

EDINBURGH

E D I N B U R G H R U G B Y V S C A R D I F F

Saturday 19th October 2024, 5.15pm kick-off

*Managing director's welcome
Grant Gilchrist feature / Press Pass*



UNITED RUGBY
CHAMPIONSHIP



BKT UNITED RUGBY CHAMPIONSHIP



HITS

DIFFÉRENT





DOUGLAS STRUTH WELCOME



Good evening and welcome back to Hive Stadium as we take on Cardiff Rugby in Round 5 of the BKT United Rugby Championship.

Last week was undoubtedly tough for the squad and management after a hugely disappointing loss in Johannesburg and I couldn't have been prouder to see how the squad reacted and put in their best performance of the season so far.

There was a lot of pressure for the team to perform and they stepped up to the challenge with a huge amount of guts and determination. We started with a bang and never took our foot off the gas.

That was DHL Stormers biggest defeat since joining the URC which shows the level of our performance – so hats off to everyone involved in the victory.

Your support on the night was incredible and I can't thank the Edinburgh fans enough for making it such a special night at Hive Stadium.

The 6,914 crowd was our biggest ever attendance against South African opposition at Hive Stadium and showcases our continued growth as a club and fan base.

*Edinburgh Rugby vs Cardiff Rugby
BKT United Rugby Championship*



five teams and over 100 players take part in a tournament ahead of Saturday night's Cardiff match.

Rugby is a special sport and making it inclusive for all is huge part of our club ethos. We will be honouring a playing member of each inclusive team ahead of kick-off as they deliver the match ball and I'd encourage all our fans to show your appreciation to those brilliant inclusive teams in attendance.

Let's go again this Saturday and make it a night to remember at Hive Stadium.

Thanks for your support!

*Douglas Struth,
Managing Director*

If the message last week was 'talk is cheap' then there's no doubt our message this week is to back it up. It's imperative we maintain the levels of effort shown against DHL Stormers as we welcome a very dangerous Cardiff Rugby side to the Scottish capital.

As Sean spoke about in press earlier this week, Cardiff not only have plenty of dangerous playmakers in their backline, but they have a strong and organised set-piece. We'll need to be ready for the threats they pose come kick-off on Saturday night.

Away from on-field performance, we're really proud to be hosting the third Edinburgh Rugby x Scottish Building Society inclusive (mixed ability rugby) festival which will see





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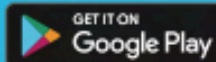
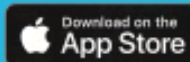


GOING PLACES TOGETHER

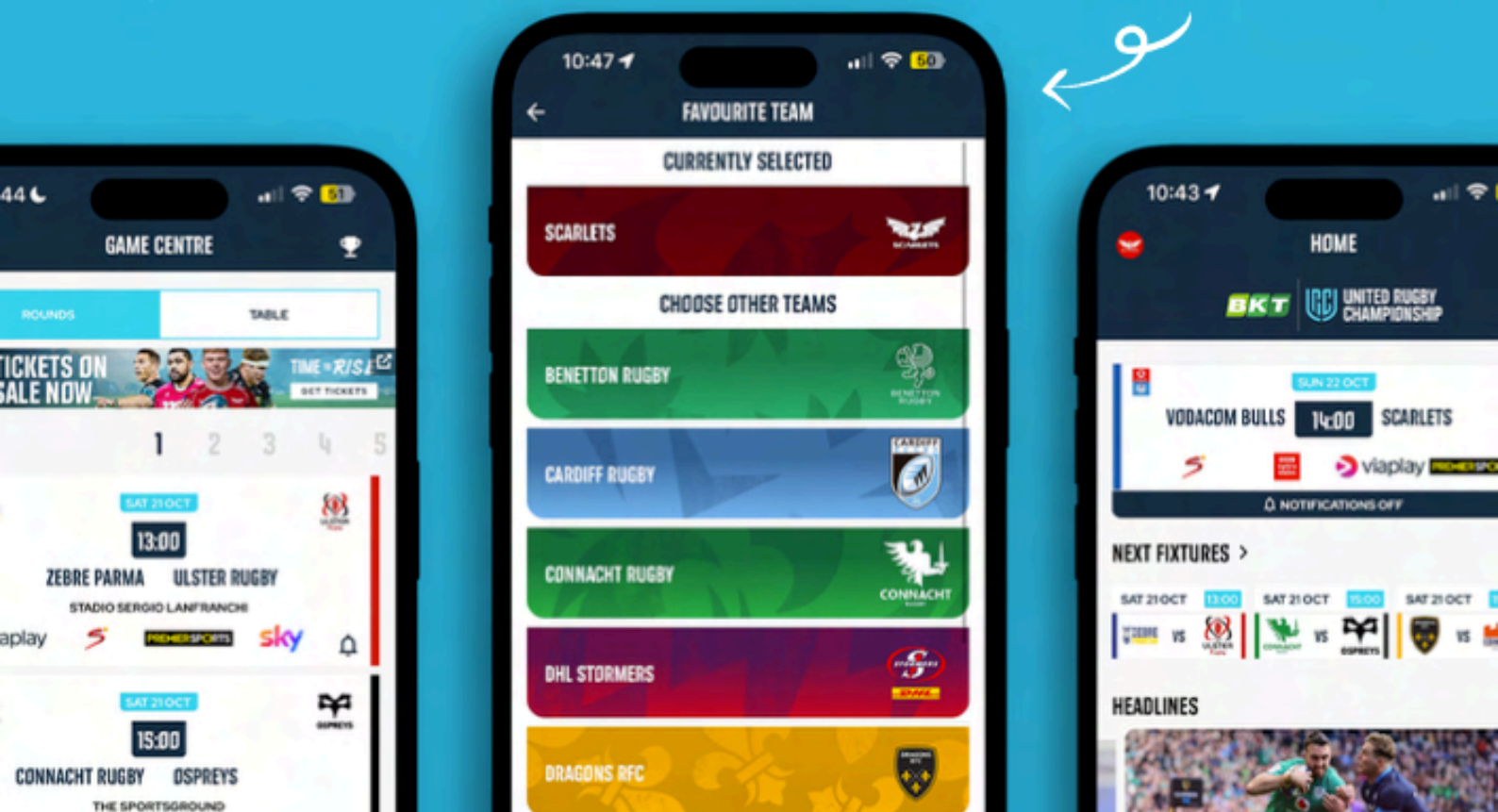


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TEAM LINEUPS

EDINBURGH RUGBY vs CARDIFF RUGBY

<i>Wes Goosen</i>	15.	<i>Cam Winnett</i>
<i>Darcy Graham</i>	14.	<i>Gabriel Hamer-Webb</i>
<i>Matt Currie</i>	13.	<i>Mason Grady</i>
<i>Moses Tuipulotu</i>	12.	<i>Rory Jennings</i>
<i>Duhan van der Merwe</i>	11.	<i>Iwan Stephens</i>
<i>Ross Thompson</i>	10.	<i>Callum Sheedy (C)</i>
<i>Ali Price</i>	9.	<i>Aled Davies</i>

<i>Boan Venter</i>	1.	<i>Ed Byrne</i>
<i>Paddy Harrison</i>	2.	<i>Dafydd Hughes</i>
<i>D'arcy Rae</i>	3.	<i>Rhys Litterick</i>
<i>Marshall Sykes</i>	4.	<i>Josh McNally</i>
<i>Grant Gilchrist (C)</i>	5.	<i>Teddy Williams</i>
<i>Luke Crosbie</i>	6.	<i>James Botham</i>
<i>Ben Muncaster</i>	7.	<i>Thomas Young</i>
<i>Magnus Bradbury</i>	8.	<i>Alun Lawrence.</i>

*16. Ewan Ashman 17. Pierre Schoeman
18. Paul Hill 19. Jamie Hodgson
20. Hamish Watson 21. Ben Vellacott
22. Cammy Scott 23. Matt Scott*

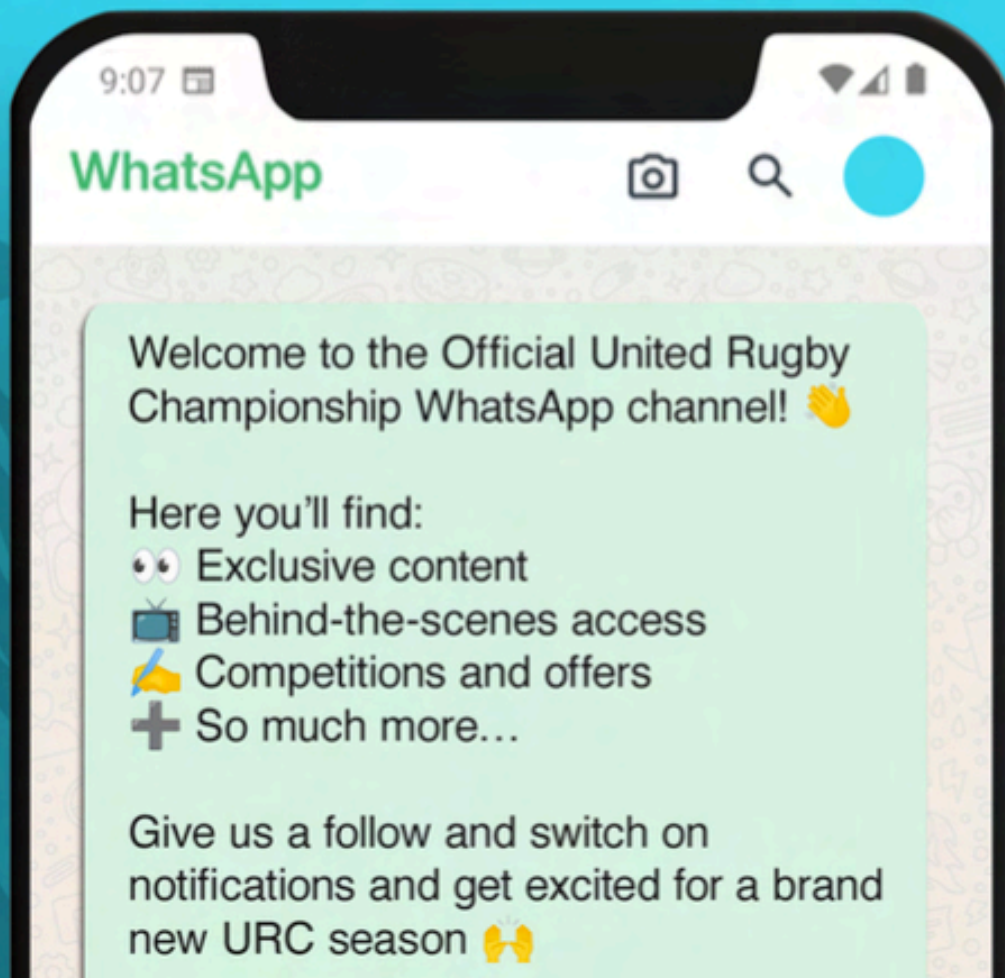
*16. Evan Lloyd 17. Danny Southworth
18. Keiron Assiratti 19. Rory Thornton
20. Alex Mann 21. Mackenzie Martin
22. Johan Mulder 23. Ben Thomas*





UNITED RUGBY
CHAMPIONSHIP

WHATSAPP CHANNEL





GRANT GILCHRIST

We're not going away

When the full-time whistle went on Saturday, Edinburgh Rugby co-captain Grant Gilchrist held a defiant gaze.

The lock, who crossed the whitewash in Saturday's emphatic victory of DHL Stormers, undoubtedly felt a sense of both relief and pride that his side had

bounced back and secured a much needed victory in front of the Hive Stadium faithful.

"We had all the answers in the room," he said. "It was just about making sure we used [the Lions defeat] as motivation."



“I didn’t feel like we were under pressure to a level which we couldn’t deal with or which was beyond us. But our job as always is to speak on the pitch on a Friday or Saturday.

“There’s nothing you can say after a performance like we had in Johannesburg. It was unacceptable. We were really hard internally.

“Everybody has a right to their keyboard and to write whatever they like. They seem to be pretty sharp on Edinburgh, which I actually quite enjoyed because it has brought a real edge to us. That’s an edge we’re going to need for the whole season.”

Gilchrist’s try on Saturday was his first at home since 2018, and followed on from his try the previous weekend at Emirates Airlines Park.

“My strike rate over the course of my career needs a bit of work,” laughed Gilchrist.

We’re not going away



“But make hay while the sun shines eh? It’s not really in my job description but we’ve been doing a lot of pick-and-go work and getting in. If it’s something you can add to your game, I’m always looking for ways to improve. Long may it continue.”

With a number of senior locks out injured, Gilchrist has played the majority of minutes in the capital engine room.

Gilchrist isn’t complaining however and has relished the opportunity to step up as a senior player when the chips are down.

“I relish it. In big weeks for the club like last week, the senior guys have to stand up.

“We’ve got so much quality, so many you lads coming through, they just need the guidance and people with experience in leadership to stand up and give them the support to allow them to go and play with the freedom they can bring.

“And I relish that. I loved the whole week last week because these weeks make you a better person and a better player, a better character and you learn a lot.

“As a senior player, it is about telling guys: ‘I don’t want anyone else – I just want the best version of everyone – I want the best version of myself, the best Ben Muncaster, the best Paddy Harrison – I don’t them worrying about trying to save us all, they don’t need to save anything – look around and look at the team and do your job – and the week you are under pressure is a real privilege and a real chance for everyone to grow.’”

“I loved the way the boys stood up at the weekend, but it’s not going to go away – so we’re not going to go away.”

Looking ahead to Saturday night’s showdown with Cardiff Rugby, Gilchrist is determined to continue proving the doubters wrong.

“We started to [answer the critics on Saturday], but they’re going to turn up again this weekend and it’s about us proving everyone wrong every week from now until the end of the season,” he said.

We’re not going away



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MARSHALL SYKES

BUILDING MINUTES AND MAKING EDINBURGH HOME



Edinburgh Rugby lock Marshall Sykes has enjoyed an impressive start to the season, featuring in all four rounds of BKT United Rugby Championship action.

The Scotland internationalist has been a key figure in the capital side's engine room, and his contributions have not gone unnoticed, with Sykes voted Scottish Building Society Player of the Month for September.

“Yeah, my mum made a lot of fake email accounts,” joked Sykes. “No, it was good! As I say, it's tricky when you've won Player of the Month after a couple of losses, but at the same time, it just motivates you to keep pushing on and trying to improve performance each week.”

Sykes has enjoyed increased playing time so far this this season, starting against Leinster, Vodacom Bulls and Emirates Lions in Rounds 1 to 3, before coming off the bench in Saturday's impressive victory over DHL Stormers at Hive Stadium.

“It was my goal coming into the pre-season to build minutes. I'm still not entirely happy with performances, there's obviously a lot to grow on.”

The win over DHL Stormers was a significant boost for both Sykes and Edinburgh, with the capital side bouncing back from a heavy defeat in Johannesburg in Round 3.



With the pressure on to secure a win in front of the Hive Stadium faithful, Sean Everitt's side delivered.

"I think it was more of an expectation," continued Sykes. "I suppose you could say we put pressure on ourselves, because of all the external noise, but at the end of the day, the castle wasn't broken.

"We just had to get our stuff right. We knew what we had to do, and you could see that we put that out there against Stormers.

"Obviously it wasn't the complete performance, and that's what we'll be going for against Cardiff this weekend."

Sykes was particularly impressed with Edinburgh's execution and dominance in Saturday's 38-7 victory over DHL Stormers, which saw the South African side suffer their largest ever URC loss.

"Yeah, it was such a great feeling after Stormers. Even in the game, robotic isn't the word, but we had our processes, and we just kept rinsing and repeating it.

"I think we put pressure on them, and that forced a lot of errors, and got us to where we wanted to play, and you could see we were converting."

At the age of just 24, Sykes has already amassed 66 appearances for Edinburgh Rugby since making his debut during the 2020-21 season.

However, despite the knowledge he brings to the capital pack, Sykes admits he is still learning from more experienced campaigners like Grant Gilchrist and Sam Skinner.



“I’m still learning it myself. Obviously, I’ve got probably the physical side that I bring to it, but there’s so much of the technical side I’m learning at the moment.

“Everyone in the second-row is real competitive. Yes, there’s little bits, but I think in general, the locks, we’ve all got our own expertise. I think a big thing for us over the past couple of years is we try to help each other.

“There’s no animosity between us if someone’s picked and someone’s not. It’s just driving that culture of improving each other, because the more we compete, if someone gets dropped, someone’s playing better, something like that, in the bigger picture, we’re all going to play, but the team’s going to win more.”

Not just content with making waves on the pitch, Sykes has enjoyed plenty of recent highlights away from the rugby field too.

Having got engaged to long-term girlfriend Lucy in April, Sykes and his partner are more than settled in a city that he now calls home.

“I’m over the moon she said yes! It really is the old cliché of I feel like the luckiest man alive,” explained Sykes.

“When me and Lucy moved to Scotland, I was 19 and Lucy was 18. It was pretty intense for a young couple to move during the heights of COVID.

“But no, Edinburgh is now home for us. We’ve got a little dog here, Barney. A little beagle, he keeps us on his toes. So no, we absolutely love it here.



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GRANT GILCHRIST



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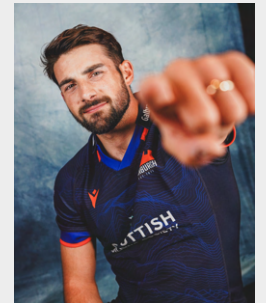
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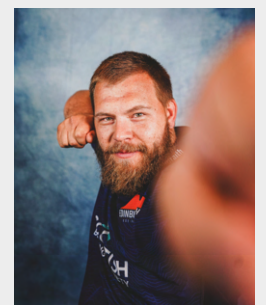
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DUHAN VAN DER MERWE



BEN VELLACOTT



BOAN VENTER



HAMISH WATSON



ANGUS WILLIAMS



GLEN YOUNG

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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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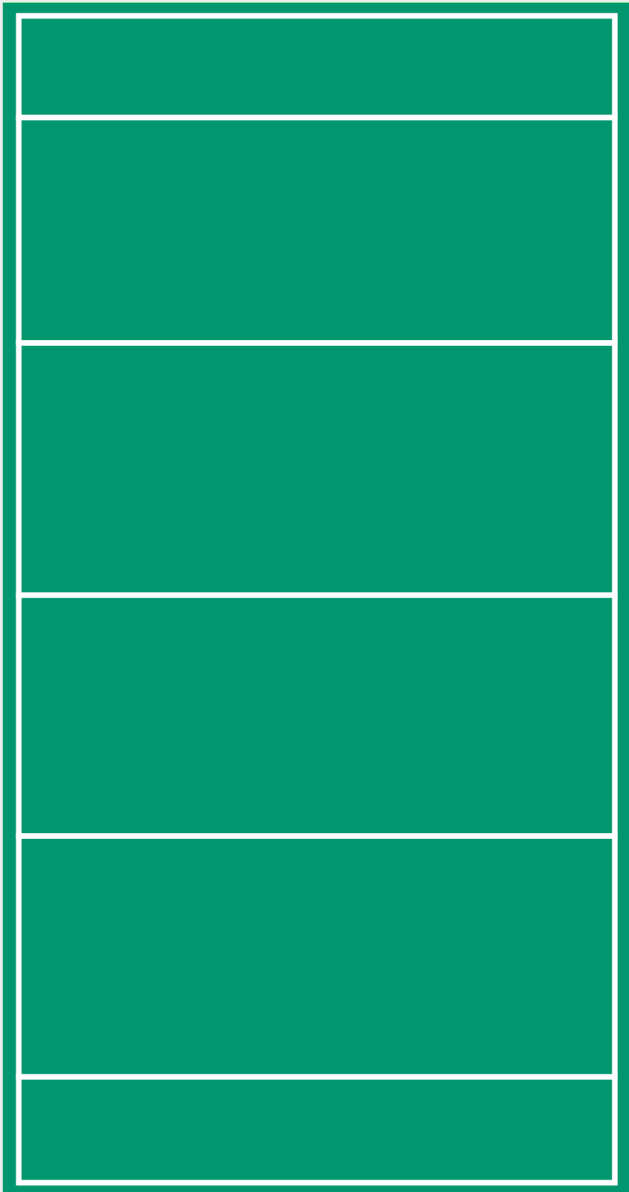
PLAYER TRY TRACKS

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
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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 A

MURRAYFIELD STAND

STAIR 14-16

STAIR 10-12



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STAIR 17-19

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TERRACE D

TERRACE C

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PRESS PASS SEAN EVERITT



“Our players are proud Edinburgh boys, a lot of them grew up within the city and they have social responsibility and they do appreciate the support that we get from people within the region.”

“There’s obviously a lot of happiness within the camp after the disappointment of the first three rounds, the guys can be pleased with their performance and deservedly so. It was a performance that we’ve been waiting for as a group.

“The pressure that they were under last week to perform on Saturday was immense and like I said in any professional sport, there is pressure, and the guys responded really well and hats off to the leadership group.

“They took accountability for the team’s performance as so did we as a coaching group as well. “We had good talk about it and managed to put it together so yes there’s always going to be an element of happiness and joy when you put together a performance like that after the first three weeks that we’ve experienced.”

“The guys can be pleased with their performance, and deservedly so”



On Cardiff

“Cardiff is a team that’s growing, they showed a lot of potential last year within this competition.”

“I think they lost by less than five points on 10 occasions. Obviously with that they got a lot of losing bonus points. They’ve got dangerous players within their group.

“Their backs have scored the majority of their tries and they’ve managed to combine that now with a really strong set-piece and that’s become a weapon of theirs. In all aspects of the game, we need to be really sharp on Saturday to be able to get the win.”



On Paddy Harrison and Ben Muncaster

“It’s important for Scottish rugby that these youngsters get the opportunities and they certainly grabbed those opportunities that they’ve had with both hands, I think what’s important for us is that these youngsters bring a lot of energy to the team. They’re fearless in a way and they also want to make their mark in the URC and put their hands up for international selection. We’re just proud of how they’ve stepped up.

“It’s not easy when you’re a youngster of 21 or 22 years playing in a big competition like this against experienced men.

“The opposition that they faced against the Stormers were immense and the guys that are seasoned campaigners and some of them Springboks in those positions too. So, I’m just proud of how they’ve done and hopefully they can build on those performances.”

“We gave them what they wanted and we’ve got to take it on the chin.”



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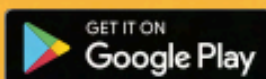
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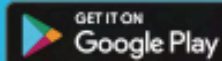


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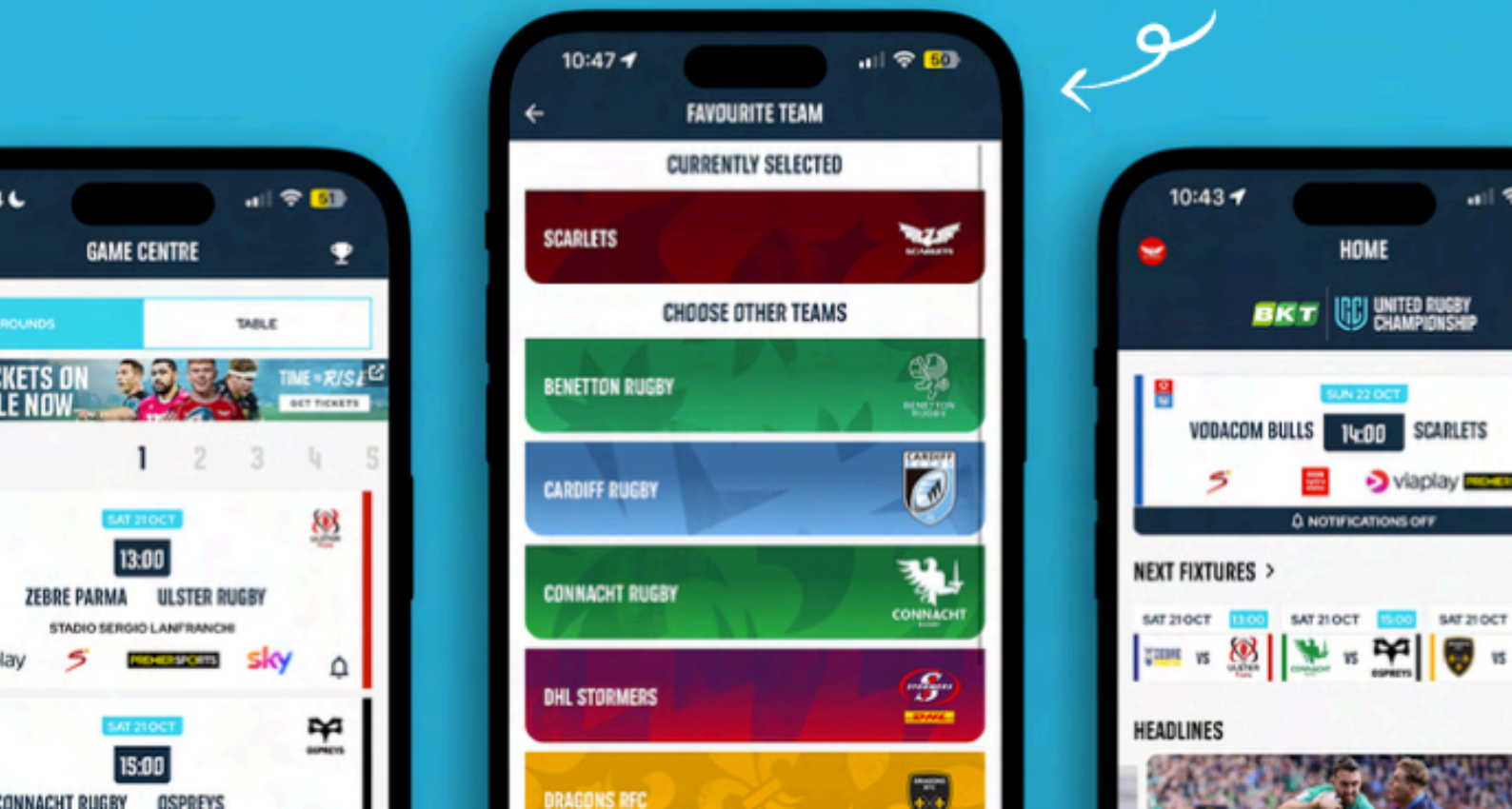


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LAST TIME OUT

EDINBURGH RUGBY 38 - 7 DHL STORMERS

Edinburgh bounced back from last week's defeat in Johannesburg to secure their first victory of the United Rugby Championship season with an impressive bonus-point victory over DHL Stormers at Hive Stadium.

First-half tries from Patrick Harrison and Ben Muncaster set them on their way, while Ruhan Nel's try ensured Stormers were within seven at the break.

Edinburgh took control in the second half, with Darcy Graham and Grant Gilchrist crossing, as well as a

second Muncaster try, in addition to 11 points from the boot of Ross Thompson as the hosts ended their three-match losing run.

Edinburgh needed a response after last weekend's disappointing defeat and started on the front foot before their own fans. Gilchrist led the way by crashing over the line early, but further inspection from the TMO showed the captain had failed to ground the ball properly and the score was ruled out.



The home side did not let the momentum slip though, and Harrison burrowed over from close range for the opening try.

Stormers barely had time to gather themselves before Edinburgh struck again, Muncaster bursting through, stepping Leolin Zas and charging to the line for a wonderful try.

The South Africans finally came to life on the half hour, pounding the Edinburgh line until Damien Willemse sent Ruhan Nel crashing over to get the visitors on the board.

The momentum of the match had swung entirely, and only some ferocious Edinburgh defence kept the Stormers out in the closing stages of the first half.

The visitors kept coming after the break and Edinburgh had a let-off early in the second half. Graham was stripped of the ball in his own 22 and the ball was whipped wide to Zas to dive over, but the TMO spotted an infringement in the build-up and the try was chalked off.

Edinburgh gradually regained the initiative, worked their way up the pitch and got a little breathing space when Graham finished off a period of pressure to dive over in the corner.

Having scored his first Edinburgh try in six years against Lions last weekend, and having one ruled out early on here, Gilchrist clearly had a taste for the try line and he powered over from close range to secure his side the four-try bonus point.

Muncaster ploughed over for his second try in the final play of the game to cap a superb player-of-the-match display.

Edinburgh Head Coach Sean Everitt said: “This team has never lacked character under my leadership. I’m just glad that they were able to put in the performance and get the result that they did against a quality Stormers outfit.

“It’s been a difficult week for everyone. It was always going to be a tricky start, to this competition. But it just shows what this team can do with good game management and good leadership.”

“The leaders took responsibility for having gone a little bit off strategy last week. This week we got it right and hopefully we can build on it.”

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