

Edinburgh Rugby vs Munster
Friday 17 May, 7.35pm
Hive Stadium



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GOING PLACES TOGETHER

— *Welcome*

Douglas Struth

Good evening, and welcome
to HIVE Stadium for
tonight's BKT URC clash
against Munster.



Matches don't get much bigger than this evening, as we welcome the current BKT URC champions to a sold-out Hive Stadium with crucial league points on the line.

Last week's win against Zebre moved us back into the top eight, however the situation remains precarious and tight with teams around us also picking up points last week.

It's an exciting end to one of the most competitive leagues in World Rugby, and it's something we're thrilled to be a part of!

Tonight is our last regular season game at Hive Stadium, and it draws to a close what has been another brilliant season in our home. The support has been amazing throughout, with all of the four stands bringing the noise time and time again.

We'd like to offer our thanks as a club to all of you with tonight's 'Fan Appreciation Night', amongst other things there will be fan giveaways, a match day playlist selected by the fans, and a very special match ball delivery.

Nominated by her husband Brian, Donna Hanlon will have the honour of kickstarting match night this Friday. Although she has been ill for a number of years, this hasn't dampened her enthusiasm for Edinburgh Rugby and she has always made sure she's fit enough to travel through from Fife for all home games, even if this has meant she has had to take time to recover afterwards.

All at the club thank Donna for her amazing support and I encourage our fans to make as much noise as possible when she walks out! This evening is also a chance for us to say goodbye to our departing players.



The squad will do a lap of honour post-match, giving everyone a chance to say thank you to their contributions to the jersey. I'd personally like to thank the efforts of all those who have donned the castle on their chest in the capital!

While we've confirmed our leavers, we've also had a busy week of announcing players who have signed new deals with the club.

First up this week was lock Marshall Sykes, who has extended his terms for another two years. Marshall has been a consistent performer throughout the season and is getting better and better every time he wears the jersey. I'm excited to see how he progresses in the coming years!

On Tuesday we also confirmed a bumper 'back-to-back-to-back' back three announcement! First was being able to announce the signing of GB SVNS star Ross McCann for the next two seasons.

Ross featured in our wins against Dragons and Lions this season, and will add extra dynamism and competitiveness in our back-three for next season.

We also confirmed the re-signing of Nathan Sweeney and Wes Goosen - both on one year extensions.

Nathan has been unlucky with injuries this season, but is a player with great potential, and we're all looking forward to seeing him come back stronger next season.

Wes knows what it's like having injury issues, missing much of last season. He's bounced back in some style this season, being a regular in the capital back-line, putting together a string of stellar performances!

Back to tonight though, and another huge game at Hive Stadium. I'm looking forward to it, and hopefully we can make the last game here for a while one to remember!



*Douglas Struth,
Managing Director*



16 TEAMS 5 NATIONS 1 CHAMPION



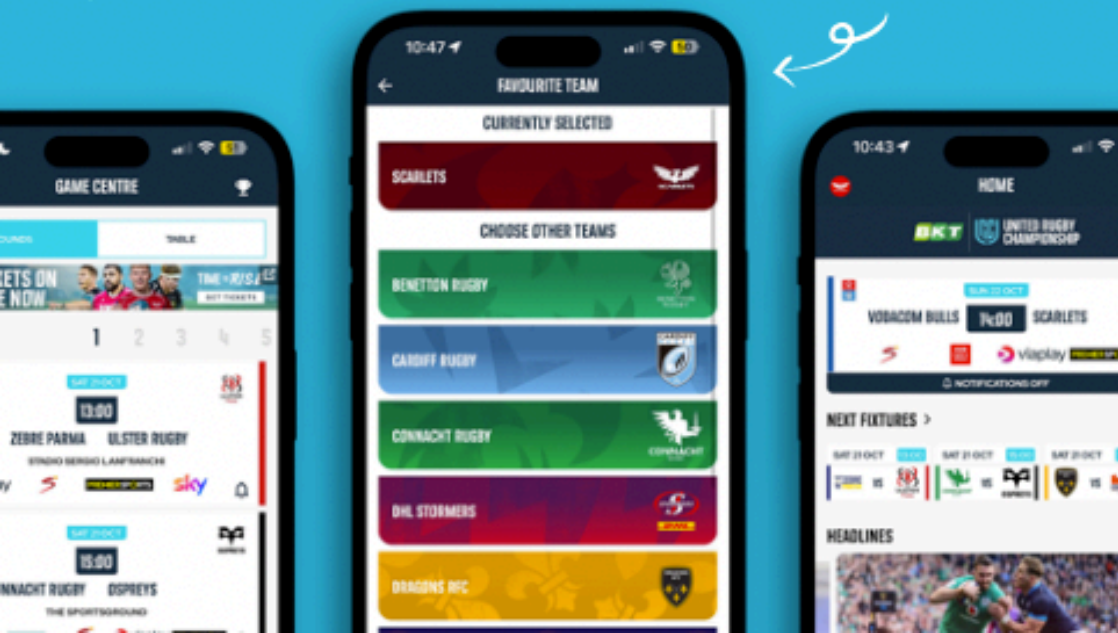


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TEAM LINEUPS

EDINBURGH

Wes Goosen 15
Matt Currie 14
100 Mark Bennett 13
James Lang 12
Duhan van der Merwe 11

Ben Healy 10
Ben Vellacott (CC) 9

100 Pierre Schoeman 1
Ewan Ashman 2
200 WP Nel 3
Sam Skinner 4
200 Grant Gilchrist (CC) 5
100 Jamie Ritchie 6
150 Hamish Watson 7
100 Viliame Mata 8

16. Dave Cherry 17. Boan Venter
18. Javan Sebastian 19. Marshall Sykes
20. Luke Crosbie 21. Ben Vellacott
22. Cammy Scott 23. Chris Dean

MUNSTER

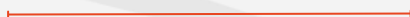
Mike Haley

Calvin Nash
Antoine Frisch
Alex Nankivell
Shane Daly

Jack Crowley
Craig Casey

Jeremy Loughman
Niall Scannell
Oli Jager
Fineen Wycherley
Tadhg Beirne (C)
Jack O'Donoghue
Alex Kendellen
Gavin Coombes

16. Eoghan Clarke 17. Mark Donnelly
18. John Ryan 19. RG Snyman
20. Thomas Ahern 21. Conor Murray
22. Rory Scannell 23. Brian Gleeson





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04

J. KLEYN



05

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06

E. TSHITUKA



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H. DAYIMANI



07

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GRANT GILCHRIST

NO.5



GRANT GILCHRIST

THE RUN-IN

Edinburgh co-captain Grant Gilchrist knows about the pressures of playing in big games for the club, and tonight will be no different as we welcome Munster for a crucial BKT URC clash.

With such huge pressure and so much on the line, Gilchrist is focused on enjoying the pressure, with every game essentially a knock out at this stage.

“We are determined to embrace it. The last thing you want at this time of year is just playing for pride or positions in the table. We want to be playing big games that really matter. We’re getting plenty of practice at that.



“We’ve played in the last 16 and quarter-finals in Europe and then these last five league games, where we knew we pretty much had to win all five to progress. Come what may each week, we are getting more and more comfortable in that pressured environment.

“We’ve spoken a lot this week about being really clear on what our plan is, and making sure we stick to our plan under pressure and having real clarity about what we’re going to do.



"Come Friday night, when the bullets are flying, we need to know exactly what we are trying to achieve at every moment – that is every player, every moment, for the whole game.

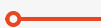
"That is what really counts, more than replicating stuff live or beating each other up in training, you need to know exactly what you're going to do.

"We have to train at a bit of intensity so we know what it looks like, but we've got to keep our tanks full of energy, put everything into Friday and be really clear in our minds what's required of each and every one of us.

"We knew we had to win five games in a row and we knew we had to get five points in a few of those."

Edinburgh face current URC champions Munster, with the visit of the defending champions a 'cup final' for the capital club.

"With five games to go we set a target of winning all five games and we are three wins



own with two to go. We have to get better each week, we know that.

"There were parts [against Zebre] that were good and we just have to build on them tidy up a few things and throw everything at Munster."

Despite the challenge of facing the current third team in the table and reigning champions, Gilchrist believes his charges are capable of beating any team at Hive Stadium.

"Playing at home, we believe we can beat anybody on our day.

"We know the size of the challenge but we are excited about that. That's what it's about.



"It's rubbish being in a changing room with nothing to play for. It's a real privilege to have the pressure of having to win games and going out and playing against top sides, knowing you need to get the job done.

"That's what's excited us the last few weeks and will be even more exciting this weekend. We've earned the right over the last few weeks to go into these last two with it all in our own hands.

"You know the size of the challenge and you want to play against the best players and the best teams

"They are always one of the best teams, especially up front.

"We know the battle that awaits in that part of the game but also at the breakdown.

"As they've shown over the past seven games, they're capable of some great attacking rugby as well, so we are going to have to defend as well as we have this season.

"Our defence is getting better and better and we're going to need that on Friday night.

We're going to go after them. We're playing at home and we've got everything on the line for our season. It's a cup final. We're not going to die wondering.

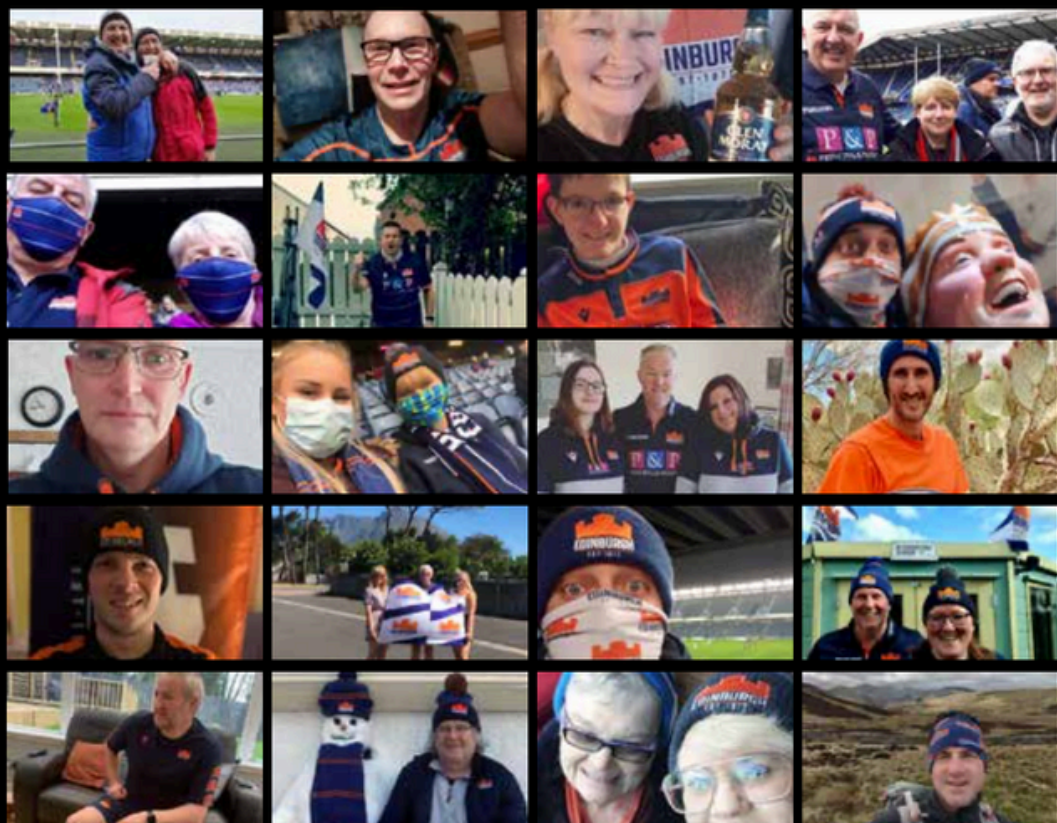
"We're not going to go out and just feel our way into the game and try and sneak a win. It's not going to happen. We've got to go all out in every element of the game for dominance to come out on the right side of the result."



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EDINBURGH SIGN SEVENS STAR ROSS MCCANN

Edinburgh Rugby is pleased to announce the signing of GB Sevens star Ross McCann, who will join the club on a two-year deal this summer.

McCann is currently targeting a second shot at Olympic glory having featured in the GB Sevens team that finished fourth in Tokyo 2020.

In the XV-a-side game, McCann features primarily on the wing, although performed admirably at outside-centre in the Scotland U20 side that finished fifth in the 2017 World Rugby U20 Championship.

Growing up in the capital city in a sporting family – brothers Ali and Lewis play football for Preston North End and Dunfermline Athletic – McCann came through the ranks at Royal High School and club sides Stewart's Melville and Melrose.

His most memorable outing in black and yellow came when he scored four tries in the 2018 Scottish Cup final win over Stirling County at Scottish Gas Murrayfield to seal a league and cup double, coached then by Rob Chrystie, now Edinburgh Rugby Skills and Attack Coach.

McCann then became Edinburgh Rugby player #1323 in the club's opening victory over Dragons at Rodney Parade earlier this season, before returning to this season's SVNS campaign – competing in six of seven tournaments thus far – and earning a call-up to Scotland's 2023



Six Nations squad, further whetting his appetite for a formal return to the XV-a-side game.

He said: “It’s a dream come true to sign a permanent deal with Edinburgh Rugby. I’ve always wanted to play for my hometown club, and now I finally get the chance to do that.

“Edinburgh is home for me. I went to school here and rugby wise, it’s where it all began for me. So to be able to sign here and pull on that Edinburgh jersey in front of my family and friends will be an incredible feeling. I can’t wait to get stuck in and show everyone what I can do.

“There’s a real sense of pride in representing your hometown club and I’m determined to give everything I’ve got for Edinburgh Rugby. It’s a special place to play and I’m excited to be a part of it for the next two years.”

“We’re excited to see what Ross can achieve in an Edinburgh Rugby jersey. He brings with him a wealth of experience from the sevens circuit and we’re confident he can develop into a real asset for the team.”

GB Sevens Head Coach Tony Roques added: “We’re really happy for Ross, he’s been an integral part of the GB programme during his time here.

“Ross still has an important part to play for the remainder of the season, we would like to thank him for his time at GB Sevens and wish him well for the next chapter in his career.”

Edinburgh Rugby Head Coach, Sean Everitt, said: “We’re delighted to have brought Ross in on a permanent deal. He’s a talented winger who is always looking to get involved in the game, and he’s not afraid to take on his opposite number. He’s also got a great attitude and is always willing to learn and improve.





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Fiona Davidson



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Ewan Ashman



Mark Bennett



Emiliano Boffelli

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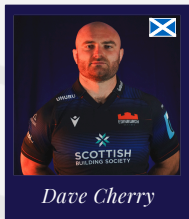


Connor Boyle

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Jamie Campbell



Dave Cherry

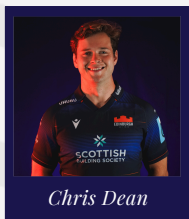


Luke Crosbie



Matt Currie

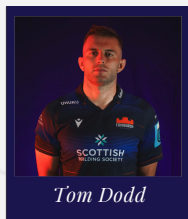
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Chris Dean



Luan de Bruin



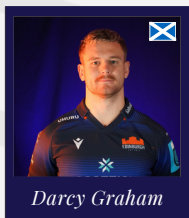
Tom Dodd



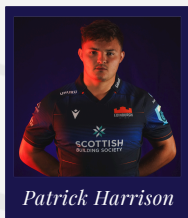
Grant Gilchrist



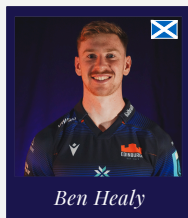
Wes Goosen



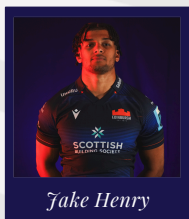
Darcy Graham



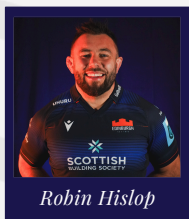
Patrick Harrison



Ben Healy



Jake Henry



Robin Hislop



Jamie Hodgson



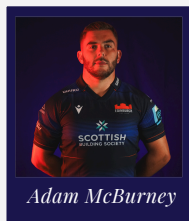
Mikey Jones



James Lang
Sponsor: CBS Consulting



Viliame Mata



Adam McBurney



Ben Mumcaster



WP Nel



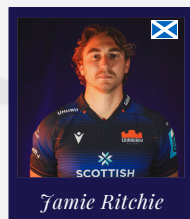
Harry Paterson
Sponsor: St Andrews Timber



Ali Price



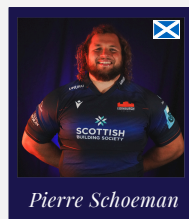
D'Arcy Rae



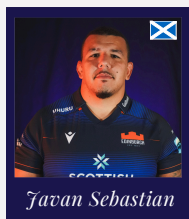
Jamie Ritchie



Cammy Scott
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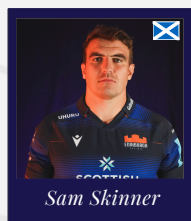
Pierre Schoeman



Javan Sebastian



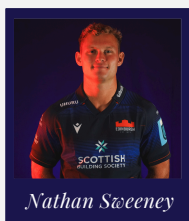
Charlie Shiel



Sam Skinner



Scott Steele



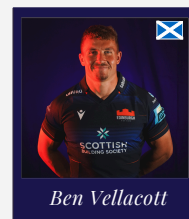
Nathan Sweeney



Marshall Sykes



Duhan VDM
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Ben Vellacott



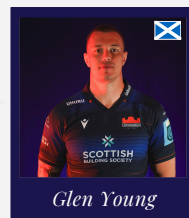
Boan Venter



Hamish Watson



Angus Williams



Glen Young

EDINBURGH RUGBY ACADEMY 2022/23

Robbie Deans (Loosehead Prop)

Harri Morris (Hooker)

Jerry Blyth-Lafferty (Hooker)

Ollie Blyth-Lafferty (Tighthead Prop)

Euan McVie (Lock)

Tom Currie (Flanker)

Liam McConnell (Flanker)

Freddie Douglas (Flanker)

Ollie Duncan (Number Eight)

Finlay Burgess (Scrum-half)

Hector Patterson (Scrum-half)

Isaac Coates (Fly-Half)

Jack Hocking (Centre)

Finn Douglas (Wing)

Jack Brown (Full-Back)



PLAYER TRY TRACKS

| | | |
|-------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| EWAN ASHMAN | Into the Valley | Skids |
| MARK BENNETT | You're Welcome | Dwayne Johnson |
| EMILIANO BOFFELLI | Quevedo (Tries) | Bizarrap |
| | Pepas (Kicks) | Farruko |
| CONNOR BOYLE | Funky Town | Lipps Inc |
| JAMIE CAMPBELL | Love Tonight - Edit | Shouse |
| DAVE CHERRY | Boys are Back in Town | Thin Lizzy |
| LUKE CROSBIE | B.O.T.A | Eliza Ross, Interplanetary Criminal |
| MATT CURRIE | Samba de Janeiro | Bellini |
| LUAN DE BRUIN | Holding out for a Hero | Bonnie Tyler |
| CHRIS DEAN | Born to Run | Bruce Springsteen |
| TOM DODD | Crazy | Gnarls Barkley |
| JORDAN EDMUNDS | Radioactive | Imagine Dragons |
| GRANT GILCHRIST | Rocking All Over the World | Status Quo |
| WES GOOSEN | I Gotta Feeling | Black Eyed Peas |
| DARCY GRAHAM | Yabba Dabba Doo / CanCan | [Custom] |
| PADDY HARRISON | Country Roads | John Denver |
| BEN HEALY | Heaven is a Place on Earth | Belinda Carlisle |
| JAKE HENRY | <i>the</i> | <i>the</i> |
| BOMBER HISLOP | Levels | Avicii |
| JAMIE HODGSON | Underdog | Kasabian |
| MIKEY JONES | Gold Dust | DJ Fresh |
| JAMES LANG | Hound Dog | Elvis Presley |

PLAYER TRY TRACKS

| | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| BILL MATA | Ukulele | Blad P2a ft. Khazin |
| ADAM MCBURNEY | Tell Me Ma | Sham Rock |
| ROSS MCCANN | The Snake | Al Wilson |
| BEN MUNCASTER | Crazy Frog | Axel F |
| WP NEL | Umfaan | Klipwerf Orkes |
| HARRY PATERSON | Duel of the Fates | John Williams |
| ALI PRICE | Believe | Cher |
| JAMIE RITCHIE | Edge of Seventeen | Stevie Nicks |
| CHARLIE SAVALA | Down Under | Men at Work |
| PIERRE SCHOEMAN | The Greatest Show | The Greatest Showman Ensemble |
| CAMMY SCOTT | Can't Take My Eyes Off Of You | Frankie Valli |
| JAVAN SEBASTIAN | Many Men – Album Version | 50 Cent |
| CHARLIE SHIEL | Yes Sir, I Can Boogie | Baccara |
| SAM SKINNER | California Dreamin' | The Mamas & The Papas |
| SCOTT STEELE | Bounce | Calvin Harris |
| NATHAN SWEENEY | Hey Baby | DJ Otzi |
| MARSHALL SYKES | Candy Shop | 50 Cent |
| DUHAN VD MERWE | L'Amour Toujours | Gigi D'Agostino |
| BEN VELLACOTT | Without Me | Eminem |
| BOAN VENTER | Livin' on a Prayer | Bon Jovi |
| HAMISH WATSON | This is the One | Stone Roses |
| ANGUS WILLIAMS | Back in Black | AC/DC |
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PLAYER OF THE YEAR NOMINEES

The nominees for both the Scottish Building Society Men's Player of the Year and It's Good 2 Give Women's Player of the Year have been confirmed ahead of next week's Season Awards, held at EICC on Saturday 25 May.

With several impressive performers from both men's and women's squads in 2023/24, respective coaching teams have whittled each award down to five nominees, with winners to be announced on the night at the EICC.

Edinburgh Rugby Head Coach Sean Everitt said: "It's fantastic to see these five players nominated for Scottish Building Society Player of the Year. It's a real testament to the hard work and dedication they've shown all season. These five players have consistently brought their best to the pitch.

They've been leaders on and off the field, and I'm incredibly proud of what they've achieved.

"I'm excited to see a winner named at next Saturday's awards night, but regardless of the outcome, I'm incredibly fortunate to coach such a talented group of players."

Edinburgh women's Head Coach Claire Cruikshank said: "We're all incredibly excited as a staff and player group about the season awards. It was amazing to have played a part in the historic Edinburgh Rugby women's side; it's something that was unforgettable for all of those involved.

"There were some exceptional performances across the squad as we managed a second-place finish in our first involvement in the Celtic Challenge, and it's brilliant to be able to recognise some of those players – alongside the men's squad – at the upcoming awards dinner."



Jamie Ritchie

No one has won more turnovers in the BKT United Rugby Championship this season than Jamie Ritchie. Not just a breakdown specialist, Ritchie's defence, ball-carrying and aerial abilities have been top notch, with the back-row named BKT Player of the Match on several occasions this current campaign.

Hamish Watson

The British & Irish Lion made his 150th appearance earlier this season before signing a new deal that will take him into his 14th campaign in the Scottish capital. Watson shows no signs of slowing down, with every 80-minute performance filled with a showreel of pinball breaks and characteristic breakdown steals.

Wes Goosen

It's been a special bounce back season for Goosen who has been one of the club's most consistent performers since taking to the field against Dragons RFC in Round 1 of the BKT United Rugby Championship. An electric playmaker who has played both full-back and wing throughout the season, Goosen's courageous ball-carrying and aerial abilities have made him a popular character among the Hive Stadium terraces.



Matt Currie

The academy graduate and former Merchiston Castle/Dumfries man has shot onto the scene this campaign, with Head Coach Sean Everitt stating that Currie has been 'one of the first names on his team sheet' week in, week out. Currie has been asked to play inside-centre, outside-centre and wing this season – playing each position with the same levels of effort and intensity.

A breakaway solo try against Bayonne in the EPCR Challenge Cup Round of 16 proved a highlight moment in the club's European campaign.

Bill Mata

The Fijian internationalist may be departing for Bristol Bears at the end of the season, but that hasn't diminished his commitment to the jersey, with Mata still one of the team's top ball carriers week in, week out.

It's been an incredible eight-year run for Mata in the Scottish capital and he will be hoping to guide Edinburgh to a play-off berth before he heads south this summer.



Sarah Denholm

Edinburgh University stand-off Denholm skippered the capital side across their inaugural campaign, sparking an attack that sizzled through the Celtic Challenge with her clever attacking kicks and eye for defensive gaps.

Denholm's leadership was evidenced throughout the tournament, helping inspire the next generation of Embra stars.

Alex Stewart

The capital's vice-captain, Corstorphine Cougars flanker Stewart has enjoyed a breakthrough year. The openside was tireless around the park, bringing relentless energy in attack and defence.

Her exceptional form saw her earn a Scotland call-up, starting all her country's Six Nations games at just 19 years old.

Merryn Gunderson

An unsung hero of the Celtic Challenge side, back-row Gunderson brought steel and power to the capital's pack.

The Corstorphine star regularly carried into brick walls for her team; her physicality and



work rate seeing her called into the Six Nations squad for the first time.

Molly Poolman

Watsonians tighthead Poolman was a bedrock in the Edinburgh scrum, providing set-piece dominance across the tournament when faced with international opposition.

The prop's efforts extended into open play as a willing carrier of the ball, while bagging a crucial try in the side's victory against the Irish Clovers.

Cieron Bell

Another Edinburgh star that earned an international call-up, Edinburgh University winger Bell drew comparisons to fellow winger Duhan van der Merwe with her brilliant running and eye for the try line.

Bell scored five in seven games, with some stunning solo efforts from the left-wing gaining plaudits in an exciting campaign.

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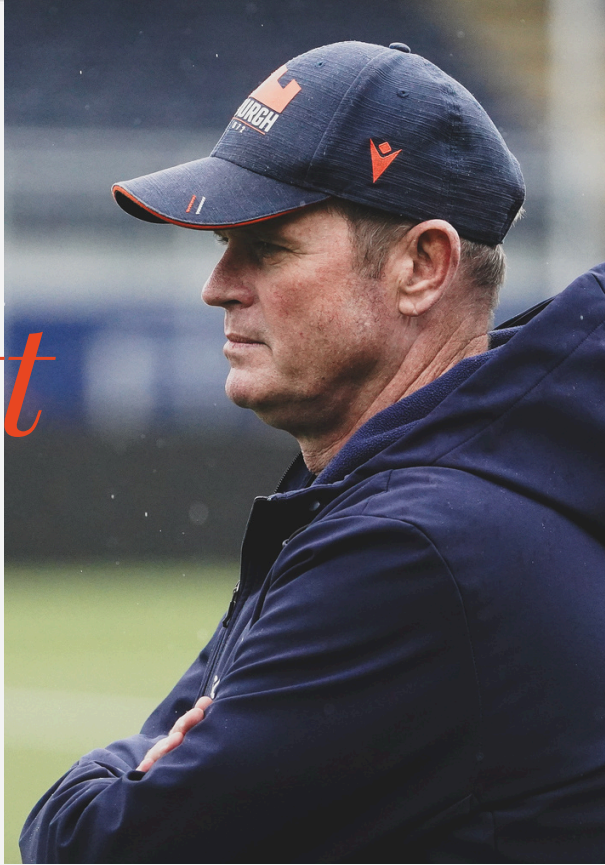
Sean Everitt

On tonight's match

"I think if we play to our potential - and we have got better from an attack point of view - we're scoring points now where we struggled before. We've scored over 30 points in the majority of our games over the last 10 weeks, so that's pleasing for us.

"We've certainly grown in certain areas, and at the same time we've created opportunities, which we talk about every week.

"Fortunately on the weekend we made better of those opportunities and managed to get six tries, and this week if we do create those and we're clinical, five points is something that we'd love to have. Saying that, a win is vital.



"I think the performances that we've had over the last three weeks certainly bring that belief this weekend at Hive. We've played against formidable opposition here - the Lions, the Bulls, and we've had Glasgow at home - so the belief has been built throughout the season.

"We know that Munster are on a seven-game URC unbeaten streak at the moment, so they are going to be a challenge, like they are every time we play them. But every team in this competition is the same, so it's about focusing on ourselves and our own performance."

2023/24 Leavers confirmed



Edinburgh Rugby has confirmed the seven senior men's players that will depart the club at the end of the season.

WP Nel, Viliame Mata, Charlie Savala, Luan de Bruin, Adam McBurney, Jamie Campbell and Scott Steele will all leave at the end of the current campaign.

Mata (Bristol Bears), Savala (Northampton Saints), De Bruin (Newcastle Falcons) and McBurney (Connacht) all join new clubs, while Steele announced earlier today his decision to retire from rugby at the end of the season.

Double centurion Nel confirmed that he will hang up his boots at the end of the season in March, while Campbell is set to pursue playing opportunities outside of the UK this summer.

Head Coach Sean Everitt said: "I'd like to thank all of our departing players for their contributions to Edinburgh Rugby during their time at the club. They've all been a valuable part of the squad and I wish them all the best in their future endeavours.

"We're grateful for the effort and commitment that these players have shown throughout their time at Edinburgh. They've all played a role in the team's success and we'll miss them around the club dearly because of what they brought as individuals and players.

"On behalf of everyone at Edinburgh Rugby, I'd like to thank our seven departing players for their hard work and dedication. They've all been a pleasure to work with and will still have big roles to play as we aim to finish the season on a high note."



WP Nel | Edinburgh Rugby #1160 | 205 appearances

An Edinburgh legend through and through, Nel became just the third player to reach 200 appearances for the capital club when he featured against DHL Stormers in Cape Town in March, following in the footsteps of Allan Jacobsen and Chris Paterson.

The fan-favourite has truly made Edinburgh home since joining from the South African franchise Cheetahs in 2012, with wife Alana and his four children settled in the Scottish capital.

From 40m solo tries against Leinster, to a plethora of set-piece penalties that solidified Nel's reputation as one of the club's greatest ever scrummagers, there will only ever be one W.P Nel, a gentle giant who has owned Edinburgh's #3 jersey for well over a decade.

Viliame Mata | Edinburgh Rugby #1227 | 136 appearances

No Edinburgh supporter will ever forget Toulon and that offload.

And yes, while that moment crowned Mata as one of the game's great entertainers, the Fijian internationalist has meant so much more to a club and a fan base during an eight-year spell in the Scottish capital.

For many fans, Edinburgh Rugby's greatest-ever overseas signing, Mata became the first non-Scot to reach 100 appearances for the club in a victory over Zebre Parma in October 2022, while his pride in representing a city he has made home away from home has made the Fijian a fan-favourite since day one.

Charlie Savala | Edinburgh Rugby #1291 | 30 appearances

Savala joined the club from Australian Rugby League side Sydney Roosters in October 2020, making his debut at stand-off against Cardiff Rugby at Cardiff Arms Park in March 2021.

A slick playmaker, and comfortable with ball in hand, Savala will be remembered for helping Edinburgh secure a famous European away win against Saracens in 2021/22.

Savala makes the permanent move to Northampton Saints following a loan period at the English club.

Luan de Bruin | Edinburgh Rugby #1303 | 25 appearances

Prop De Bruin joined from Leicester Tigers ahead of the 2021/22 season, making his debut against DHL Stormers at Hive Stadium in October 2021.

A former junior Springbok, De Bruin grabbed his first and only try for the club in the Champions Cup clash with Saracens at StoneX Stadium in December 2022.

De Bruin joins English Premiership side Newcastle Falcons at the end of the season.

Adam McBurney | Edinburgh Rugby #1305 | 23 appearances

Hooker McBurney joined the club from Ulster ahead of the 2021/22 season, making his debut in the road win over Dragons in November 2021. A courageous ball-carrier, McBurney grabbed his first score for the club in an away European clash with London Irish in January 2022.



Jamie Campbell | Edinburgh Rugby

#1313 | 1 appearance

Campbell joined Edinburgh Rugby ahead of the 2021/22 season. A product of the Kelvinside Academy, the lock played much of his early rugby playing for Biggar RFC.

The lock made his professional debut against Connacht in March 2022 and will pursue playing opportunities overseas when he departs the club this summer.

Scott Steele

Scotland internationalist Steele joined the club ahead of the current campaign, however a hip injury has kept the scrum-half on the sidelines for the entirety of the regular season.

The former London Irish and Harlequins man announced his decision to retire from professional rugby at the end of the season, bringing an end to a storied career that started in Dumfries, took him south to Leicester Tigers, and now finishes in the Scottish capital.

Edinburgh Rugby wishes Scott the very best in his next steps post-rugby.



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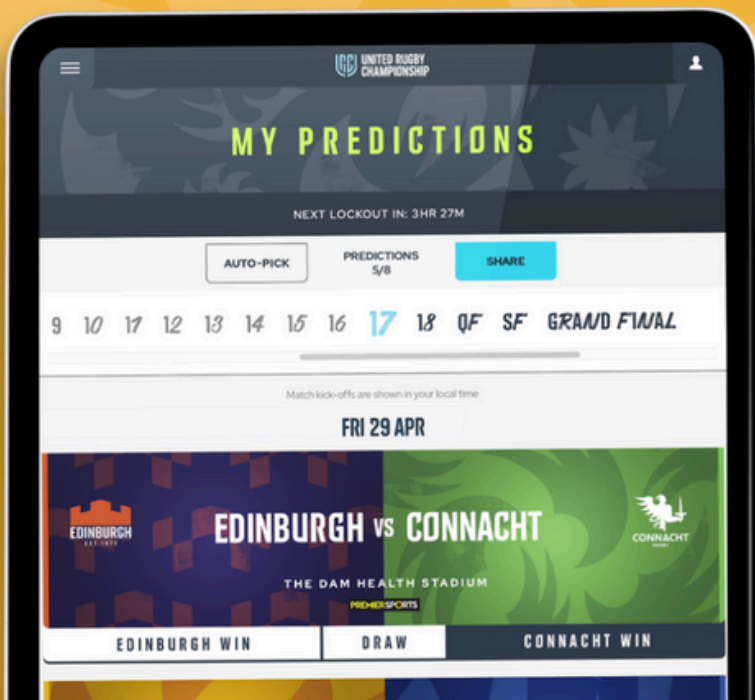
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