#### EDINBURGH

Friday 18th April 2025, 7.35pm kick-off

Managing director's welcome Ali Price feature / Press Pass









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#### BKT UNITED RUGBY CHAMPIONSHIP

















### AITS DIFFERENT





















### DOUGLAS STRUTH WELCOME



Good evening and a very warm welcome to Hive Stadium for what promises to be a cracking night of rugby as we return to BKT United Rugby Championship action, taking on the Hollywoodbets Sharks.

It's always special to play at home, but tonight carries extra significance as we proudly host our annual 'It's good to give' charity night – with this year's fixture carrying the strapline #ChangeTheGame – as we aim to raise as much money and awareness as possible for our brilliant charity partner.

It's been fantastic to see how much the squad has bought into this year's #ChangeTheGame match. They've been instrumental in helping to drive content and communications around the match, and it was a privilege to welcome representatives from the charity into our camp ahead of the game.

Hearing firsthand about the impact their work has on the lives of so many young people and their families was truly inspiring for everyone involved.

If you haven't yet donated, it's really easy to do. Simply text IG2G followed by the amount you wish to donate (5, 10, or 20) to 70470.

Edinburgh Rugby vs Dragons RFC BKT United Rugby Championship

#### DOUGLAS STRUTHWELCOME



It was also fantastic to see players out in the community with visits to both Gala RFC and Melrose RFC. Furthermore, our Easter camps proved incredibly popular, with 250 young players in attendance, including a sold-out, free to attend girls-only camp that saw 100 girls enjoying the sport – it's truly inspiring to witness such strong engagement across our community.

Back to this evening's clash, the competition for the top eight is so fierce, and we know how crucial your support is – especially on nights like this.

Your energy, passion, and noise give the team that extra lift and make this stadium such a fortress.

To our travelling visitors from Durban – welcome to the capital – we hope you enjoy your time in Edinburgh and the fantastic atmosphere created by our fans.

Thank you for being here, for supporting the team, and for backing a great cause. Let's make it a night to remember.

Douglas Struth, Managing Director Every point counts in our bid to secure a place in the top eight and push for a spot in the playoffs.

Off the back of a tremendous European quarter-final victory over the Vodacom Bulls last weekend, we now look forward to a massive Semi-Final clash against Bath next month.

The Edinburgh fans have been absolutely immense in driving the team forward in recent weeks, creating an incredible atmosphere at Hive Stadium, and your unwavering support will be absolutely vital as we enter the business end of the campaign, both in the URC and in Europe.

Off the pitch, it's been a really busy and rewarding week for the club as well, highlighting our commitment to the wider community.

We were delighted to host our Scottish Building Society 'win a training session with Duhan and Pierre' event, welcoming four enthusiastic teams and 120 young players to our training base.





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#### JOIN THE PUSH! HELP EDINBURGH RUGBY AND IT'S GOOD 2 GIVE #CHANGETHEGAME THIS FRIDAY!

Edinburgh Rugby is calling on its incredible supporters to dig deep and help us reach a fantastic £50,000 fundraising target for our official charity partner, It's good 2 give, ahead of this Friday night's electrifying clash against Hollywoodbets Sharks at Hive Stadium.

In support of It's good 2 give, this Friday night's fixture carries the powerful message #ChangeTheGame, uniting fans to make a real difference in the lives of young cancer patients and their families across Scotland.

Your generosity has already been incredible, with over £33,000 raised for the charity since the start of the partnership. Now, we're rallying the Edinburgh Rugby faithful to help It's good 2 give reach their ambitious new target of £50,000.

Text to donate: Making a difference is as simple as sending a text message. Just text IG2G followed by the amount you wish to donate (5, 10, or 20) to 70470.

Lynne McNicoll OBE, Co-founder of It's good 2 give, said: "This weekend's It's good 2 give #ChangeTheGame fixture against the Hollywoodbets Sharks is a truly special occasion for us. So much dedicated work has gone into making this match a powerful platform to raise awareness and vital funds for young cancer patients and their families.

"We have been absolutely overwhelmed by the generosity of the Edinburgh Rugby fans so far – your support in raising over £33,000 since the start of this partnership is truly inspiring and makes a tangible difference.

"These crucial funds are directly contributing to the vital work we do, including funding four dedicated psychologist posts on children's oncology wards in Edinburgh and Glasgow, providing essential mental health support from the moment of diagnosis.

"Furthermore, your kindness enables us to offer respite and a chance to focus on wellbeing at our Ripple Retreat, a peaceful sanctuary on the shores of Loch Venachar, giving families a muchneeded break from the relentless challenges of hospital life. Thank you, Edinburgh Rugby supporters, for helping us #ChangeTheGame and bring hope and support to those who need it most."

It's good 2 give is committed to supporting the physical and mental wellbeing of young cancer patients (aged 0-18) and their families in Scotland. They offer a wide range of support including practical assistance, mental health support, and short breaks at their purpose-built Ripple Retreat.

They work closely with hospitals and organisations to identify and deliver projects in line with their aims. Notably, they fund four psychologist posts on children's oncology wards (two in Edinburgh and two in Glasgow) and provide invaluable respite at the Ripple Retreat on Loch Venachar.



## EVERY FIXTURE EVERY TRY EVERY TACKLE

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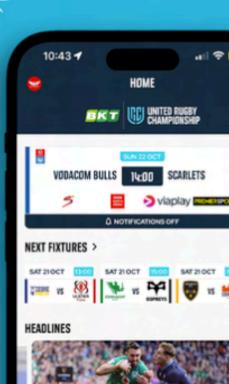


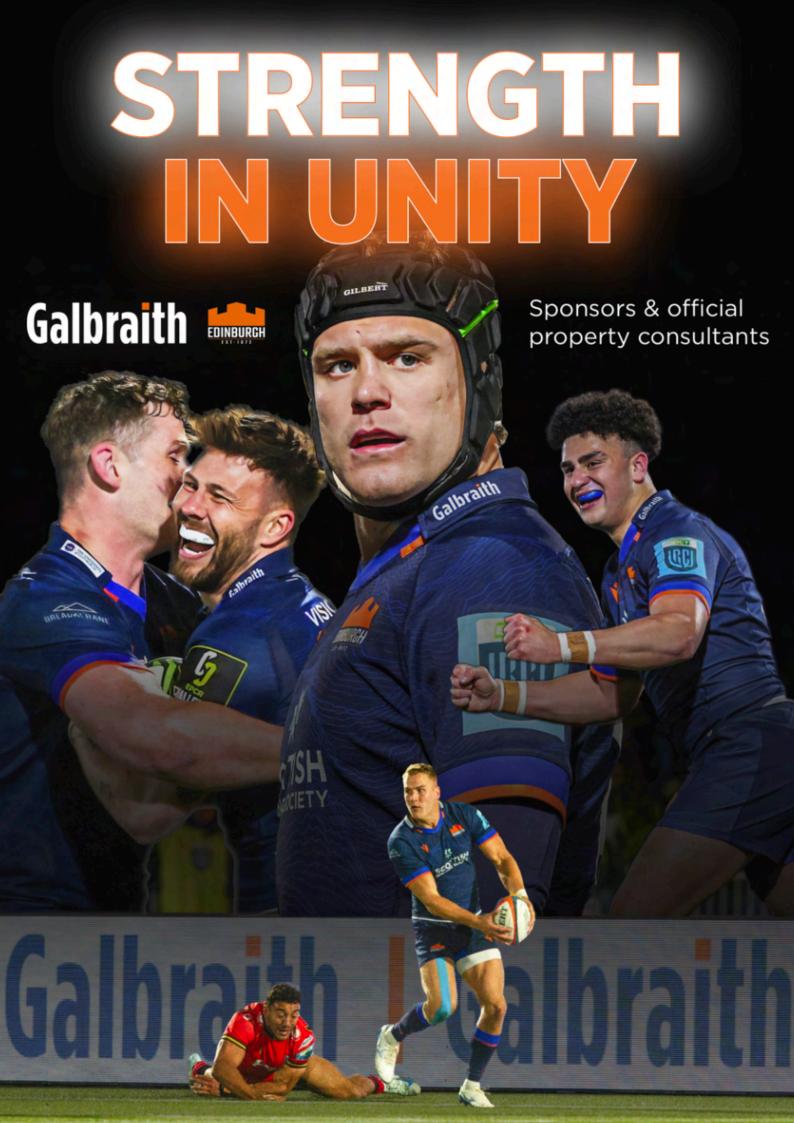


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#### **TEAM LINEUPS**

#### EDINBURGH RUGBY vs HOLLYWOODBETS SHARKS

Wes Goosen 15. Aphelele Fassi

Harry Paterson 14. Ethan Hooker

Matt Currie 13. Lukhanyo Am

James Lang 12. Andre Esterhuizen

Ross McCann 11. Makazole Mapimpi

Ross Thompson 10. Fordan Hendrikse

Ali Price 9. Jaden Hendrikse

Pierre Schoeman 1. Ox Nche

Ewan Ashman 2. Bongi Mbonambi

D'arcy Rae 3. Vincent Koch

Sam Skinner 4. Eben Etzebeth (C)

Grant Gilchrist (C) 5. Emile van Heerden

Jamie Ritchie 6. Phepsi Buthelezi

Ben Muncaster 7. Vincent Tshituka

Magnus Bradbury 8. Siya Kolisi

16. Dave Cherry 17. Boan Venter 18. Angus Williams 19. Glen Young 20. Freddy Douglas 21. Charlie Shiel 22. Cammy Scott 23. Mosese Tuipulotu 16. Fez Mbatha 17. Ntuthuko Mchunu 18. Hanro Jacobs 19. Jason Jenkins 20. James Venter 21. Grant Williams 22. Siya Masuku 23. Jurenzo Julius





### WHATSAPP CHANNEL







#### SEAN EVERITT

#### Head Coach hails 'gutsy' Edinburgh after Bulls battle

Hive Stadium erupted as Pierre Schoeman's match-winning turnover sealed Edinburgh Rugby's 34-28 victory over the Vodacom Bulls in a pulsating EPCR Challenge Cup Quarter-Final.

Head Coach Sean Everitt, while acknowledging the Bulls' formidable threat, praised his side's resilience and clinical edge in a match that swung dramatically in the second period.

"The Bulls are a dangerous team with the power that they have up front," Everitt admitted, reflecting on a contest where Edinburgh built a dominant first-half lead before weathering a ferocious Bulls comeback. "Getting a big lead at half-time did help us, obviously."

The first-half was a real showcase of attacking intent, with Edinburgh's ruthlessness in the Bulls' 22 proving decisive. "We took our opportunities in the first half and that's what you need to do against a team like this because they do have the ability to come back," Everitt explained.



"We had an 80% completion rate when we got into their 22 and that's vital. It's not often that you can peg them in their 22 and when you get there you've got to make use of it."

Everitt highlighted the bravery shown by his team in the opening 40 minutes, a crucial factor against a Bulls side boasting such powerful ball carriers. "Sometimes when you play against these big teams you want to be conservative because you're concerned about the breakaround threat," he said.

"It was important for us to play and be brave with ball in hand and we certainly were that. I'm just proud of the boys and it's a massive confidence builder for us."

The second-half saw the Bulls roar back, with the hosts down to 14 men after Ross McCann's yellow card, but Edinburgh held firm. "The second half obviously started well and then Ross McCann's yellow card was a change in momentum, unfortunately," Everitt conceded.

"In saying that, the Bulls went to what they're good at and that was their power game. They introduced Canan Moodie and he won a couple of balls out of the air and put us under the pump."

However, it was Edinburgh's defensive grit that ultimately secured the victory. "I just thought that the way we kept them out at the end and I think Pierre Schoeman's turnover on the whistle showed the guts that these guys showed defensively to keep out a very, very good Bulls pack," Everitt emphasised. "To be honest, I don't think they can put a better team on the park apart from maybe a Cobus Wiese but that is arguable."







A key figure in Edinburgh's attacking prowess has been James Lang, whose form has been a major boost. The centre scored two first-half tries, while linking up excellently with midfield partner Matt Currie.

"It's been great," Everitt said of Lang's recent performances. "James showed similar form in my first year and then he unfortunately had a string of injuries. He's now got some consistency in his game. His passing game and his play-making ability at the 12 are strengths of his.

On top of that, he's grown his carrying game and is defending unbelievably well. So I'm happy for him. He's gone through a bit of adversity and it's good that guys come out on the other side stronger."

With a home Semi-Final against either Bath, Everitt acknowledged the excitement of being two games away from silverware. "Yes, it is. A lot of rugby to be played before then," he cautioned, stressing the importance of focusing on the upcoming URC clash with the Sharks.

"We've got three South African teams in a row and the guys are labelling it the Biltong Series! We're two up and we've got another one to go so we've got to focus. But yes, the semi-final at home is awesome against probably one of the better teams in the Premiership at the moment."



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### NOBLE FAMILY TO DELIVER MATCH BALL IN SUPPORT OF IT'S GOOD 2 GIVE AT #CHANGETHEGAME FIXTURE



Edinburgh Rugby is proud to announce that this Friday night's match ball delivery ahead of the Hollywoodbets Sharks game will be carried out by Sarah, Luke, and Leo Noble as part of the club's dedicated #ChangeTheGame fixture.

This special match is raising vital funds and awareness for Edinburgh Rugby's Official Charity Partner, It's good 2 give.

The Noble family are deeply connected to the incredible work of It's good 2 give. Mum Sarah, along with her sons Luke and Leo, tragically lost their son and big brother Alex to cancer just days after his fourth birthday. During Alex's treatment, the family received invaluable support from It's good 2 give.

Friday night's ball delivery will serve as a poignant way to honour Alex's memory and provide an opportunity for fans to celebrate the remarkable impact of It's good 2 give.

Sarah Noble shared her family's experience and the crucial role the charity played during an incredibly difficult time.

"Our son/big brother Alex was diagnosed with a really aggressive cancer back in June 2010. Alex was 20 months old; his little brother Luke was 3 weeks old. In the initial chaos we were given a 'parent pack' of essentials for families suddenly confined to hospital (toothbrushes, a notepad, pens etc) and that was our first encounter with It's good 2 give, a newly established charity that wanted to help families in our situation by giving them practical help to try to make the most horrific situation a little more manageable," Sarah explained.

"In the 2.5 years that Alex was in and out of hospital, we became friends with Lynne and It's good 2 give, who wanted to understand where help was needed beyond the medical sphere and what they could do to help.

"One of my most precious memories is It's good 2 give organising a music session for kids on the ward and their siblings – something so normal for most families, but something that we could never have risked in a normal setting for fear of infection.

"Alex died in September 2012 just days after his 4th birthday, but our friendship with it's good 2 give has continued and the support they provide to families affected by cancer has evolved and expanded over the years."

Reflecting on the charity's continued support, Sarah highlighted the positive connection It's good 2 give has fostered for her two sons: Luke and Leo.

"Alex is always with us and always a part of our family, and It's good 2 give have given Luke and Leo a really lovely positive connection to their big brother, while being involved in the fundraising work that they do.

"Luke has rallied his friends to do a couple of kiltwalks and has sold raffle tickets at the Edinburgh games. The boys know and understand the work that It's good 2 give do and how it helps and supports families like ours. Luke is also a rugby player so the chance to support It's good 2 give AND watch Edinburgh play is a huge bonus!"

Sarah has passionately encouraged Edinburgh Rugby supporters to get behind this vital cause ahead of Friday night's #ChangeTheGame clash.

Edinburgh Rugby supporters have three convenient ways to contribute to the vital work of It's good 2 give this Friday night.

When securing your seat for the highly anticipated clash against the Hollywoodbets Sharks, you'll find an option to add a donation to It's good 2 give at the checkout. Choose to donate £1, £3, or £5 – every contribution, no matter the size, will directly support families facing the challenges of childhood cancer.

Alternatively, making a difference is as simple as sending a text message. Just text IG2G followed by the amount you wish to donate (5, 10, or 20) to 70470.

For those who prefer to donate online, you can head over to the dedicated It's good 2 give x Edinburgh Rugby Just Giving page and make a secure contribution HERE.

"It's such a worthwhile cause, helping families during their darkest times, making life a little easier, providing an escape from the brutal reality of childhood cancer at the Ripple Retreat and helping to create memories that will last forever," continued Sarah.

The Noble family are now eagerly anticipating their involvement in Friday night's #ChangeTheGame fixture which will see Sarah, Luke and Leo bring the match ball out to the centre of Hive Stadium ahead of an unmissable Friday night lights clash.

Sarah continued: "Luke loves his rugby so it's an absolute honour for him to get up so close to his sporting heroes, and it means the world to us all to be able to shout about the incredible work that It's good 2 give do." Edinburgh Rugby urges all supporters attending Friday night's game to embrace the #ChangeTheGame initiative and contribute to the invaluable work of It's good 2 give.

Click here for more information on the #ChangeTheGame fixture and It's good 2 give.





#### Share a Smile.

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TO FIND OUT MORE VISIT: <a href="https://www.itsgood2give.co.uk/">https://www.itsgood2give.co.uk/</a>

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MARK BENNETT



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**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



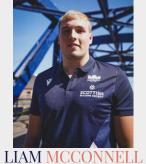
**MIKEY JONES** 



**JAMES LANG** 



ROSS MCCANN





BEN MUNCASTER





**ALI PRICE** 



D'ARCY RAE



JAMIE RITCHIE



PIERRE SCHOEMAN



MATT SCOTT



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JAVAN SEBASTIAN



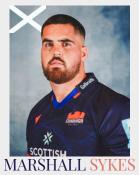
CHARLIE SHIEL



SAM SKINNER



NATHAN SWEENEY





ROSS THOMPSON



MOSESE TUIPULOTU



DUHAN VAN DER MERWE



BEN VELLACOTT



BOAN VENTER



HAMISH WATSON



**ANGUS WILLIAMS** 



GLEN YOUNG

#### 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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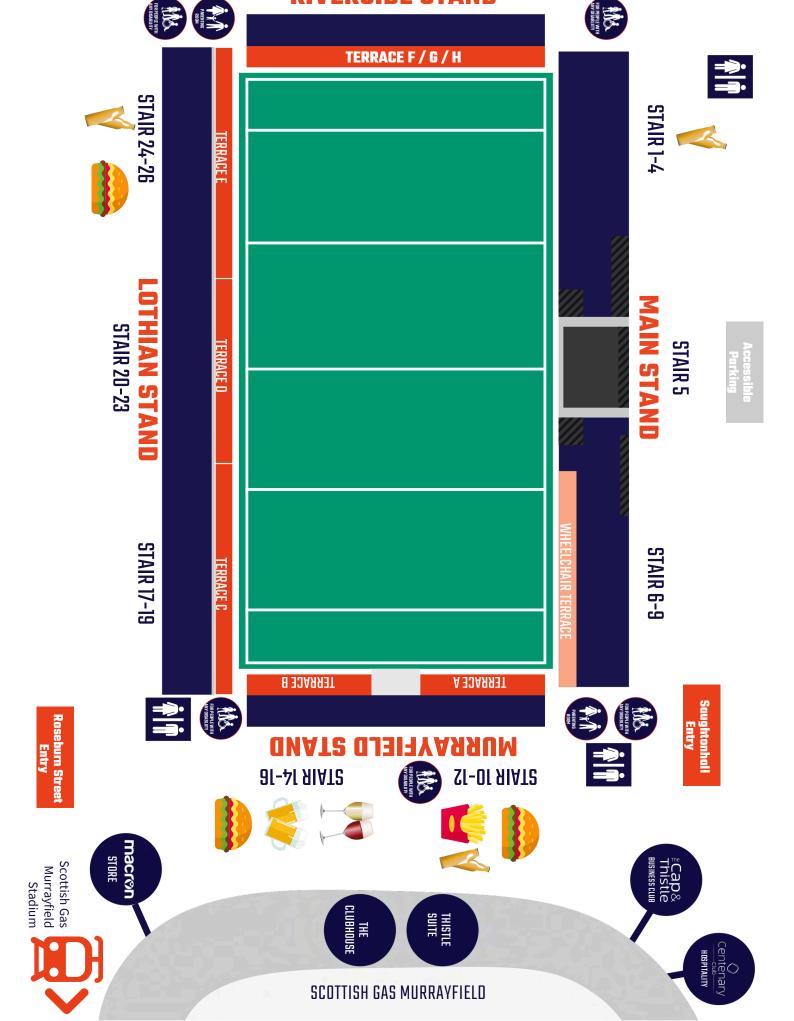
#### **PLAYER TRY TRACKS**

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 SCOTT MATHIE



Edinburgh Rugby Attack and Backs
Coach Scott Mathie is relishing the
prospect of a significant test this Friday
night as the capital side welcome a
Hollywoodbets Sharks team brimming
with Springbok talent in Round 15 of the
BKT United Rugby Championship.

Following a hard-fought European quarter-final victory over the Vodacom Bulls, Mathie is keen to see his team build on that momentum against another South African opponent.

When asked about his messaging ahead of the weekend, Mathie as emphasised the need for unwavering focus. "In the URC, there is a small margin for error. I think for us it's just about sticking to what we've been doing. We're focusing on ourselves, making sure that we're just leaving no stone unturned."

He believes this meticulous approach has been key to their recent success, adding, "I think that's stood us in good stead, focusing on each game as it comes. That's really built the energy and excitement in the group and helped us really put out some good performances."

Looking ahead to the clash against the Sharks – currently sitting in fourth place in the Championship – Mathie painted a clear picture of the Durban side's strengths.

"Having a look at their squad, they're probably going to put out 13 Springboks in their starting team and probably about 18 or 19 in the 23. We expect exactly what they are, a very accomplished, if not Springbok-laden team that's coming here. It's a massive challenge, but an exciting one."

"It's a massive challenge, but an exciting one."



The Edinburgh attack has shown noticeable improvements in recent weeks, and Mathie credits the players' buy-in to the coaching plan. Shooting out of the blocks in last weekend's European win over Vodacom Bulls, Edinburgh scored four first-half tries, showcasing a fiery intent from the get-go.

"Yes, it's good. I think just trusting in the plan," continued Mathie. "I think when you first come in, we put things in place and the boys have really bought in. Things take time. I think the guys are genuinely enjoying how we go about our game. We're definitely getting some reward for it."

The influence of James Lang in the Edinburgh backline has been evident, and Mathie highlighted the experience and communication the centre brings. A constant menace to the Bulls' defense, Lang crossed for two tries and was the catalyst for numerous Edinburgh attacks.

"I think he's got a lot of experience. He's a really good player who drives a lot of comms on the field."





He also pointed to the healthy competition Lang provides, particularly in relation to Mosese Tuipulotu. "I think what I like most about it is that we're just creating so much competition in every place. It's Langie and Mo competing for that spot. Then you've got the 10s competing and there's competition in our loosies. That just drives a really competitive culture at the club."

Despite the impressive win against the Bulls, Mathie insists the pursuit of improvement never stops. When asked if that knockout performance was enough, he replied, "You're always chasing the perfect performance. I think for any negative you might look at it, you've got to look at the positive too. I think in the past, we might have let that game slip. There's some stoicism there and there's some fight and some purpose being shown from the boys. That came to the fore at the back end of that game. To withstand that Bulls onslaught and to come out of it, I think the boys took a lot of confidence from that."



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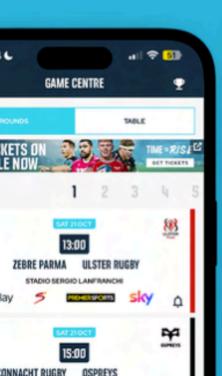
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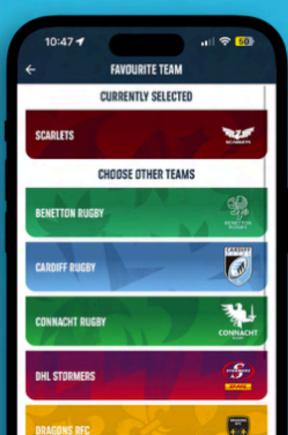
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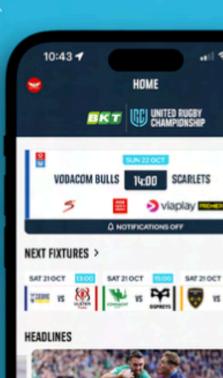




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#### EDINBURGH 34-28 VODACOM BULLS

Edinburgh held off a second-half fightback from the Bulls to secure a home semi-final in the EPCR Challenge Cup, winning 34-28 against the South African side.

Two tries from James Lang and a Magnus Bradbury score put Edinburgh 24-7 up at the break, David Kriel crossing for the visitors.

Grant Gilchrist's try gave Edinburgh breathing space on the scoreboard before the Bulls came back strongly with a penalty try, one from Cameron Hanekom and a second from Kriel to set up a grandstand finish, but the hosts held on. Sean Everitt's side will face either Gloucester or Bath – who play on Sunday evening – on the weekend of 2-4 May at Hive Stadium for a place in the final, with tickets available to members from Tuesday ahead of Wednesday's public sale.

It took Edinburgh less than four minutes to cut the Bulls open. Matt Currie sliced through the defence on a beautiful line, fed Ben Vellacott who in turn fed Lang to go in for the opening score.

The home side went hunting for more and, with Bulls' Zak Burger in the bin, Bradbury ploughed over to establish a 14-point lead in as many minutes as Ross Thompson converted again.







Bulls looked there for the taking until they sprung into life with an immediate response. Harold Vorster broke from deep, cutting right through the heart of the Edinburgh defence before feeding Kriel on his shoulder to score.

Lang re-established the 14-point cushion when his attempted kick through ricocheted off a defender and bounced kindly back into his arms for a free run under the sticks.

Thompson maintained his record with the boot by kicking a penalty to send the home side into the break with a 17-point lead.

Bulls' hopes of a comeback were dented when flanker Jannes Kirsten was sent to the bin for a high shot, and moments later Edinburgh cocaptain Gilchrist crashed over after an initial burst from Ewan Ashman.

At 31-7, Edinburgh looked just about home and hosed, but the Bulls started to show signs of life.

The South Africans were awarded a penalty try when Ross McCann entered a ruck from the side near his own line to prevent a score. McCann was promptly yellow carded.

Moments later, Stravino Jacobs sat down Darcy Graham with a huge carry before the ball was fired in-field to Hanekom to dot down under the posts.

Thomson banged over a penalty to try and settle things down for the home side, but the Bulls kept coming and Kriel finished off a period of relentless pressure for his second try to make it a six-point game and set-up a nervous finish.

Edinburgh held firm and when Pierre Schoeman got over the ball to secure a penalty at the death, the job was complete.

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