018.

COMPARISON	Toyota Cheetahs	Glasgow Warriors
Last 3 PRO14 results:	6 Apr - Ospreys (H) L 14-31 13 Apr - Dragons (H) W 38-13 27 Apr - Southern Kings (H) W 61-25	27 Apr - Edinburgh Rugby (H) W 34-10 17 May (SF) - Ulster (H) W 50-20 25 May (Final) - Leinster L 15-18
PRO14 2018/19	Conf A: 6th – W8 D1 L12 - 46pts	Conf A: 1st – W16 D0 L5 - 81pts
PRO14 form	IIILWW (10pts)	WwWWWwW (30pts) - WL
Top try scorer	14 – Rabs Maxwane	9 – George Horne
Top points scorer	134 – Tian Schoeman	136 – Adam Hastings

Round 1: 27 & 28 Sept 2019

Friday 27 September

ULSTER RUGBY v OSPREYS RUGBY

At Kingspan Stadium, Belfast, 7.35pm. *Live on*
 Referee: Marius Mitrea (FIR, 91st competition game)
 Assistant Referees: Sean Gallagher (IRFU), Andrea Piardi (FIR)
 Citing Commissioner: TBC
 TMO: Stefano Penne (FIR)

PREMIER SPORTS



HEAD TO HEAD - RECENT CHAMPIONSHIP MEETINGS

Date	Venue	U	O	Ulster scorers	Ospreys scorers
Sat 7 May 16	Liberty Stadium	46	26	Paddy Jackson(T/5C/2P) Stuart Olding(T) Rory Best(T) Chris Henry(T) Andrew Trimble(T) Franco van der Merwe(T)	Tom Grabham(2T) Dan Biggar(T/3C) Josh Matavesi(T)
Sat 1 Oct 16	Kingspan Stadium	9	7	Paddy Jackson(3P)	Nicky Smith(T) Dan Biggar(C)
Sat 29 Apr 17	Liberty Stadium	10	24	Paddy Jackson(C/P) Jacob Stockdale(T)	Tyler Ardron(T) Dan Biggar(3C/P) Tom Habberfield(T) Brendon Leonard(T)
Fri 13 Apr 18	Kingspan Stadium	8	0	Jacob Stockdale(T) John Cooney(P)	
Sun 20 May 18	Kingspan Stadium	35	17	Craig Gilroy(2T) Jacob Stockdale(T) John Cooney(3C/3P) Kieran Treadwell(T)	Jeff Hassler(T) Dan Biggar(T/C) Alun Wyn Jones(T)
Fri 15 Feb 19	Morganstone Brewery Field	8	0	Stuart McCloskey(T) John Cooney(P)	

Overall Guinness PRO14 head to head record:

Played 31, Ulster won 17, Ospreys won 14.

Did you know?

- Ulster Rugby reached the semi-finals of the Guinness PRO14 last season with their only defeat in the last eight rounds of the regular season coming on a trip to Glasgow in April.
- The Ulstermen have lost only once at Kingspan Stadium in any competition since February 2018: 15-22 to Connacht last October.
- Ulster lost only one fixture against Welsh opponents last season, on a visit to Scarlets in round 9.
- The Ulstermen have been defeated on the opening weekend just once since 2009, at Dragons in 2013.
- Ospreys Rugby finished off last season with five straight victories in the Guinness PRO14, including their European Champions Cup qualifying match against Scarlets.
- The Welshmen's only victory over an Irish province since April 2018 was 22-17 against Connacht at Bridgend in October last year.
- Ospreys only defeat in round 1 in the last six seasons was to Ulster in Belfast in 2015.
- Ulster have lost only one of their last seven encounters with Ospreys: 10-24 at Liberty Stadium in April 2017, whilst Ospreys most recent victory at Kingspan Stadium was in February 2013.

COMPARISON	Ulster	Ospreys
Last 3 PRO14 results:	27 Apr - Leinster (H) W 14-13	12 Apr - Southern Kings (A) W 43-7
	4 May (PO) - Connacht (H) W 21-13	27 Apr - Cardiff Blues (A) W 26-23
	17 May (SF) - Glasgow Warriors (A) L 20-50	18 May (CCQ) - Scarlets (H) W 21-10
PRO14 2018/19	Conf B: 2nd – W13 D2 L6 - 63pts	Conf A: 4th – W12 D0 L9 - 58pts
PRO14 form	WwWlwW (24pts) – Wl	LlWwww (20pts) - W
Top try scorer	8 – Rob Herring	10 – Dan Evans
Top points scorer	101 – John Cooney	153 – Sam Davies

Saturday 28 September

MUNSTER RUGBY v DRAGONS

At Thomond Park, Limerick, 3pm.

Live on

Referee: Ben Blain (SRU, 3rd competition game)

Assistant Referees: Frank Murphy (IRFU), Finlay Brown (SRU)

Citing Commissioner: TBC

TMO: TBC



PREMIER SPORTS

HEAD TO HEAD - RECENT CHAMPIONSHIP MEETINGS

Date	Venue	M	D	Munster scorers	Dragons scorers
Sun 6 Dec 15	Rodney Parade	6	22	Rory Scannell(2P)	Dorian Jones(C/D/3P) Jason Tovey(P) Rynard Landman(T)
Sat 5 Mar 16	Thomond Park	26	5	Dave Kilcoyne(2T) Johnny Holland(C) James Cronin(T) Rory Scannell(T) Ian Keatley(2C)	Hallam Amos(T)
Sat 17 Sep 16	Rodney Parade	20	16	Cian Bohane(T) Tyler Bleyendaal(2C/2P) Jean Kleyn(T)	Hallam Amos(T) Angus O'Brien(C/3P)
Fri 10 Feb 17	Irish Independent Park	45	17	Jaco Taute(2T) Dave Kilcoyne(T) Andrew Conway(T) Tyler Bleyendaal(6C/P) Ronan O'Mahony(T) Penalty Try(T)	Elliot Dee(T) Dorian Jones(2C/P) Rhys Buckley(T)
Fri 3 Nov 17	Irish Independent Park	49	6	Kevin O'Byrne(T) Jack O'Donoghue(T) Darren Sweetnam(T) Sammy Arnold(2T) Rory Scannell(T) JJ Hanrahan(7C) Simon Zebo(T)	Angus O'Brien(2P)
Sat 26 Jan 19	Rodney Parade	8	7	Bill Johnston(P) Jean Kleyn(T)	Lloyd Fairbrother(T) Josh Lewis(C)

Overall Guinness PRO14 head to head record:

Played 30, Munster won 22, Dragons won 8.

Did you know?

- Munster reached the Guinness PRO14 semi-finals last season but were beaten at that stage by eventual Champions Leinster.
- The Munstermen lost just once in the last ten rounds of the regular season: 6-10 at Scarlets in March.
- The Irishmen have not been defeated at home in any tournament since Leinster were victorious at Thomond Park in the Guinness PRO14 on St Stephen's Day 2017.
- Munster's only defeat on the opening weekend in the last nine seasons of Guinness PRO14 was by a single point at home in Limerick to Edinburgh in 2014.
- Dragons 34-32 victory over Scarlets in the round 21 'Judgement Day' encounter ended an eight-game winless run in the Guinness PRO14.
- Dragons have not won on the road in the Championship since a trip to Treviso in March 2015 whilst their most recent victory at an Irish province was over Leinster at the RDS Arena in February 2015.
- Munster have won their last five encounters with Dragons since the Welshmen's 22-6 victory at Rodney Parade in December 2015, whilst Dragons only victory at Thomond Park came in March 2004.

COMPARISON	Munster	Dragons
Last 3 PRO14 results:	27 Apr - Connacht (H) W 27-14 4 May (PO) - Benetton Rugby (H) W 15-13 18 May (SF) - Leinster (A) L 9-24	7 Apr - Southern Kings (A) D 18-18 13 Apr - Toyota Cheetahs (A) L 13-38 27 Apr - Scarlets (H) W 34-32
PRO14 2018/19	Conf A: 2nd – W16 D0 L5 - 77pts	Conf B: 6th – W5 D1 L15 - 26pts
PRO14 form	wlWWWwW (24pts) - Wl	lLlDlW (7pts)
Top try scorer	6 – Rhys Marshall, Andrew Conway	4 – Jared Rosser
Top points scorer	84 – Joey Carbery	99 – Josh Lewis

Saturday 28 September

ISUZU SOUTHERN KINGS v CARDIFF BLUES

At Nelson Mandela Bay Stadium, Port Elizabeth, 4pm.
 Referee: Mike Adamson (SRU, 36th competition game)
 Assistant Referees: Divan Uys, Paul Mente (both SARU)
 Citing Commissioner: TBC
 TMO: Christie Du Preez (SARU)

Live on



PREMIER SPORTS

HEAD TO HEAD - RECENT CHAMPIONSHIP MEETINGS

Date	Venue	I	C	Isuzu Southern Kings scorers	Cardiff Blues scorers
Sat 14 Apr 18	Nelson Mandela Bay	12	45	Ntabeni Dukisa(T) Masixole Banda(C) Lindo Welemu(T)	Willis Halaholo(T) Kirby Myhill(2T) Alex Cuthbert(T) Seb Davies(T) Jarrod Evans(5C) Blaine Scully(T) Josh Turnbull(T)
Sat 2 Mar 19	Cardiff Arms Park	19	26	Mike Willemse(T) Masixole Banda(T/C) Bader Pretorius(C) Dries van Schalkwyk(T)	Olly Robinson(T) Owen Lane(T) Jason Harries(T) Jarrod Evans(3C) Nick Williams(T)

Overall Guinness PRO14 head to head record:

Played 2, Blues won 2.

Did you know?

- Isuzu Southern Kings' most recent Guinness PRO14 victory was against Edinburgh at Madibaz Stadium in January, although they did draw 18-all with Dragons at the same venue in April in round 19.
- Southern Kings record against Welsh regions in the Guinness PRO14 is won one, drawn one, lost ten, with the victory and the draw both being against Dragons.
- Cardiff Blues slipped to three straight defeats at the end of last season, on away trips to Munster and Connacht, and the 'Judgement Day' loss to the Ospreys.
- Blues record against South African opponents in the Guinness PRO14 is won four lost two, with both defeats being on visits to the Cheetahs, in April and October 2018.
- The two teams have met twice before with the Welshmen victorious on both occasions, including a 45-12 win on their only previous visit to Nelson Mandela Bay Stadium in April 2018.

COMPARISON	Isuzu Southern Kings	Cardiff Blues
Last 3 PRO14 results:	7 Apr - Dragons (H) D 18-18 12 Apr - Ospreys (H) L 7-43 27 Apr - Toyota Cheetahs (A) L 25-61	5 Apr - Munster (A) L 21-45 13 Apr - Connacht (A) L 22-29 27 Apr - Ospreys (H) L 23-26
PRO14 2018/19	Conf B: 7th – W2 D1 L18 - 22pts	Conf A: 5th – W10 D0 L11 - 54pts
PRO14 form	IIIDLI (3pts)	wWWIIL (16pts)
Top try scorer	8 – Bjorn Basson, Yaw Penxe	8 – Rey Lee-Lo, Owen Lane
Top points scorer	115 – Masixole Banda	143 – Gareth Anscombe

Saturday 28 September

BENETTON RUGBY v LEINSTER RUGBY

At Stadio Monigo, Treviso, 6.15pm. *Live on*
 Referee: Ben Whitehouse (WRU, 59th competition game)
 Assistant Referees: Gianluca Gnechi (FIR), Gwyn Morris (WRU)
 Citing Commissioner: TBC
 TMO: Sean Brickell (WRU)



PREMIER SPORTS

HEAD TO HEAD - RECENT CHAMPIONSHIP MEETINGS

Date	Venue	B	L	Benetton Rugby scorers	Leinster scorers
Fri 2 Sep 16	RDS Arena	8	20	Tommaso Allan(P) Marco Fuser(T)	James Tracy(T) Joey Carbery(2T) Fergus McFadden(C/P)
Sun 12 Feb 17	Stadio Monigo	14	40	Ian McKinley(2C) Filo Paulo(T) Andrea Praticetti(T)	Adam Byrne(T) Ross Byrne(5C) Bryan Byrne(T) Joey Carbery(T) Dave Kearney(2T) Rory O'Loughlin(T)
Sat 2 Dec 17	Stadio Monigo	10	36	Tommaso Allan(C/P) Nacho Brex(T)	James Lowe(2T) Ross Byrne(4C/P) Jordi Murphy(T) Garry Ringrose(T) Luke McGrath(T)
Sat 14 Apr 18	RDS Arena	17	15	Luca Bigi(T) Tommaso Allan(T/C) Federico Ruzza(T)	Barry Daly(T) Joey Carbery(C/P) Richardt Strauss(T)
Sat 27 Oct 18	Stadio Monigo	3	31	Antonio Rizzi(P)	Adam Byrne(T) Ross Byrne(3C) Andrew Porter(T) Joe Tomane(T) James Tracy(T) Conor O'Brien(T)
Sat 6 Apr 19	RDS Arena	27	27	Luca Bigi(T) Tommaso Allan(3C/2P) Federico Ruzza(T) Iliesa Ratuva Tavuyara(T)	Noel Reid(P) James Lowe(T) Ciaran Frawley(T/3C/P) Bryan Byrne(T)

Overall Guinness PRO14 head to head record:

Played 18, Benetton won 2, Leinster won 14 with 2 games drawn.

Did you know?

- Benetton Rugby reached the play-offs for the first time last year despite winning just once in the last four rounds of the regular season.
- The Italian's latest fixture at Stadio Monigo in the Guinness PRO14 was a 28-37 defeat to Munster which ended a seven-game home winning streak in all competitions.
- Benetton beat Dragons 21-17 in Newport in round 1 last season.
- The Italians have secured just one victory over an Irish province since April 2016, and that was against Leinster at the RDS Arena in April 2018.
- Reigning champions Leinster actually concluded the regular Guinness PRO14 season without a win in the last four rounds.
- The Leinstermen have been victorious in round 1 of the Guinness PRO14 for the last four seasons.
- Benetton have beaten Leinster just twice, once at Stadio Monigo in September 2010 and 17-15 in Dublin on 14 April 2018, although the two teams did draw 27-all at the RDS Arena last April.

COMPARISON	Benetton Rugby	Leinster
Last 3 PRO14 results:	12 Apr - Munster (H) L 28-37 27 Apr - Zebre (A) W 25-11 4 May (PO) - Munster (A) L 13-15	27 Apr - Ulster (A) L 13-14 18 May (SF) - Munster (H) W 24-9 25 May (Final) - Glasgow Warriors W 18-15
PRO14 2018/19	Conf B: 3rd - W11 D2 L8 - 57pts	Conf B: 1st - W15 D1 L5 - 76pts
PRO14 form	WWldLw (16pts) - I	WWIDLl (13pts) - WW
Top try scorer	6 - Luca Sperandio, Monty Ioane	7 - Sean Cronin, James Lowe
Top points scorer	103 - Tommaso Allan	107 - Ross Byrne

SCARLETS v CONNACHT RUGBY

At Parc y Scarlets, Llanelli, 5.15pm.

Live on



Referee: Stuart Berry (SARU, 24th competition game)

Assistant Referees: Rasta Rasivhenge (SARU), Mike English (WRU)

Citing Commissioner: TBC

TMO: Ian Davies (WRU)

PREMIER SPORTS

HEAD TO HEAD - RECENT CHAMPIONSHIP MEETINGS

Date	Venue	S	C	Scarlets scorers	Connacht scorers
Sun 10 Jan 16	Parc y Scarlets	21	19	Mike Collins(T) Steve Shingler(P) Steff Evans(T) Aled Thomas(C/2P)	Matt Healy(T) Jack Carty(2P) Craig Ronaldson(C/2P)
Sat 30 Jan 16	Sportsground	17	30	DTH van der Merwe(T) Aled Thomas(2C/P) Gareth Owen(T)	Denis Buckley(T) Jack Carty(2C/2P) Jack Heenan(2T) Rodney Ah You(T)
Sat 24 Sep 16	Parc y Scarlets	17	8	Rhys Patchell(2C/D) Liam Williams(2T)	Jack Carty(P) Niyi Adeolokun(T)
Sat 29 Apr 17	Sportsground	30	8	Johnny McNicholl(T) Rhys Patchell(C/P) Steff Evans(2T) DTH van der Merwe(T) Liam Williams(T)	Marnitz Boshoff(P) Craig Ronaldson(T)
Fri 29 Sep 17	Parc y Scarlets	36	27	Johnny McNicholl(T) Rhys Patchell(T) Steff Evans(T) Tadhg Beirne(T) Leigh Halfpenny(T/4C/P)	Tiernan O'Halloran(2T) Jack Carty(T/2C/P) Cian Kelleher(T)
Sat 22 Sep 18	Sportsground	20	33	Johnny McNicholl(T) Rhys Patchell(C) Tom Prydie(T) Leigh Halfpenny(C/2P)	Tom Farrell(T) Jack Carty(3C/4P) Niyi Adeolokun(T) Cian Kelleher(T)

Overall Guinness PRO14 head to head record:

Played 30, Scarlets won 20, Connacht won 9 with 1 game drawn.

Did you know?

- Scarlets only victory in their last five Guinness PRO14 encounters was 42-0 at home to Zebre on 13 April.
- Scarlets have lost just twice at Parc y Scarlets in the Championship since the opening weekend of the 2016/17 season, to Cardiff Blues in December 2018 and to Edinburgh in April.
- Scarlets only two defeats at home to Irish provinces in the in the Championship since December 2012 were both in round 1 fixtures, to Leinster in 2013 and to Munster in 2016.
- Connacht reached the play-offs of the Guinness PRO14 last season for the first time since they won the trophy in 2016.
- Connacht have won just once away from home in the Championship since last December: 6-5 over Zebre in Parma in April.
- Last season Connacht made six visits to Wales in the Guinness PRO14 and lost them all.
- The Irishmen have not won on the opening weekend of the season since 2015.
- Connacht's victory over Scarlets in Galway last season ended a three-game losing streak to the Welshmen whilst Connacht have not won on Llanelli soil since a trip to the old Stradey Park in October 2004.

COMPARISON	Scarlets	Connacht
Last 3 PRO14 results:	13 Apr - Zebre (H) W 42-0	13 Apr - Cardiff Blues (H) W 29-22
	27 Apr - Dragons (A) L 32-34	27 Apr - Munster (A) L 14-27
	18 May (CCQ) - Ospreys (A) L 10-21	4 May (PO) - Ulster (A) L 13-21
PRO14 2018/19	Conf B: 4th – W10 D0 L11 - 52pts	Conf A: 3rd - W12 D0 L9 - 61pts
PRO14 form	WWILWI (16pts) - I	IWWwWI (19pts) - I
Top try scorer	11 – Johnny McNicholl	6 – Tom Farrell
Top points scorer	83 – Leigh Halfpenny	157 – Jack Carty

EDINBURGH RUGBY v ZEBRE RUGBY CLUB

At BT Murrayfield, Edinburgh, 7.35pm.

Live on

PREMIER SPORTS

Referee: George Clancy (IRFU, 115th competition game)

Assistant Referees: Sam Grove-White (SRU), Mark Patton (IRFU)

Citing Commissioner: John Kirk (SRU)

TMO: Brian MacNeice (IRFU)



HEAD TO HEAD - RECENT CHAMPIONSHIP MEETINGS

Date	Venue	E	Z	Edinburgh Rugby scorers	Zebre scorers
Sat 24 Oct 15	Stadio Sergio Lanfranchi	11	19	Nathan Fowles(2P) Hamish Watson(T)	Carlo Canna(C/4P) Dion Berryman(T)
Fri 1 Apr 16	BT Murrayfield	29	0	Alex Toolis(T) Jason Tovey(3C/P) Sam Hidalgo-Clyne(T) Damien Hoyland(2T)	
Fri 28 Oct 16	BT Murrayfield	14	19	Ross Ford(T) Sam Hidalgo-Clyne(C) Blair Kinghorn(C) Murray McCallum(T)	Giovanbattista Venditti(T) Carlo Canna(C/D/3P)
Sat 31 Dec 16	Stadio Sergio Lanfranchi	24	19	Will Helu(T) Duncan Weir(C/4P) Chris Dean(T)	Tommaso Boni(T) Carlo Canna(T/2C) Dries van Schalkwyk(T)
Fri 6 Oct 17	Myreside	16	15	Stuart McNally(T) Duncan Weir(C/2P) Jason Tovey(P)	Johan Meyer(T) Marcello Violi(T/C/P)
Fri 26 Oct 18	Stadio Sergio Lanfranchi	16	34	Simon Hickey(C/3P) Darcy Graham(T)	Dave Sisi(T) Carlo Canna(T/4C/2P) Tommaso Castello(T) Gabriele di Giulio(T)

Overall Guinness PRO14 head to head record:

Played 12, Edinburgh won 7, Zebre won 5.

Did you know?

- Edinburgh Rugby have won their last two Guinness PRO14 fixtures, at home to Ulster and away at Glasgow, but have not won three in succession in the Championship for twelve months.
- The Scotsmen have lost their last two matches against Italian opponents, but both were on visits to Italy. They have not been defeated by an Italian side at BT Murrayfield since Zebre visited in October 2016.
- Zebre have lost their last fourteen Guinness PRO14 matches since beating Edinburgh in Parma in round 7 last season - their only victory over any Scottish opponent for almost the last three years.
- The Italians have visited Scotland on thirteen previous occasions and won just once.
- Zebre won for the first time in round 1 of the Championship twelve months ago beating Isuzu Southern Kings in Parma.
- Zebre have the slight edge in recent meetings with Edinburgh, winning on five of their last nine meetings.

COMPARISON	Edinburgh Rugby	Zebre
Last 3 PRO14 results:	6 Apr - Scarlets (A) W 20-12	6 Apr - Connacht (H) L 5-6
	12 Apr - Ulster (H) L 7-29	13 Apr - Scarlets (A) L 0-42
	27 Apr - Glasgow Warriors (A) L 10-34	27 Apr - Benetton Rugby (H) L 11-25
PRO14 2018/19	Conf B: 5th – W10 D0 L11 - 51pts	Conf A: 7th – W3 D0 L18 - 19pts
PRO14 form	LIWwLI (10pts)	ILILIL (1pt)
Top try scorer	9 – Duhan van der Merwe	4 – Mattia Bellini
Top points scorer	85 – Simon Hickey	83 – Carlo Canna