

EDINBURGH RUGBY VS BATH RUGBY

Saturday 3 May, 3pm kick-off

Managing director's welcome Hamish Watson feature / Press Pass





















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- OUT OF THE ORDINARY



DOUGLAS STRUTH WELCOME



Good afternoon and welcome to Hive Stadium as we welcome Bath Rugby for the EPCR Challenge Cup semi-final.

Matches don't get much bigger than this - the final four of europe against one of the biggest clubs in the northern hemisphere. It's such an exciting prospect as we welcome the men from the rec to a sold out Hive Stadium.

This place has been absolutely bouncing recently, with the sell-out crowd at the Sharks game bringing the kind of atmosphere we hoped for when we moved into our new home. This afternoon will be our second sell-out in a row, and with a sell-out expected for the Ulster match, it's a real sign of the excitement building around this club.

It's been a thrilling journey to get to the final four, from a young side battling to a vital bonus point away against Gloucester, the classy win in Vannes, and the exceptional display to put away the Bulls in the Quarter-finals.

Your support has been vital every step of the way, travelling in numbers to our away games, whilst helping make Hive Stadium a fortress for this club.

We know the challenge that awaits the side, with Bath bringing a team stacked with international talent, but if we perform like we have in recent months we'll be right in the fight with them.

DOUGLAS STRUTHWELCOME



Hamish has shown an unwavering dedication to the club ahead of his 15th season with the side.

He is a key part of what has made this club special, and will continue to drive standards whilst helping to bring through the next generation of back-row talent in the capital.

Mish was in the squad for our last European final against Gloucester in 2015, coming off the bench in London that day. Chances to make history like this don't come around every day, so it's one we need to seize.

Whatever happens, we'll leave everything out there on the pitch, and make this city proud.

Enjoy the game!

Douglas Struth, Managing Director Away from the pitch it has been a busy week for the club, with multiple resigning announcements being announced.

Harry Paterson has had a frustrating time with injury, but has showed some real resilience to get himself back fit and into the starting team. Harry's public announcement was done whilst he was taking a quick coffee break while he completes his studies at The University of Edinburgh. It's brilliant to have such a major institution of this city connected to the club, and Harry is a living link in that key partnership.

An institution of Edinburgh Rugby for the past decade and a half has been Hamish Watson, and it was amazing to announce that the openside will be staying at the club for a further year.





DOM MCKAY EPCR WELCOME

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my honour and privilege to welcome you to this eagerly awaited semi-final clash in the 2024/25 EPCR Challenge Cup between Edinburgh Rugby and Bath Rugby.

The road to this point has been paved with commitment, resilience, and outstanding rugby from both teams. Tonight marks a significant moment in the international club rugby calendar, as two proud and historic clubs go head-to-head for a place in the Challenge Cup final. This is what knockout rugby is all about—intensity, passion, and the chance to create history.

To the supporters of Edinburgh and Bath, thank you for your unwavering support. Your passion and loyalty give this competition its unique atmosphere and character. You are the heartbeat of international club rugby, and it is your energy that fuels the players on nights like this.

To Edinburgh Rugby – welcome to a special moment on home soil. You have earned your place in this semi-final through bold performances, a clear sense of purpose, and a never-say-die attitude. You represent a city and a rugby culture steeped in tradition and tonight offers a platform to show just how far you've come.

To Bath Rugby – we are delighted to welcome such a prestigious English club to the penultimate stage of the Challenge Cup. Your journey through this tournament has been impressive, showcasing not only your strength in depth but your ambition to bring European silverware back to the Rec.

As we look forward to a fiercely competitive and entertaining match, I want to take a moment to thank everyone who makes this competition possible. The coaches and players who give their all, the match officials whose professionalism ensures fairness and safety, and the many volunteers, staff, and organisers who work tirelessly behind the scenes. EPCR is committed to delivering a world-class tournament, and tonight is a reflection of that shared effort.

International club rugby has a unique ability to unite fans, cultures, and playing styles from across the continent. It is in fixtures like these that we see the very best of our sport: the drama of the contest, the respect between opponents, and the pride of representing your club and community on the international stage.

No matter the result tonight, both teams can take immense pride in their achievements so far. But of course, one team will earn the right to contest an EPCR final – a prize that every club dreams of and works tirelessly to reach.

Thank you for being part of this special occasion. Let's enjoy a night of outstanding rugby.

yours in rugby, Dominic McKay, EPCR Chairman















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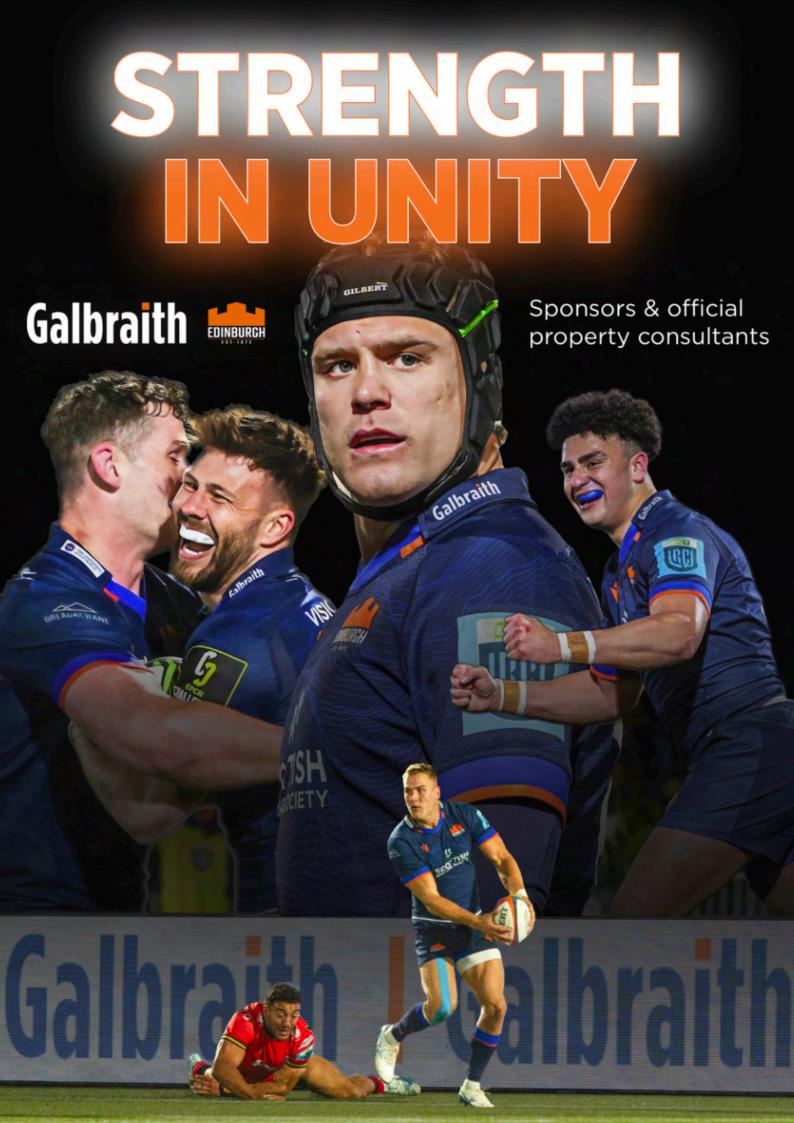




JIMECOO

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TEAM LINEUPS

EDINBURGH RUGBY vs BATH RUGBY

Wes Goosen 15. Tom de Glanville

Darcy Graham 14. Joe Cokanasiga

Matt Currie 13. Cam Redpath

James Lang 12. Will Butt

Harry Paterson 11. Will Muir

Ross Thompson 10. Finn Russell

Ali Price 9. Ben Spencer (C)

Pierre Schoeman 1. Beno Obana

Ewan Ashman 2. Tom Dunn

D'arcy Rae 3. Thomas du Toit

Sam Skinner 4. Quinn Roux

Grant Gilchrist (C) 5. Charlie Ewels

Jamie Ritchie 6. Guy Pepper

Hamish Watson 7. Sam Underhill

Magnus Bradbury 8. Miles Reid

16. Paddy Harrison 17. Boan Venter 18. Javan Sebastian 19. Marshall Sykes 20. Ben Muncaster 21. Charlie Shiel 22. Ben Healy 23. Mosese Tuipulotu

16. Niall Annett 17. Francois van Wyk
18. Will Stuart 19. Ross Molony
20. Ted Hill 21. Lous Shreuder
22. Ciaran Donoghue 23. Alfie Barbeary













HAMISH WATSON

'These days are special'

For Hamish Watson, Saturday's EPCR Challenge Cup semi-final against Bath at Hive Stadium isn't just another game; it's a cherished opportunity, a decade in the making.

The talismanic flanker, who this week extended his contract with Edinburgh for another season, is relishing his first taste of a major semi-final in ten years, a clear illustration that these significant stages don't come around often.

"We mentioned that earlier, a few of the older lads who have been here a while, and Gilco touched on it in one of our meetings," Watson reflected, his words carrying the weight of experience.

"When I got to that final in 2015, when I was younger (23 at the time), you think 'it doesn't matter, we lost that one but we'll be back soon' and it's taken 10 years to get to another, well, semi-final.







"Big games like this don't always come round that often. You don't want to put too much pressure on the young guys but it is an important game and a massive game for everyone involved at the club."

That 2015 final against Gloucester at The Stoop remains a vivid memory for Watson, even if his involvement only came in the latter stages.

"Yeah I played in it (came on as replacement for Roddy Grant after 58 mins). I played against London Irish in the quarters and then I missed the semi (against Dragons) with a hamstring problem. I think I pulled out in the team run, so that was a bit disappointing."

He chuckles at the thought of who else from that squad remains. "Gilco was injured was he? Even old grandpa Gilco wasn't there. That makes me feel even older!"

But age, for Watson, seems to be just a number. He remains a force of nature on the field, his trademark dynamism and relentless work rate showing no signs of waning. "Why are you laughing?! A decade on, still going..." he jokes, before turning serious. "I actually feel really good. The last couple of seasons I've played a lot for Edinburgh. Obviously being out of the Scotland set-up is challenging at times when you've been around that for a while, but it's also given me a chance to play back-to-back weeks for Edinburgh, which has been really good.

"Sometimes when you're involved in that [Scotland], you don't get that chance. I've been really enjoying it, I feel my form is good at the minute as well. It's just trying to keep that going. Obviously we all need to be at the top of our game to get the win this week."

This longevity also brings with it a responsibility to nurture the next generation. Watson is acutely aware of the need to guide the young talents emerging in the Edinburgh back row, players like Freddy Douglas.

"We're all competitive people or we'd be doing the wrong job. I'll try to make sure in pre-season and in training that I'm doing all I can to start every week for Edinburgh next year.



"It's not a year where I think 'Oh, I'll help develop younger players'. But if Freddy [Douglas] is playing amazingly well and gets a starting role, it's also up to me to help him as much as possible and try to develop him as a player because he's a future No.7 at the club.

"I'm still going to be gunning to start, but if Fred's starting, it's trying to help him develop and be there if he wants any advice or needs anything."

Looking ahead, Watson is also mindful of his eventual transition away from the game, but for now, his focus remains firmly on the present.

"Even when you're younger, you're always thinking about life after rugby, but more so now. I've got a few things going on in the background. My brother's got a hat company that I own a part of – Rex Club – and that's going well.

"Nowadays you have to think more and more because it's quite a tough transition when you finish professional sport. You're used to getting a schedule at the start of the week and following it diligently. It's a bit more down to you when you leave rugby, but I've got another year not to have to think too much about that yet."

For Hamish Watson, a decade of hard work, dedication, and a few near misses have led to this moment. You can be sure the club centurion will be savouring every second, leaving nothing on the Hive Stadium pitch as he aims to make this semi-final appearance a truly memorable one.



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THOMAS, AGED 9

Hometown club/school

Melrose Rugby, St Mary's School

Favourite Player

Darcy Graham

Favourite Club Moment

My favourite moment was when we were the guard of honour for the Edinburgh Rugby v Black Lions game with Melrose rugby club. At half time we played a match and I scored a try!

Favourite Club Moment

My club coaches at Melrose are amazing and I get to play rugby with my friends. I love coming to Edinburgh Rugby because of Darcy and the players walkway.

What They're Most Excited About Today

I get to walk on the pitch with Grant Gilchrist!

Mascot Experience provided by



SCOTMATCHDAY IASCOTMASCOT



ELLIS

Hometown club/school

Attends Duns Primary School and Plays for Duns Minis

Favourite Player

Darcy Graham

Favourite Club Moment

Scoring tries and playing with his friends

Why they love the club

I love the atmosphere at games and meeting the players after the game.

What They're Most Excited About Today

Walking out into a packed Hive Stadium before a big game!

Mascot Experience provided by







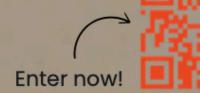


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HARRY PATERSON

STAYING IN THE CAPITAL

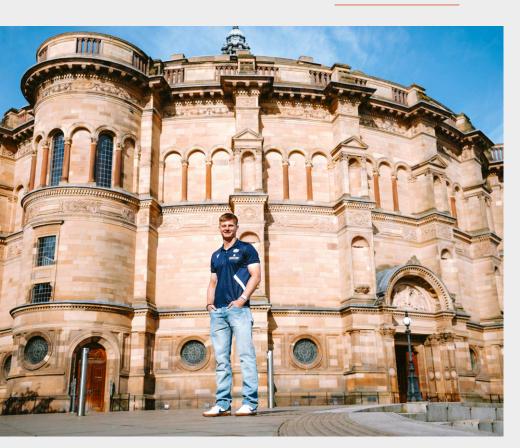
Edinburgh Rugby is thrilled to announce Scotland international full-back Harry Paterson, 23, has signed a new two-year deal, keeping him at Hive Stadium until the summer of 2027.

The news comes as a timely boost for the capital club ahead of this Saturday's EPCR Challenge Cup Semi-Final showdown against Bath at Hive Stadium, with Paterson back to full fitness and raring to go.

Paterson has endured a frustrating spell on the sidelines with injury but has shown his quality in recent weeks with two eye-catching performances against the Sharks and Zebre Parma. Paterson now feels he is getting back to his best form and is eager to make an impact as Edinburgh enter the business end of the campaign.

Speaking about his new deal and return to fitness, Paterson said: "I'm absolutely delighted to have signed a new deal with Edinburgh. The injury lay-off was a real test, but I feel like I've come through it stronger, and honestly, pulling on that Edinburgh jersey again feels more special than ever. I'm really excited about what's ahead.

"The support system I have in my friends, coaches and teammates really helped me stay driven throughout my recovery. Now, I'm itching to repay that faith on the pitch. I'm convinced the Edinburgh supporters haven't seen the best of me just yet, and with these crucial matches ahead, beginning with Bath, I'm determined to seize every opportunity."





Coming through the ranks at Fettes College in Edinburgh, Paterson made his mark in club rugby with Edinburgh Accies, followed by valuable experience in the Super Series with Watsonians RFC.

A former Scotland U20 international, Paterson made his Edinburgh Rugby debut against Ulster in June 2021. He has since made 14 appearances for his hometown club, showcasing his versatility across the backline, playing on the wing and at full-back.

Paterson has also represented Scotland 7s and earned his first Scotland cap against France in the 2024 Six Nations, where his first international outing was lauded as 'one of the best debuts I've ever seen' by Head Coach Gregor Townsend. He scored his first international try against Canada last summer.

Following the re-signing of fellow young Scotland international backs Ross Thompson and Matt Currie earlier this season, this extension underscores the capital side's continued commitment to building a strong, homegrown core of talent as they look ahead to 2025/26.

Edinburgh Rugby Head Coach Sean Everitt added: "We are delighted that Harry has committed his future to Edinburgh Rugby. He has shown incredible resilience and a fantastic attitude to stay focused during a long spell on the sidelines.

"His recent performances have been outstanding, and he is an exciting talent with immense potential. Harry will be a big player for us – not just in the coming weeks as we aim to secure a place in the EPCR Challenge Cup Final and the URC play-offs – but in the long-term too, for both club and country."

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



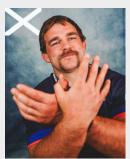


BEN MUNCASTER





ALI PRICE



D'ARCY RAE



JAMIE RITCHIE



PIERRE SCHOEMAN



MATT SCOTT



CAMMY SCOTT



JAVAN SEBASTIAN

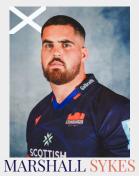


CHARLIE SHIEL





NATHAN SWEENEY





ROSS THOMPSON



MOSESE TUIPULOTU



DUHAN VAN DER MERWE





BOAN VENTER



HAMISH WATSON



ANGUS WILLIAMS



GLEN YOUNG



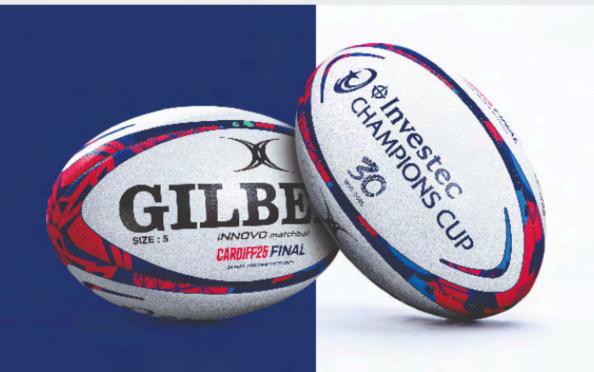












EDINBURGH RUGBY PRO-ACADEMY



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

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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



'Do Edinburgh proud' –

Everitt calls for home support

for semi-final showdown

The buzz is palpable in the Scottish capital as Edinburgh Rugby prepare to host Bath in a mouth-watering EPCR Challenge Cup semi-final clash at Hive Stadium this Saturday.

Head Coach Sean Everitt is under no illusions about the challenge his side faces against the Gallagher Premiership high-flyers, but senses the opportunity for a momentous step towards a European final.

Speaking ahead of the crucial encounter, Everitt acknowledged the formidable threat posed by Johann van Graan's Bath outfit.

"Yes, they've been the form team by a long shot," he stated, referencing their impressive run in the English top flight which sees them sitting top of the table on 66 points.

"We had a good look at their game on the weekend against Newcastle. They've put some strong opposition away as well. They've got a good all-round team defensively, kick and game as well as with their attack."

While Bath's domestic form has been stellar, their journey in the Champions Cup saw them lose three out of four pool matches. However, Everitt dismissed any suggestion that this offered Edinburgh a route to the final.

"This is a step up."



"Not at all," he asserted. "Anything can go wrong in the Champions Cup. It's a tough competition... they'll be wanting to get their hands on a trophy as well.

Johan's been there now for his third year and he's pulled the team together well. Edinburgh will be looking to build on the electric atmosphere generated at Hive Stadium during their recent clash against the Sharks, despite the narrow defeat.

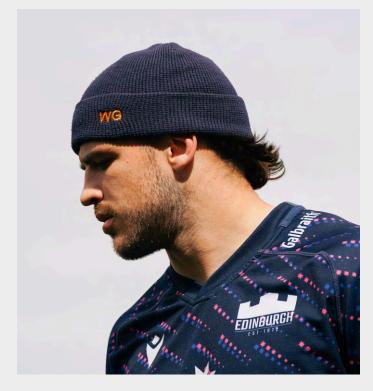
"Every time we run out at Hive we want to do Edinburgh proud," Everitt said. "It's a big day. It's a sacrifice to come and watch us on the weekends.

"If you look at the opposition that we've had over the last three weeks, it's certainly prepared us well enough to take on the likes of Bath.

"We know that Bath are full of internationals as well. In some positions they're double internationals. So for us it's about an 80 minute effort so that we can contain what they bring off the bench."

In team news, Everitt provided an update on the availability of key back-three star Wes Goosen.





"Wes has been cleared to play and obviously we'll see how he gets through training today," he revealed. "As we know he had a back spasm so it's something that could reoccur and we'll make the final call on him on Thursday."

The return of experienced Scotland internationals Jamie Ritchie, Pierre Schoeman, and Grant Gilchrist will also provide a significant boost to the Edinburgh pack. "It's always pleasing because you look at those guys when they come back after a week off to bring energy within the group," Everitt commented.

"Although this week the energy is there because of the magnitude of the game that we're going to play on Saturday. And obviously the opposition that we're going to be playing against. So yes, they are leaders, they are experienced and we do look at them for the extra guidance that the team might need in the week."

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

T+TISSOT

FOCUS FORWARD

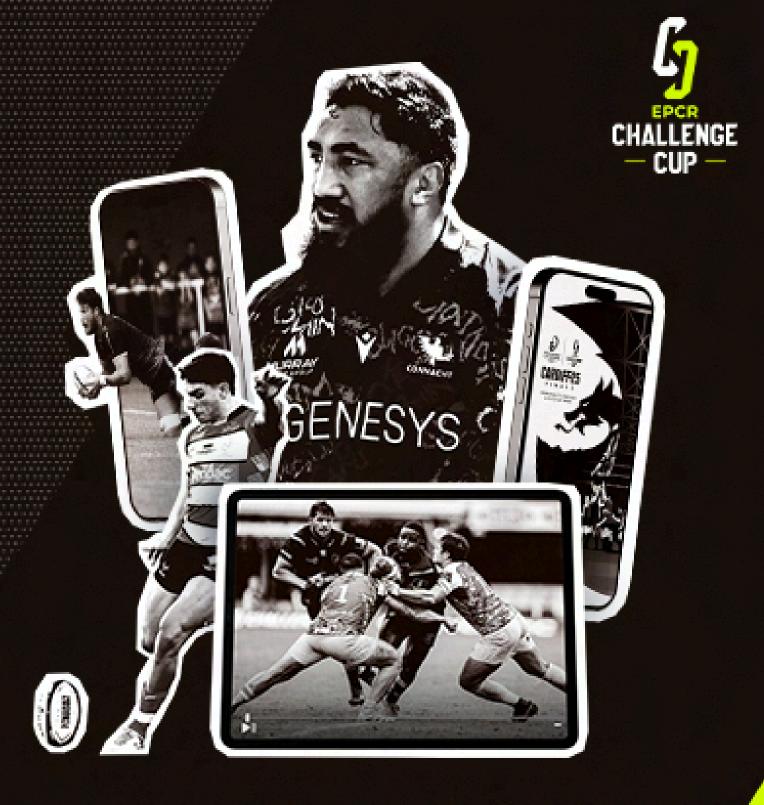




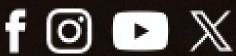
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LAST TIME OUT

ZEBRE PARMA 25 - 25 EDINBURGH

Edinburgh snatched a dramatic 25-25 draw against Zebre Parma at Stadio Lanfranchi tonight, courtesy of a last-gasp Matt Currie try and a magnificent touchline conversion from the ice-cool Cammy Scott as the clock turned red.

While the two points secured on the road keep Edinburgh in the hunt for a top-eight finish in the BKT United Rugby Championship, the match was a largely frustrating affair punctuated by errors, though the visitors' resilience in the final minutes was undeniable.

The opening exchanges were scrappy, with both sides struggling for fluency in attack and resorting to a kicking battle for territory. Clear-cut opportunities were at a premium in the early stages.

The first significant moment arrived when Zebre scrum-half Giacomo Da Re saw yellow for a late and dangerous tackle on Darcy Graham. Edinburgh capitalised on the numerical advantage, with Ross Thompson slotting the resulting penalty in the 21st minute to give the visitors a 0-3 lead.







Zebre responded swiftly with a well-executed short-side move. Eventual BKT Player of the match Alessandro Fusco, the home side's lively scrum-half, dummied his way through to touch down after 28 minutes, nudging Zebre into a 5-3 lead.

Edinburgh, however, showed glimpses of their attacking potential. A sharp break from Ali Price ignited a flowing move that was continued by a lively Paddy Harrison, drawing another penalty which Thompson duly converted to restore Edinburgh's slender advantage at 5-6.

But Zebre had the final say of the first half. A sustained period of pressure, fuelled by a string of penalties, culminated in a lineout drive. Once again, the influential Fusco broke free to score his second try just before the interval, giving the hosts a 12-6 lead heading into the break.

The introduction of co-captain Grant Gilchrist from the bench appeared to inject some impetus and leadership into the Edinburgh pack. Their efforts were rewarded when Boan Venter tidied up a loose lineout and powered over the line for Edinburgh's first try on 55 minutes, reducing the arrears to 19-11.

Just as Edinburgh looked to build momentum, Zebre threatened to pull further away. However, a heroic goal-line stand, featuring a crucial turnover from Hamish Watson and a follow-up penalty win from Harry Paterson, kept the hosts at bay.

This defensive resilience spurred Edinburgh on. A series of penalties marched them into the Zebre 22, and Venter showed his predatory instincts once more, taking a quick tap penalty and finishing strongly from close range for his second try.



Thompson's successful conversion brought Edinburgh right back into the contest at 19-18 with 17 minutes remaining.

A pivotal moment arrived shortly after Venter's second score when Ben Muncaster was shown a somewhat harsh yellow card for a no-arms tackle, despite appearing to attempt a wrap.

Down to 14 men, Edinburgh were forced to dig deep defensively. They showed immense character, including a vital interception just five metres from their own line, to prevent Zebre from capitalising on their numerical advantage. However, the pressure eventually told, and Zebre slotted another penalty to extend their lead to 22-18.

Replacement fly-half Cammy Scott then produced a moment of brilliance, a sublime touch-finder pinning Zebre deep in their own 22 with just five minutes left on the clock. Edinburgh applied pressure, but when Zebre added another penalty in the 79th minute to make it 25-18, the game looked lost.

But Edinburgh refused to surrender. In a dramatic final play, Paterson broke free and found Graham on a short line. The winger then offloaded to the onrushing Currie, who touched down in the corner as the clock ticked into the red.

The tension was palpable as Scott lined up the touchline conversion. With nerves of steel, he struck the ball sweetly with his left boot, watching it bend inside the left post to level the scores and secure a precious two points for Edinburgh on a dramatic night in Parma.

While the performance was far from perfect, the grit and determination shown in the final moments will give Edinburgh some confidence as they continue their push for the top eight.



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