

# EDINBURGH

vs Cell C Sharks  
BKT United Rugby Championship  
Saturday 28 January 2023



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CHAMPIONSHIP





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# DOUGLAS STRUTH WELCOME

**Good evening, and welcome to DAM Health Stadium for tonight's BKT URC clash against the Cell C Sharks.**

Tonight promises to be another stellar evening, as we welcome a side packed with Springboks and World Cup winners. Last season we became the first northern hemisphere side to win in South Africa, winning in torrential conditions in Durban. That was a famous night for the club, and we know it will be a big challenge to go back to back against our visitors tonight.

Last week was a similarly big challenge, and it was one that we came out on top of.

I was so proud of the efforts of this club last week, from the players, staff, and our fans that made the game against Saracens so special.

It was a brilliant evening, and a fantastic performance against one of Europe's powerhouses. To overpower the runaway leaders of the Premiership, and a side with three European titles, was amazing to see. We ran them close at the StoneX, and to go one better in front of our fans made for a pretty enjoyable Sunday night!

While the result wasn't enough to secure a home Round of 16 game, i'm confident that we will go toe-to-toe with the English Champions at Welford Road.

Leicester Tigers are a famous club, and the chance to go against them is an exciting proposition.

The performance against Saracens was one of the best in the club's history, with plenty of standout performers. Chief among them was Pierre Schoeman. He's a club favourite, as you can hear every time he touches the ball, and was at his brilliant best on Sunday. A prop going the full 80 is impressive enough, even more so when you consider the amount of carrying work Pierre got through.

And talking of props going the full 80; I don't think I've seen a scrum celebrated as wildly as WP Nel getting a last minute scrum penalty, against the head, with a forward in the sin bin!

Away from the field it has been another busy week for the club. Our players continued their work in the community, with Marshall Sykes, Harry Paterson and Patrick Harrison all visiting Livingston RFC at their minis session.

We've also been able to announce that Connor Boyle has extended his stay at his boyhood club. Connor is a player who really cares about this club, and you can see it every time he takes to the field. Each tackle, and turnover, means everything to him. It's fantastic to see such a talented player coming through our ranks, and making an impact on the team now and in the future.

I'm excited for tonight's match, it should be another huge atmosphere at the DAM!

Enjoy the game!

Douglas Struth  
Edinburgh Rugby Managing Director  
#AlwaysEdinburgh



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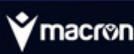
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Director of Medicine, DAM Health

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# TEAM LINEUPS

## EDINBURGH

## CELL C SHARKS

HENRY IMMELMAN	15	APHELELE FASSI
WES GOOSEN	14	MARNUS POTGIETER
MARK BENNETT (C)	13	FRANCOIS VENTER
JAMES LANG	12	BEN TAPUAI
JACK BLAIN	11	THAAKIR ABRAHAMS
CHARLIE SAVALA	10	CURWIN BOSCH
BEN VELLACOTT	9	GRANT WILLIAMS
BOAN VENTER	1	OX NCHE
ADAM MCBURNEY	2	KERRON VAN VUUREN
MURRAY MCCALLUM	3	THOMAS DU TOIT
MARSHALL SYKES	4	HYRON ANDREWS
GLEN YOUNG	5	GERBRANT GROBLER
NICK HAINING	6	JAMES VENTER
HAMISH WATSON	7	HENCO VENTER
VILIAME MATA	8	PHEPSI BUTHELEZI (C)

16. DAVE CHERRY 17. LUAN DE BRUIN  
18. LEE-ROY ATALIFO 19. JAMIE HODGSON  
20. BEN MUNCASTER 21. CHARLIE SHIEL  
22. JACO VAN DER WALT 23. CAMMY HUTCHISON

16. DAN JOOSTE 17. NTUTHUKO MCHUNU  
18. CARLÛ SADIE 19. RENIEL HUGO  
20. SIKHUMBUZO NOTSHE 21. CAMERON WRIGHT  
22. LIONEL CRONJE 23. YAW PENXE



# CONNOR BOYLE HERE TO STAY

**Connor Boyle – academy graduate and rising star in the capital back-row – has this week penned a new two-year deal with his boyhood club.**

Boyle, 22, grew up a stone's throw from BT Murrayfield and represented Edinburgh district at every age-grade before making his professional debut in October 2020, becoming Edinburgh Rugby player #1280.

The former Stewart's Melville and Scotland U20 captain has since featured 28 times for the capital side and recently crossed the whitewash in December's 1872 Cup first-leg derby at Scotstoun Stadium.

The back-row was again on form in this month's BKT United Rugby Championship win against Zebre Parma, where he won more turnovers than any other player (four) in Round 12, with three of those coming from jackal steals.

Boyle is part of a unit of up-and-coming back-row players in the Edinburgh pack, impressing alongside fellow academy graduate Ben Muncaster.

On penning a new deal, Boyle said: "I'm delighted to re-sign with my boyhood club. Edinburgh Rugby is the place where I see myself being able to take my game to the next level.

"The players and coaches are all hell bent on building a Championship winning culture and that is an environment I want to be part of.

“The strength of the back-row, and specifically the openside position, gives me the ability to learn from the best on a day-to day-basis. This new deal will allow me to take myself to the next level of playing while continuing to live in my hometown.”

A former pupil at the city’s Stewart’s Melville College, the abrasive back-row has impressed at every age-grade, representing Scotland at U16, U18 and U20 levels.

Having played senior rugby with Stewart’s Melville RFC as a schoolboy, Boyle made the move to Watsonians while studying for a degree in International Business Management at Heriot Watt University.

He was named as Scotland U20 captain for 2019 U20 Six Nations before being named in the Watsonians Rugby squad for the inaugural FOSROC Super6 Championship.

Boyle made his first professional start in last season’s URC Round 2 clash against Benetton and scored his first try for the club in last April’s EPCR Challenge Cup Round of 16 – a 41-19 rout of Bath at DAM Health Stadium.

Edinburgh Rugby Head Coach Mike Blair has welcomed the re-signing of Boyle, a player who he says ‘epitomises what it means to represent the city.’

Blair said: “We’re delighted to see Connor re-sign with the club. As a local lad, Edinburgh Rugby means so much to him and you can really see that every time he pulls on the jersey.

“Representing the club means everything to Connor and that passion and intensity he shows when he takes the field is something other players really feed off.

“His behaviours epitomise what it means to represent the city, while he’s shown real leadership potential by driving some of our off-field culture and standards.

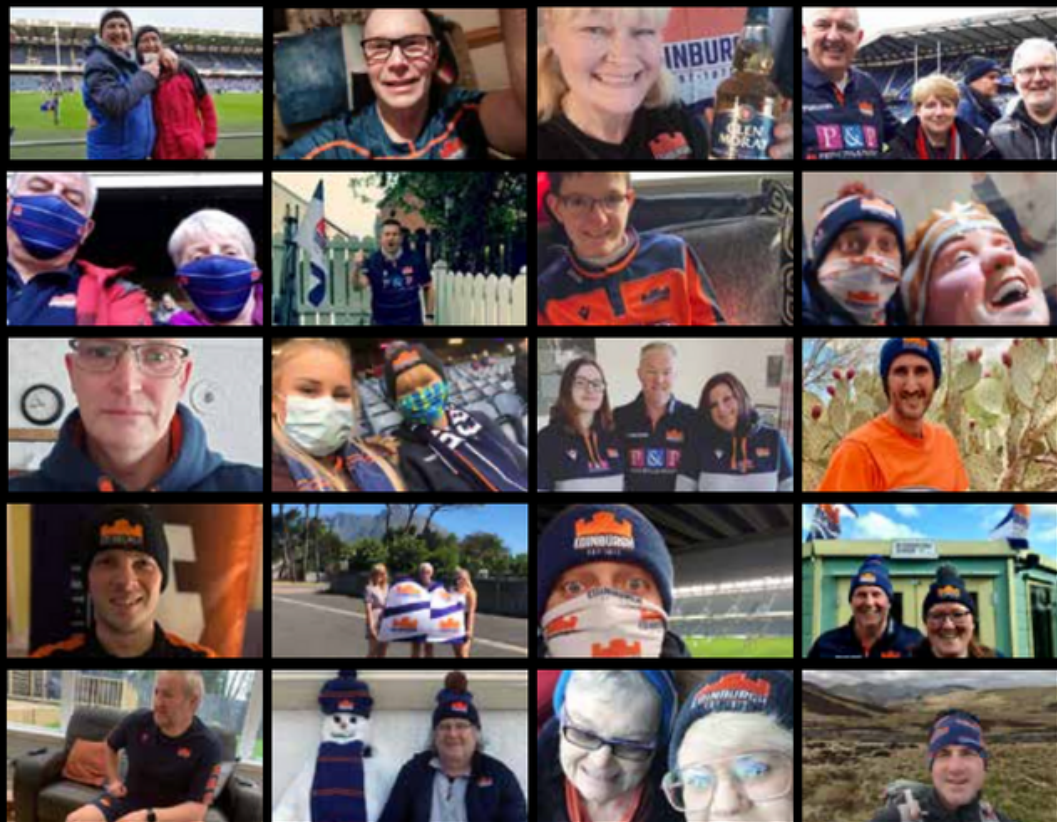
“Connor is still a young man, and his game is still developing, but we’re really happy with his contributions to the team so far. He’s in a great place to kick on and become a top player for club and country.”



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EST - 1872

# JAMES LANG

## QUICK HITS

"I'm not sure what the weather is saying this weekend but hopefully it is all right because we want to throw it about a bit.

We know Sharks have the physicality in their pack but also the skill in the backs to really put on a show."

"On a personal note, I don't worry about getting Scotland call-ups any more. I just want to enjoy my rugby with Edinburgh and the more I can enjoy myself and playing with these boys the better I'll play and whatever happens from then on is out of my control. There's a lot of strength in depth at centre and the boys are playing well."







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# RD16 CONFIRMED



**Edinburgh Rugby and Leicester Tigers will kick-off the Heineken Champions Cup Round of 16 at Mattioli Woods Welford Road on Friday 31 March (kick-off 8pm).**

HEuropean Professional Club Rugby (EPCR) today confirmed the draw for the Round of 16, with Edinburgh booking their place in the knockout stages following impressive back-to-back win against Castres Olympique and Saracens.

The fixture will only be Edinburgh's second-ever visit to Welford Road, having faced Tigers twice in the competition's history – during the 2007/08 European season.

## **TICKETS AND TRAVEL**

The club will provide details for ticketing and travel in the coming weeks.

From 9am on Monday 6 February all unsold tickets will be released by Leicester Tigers for general sale. All remaining tickets will be available from £35 (Adults) and £20 (U18s).





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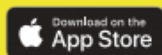
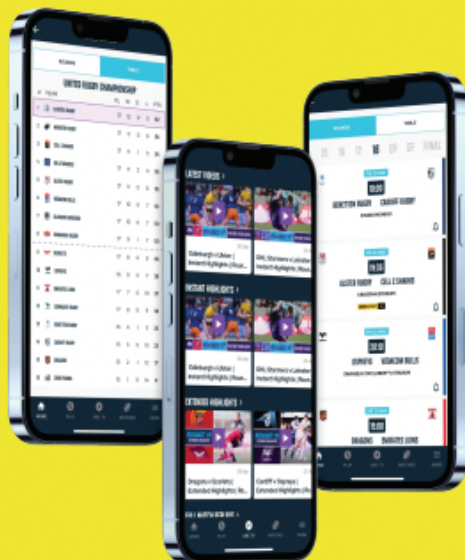


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Fiona Davidson



Chris Chisholm



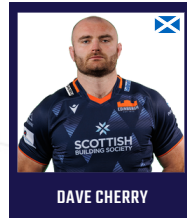
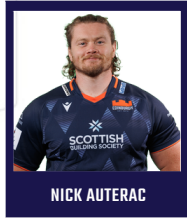
Fiona Mulryan

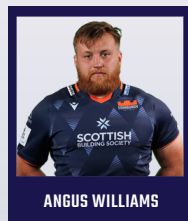
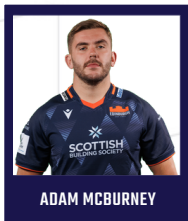


Umair Mohammed

# EDINBURGH RUGBY

## FIRST TEAM SQUAD





# EDINBURGH RUGBY

## ACADEMY 2022/23



**RUDI BROWN**



**JAMIE CAMPBELL**



**ROBBIE DEANS**



**FINN DOUGLAS**



**BEN EVANS**



**DAN GAMBLE**



**PATRICK HARRISON**



**JAKE HENRY**



**MIKE JONES**



**LIAM MCCONNELL**



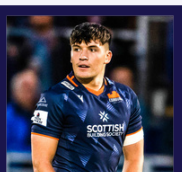
**HARRI MORRIS**



**HARRY PATERSON**



**MATT RUSSELL**



**CAMERON SCOTT**



**NATHAN SWEENEY**



# PLAYER TRY TRACKS

Lee-Roy Atalifo	Four String Love	Rosie Sagaitu
Nick Auterac	Surfing Bird	The Trashmen
Mark Bennett	You're Welcome	Dwayne Johnson
Jack Blain	Saturday Night (radio mix)	Whigfield
Emiliano Boffelli	Quevedo (Tries)	Bizarrap
Connor Boyle	Pepas (Kicks)	Farruko
Dave Cherry	Batman Theme Song	Neil Hefti & his Orchestra and Chorus
Harrison Courtney	Boys are back in town	Thin Lizzy
Luke Crosbie	Bohemian Rhapsody	Queen
Matt Currie	B.O.T.A (Baddest of them all)	Eliza Ross, Interplanetary Criminal
Luan De Bruin	Samba de Janeiro	Bellini
Chris Dean	Paradise City	Guns N Roses
Grant Gilchrist	Born to be Wild	Bruce Springsteen
Wes Goosen	Rocking all over the World	Status Quo
Darcy Graham	The Greatest	SIX60
Nick Haining	Yabba Dabba Doo / CanCan	[Custom]
Jamie Hodgson	Live it Up	Mental as Anything
Bruce Houston	Underdog	Kasabian
Damien Hoyland	Right Here, Right Now	Fatboy Slim
Cammy Hutchison	Walking on the Waves	Skippinish
Henry Immelman	Toxic	Britney Spears
Jamie Jack	WWE: Stone Cold Steve Austin	Jim Johnston
Blair Kinghorn	Can't Stop	Red Hot Chili Peppers
James Lang	Teach me how to Dougie	Cali Swag District
Bill Mata	Hound Dog	Elvis Presley
Adam McBurney	Ukulele	Blad P2a ft. Khazin
Murray McCallum	Tell Me Ma	Sham Rock
Stuart McInally	Beautiful Sunday	Daniel Boone
Ben Muncaster	Don't Stop me Now	Queen
WP Nel	Crazy Frog	Axel F
Pierce Phillips	Umfaan	Far East movement
Henry Pyrgos	Man I feel like a woman	Shania Twain
Jamie Ritchie	Light it Up	Major Lazer
Charlie Savala	Edge of Seventeen	Stevie Nicks
Pierre Schoeman	Down Under	Men at Work
Charlie Shiel	The Greatest Show	The Greatest Showman Ensemble
Sam Skinner	Yes Sir I Can Boogie	Baccara
Marshall Sykes	California Dreamin'	The Mamas & the Papas
Duhan van der Merwe	Candy Shop	50 Cent
Jaco van der Walt	L'Amour Toudjous	Gigi D'Agostino
Ben Vellacott	Seven Nation Army	White Stripes
Boan Venter	Can't be Touched	Roy Jones
Hamish Watson	WWE: The Game (Triple H)	Jim Johnston
Angus Williams	This is the One	Stone Roses
Glen Young	Back in Black	ACDC
	We like to Party	Vengaboys



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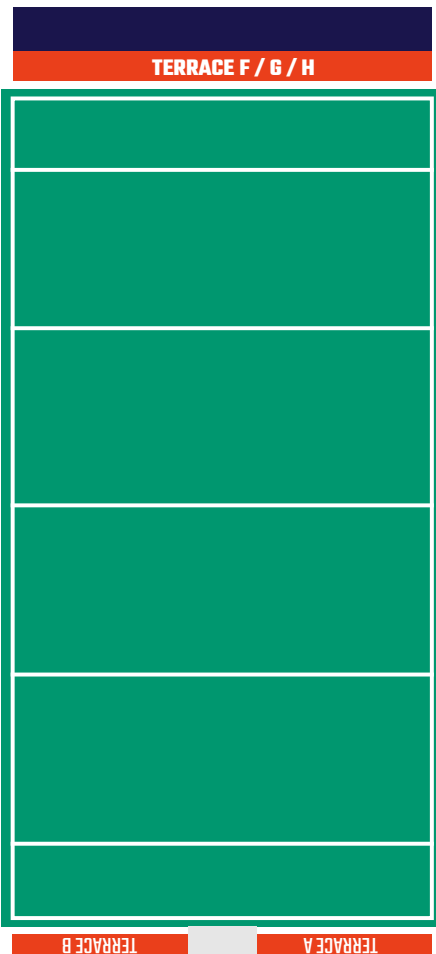
STAIR 5

MAIN STAND

STAIR 6-9

WHEELCHAIR TERRACE

Saughtonhall Entry



STAIR 24-26



LOTHIAN STAND

STAIR 20-23

STAIR 17-19



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*P. Petroianu*

# PRESS PASS

WITH  
MIKE BLAIR



## ON WP NEL AND LUKE CROSBIE 'PLAYED THEMSELVES OUT' OF EDINBURGH TEAM

"It is amazing the different emotions you feel in this role. You are so happy for individuals because you know it is what they want to be doing, what they aspire to, it is also great because it means they are playing well for us if they are in the frame for Scotland, but there is a little tinge of: 'oh, we're not getting him this week'.

"But, ultimately, as coaches when you take the job you are aware of the different bumps we have to cross.

"So, it is great that those guys are away training with Scotland, but it also means our guys left here are going to have to step up and lead.

## ON FACING A SA TEAM AT A 'BAD TIME'

"This is the thing with the league, luck plays a part in what you are trying to do because you don't know which players are going to be available to your team, and which are going to be available to the other team, and I believe that South African players have a got a rest period coming up but I don't know when that starts.

"Sharks have come over with a fully loaded squad for the Harlequins game in the Champions Cup and I can't imagine them making too many changes.

"It's similar to what we were saying about the selection of national players. It's disappointing that we don't get them but it's exciting for other guys who can step in and who haven't played as much this season, or who have been on the bench and are coming to us every week and saying, 'why am I not starting?'. Let's see how they go."

## ON LUKE CROSBIE'S FORM

"He's had two Scottish Building Society Player of the Month awards in row. Hamish didn't play a huge amount for us last year.

"He kicked in more during that post-Six Nations time because he had a long lay-off with his groin and then there was the Lions stuff, so Luke got a good crack there and did really well.

"Likewise recently, Hamish hasn't been available but Luke has been playing some brilliant stuff and we want him on the pitch for us, he's a warrior of a player. He doesn't say a huge amount but his actions are fantastic."

## ON CROSBIE'S BEST POSITION - OPENSIDE OR BLINDSIDE?

"I think he's equally [good]. We do things a little bit differently with how we run our back row. We drop them into where they suit with our lineout in particular.

"So Luke's done the eight role with our lineout before, whereas six, seven and eight off the scrum is obviously a little bit different.

"We'd happily select Luke at six or seven. He doesn't have a huge amount of experience as an eight off the scrum but I can't see why he can't do that as well."

"I thought Dave Cherry was also outstanding, I thought Grant Gilchrist was really abrasive, I thought Sam Skinner was really smart. Schoeman we all know about, WP playing 80 minutes, Bill carrying the ball, Jamie in amongst it - there were a lot of strong performances.

"Luke maybe didn't stand out as much as other guys because he's a grafter and you might see more of the other guys, but he's really important for us at the moment."



# MASCOTS



Henry Clouston

Age: 11

Royal High Rhinos

Favourite player: Pierre Schoeman



Alex Fletcher

Age: 10

Forrester's Rugby Club

Favourite player: Chris Dean





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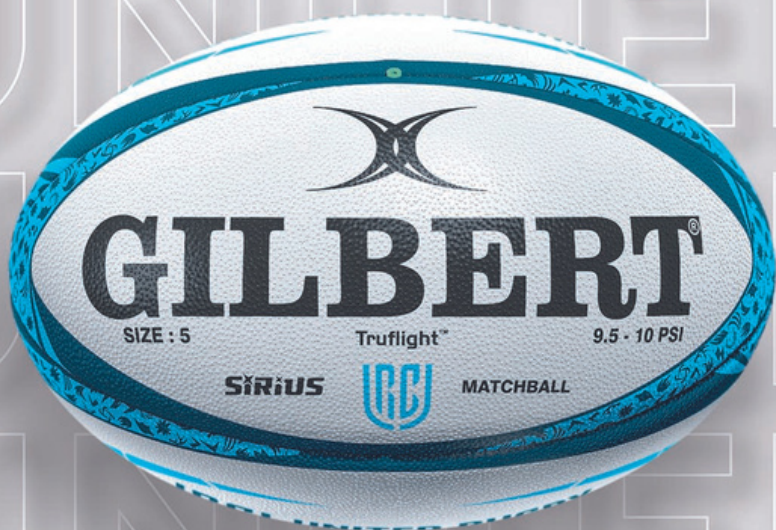
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# LAST TIME OUT

20 EDINBURGH

14 SARACENS



**Edinburgh Rugby held on for a famous 20-14 victory over Saracens in a gripping Heineken Champions Cup Round 4 contest at the DAM Health Stadium on Sunday, but the English side secured home advantage in the Round of 16 thanks to their losing bonus point.**

Both sides had the chance to book a home Round of 16 tie ahead of kick off, but it was Saracens who clinched the last all-important top-four place in Pool A thanks to finishing the game within seven points.

Edinburgh now face a trip to Leicester Tigers in the Round of 16 in just over two months' time, while Saracens will host Ospreys.

David Cherry and Pierre Schoeman both crossed for Edinburgh, with Blair Kinghorn putting up 10 points from the tee.

Saracens' solitary score came courtesy of Ben Earl while Alex Goode kicked three penalties. The visitors were hampered by ill-discipline, receiving three yellow cards over the course of the evening.

Edinburgh made a fast start and hooker Cherry crashed over on three minutes to give them a deserved lead.

Fly-half Kinghorn converted before nudging three-pointer moments later, though Saracens counterpart Goode got the visitors on the board following a scrum penalty on 16 minutes.

Saracens then saw hooker Jamie George and prop Marco Riccioni yellow-carded in quick succession, but despite being down to 13 men, they remarkably survived wave after wave of Edinburgh attacks.

After George returned, Saracens escaped their own 22 and another scrum penalty allowed Goode to reduce the deficit further. Saracens ended the half back at their full complement, and although Edinburgh were on the front foot once again, they couldn't notch any further points and took a 10-6 lead into the break.

Kinghorn and Goode exchanged penalties early in the second half, and as the tempo of the game went up a notch, Saracens received their third yellow card, lock Maro Itoje heading off on 59 minutes for a cynical offside.

Edinburgh capitalised on their extra man immediately this time, prop Schoeman burrowing over amid a rolling maul. Kinghorn converted but couldn't extend his side's lead moments later as his penalty held up in the wind and dropped short.

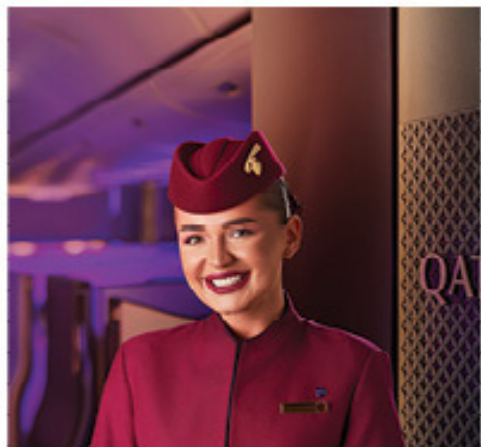
It was then Edinburgh who were down to 14 men as lock Sam Skinner was sin-binned for illegally bringing down a Saracens maul.

Edinburgh survived the immediate assault on their line, but a flowing Saracens move eventually put flanker Earl over in the corner.

Goode couldn't add the extras but, crucially, Saracens would be close enough to take a losing bonus point and clinch fourth in Pool A, ahead of Edinburgh only on tries scored.



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