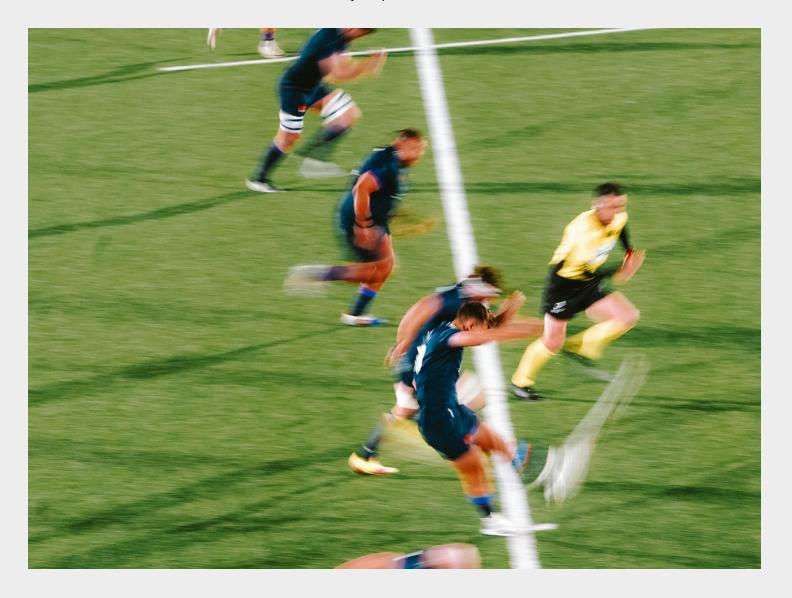


Saturday 12 April, 12.30pm kick-off

Managing director's welcome Ross Thompson feature / Press Pass





















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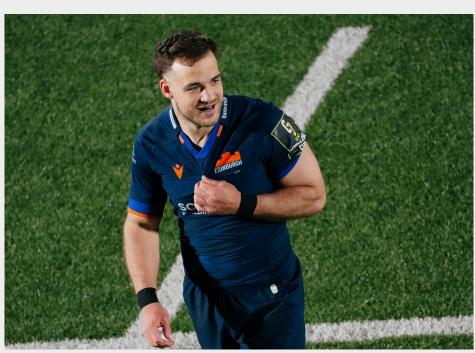
TruetScore 4.7 out of 5



- OUT OF THE ORDINARY



DOUGLAS STRUTH WELCOME



Good afternoon and welcome to Hive Stadium as we welcome Vodacom Bulls for the EPCR Challenge Cup Quarter Final.

It's incredibly exciting to have knockout rugby in the capital, with Hive Stadium playing host to a quarter-final match for the first time since we welcomed Wasps in 2022.

We made it to the final eight in last year's competition, and the squad are desperate to go one better, with the carrot of a home semi-final on the line.

It'll be no mean feat getting through the Bulls, the men from Pretoria having been URC finalists twice in the last three seasons. We've had some great tussles against the Bulls in that time, with the final scoreline being rarely settled by more than a score, including this season where we took a losing bonus point from our league clash at Loftus Versfeld.

To face such a prestigious team in the Scottish sun is something we're relishing, the squad is eager to get out there and make us all proud.

It has been an incredibly busy week off the field, with news of re-signings and new signings flooding out of the club!

DOUGLAS STRUTHWELCOME



The stable has grown with the news that Dylan Richardson will join us in the summer. The Scotland international is capable of competing at international level at both Hooker and Back-row, so brings a real quality and versatility to the squad. We're all excited to welcome Dylan when he moves across from Durban!

It was also great to see a product from closer to home get their first runout for the capital, with Scotland U20 full-back Jack Brown earning his debut last weekend. Jack has been waiting patiently for his chance, and i'm sure it will be the first of many in the capital colours!

It's a hugely exciting time to be an Edinburgh Rugby fan, and I'm thrilled to have knockout rugby being played at our home. Fingers crossed it won't be the last time this season.

Make some noise, and enjoy the game!

Douglas Struth, Managing Director Firstly, though, i'd like to say a word for Dave Cherry and Ali Price. The experienced duo will be departing the capital at the end of the season for pastures new, and i'd like to thank them for their dedication to the jersey. There's still plenty of rugby for both to be played between now and their departure, but i'm sure you'll join me in wishing them both all the best in their next steps.

Thursday saw us make a triple announcement, with all of our stand-offs signing new deals in the capital. Ben Healy, Ross Thompson, and Cammy Scott form a really young and exciting trio of 10s, all with different strengths they can bring to the team. It's exciting to have such a stable of young talent at our disposal, and i'm eager to see how they all develop in their futures at the club.





DOM MCKAY **EPCR WELCOME**

Dear Rugby fans,

On behalf of EPCR, I am delighted to welcome you to these eagerly awaited Round of 16 and Quarter-Final matches the first knockout weekends of the 2024/2025 season. Following a thrilling and action-packed pool stage, with progression going right down to the wire, we now enter the knockout phase, where every match will be decisive. The pressure is intense, and this is the time when the courage and team spirit of our participating clubs will truly be tested.

The 30th season of our competition is a significant milestone in EPCR's history, and it is thanks to the dedication and passion of the players, clubs, and of course, you, our incredible supporters, that we continue to grow this competition. Your energy and enthusiasm add a unique dimension to every match.

I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our valued partners who make this event possible: Investec, DHL, Georgia Tourism, OMODA | JAECOO, Tissot, Gilbert, and Macron. A special thanks to Investec, our title partner, for their unwavering support, which enables us to continue delivering an exceptional tournament.

The upcoming matches are crucial, and we know that every team will be fighting to move one step closer to Cardiff 2025. This journey is both exciting and historic, and we look forward to experiencing every moment with you.

May the passion for rugby continue to shine, and may the best team win. We look forward to seeing you in the stadiums, ready to write the next chapters of this incredible story.

yours in rugby. Dominic McKay, EPCR Chairman















STEP UP REAL RUGBY











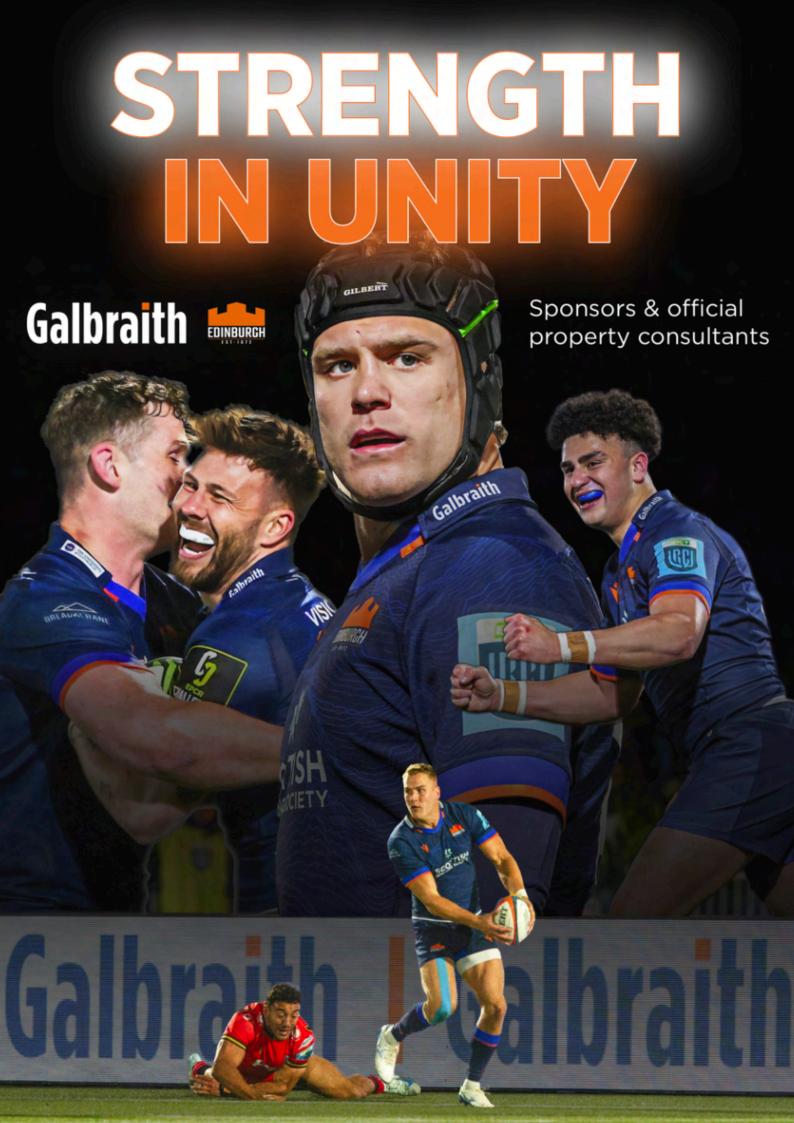




JAIECOO

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TEAM LINEUPS

EDINBURGH RUGBY VODACOM BULLS 7)S

Devon Williams Wes Goosen 15.

Darcy Graham Sergeal Petersen 14.

Matt Currie David Kriel 13.

Harold Vorster James Lang 12.

Ross McCann Stravino Jacobs 11.

Ross Thompson Keagan Johannes 10.

Ben Vellacott (CC) Zak Burger 9.

> Boan Venter Simphiwe Matanzima 1.

Ewan Ashman Akker van der Merwe 2.

Javan Sebastian Wilco Louw 3.

> Sam Skinner Ruan Nortje (C) 4.

Grant Gilchrist (CC) 5. IF van Heerden

> *Famie Ritchie* 6. Marcell Coetzee

Hamish Watson Jannes Kirsten 7.

Magnus Bradbury 8. Cameron Hanekon

16. Dave Cherry 17. Pierre Schoeman 18. Angus Williams 19. Rob Carmichael 20. Ben Muncaster 21. Ali Price 22. Cammy Scott 23. Jack Brown 16. Johan Grobelaar 17. JH Wessels 18. Mornay Smith 19. Reinhardt Ludwig 20. Marco van Staden 21. Embrose Papier 22. Johan Goosen 23. Canan Moodie















ROSS THOMPSON

'Making it home again'

Edinburgh Rugby is delighted to announce Scotland international stand-off Ross Thompson has signed a two-year contract extension with the club, committing his future to the capital side.

The 25-year-old Edinburgh-born playmaker has made a significant impact in his debut season at the club, featuring in 20 matches, including 16 starts, since his summer move from Glasgow Warriors.

Thompson's impressive form has seen him nominated for the March Scottish Building Society Player of the Month, having already picked up the award in October.

He is set to play a pivotal role in Edinburgh's EPCR Challenge Cup Quarter-Final against Vodacom Bulls this Saturday, building on his standout performance in the Round of 16 victory over Emirates Lions.







On penning a two-year extension, Thompson said: "Extending my contract with Edinburgh was an easy decision. Coming back to the city where I was born and raised, and making it my home again, has been fantastic.

"I feel like I'm growing in confidence with every game I play, and the support from the fans and the team has been incredible. To achieve something special with this club, in my hometown, would mean the world to me. I played all my school rugby in Edinburgh, so to be back and contributing to the team's success is a dream come true."

Thompson, who was schooled at Stewart's Melville College and later studied Law at the University of Glasgow, came through the ranks at both Glasgow Hawks and Ayrshire Bulls before signing a pro deal with Glasgow Warriors.

The stand-off quickly established himself as a key player and would go on to become the third fastest player to reach 100 points in Warriors' history and is one of only four players to break the 100-point mark in their debut season at Scotstoun.

Thompson then won both Young Player of the Season and Player's of the Season in only his second season in professional rugby with the Warriors.

Thompson's Scotland career began in 2021 with his debut against Tonga, and he has since earned seven caps, including appearances on the 2024 summer tour of the Americas against Canada and the USA. His Edinburgh Rugby debut came against Leinster in Round 1 of this season's URC, marking him as player #1334 to represent the capital club.



Thompson's commitment follows the club's announcement of extensions for Cammy Scott and Ben Healy, reinforcing Edinburgh's strength at fly-half.

Edinburgh Rugby Head Coach, Sean Everitt, said: "Ross has been a fantastic addition to the squad. His impact since joining the club has been significant, and it's been great to see him grow in confidence throughout the season. He's a smart player with a great kicking game and excellent distribution.

"It's brilliant to see Edinburgh-born lads leading the team, and Ross embodies the passion and commitment we want to see. Edinburgh fans should be excited with his re-signing, and we look forward to seeing him continue to develop and contribute to our success over the next two years."



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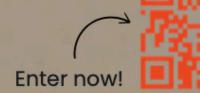


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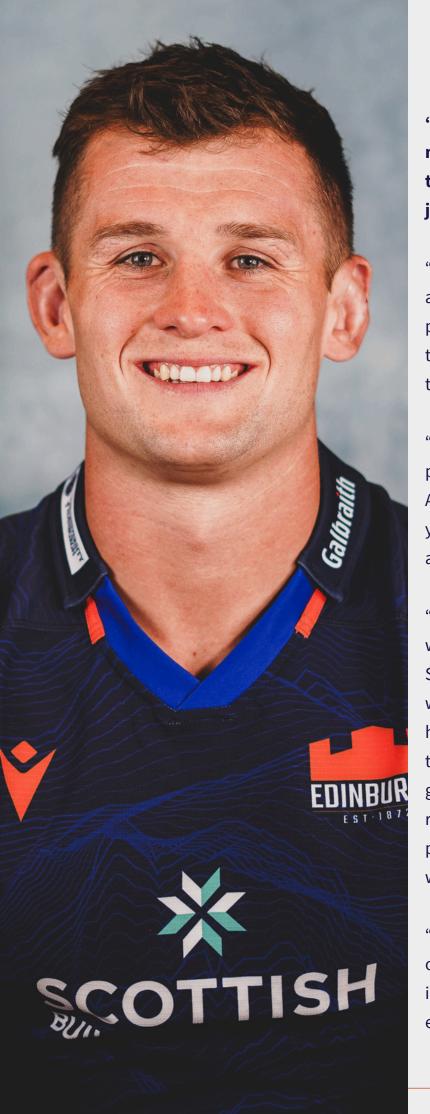
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PIERRE SCHOEMAN

BUILDING FORM

"I think we're in a really good place at the moment. Our game hasn't changed much, the principles haven't changed, but we've just got a lot better at delivering them.

"Defensively, we're the strongest we've been all season. Against the Lions we made them play where they didn't want to play. We kept them in the middle of the park and closed them down.

"We know that Bulls this week is a step up physically, definitely. We know these South African teams, if you go toe to toe with them, if you surprise them with your physicality, then anything can happen.

"I honestly think it was the Six Nations period, when we had the smaller squad with all the Scotland boys away," explained Bradbury, when asked why he is confident that the team has turned a corner. "We lost 15 to 20 boys [to the Scotland camp] so it was a really small group we had and we delivered each week. We revisited our principles. So it was like a mini pre-season for us. We had six, seven weeks with just that group.

"So, we said to ourselves ... we challenged ourselves: 'When the Scotland boys come back in, it's going to feel like a different environment'.

EDINBURGH RUGBY 24/25 FIRST TEAM SQUAD 24/25



EWAN ASHMAN



MARK BENNETT



EMILIANO BOFFELLI





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





BEN MUNCASTER





ALI PRICE



D'ARCY RAE



JAMIE RITCHIE



PIERRE SCHOEMAN



MATT SCOTT



CAMMY SCOTT



JAVAN SEBASTIAN



CHARLIE SHIEL





NATHAN SWEENEY





ROSS THOMPSON



MOSESE TUIPULOTU



DUHAN VAN DER MERWE





BOAN VENTER



HAMISH WATSON



ANGUS WILLIAMS



GLEN YOUNG



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EDINBURGH RUGBY PRO-ACADEMY



Jerry Blyth-Lafferty (hooker)

Ollie Blyth-Lafferty (tighthead prop)

Jack Brown (full-back)

Isaac Coates (fly-half)

Tom Currie (back-row)

Freddy Douglas (back-row)

Ollie Duncan (back-row)

Jack Hocking (full-back)

Mikey Jones (loosehead prop)

Sam Leweni (centre)

Christian Lindsay (lock)

Hamish MacArthur (scrum-half)

Conor McAlpine (scrum-half)

Euan McVie (lock)

Nairn Moncrieff (winger)

Harri Morris (hooker)

Hector Patterson (scrum-half)

Mac Rutherford (lock)

Jamie Stewart (loosehead prop)

Findlay Thomson (centre)

Lewis Wells (winger)

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	АВВА
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	OJ 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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PRESS PASS SEAN EVERITT



Everitt: 'step up' required as
Edinburgh prepare for Bulls
showdown

Edinburgh Rugby, fresh from their hard-fought Round of 16 victory over Emirates Lions, are bracing for a colossal EPCR Challenge Cup Quarter-Final clash against the Vodacom Bulls this Saturday at Hive Stadium.

Head Coach Sean Everitt is under no illusions about the challenge ahead, acknowledging the step up in intensity as they face the two-time United Rugby Championship (URC) finalists.

"Yes, it is a step up," Everitt acknowledges. "Bulls are two-time URC finalists. They had a good win against Bayonne away from home, and South African teams have struggled against the French teams away. So, it was important for them to get that win."

The history between Edinburgh and the Bulls is etched with close encounters, a testament to the South African side's formidable set-piece and physicality.

Edinburgh's four URC clashes with the Vodacom Bulls have seen both sides protect their home turf, most recently with a closely contested 22-16 defeat for Edinburgh at Loftus Versfeld Stadium in September.

"This is a step up."



"Yes, we know they pride themselves on setpiece and physicality. So, a difficult team to play against," Everitt explains.

"We know them quite well after playing them in the earlier rounds of the URC and then obviously at home last year. So, we know what they're going to bring. It's about us being able to stop them and using the opportunity that we can create against them."

Reflecting on past clashes, Everitt recalls the tight margins that have defined these fixtures. "Yes, unfortunately in the early URC round, I think we made that error when we were going over the line. They ripped the ball out of our hands and they ran 90 metres to win the game. So, yes, it has been close encounters with them. We know what they bring to the table. At the same time, like I said before, if we are clinical on the opportunity that we can create, we can get the win."





Everitt dispels any notion that South African teams treat the Challenge Cup with anything less than utmost seriousness. "Yes, they do take the competition seriously," he affirms.

"I was part of a group of coaches that were really keen on getting into the European competitions when I was back in Durban. We see it as a prestigious competition. I think sometimes people will perceive it as a lack of respect because you're not playing your better teams week in and week out. I think if we understand the load that the teams are going to carry between now and the end of the URC, it is understandable. Not necessarily a lack of respect."

"We spoke last week about getting home round 16 and quarter-final, and we've managed that. Now, if we get through, we get a home semi. We set ourselves up nicely, but like I say, it's a difficult challenge ahead of us. One that we're not afraid of, and one that we certainly are going for."

"If we are clinical on the opportunity that we can create, we can get the win.

T+TISSOT

FOCUS FORWARD

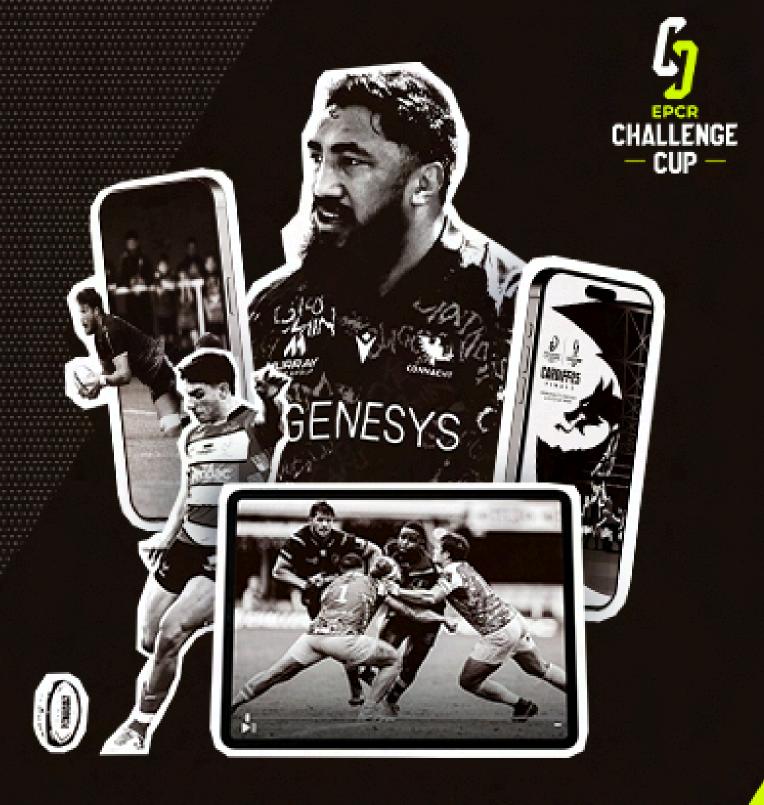




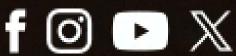
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LAST TIME OUT

EDINBURGH 24-12 EMIRATES LIONS

Edinburgh Rugby booked their place in the EPCR Challenge Cup Quarter-Finals with a 24-12 victory over Emirates Lions at Hive Stadium.

The home side exploded out of the blocks, with Wes Goosen, later crowned EPCR Player of the Match, scoring within two minutes. A scintillating break from Darcy Graham down the touchline saw the ball recycled, allowing Goosen to touch down and ignite the Hive Stadium crowd.

Magnus Bradbury was a force of nature in the opening 40 minutes, and Edinburgh's physicality was rewarded with a second try. Goosen again sparked the attack, breaking down the far touchline, before Ben Vellacott displayed impressive athleticism to leap over a tackle and score, extending the lead to 10-0.







A powerful break from Javan Sebastian further energised the home crowd, followed by a moment of brilliance from Darcy Graham, who showcased his exceptional footwork and pace to cover a long kick and race down the Lothian Stand side.

This sustained pressure led to Jamie Ritchie powering over from close range, putting Edinburgh 17-0 up at the interval. The visitors were also reduced to 14 men, with Quan Horn sent to the sin bin for cynical play, adding to their first half woes.

The second half began with a setback for Edinburgh, as Grant Gilchrist received a yellow card for a tackle off the ball. The Lions capitalised on their numerical advantage, with Francke Horn scoring to reduce the deficit to 17-5.

The second period became a more fragmented affair, with both teams demonstrating strong defensive resolve. However, a crucial turnover from replacement Freddy Douglas shifted the momentum back in Edinburgh's favour.

This paved the way for Ali Price to score, sealing the victory. Matt Currie's short line break created the opportunity, and Price was on hand to finish the move, pushing the score to 24-5.

A late consolation try from Lions replacement Jaco Visage did little to dampen the Edinburgh spirits, as the home side had done enough to secure their passage to the Quarter-Finals.



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