

EDINBURGH

E D I N B U R G H R U G B Y V S L E I N S T E R

Friday 20th September 2024, 7.35pm kick-off

*Managing director's welcome / Chris Dean
interview / Darcy Graham comeback / Press Pass*



UNITED RUGBY
CHAMPIONSHIP



BKT UNITED RUGBY CHAMPIONSHIP



HITS

DIFFÉRENT





DOUGLAS STRUTH WELCOME



Good evening, and welcome to tonight's BKT United Rugby Championship clash against Leinster!

It's brilliant to be back at Hive Stadium for tonight's season opener, with a jam-packed crowd against one of the top club sides in the world – it doesn't get much better. A warm welcome to the Leinster fans that have made the journey across from Dublin for this evening's game.

The start of the season is always an exciting time, with a fresh start and a first chance to see our new recruits in competitive action.

Tonight, we'll see three debutants in action for the first time, with Mosese Tuipulotu, Paul Hill, and Ross Thompson all starting – and returning familiar face Magnus Bradbury in the replacements.

It was great to see them all in action against Gloucester for last week's Scottish Building Society pre-season match, but this will be a different scenario altogether. Last week was a brilliant occasion, and I'm sure I won't have been the only one delighted to have heard the can-can played at Hive Stadium again...

*Edinburgh Rugby vs Leinster
BKT United Rugby Championship*



After 12 years here it will be hard to get used to not having him around, but we wish him all the best for his future!

It has been a busy time away from the rugby pitch this pre-season, with the OurBurgh community outreach programme reaching new heights. Over the summer, a total of 24 senior players visited 15 clubs across the club's supporting regions, including Fife, The Borders and Lothians.

This outreach effort extended from Melrose RFC to Perth RFC, and demonstrated the club's dedication to strengthening its connection with the local rugby community. Our community is the cornerstone of what makes this club special, and we will continue to do our best to inspire the next generation of Burgh stars!

Back to tonight, and what should be a thriller at Hive Stadium! Enjoy the game.

*Douglas Struth,
Managing Director*

We've missed seeing Darcy diving into the corner at our home matches, and last week was a great reward for all his hard work in rehabbing from his injury issues. It was a great moment, and hopefully the first of many this season.

This season will be the first without some familiar faces and club stalwarts, having said goodbye to WP Nel and Viliame Mata last season.

Another player who has recently decided to change direction is Chris Dean, however the timing meant we weren't able to give Chris a send-off at the end of last season.

I'm delighted that Chris will be here tonight to deliver the match ball before the game, so please get to your seats early to cheer him onto the pitch! Deano will go down as a legend of the club and is our most-capped centre of all time with 153 appearances in the capital.





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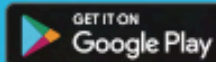
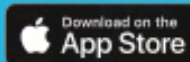


GOING PLACES TOGETHER

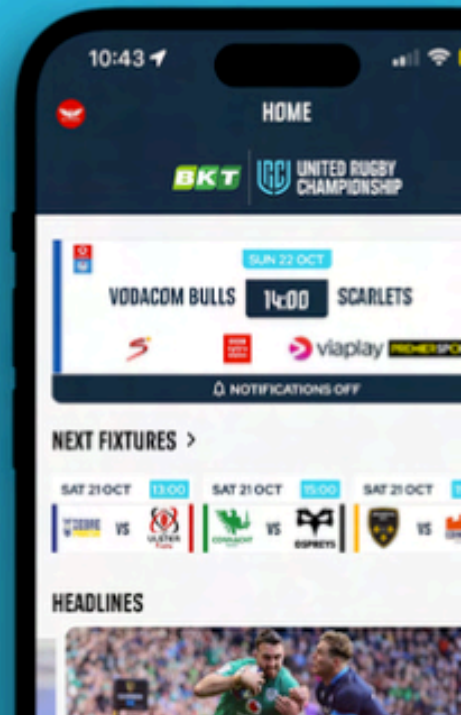
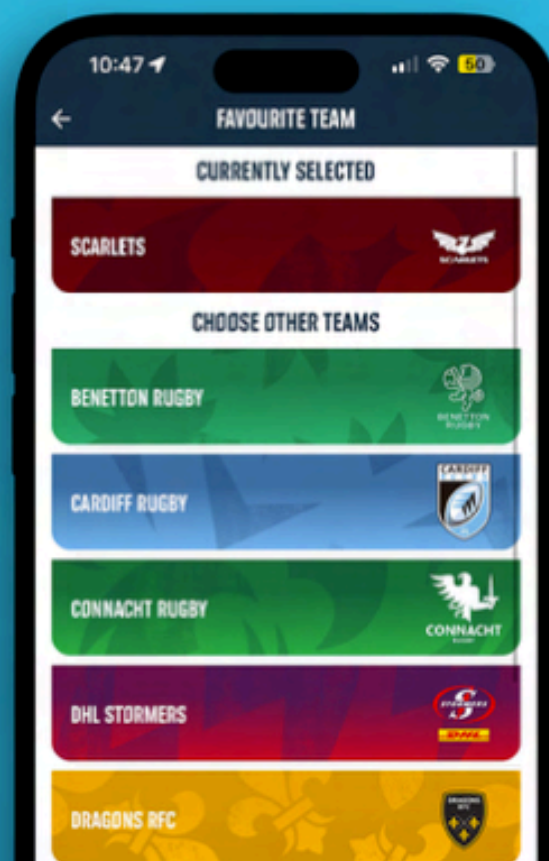


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TEAM LINEUPS

EDINBURGH RUGBY vs LEINSTER

<i>Wes Goosen</i>	15.	<i>Jamie Osborne</i>
<i>Darcy Graham</i>	14.	<i>Tommy O'Brien</i>
<i>Mosesa Tuipulotu</i>	13.	<i>Garry Ringrose</i>
<i>Matt Currie</i>	12.	<i>Charlie tector</i>
<i>Duhan van der Merwe</i>	11.	<i>Jordan Larmour</i>
<i>Ross Thompson</i>	10.	<i>Sam Prendergast</i>
<i>Ali Price</i>	9.	<i>Jamison Gibson-Park</i>

<i>Pierre Schoeman</i>	1.	<i>Michael Milne</i>
<i>Dave Cherry</i>	2.	<i>Gus McCarthy</i>
<i>Paul Hill</i>	3.	<i>Thomas Clarkson</i>
<i>Marshall Sykes</i>	4.	<i>Conor O'Tighearnaigh</i>
<i>Grant Gilchrist (C)</i>	5.	<i>James Ryan</i>
<i>Jamie Ritchie</i>	6.	<i>Max Deegan</i>
<i>Hamish Watson</i>	7.	<i>Scott Penny</i>
<i>Ben Muncaster</i>	8.	<i>Jack Conan (C)</i>

*16. Ewan Ashman 17. Boan Venter
18. D'arcy Rae 19. Jamie Hodgson
20. Magnus Bradbury 21. Ben Vellacott
22. Ben Healy 23. Emiliano Boffelli*

*16. John McKee 17. Cian Healy
18. Raban Slimani 19. Brian Deeny
20. James Culhane 21. Luke McGrath
22. Ross Byrne 23. Rob Russell*





UNITED RUGBY
CHAMPIONSHIP

WHATSAPP CHANNEL





DARCY GRAHAM

Back and ready to road

Edinburgh Rugby star Darcy Graham made his long-awaited return to rugby on Friday night, his comeback marked by a trademark diving score against Gloucester. The Scotland internationalist, known for his electric pace and try-scoring ability, has been out of action for nearly eight months due to injury

Speaking to media earlier this week, Graham could hardly hide his excitement at being back in the mix, a moment he'd been dreaming of for the better part of a year.

"It was really good to get back out there," said Graham. "It had been eight months, so it was really exciting. Going into it I knew I only had 40 minutes so I just wanted to get into the game nice and early and I managed to do that."

Graham's score saw him named Scottish Building Society Player of the Match on the night. His now familiar try-scoring song 'The Can-Can' rang around Hive Stadium, with Edinburgh supporters hopeful it won't be the only time they hear it this campaign.



“It was an easy enough finish,” shrugged Graham. “Big Mosese got on that big jump line and brought in two defenders and Wes managed to take a nice pass off him and flick it out the back door as well. It was a standard finish for me.”

His coach, Sean Everitt, has been effusive in his praise for Graham, calling him "world class" and one of the best wingers in the world. Graham, however, remains grounded.

"Obviously coming from your head coach it's a real nice compliment and to have that backing from him is massive, but I don't let it go to the head too much."

Graham has been ready to make his mark all summer, with his decision to miss Scotland's summer tour to The Americas a large part of why he's now in a position to make a splash from day one.

“Looking back at it, it was frustrating not to be going,” said Graham. “But then in the grand scheme of things it was the right thing for me. I sat down with the coaches and spoke about it, and I would have been going on tour just straight out of rehab. I hadn't even had a full week of training at that point, so it would have been putting my body under extra stress which wasn't needed.”

Despite his extended absence, Graham has no doubts about his ability to hit the ground running. With a full pre-season under his belt, and a hit out against Gloucester, Graham is now ready to embrace the challenge of wearing Edinburgh's number 14 shirt once again.

Back and ready to roar



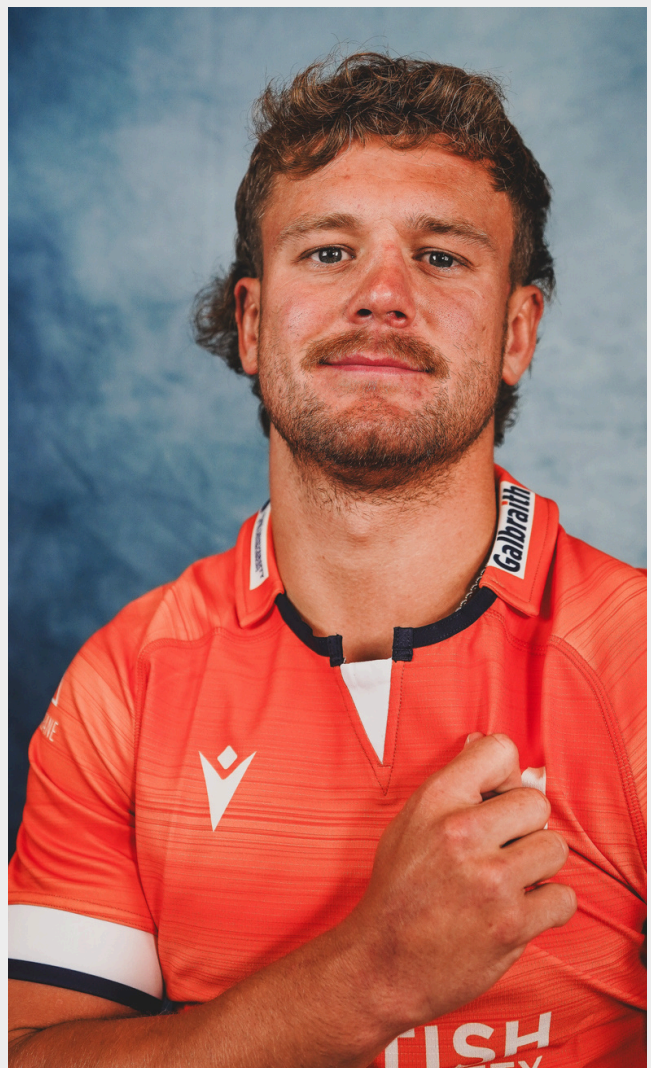
"I prepped in training for the whole pre-season so I knew coming back into the Gloucester game I was going to be fine. It's now just about getting that confidence back in and going into the contact."

"That's probably the big thing - carrying. When you're out of the game for a while you're watching it and it's so fast, it's so physical, the boys are massive and you forget a bit. So going back into it is a bit daunting."

"For me you just have to get stuck into it, and those 40 minutes were really good for me."

Looking ahead to this weekend's clash under the Friday night lights, Graham is eager to go one further and play the full 80 minutes as Edinburgh open their URC campaign against the Irish giants.

"One hundred per cent," he continued. "For me, when I'm playing I always want to play 80 minutes. I want to be on the park but it's a 23 man squad, there's 23 of us on the team to do the game at the end of the day."





“It’s a massive opportunity for us this weekend. I think we’ve had a really good pre-season, from where we were this time last year we’re in a much better position. So it’s about getting things right on the pitch on the day.

“Leinster have world class players all over the park and it’s going to be no easy game. But it’s just about focusing on us, bringing what we can bring. We know what they’re going to bring, they’re going to be physical, they’re going to play and they’re going to chuck the ball about and they’re just going to do the basics really well.

“So it’s just about us matching and then

being physical and hopefully getting one over them.”

With his injuries behind him, and the URC kick-off only days away, Graham has a new focus and energy which have given him fresh perspective on the sport he loves.

“You never know when your last game is going to be,” explained Graham. “It sounds cliched but you never know, one injury could finish your career. So it’s just about enjoying the moments and taking a week at a time.”

One week at a time starts with Leinster this Friday night, a match Graham will be desperate to light up.

“It sounds cliched but you never know, one injury could finish your career. So it’s just about enjoying the moments and taking a week at a time.”



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CHRIS DEAN

BALL DELIVERY



Edinburgh Rugby centurion and the club's most-capped centre of all-time, Chris Dean, is set to make a heartwarming return to Hive Stadium this Friday night as he delivers the match ball ahead of the United Rugby Championship opener against Leinster.

Dean, who left the club after a decade of service during the pre-season, expressed his excitement and gratitude for the opportunity to return in such a special way.

"It's a privilege to come back and be able to do a proper farewell, coming onto the pitch to deliver the match ball," he said.

"I guess for me it closes a chapter on a fantastic decade and being able to do it my own way is

really special. I'll be forever thankful for everyone that's been a part of my journey the last 10 years with Edinburgh Rugby. It'll be an exciting moment."

The former North Berwick RFC and Edinburgh Accies man will be joined by his daughters for the emotional moment, making it even more special.

"If my girls play ball, they'll walk on with me, which will be a really special moment," Dean added.

Reflecting on his decision to leave Edinburgh after ten years, Dean explained that he felt it was the right time to explore new opportunities both on and off the field.



*Winning try vs Glasgow
1872 Cup*



*Try vs Munster
Champions cup 2017*



*During 2024/25
season*

“I felt like I really had given everything for 10 years,” he said. “It’s a daunting thing doing something for 12 years. I played professionally, I left school on the Friday and I joined professional rugby on the Monday, so to do that for 12 years and suddenly start to see on the horizon that it doesn’t last forever, I think it was a really sensible move.”

Despite his departure, Dean remains a passionate supporter of Edinburgh Rugby and is eager to continue following the club’s progress.

“I think I was always an Edinburgh fan before I played and on Friday when I go and take my seat, that’ll be me firmly a fan again,” he said.

“And I think in the way that I’ve been able to finish on my own terms definitely cements the fact that I can’t wait to just support the players that take the field on Friday night and thereafter.”



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MARK BENNETT



EMILIANO BOFFELLI



CONNOR BOYLE



MAGNUS BRADBURY



ROB CARMICHAEL



DAVE CHERRY



LUKE CROSBIE



MATT CURRIE



TOM DODD



GRANT GILCHRIST



WES GOOSEN



DARCY GRAHAM



PADDY HARRISON



BEN HEALY



PAUL HILL



ROBIN HISLOP



JAMIE HODGSON



MIKEY JONES



JAMES LANG



ROSS MCCANN



LIAM MCCONNELL



BEN MUNCASTER



HARRY PATERSON



ALI PRICE



D'ARCY RAE



JAMIE RITCHIE



PIERRE SCHOEMAN



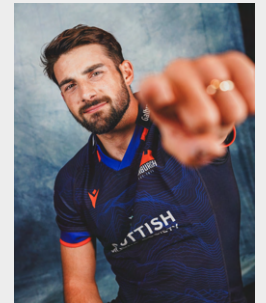
MATT SCOTT



CAMMY SCOTT



JAVAN SEBASTIAN



CHARLIE SHIEL



SAM SKINNER



NATHAN SWEENEY



MARSHALL SYKES



ROSS THOMPSON



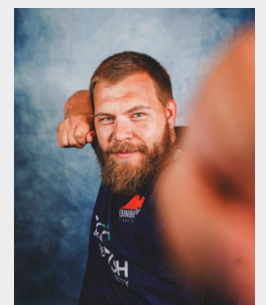
MOSESE TUIPULOTU



DUHAN VAN DER MERWE



BEN VELLACOTT



BOAN VENTER



HAMISH WATSON



ANGUS WILLIAMS



GLEN YOUNG

EDINBURGH RUGBY PRO-ACADEMY



Nairn Moncrieff

Hamish MacArthur

Jerry Blyth-Lafferty (hooker)

Hamish MacArthur (scrum-half)

Ollie Blyth-Lafferty (tighthead prop)

Conor McAlpine (scrum-half)

Jack Brown (full-back)

Euan McVie (lock)

Isaac Coates (fly-half)

Nairn Moncrieff (winger)

Tom Currie (back-row)

Harri Morris (hooker)

Freddy Douglas (back-row)

Hector Patterson (scrum-half)

Ollie Duncan (back-row)

Mac Rutherford (lock)

Jack Hocking (full-back)

Jamie Stewart (loosehead prop)

Mikey Jones (loosehead prop)

Findlay Thomson (centre)

Sam Leweni (centre)

Lewis Wells (winger)

Christian Lindsay (lock)

Ross Wolfenden (fly-half)

“With a larger group, we have a fantastic opportunity to nurture these young players and prepare them for the challenges of professional rugby.” – Head Coach Sean Everitt

EDINBURGH RUGBY

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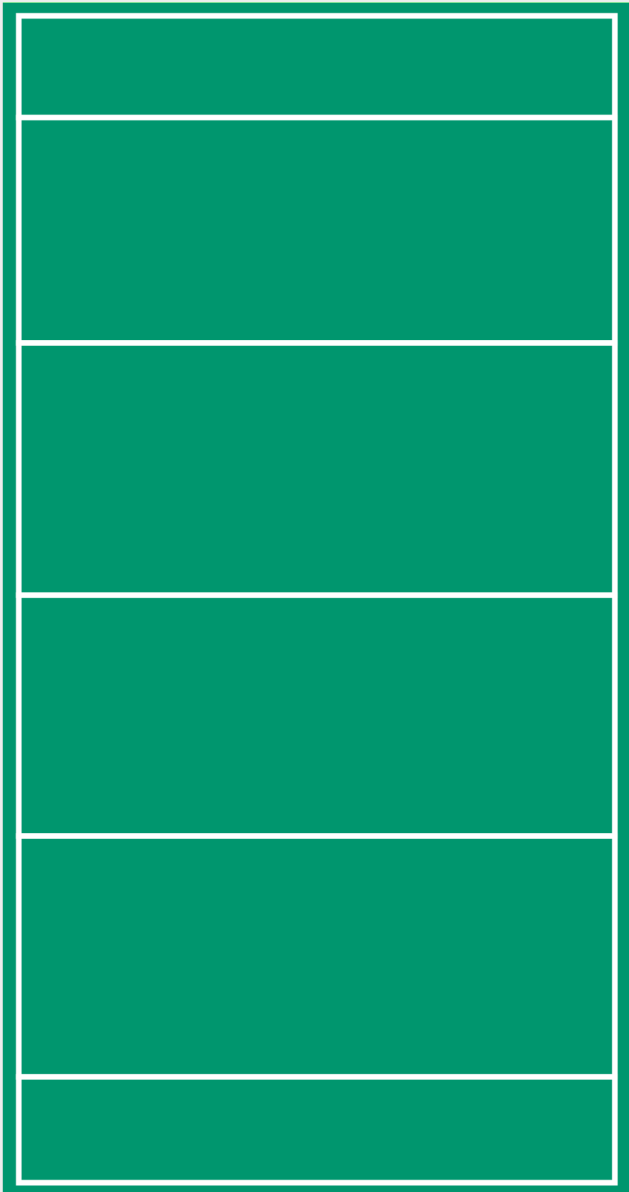
PLAYER TRY TRACKS

EWAN ASHMAN	INTO THE VALLEY	SKIDS
MARK BENNETT	YOU'RE WELCOME	DWAYNE JOHNSON
EMILIANO BOFFELLI	TRY - QUEVEDO: BZRP MUSIC SESSION KICK - PEPAS	TRY - BIZARRE, QUEVEDO KICK - FARRUKO
CONNOR BOYLE	FUNKY TOWN	LIPPS INC
MAGNUS BRADBURY	DELILAH (PULL ME OUT OF THIS)	FRED AGAIN.
ROB CARMICHAEL	BLITZKRIEG BOP	THE RAMONES
DAVE CHERRY	FIREBALL	PITBULL
LUKE CROSBIE	THE SPARK	KABIN CREW, LISDOONVARNA CREW
MATT CURRIE	SAMBA DE JANEIRO	BELLINI
TOM DODD	CRAZY	GNARLS BARKLEY
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
PAUL HILL	WWE: HERE COMES THE MONEY	WWE + JIM JOHNSTON
ROBIN HISLOP	LEVELS	AVICII
JAMIE HODGSON	UNDERDOG	KASABIAN
MIKEY JONES	GOLD DUST	DJ FRESH
JAMES LANG	BACKBONE	STORMZY
ROSS MCCANN	YOUR LOVE	THE OUTFIELD
LIAM MCCONNELL	CHELSEA DAGGER	THE FRATELLIS
HARRI MORRIS	5, 6, 7, 8	STEPS
BEN MUNCASTER	GIMME GIMME GIMME	ABBA
HARRY PATERSON	DUEL OF THE FATES	JOHN WILLIAMS
ALI PRICE	BELIEVE	CHER
D'ARCY RAE	SABOTAGE	BEASTIE BOYS
JAMIE RITCHIE	SEVEN NATION ARMY	WHITE STRIPES
PIERRE SCHOEMAN	THE GREATEST SHOW	THE GREATEST SHOWMAN ENSEMBLE
CAMMY SCOTT	CAN'T TAKE MY EYES OFF OF YOU	FRANKIE VALLI
MATT SCOTT	JUMP	VAN HALEN
JAVAN SEBASTIAN	MANY MEN	50 CENT
CHARLIE SHIEL	YES SIR I CAN BOOGIE	BACCARA
SAM SKINNER	CALIFORNIA DREAMIN'	THE MAMAS & THE PAPAS
NATHAN SWEENEY	HEY BABY	DJ OTZI
MARSHALL SYKES	A LITTLE LESS CONVERSATION	ELVIS PRESLEY JUNKIE XL EDIT
ROSS THOMPSON	FREE BIRD	MOONLIGHT
MOSESE TUIPULOTU	FLEX (OOH, OOH OOH)	RICH HOMIE QUAN
DUHAN VAN DER MERWE	L'AMOUR TOUJOURS	GIGI D'AGOSTINO
BEN VELLACOTT	HOUDINI	EMINEM
BOAN VENTER	LIVING ON A PRAYER	BON JOVI
HAMISH WATSON	THIS IS THE ONE	STONE ROSES
ANGUS WILLIAMS	BACK IN BLACK	ACDC
GLEN YOUNG	WE LIKE TO PARTY	VENGABOYS

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TERRACE B

TERRACE A

MURRAYFIELD STAND

STAIR 14-16

STAIR 10-12



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STAIR 1-4



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STAIR 5

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STAIR 24-26



LOTHIAN STAND

STAIR 20-23

STAIR 17-19



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PRESS PASS SEAN EVERITT



“We didn’t achieve our targets from last year, so for me we all know we are a team that can finish in the top eight, and we also know that we are a team that for the majority of the season sat in the top five.”

On Grant Gilchrist and Ben Vellacott being named co-captains

“I think the club has gone through enough change over the last 12 months to also change leadership which is working really well.

“As we know, they complement each other. When Gilco is on international duty or needs a bit of a break, Ben steps in and takes over. It is good to have two leaders in the group.

“At times Ben has been on the bench behind Ali Price, so if Gilco comes off early then it is good to have a captain to come on at scrum-half, who is in line with the team and the plan, so it has worked well for us and the team enjoys the leadership.”



“We would like to finish in the top four. We also feel that we can compete in the knock-out stage of the Challenge Cup, if not contest the final.”

On squad strength

“Last year was quite disrupted because we didn’t have everyone here for the pre-season.

“I know we have some people arriving later than normal, but we’ve had a minimum of five weeks together for everyone to prepare, which we didn’t have last year and was really tough for the players.

“Last year we had guys coming back from the World Cup and having only two days to prepare before the Dragons game, so it is chalk and cheese to what we had. The numbers we have at training now is really different to what we had last year, so we are really well prepared.”



Mosese Tuipulotu in training



Grant Gilchrist before facing Gloucester

On squad rotation

“The international players shouldn’t play more than five [in a row]. My philosophy is that we should try to rotate players before we get to that point anyway and that’s why I’ve pushed the depth in the squad.

“I suppose if we run into a spot of bother it’s a discussion we can have with the powers that be but my job here is to look after the wellbeing of the players and if you look at the load that they are carrying in November added to the four games in December, I wouldn’t be doing them any favours if I played all the players in my squad for more than five games in a row.

“I want a fresh squad, I want a rejuvenated squad and if everyone is playing within our group there is a lot more energy in the team room and the changing room so that’s our goal.”

“regardless of what Leinster team we play against, whether it be with their internationals or without, we’re in for a hell of a tough game.”



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MAGNUS BRADBURY



“Not a lot has changed, but that’s why I came back. Some of the boys I’ve been pals with here for years are parts of the furniture now, like Mish and Gilly, Jamie, Chez, those sort of boys. It’s good to come back in a squad like that - that same strong core group that really wants the best for the club. It’s exciting to be part of it. I’m back in my same spot in the changing room, I didn’t have to kick anyone out of that spot, which is good.

“Obviously there’s a new coach and a new playing style and some system things - I’ve maybe still to pick up the finer details on that. What he talks about is a no-fuss game, so we’re happy to exit, we’re happy to kick the ball back, but we can also pull the trigger, which is slightly different to the way Mike, particularly Mike’s first year, was when I left.

“You probably looked at it as all-out attack, whereas it was more sort of mess around. We found ourselves getting turned over in our own half and leaking some weak points there.

“This is a no-fuss game plan, but the attack stuff goes hand in hand with what I’ve been working with down south for the past two years, so it’s an exciting place to be.

I’d say I believe I’m a wee bit more mature. The way I played down south, and the way Bristol played, was a challenge to begin with. It was sort of sink or swim. I had to learn those soft skills, I had to learn how to play in the wide channels, be effective in there - not just carrying, but facilitating play as well.

“And I loved it. I loved playing that style down there. The Prem is attritional, so you’ve still got that physicality, you’re still getting battered week in, week out. And I think I was shocked by that, because I was being told a lot by exiles - like Sam Skinner and those boys in camp - that the Prem potentially was something different. They weren’t lying: it is tough.

“But that soft play, and the way Bristol wanted to play, has just developed me tremendously.”



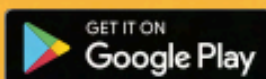
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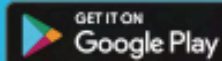


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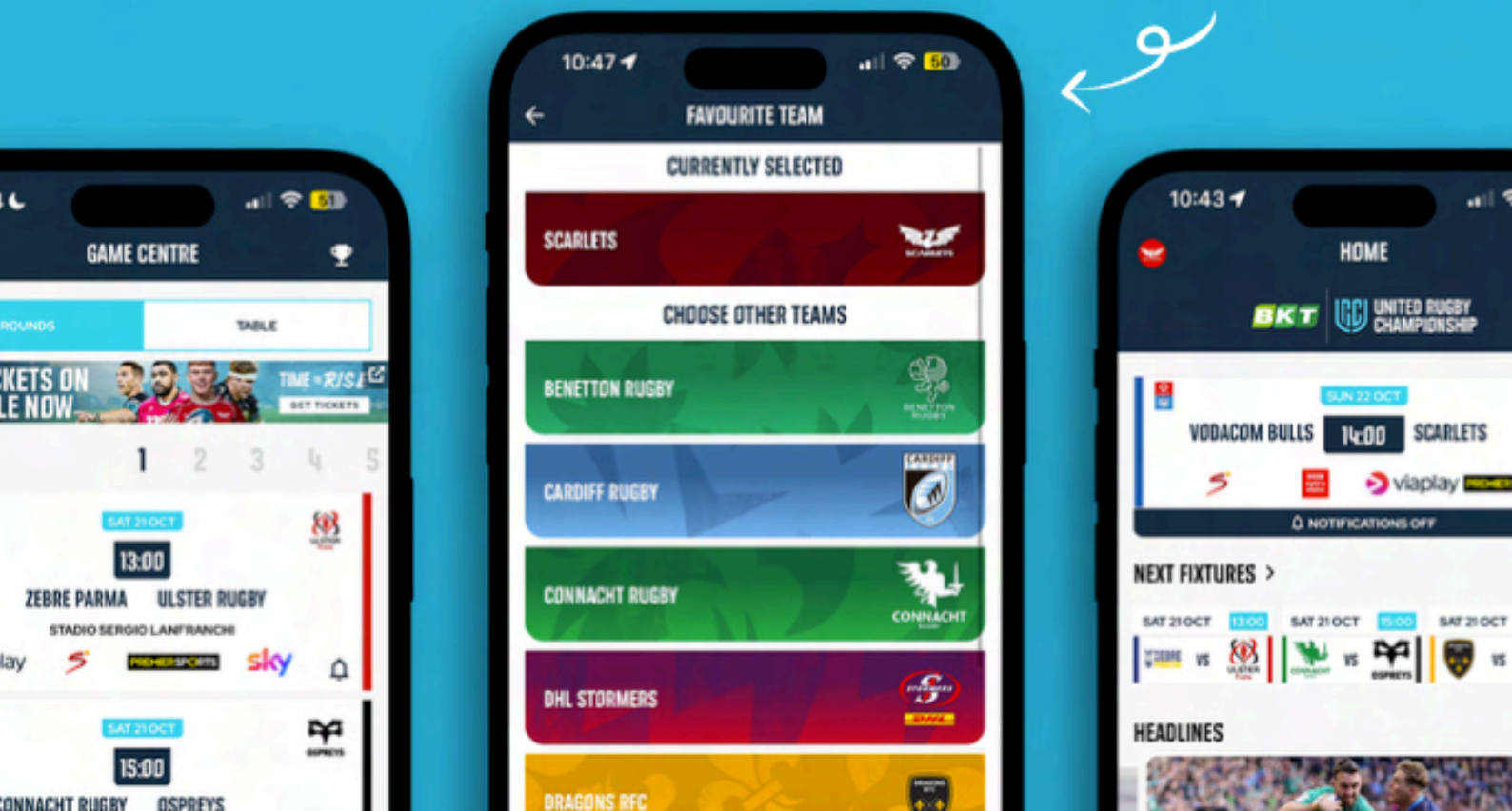


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LAST TIME OUT

EDINBURGH RUGBY 33 - 26 GLOUCESTER RUGBY

A second-half comeback saw Edinburgh Rugby kickstart the season with a 33-26 victory against Gloucester at Hive Stadium.

Trailing 19-26 at the break, second-half tries from Tom Dodd and Dave Cherry secured the win, alongside some heroic defence from an all-new XV that was changed at the interval.

Darcy Graham grabbed a score on his return from injury while summer recruits Moses Tuipulotu, Ross

Thompson, Matt Scott, Magnus Bradbury and Paul Hill all showed up well in a contest that was a real game of two halves.

Gloucester grabbed the first score of the evening as centre Max Llewellyn powered over after three minutes, finishing a cutting move which saw the hosts showcase plenty of power in the loose. Edinburgh hit back almost immediately with a beautifully worked score finished by the returning Graham.



With the ball in the Gloucester 22, quick service put Tuipulotu in space and the centre was able to find Graham who leaped into the Murrayfield end corner, bringing Hive Stadium to its feet.

A big hit from Tuipulotu – that forced his opposite man into touch – kept momentum in his side’s favour, however the visitors were quick to regain the lead as Zach Mercer showcased his strength to muscle over.

With scrum-half Tomos Williams finishing a well-worked score, the Cherry & Whites extended their lead and looked to be building towards a sizeable half-time lead, but Sean Everitt’s side showcased a bit of grit to cut the deficit.

With a strong lineout drive edging the capital pack within metres of the Gloucester whitewash, Bradbury was too big and too strong to be stopped.

With Gloucester adding another score from prop Afo Fasogbon, the visitors held a 19-26 lead at the break.

Sean Everitt rang the changes at the break with an all-new XV and they brought the energy from the restart.

With Ben Muncaster and Connor Boyle bundles of energy in the back-row, it was another flanker Tom Dodd who wrestled over to level the encounter, bringing Hive Stadium to its feet.

With the hosts in the ascendance, the pack were turning the screw and with every hard yard and abrasive carry edging the hosts forward, Gloucester were in reverse as the ref started to whistle.

And when Healy nudged a penalty into the corner, Dave Cherry was the man who touched down to complete the comeback.

From attack to defence, Edinburgh were camped on their own line for the final 15 minutes however guts and courageous scrambling kept Gloucester out, giving the hosts a deserved Scottish Building Society pre-season win.

“There were a lot of pleasing things to take out of that and a lot of work we put in in the off season was on show, and that is what these games are for. It was also pleasing to see the newcomers have settled in well in the pre-season.”

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