

Edinburgh/Sharks

FRIDAY 24 APRIL, 7.45PM
HIVE STADIUM

HECTOR PATTERSON #9



BKT UNITED RUGBY
CHAMPIONSHIP 25/26

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REPRESENT



DOUGLAS STRUTH

MANAGING DIRECTOR'S WELCOME



Good evening, and welcome to Hive Stadium for tonight's BKT United Rugby Championship clash against Hollywoodbets Sharks.

It's great to be back at Hive Stadium after last week's dramatic last-minute win against Zebre Parma, and the drama should be just as palpable tonight with our visitors from Durban in town.

Last season they came here with a Springbok-laden side and produced one of the most pulsating encounters we've seen in this stadium - i'm expecting much of the same. We're expecting another big crowd tonight, and I can't wait to hear the noise you're all going to bring.

Your support this season has been nothing short of outstanding, as shown by last week against Zebre. The crowd of 6,818 was a record attendance for us against an Italian side, which is an amazing thing to be able to say. Your backing means everything to the club, and we want to show our fight for you for the rest of the season.

While there have been some challenging times this season, there are some bright stories and roots for the future coming to the fore.

M A N A G I N G D I R E C T O R ' S W E L C O M E



Hector Patterson was a prime example of this, standing out on his professional debut with a try capping off an assured performance - followed quickly by the announcement of his first professional contract with the club. Quite the week for the man from Hawick!

At the other end of the spectrum, we were also able to announce that double-centurion Grant Gilchrist has renewed terms with the club to enter his 16th season in the capital. Grant is a club legend already, becoming our fourth double-centurion in 2014, and having captained Edinburgh on numerous occasions. The big man is showing no signs of slowing up, having become Scotland's most-capped lock in the recent Six Nations.

There is still work to be done for Grant, leading both on and off the field to help bring through the next generation of Edinburgh stars. It's fantastic to have a player of his standing commit to the future of this club, adding to his 230+ appearances to date!

Looking ahead to next season it was also great to announce two of our new recruits, with Scots-qualified back duo of centre Riley Higgins and winger Geordie Gwynn signing for the club. Riley joins from the Hurricanes in New Zealand, while Gwynn signs from Ealing Trailfinders. Geordie might be more familiar having featured for Scotland U20 (and scoring against us in pre-season!), while Riley is an exciting prospect, with an All Blacks XV appearance to his name. It's brilliant to have players with so much potential want to join the journey in the capital - and I can't wait to see them getting started next season!

Back to the here and now - it promises to be a huge night of rugby at Hive Stadium. Make some noise and let's get behind the boys!

Douglas Struth
Managing Director, Edinburgh Rugby

DOUGLAS STRUTH
MANAGING DIRECTOR

AN EVENING with EDINBURGH'S

LIONS



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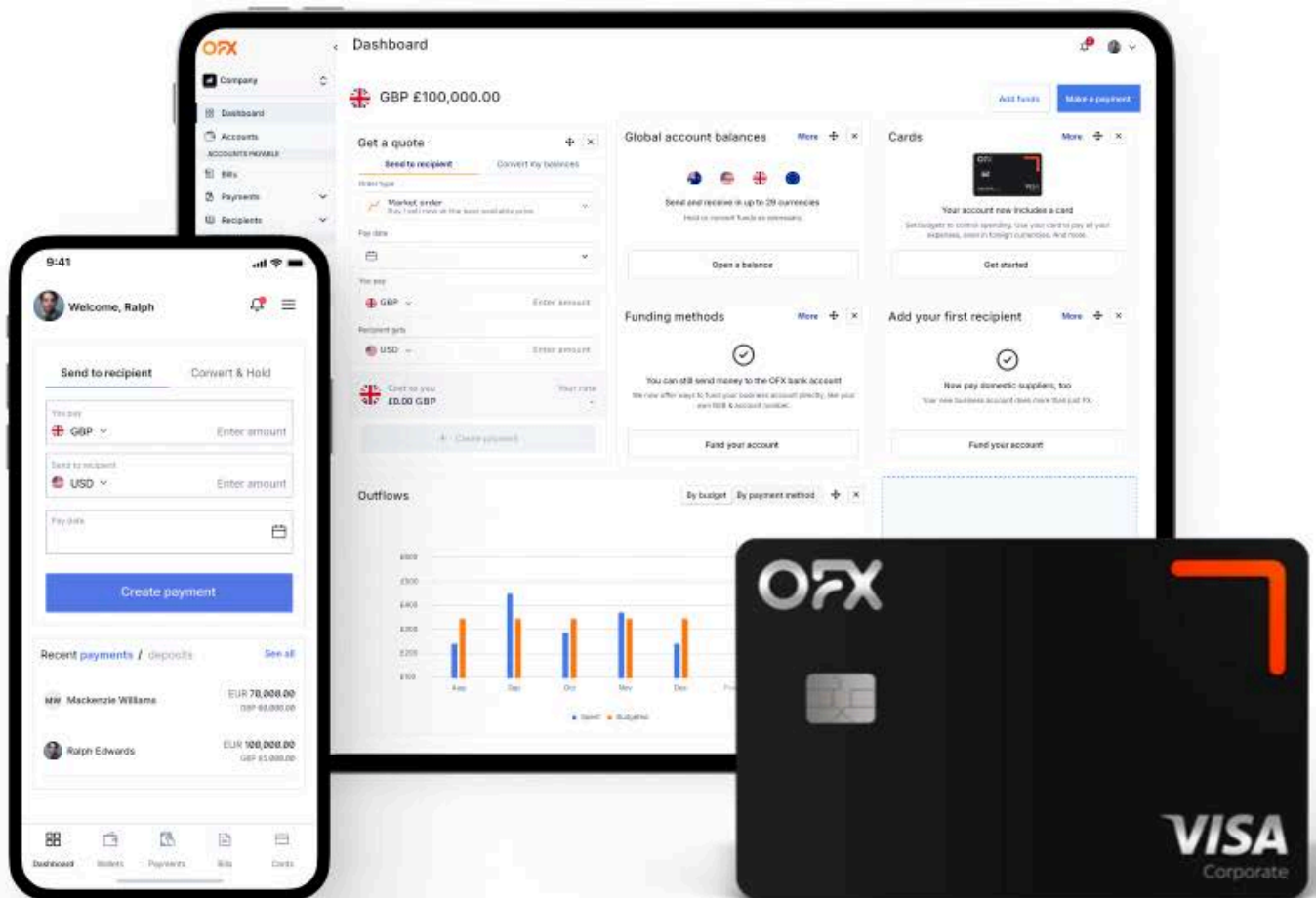
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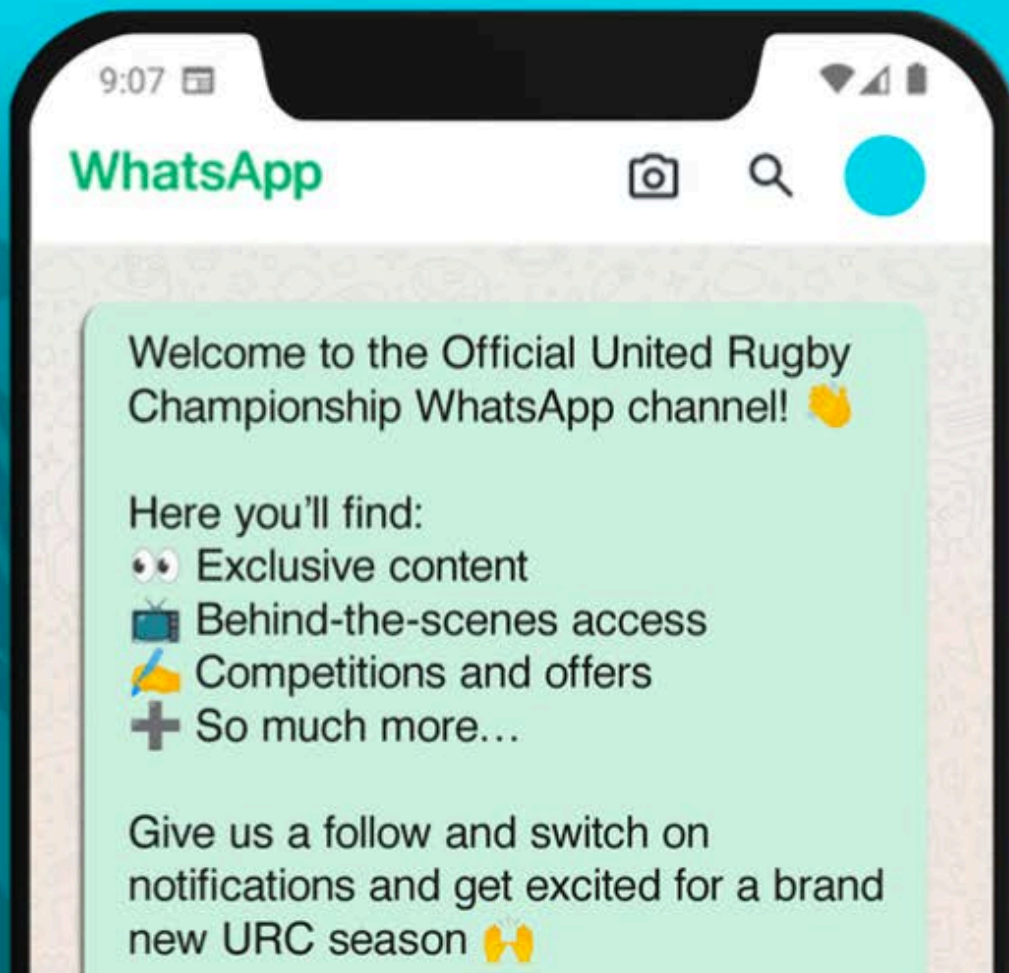


**A DECADE
BACKING THE
'BURGH**



UNITED RUGBY
CHAMPIONSHIP

WHATSAPP CHANNEL



TEAM LINEUPS



EDINBURGH

- 15 PIERS O'CONOR
- 14 DARCY GRAHAM
- 13 MOSESE TUIPULOTU
- 12 FINDLAY THOMSON
- 11 MALELILI SATALA
- 10 CAMMY SCOTT
- 9 HECTOR PATTERSON

- 1 PIERRE SCHOEMAN
- 2 EWAN ASHMAN
- 3 OLLIE BLYTH-LAFFERTY
- 4 MARSHALL SYKES
- 5 GRANT GILCHRIST (C)
- 6 GLEN YOUNG
- 7 FREDDY DOUGLAS
- 8 TOM CURRIE

HOLLYWOODBETS SHARKS

- 15 ZEKETHELO SIYAYA
- 14 EDWILL VAN DER MERWE
- 13 ANDRE ESTERHUIZEN
- 12 SIYA MASUKU
- 11 MAKAZOLE MAPIMPI
- 10 JEAN SMITH
- 9 JADEN HENDRIKSE

- 1 PHATU GANYANE
- 2 FEZ MBATHA
- 3 HANRO JACOBS
- 4 JASON JENKINS
- 5 EMILE VAN HEERDEN
- 6 PHEPSI BUTHELEZI
- 7 VINCENT TSHITUKA
- 8 MANU TSHITUKA

REPLACEMENTS

- 16 DYLAN RICHARDSON
- 17 BOAN VENTER
- 18 PAUL HILL
- 19 CALLUM HUNTER-HILL
- 20 TOM DODD
- 21 BEN VELLACOTT
- 22 ROSS THOMPSON
- 23 JACK BROWN

REPLACEMENTS

- 16 EDDIE SWART
- 17 OX NCHE
- 18 VINCENT KOCH
- 19 CORNE RAHL
- 20 NICK HATTON
- 21 SIYA KOLISI
- 22 BRADLEY DAVIDS
- 23 MARNUS POTGIETER



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GRANT GILCHRIST

STILL HERE STILL HUNGRY



There's a moment, Grant Gilchrist says, when a player knows. When the drive has gone, when the body isn't willing, when walking away becomes the only honest option.

After 15 seasons, 231 appearances and a record-breaking 88th Scotland cap, that moment hasn't come for Edinburgh's one-club man – and he's not expecting it any time soon.

"I've said it all along," he explains. "If I feel like I can't compete, if I feel like I can't get better, and I don't have that drive to do that, then that's when you walk away. Until that day, I want to be here."

This week, Gilchrist extended that stay for another year – a 16th season in an Edinburgh jersey. The signing was, in his own words, a no-brainer.

It's a remarkable story when you trace it back to the beginning. A young second row from Alloa RFC and Stirling County, making his professional debut against Cardiff at Murrayfield in September 2011.



He remembers it well: a group of young players thrown in together while the established names were away at the Rugby World Cup. Alongside him that day were Robin Hislop, Hamish Watson, Matt Scott. A generation finding their feet.

"I ended up playing, I think, all but one of the games that season," he recalls. "And that was the year we got to the semi-final of the Heineken Cup." He played in that too.

More than 14 years on, Gilchrist looks out from Hive Stadium and sees something unrecognisable from those early days – and yet something deeply familiar. The club he chose, and keeps choosing.

"There's been a lot of ups and downs during that period," he acknowledges. "But we're standing here in the Hive. The growth is there. We're playing in very different tournaments, both in Europe and domestically. The URC in comparison to those early competitions is night and day."

The standard, he says, has risen to a level he couldn't have imagined as a 20-year-old making his debut.



"It's not like it was when I first started. The quality across the board is through the roof. It's like Test match rugby now."

Edinburgh have grown with it – and Gilchrist has been one of the constants through that growth. Now sitting second on the club's all-time appearance list, he's acutely aware of the responsibility that comes with that. Not just to perform, but to pass something on.



"We're starting to see the next generation come through," he says, reeling off names with evident pride: Liam McConnell, Freddy Douglas, Tom Currie, Hector Patterson, Fin Thomson.

"These guys are coming through. But we've lost British & Irish Lions, 50-cap Scotland players, Scotland captains. That experience needs to be replaced as well."

The arrivals of players like Riley Higgins, he believes, are crucial to that balance – but so too is creating an environment where the young lads refuse to be displaced.

"I want Fin Thomson to go and make him win the jersey," he says of the newly signed centre. "That's what's going to drive us forward."

It's a mindset that speaks to what Gilchrist cares about most in these final weeks of the season. With four games remaining, he's driven less by personal milestones and more by what these matches can mean for the group.

"These last four games – I think that's a huge drive of mine. It's to win in the Edinburgh jersey with these young lads and make sure they go into next season knowing how to win games. That could set us up massively for next year."

As for his own horizon, there's the small matter of a Rugby World Cup in Australia in 2027. Potentially a fourth for Gilchrist, which would make him only the second Scotland men's player – after the legendary Chris Paterson – to achieve that feat. He's measured about it, but the ambition is unmistakable.

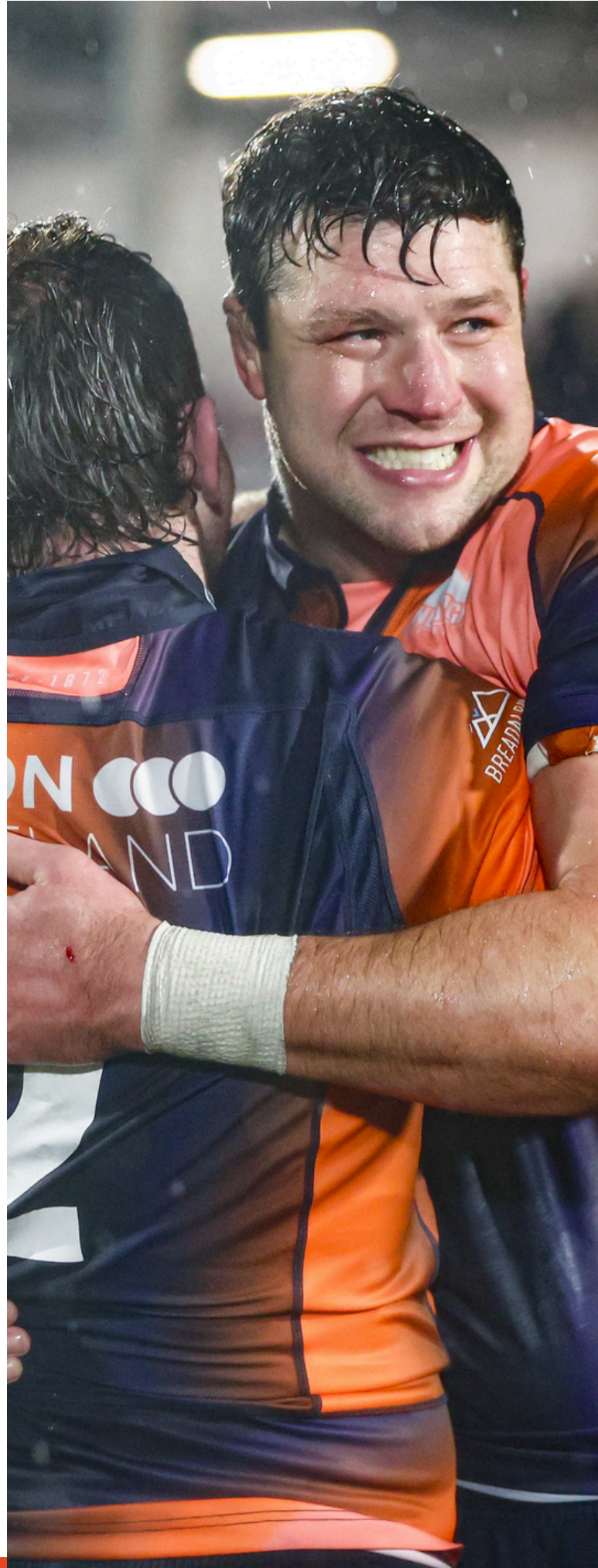
"I'm going to give my best to play my best rugby, and I'm going to try and make it. If I'm not good enough, then I'll make sure that the standard of the guys that do go is."

Beyond that? He's not looking. He never has been.

"The club have been fiercely loyal to me, and I'll be fiercely loyal to them," he says simply.

"Until that doesn't suit either party, then I'm delighted that we've been able to be loyal to each other."

This Friday, as he takes the field against The Sharks, that loyalty continues. Fifteen seasons in. Still here. Still hungry. Still Grant Gilchrist.





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EDINBURGH LAND HURRICANES STAR HIGGINS ON THREE-YEAR DEAL



Edinburgh Rugby has secured the signing of highly-rated Scottish-qualified centre Riley Higgins from Super Rugby Pacific side Hurricanes on a three-year deal, with the 23-year-old set to join the capital club for the 2026/27 season, subject to visa.

The signing represents one of the most significant pieces of recruitment in Edinburgh Rugby's recent history.

Higgins is widely regarded as one of the brightest young midfield talents in New Zealand rugby, with the capital side seeing off competition from a number of English, Japanese and New Zealand clubs to secure his signature.

Higgins qualifies for Scotland through his Ayrshire-born grandmother and arrives at Hive Stadium having established himself as a consistent performer in one of Super Rugby Pacific's most competitive midfields.

Having been a standout performer for New Zealand U20 in 2021/22, Higgins made his Super Rugby debut for the Hurricanes at just 19 years old, earning the rare distinction of playing at that level before he had even featured in NPC rugby.

He went on to win his first NPC title with Wellington shortly after turning 20, before adding a second in 2023/24.

In 2024/25, Higgins was called up to the All Blacks XV, starting at inside centre in a 31-13 away victory over Georgia – a performance that further underlined his growing reputation within New Zealand rugby.

Before an injury curtailed his season, he had been keeping established Hurricanes names including All Black Billy Proctor, as well as Peter Umaga-Jensen and Bailyn Sullivan, out of the starting XV.

Higgins can operate at 12 and 13, as well as on the wing, and will add real depth and competition to an Edinburgh midfield that already includes Matt Currie and Mosese Tuipulotu – both 24 – alongside promising academy centres Findlay Thompson (21), Henry Kesterton (19) and Ross Wolfenden (20).

The centre is the younger brother of Kienan Higgins, who joined Edinburgh on a short loan spell earlier this year, and arrives having been named in the Hurricanes squad for the 2026 Super Rugby campaign – with the Wellington side currently top of the standings.

On his signing, Higgins said: “I can’t wait to get stuck in with Edinburgh. It’s a big move but the challenge of testing myself in a new competition, with such a great team and such passionate fans is very exciting. The club has a great feel to it, and I can’t wait to grow my game with Edinburgh Rugby over the next few years.

“I’m still young and learning but I’m hungry to improve as a player and person on and off the field, and help the team wherever I can in the hope of winning some titles.

“Fans can expect a hard-working player who will never give up, and someone who brings an exciting style of play. I can’t wait to see you all soon!”

Edinburgh Rugby Head Coach, Sean Everitt, added: “Riley is an outstanding talent and this is a significant signing for Edinburgh Rugby. He has already proven himself at the highest level in the southern hemisphere – a player who was keeping All Blacks out of the Hurricanes’ starting lineup before his 24th birthday – and we believe the best is still very much to come from him.

“The fact that he has chosen to turn down a potential All Blacks future, and has rejected higher offers elsewhere, to come to Edinburgh tells you everything about his ambition to succeed in Scotland. We worked enormously hard over many months to get this deal over the line, and I’m delighted we’ve got it done.”





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Duhan van der Merwe

Favourite memory from a game you've watched or played in?

Scoring a try for Lenzie against Allen Glen's Rugby Club

If you could meet any player from our club, past or present, who would it be, and what would you ask them?

Duhan van der Merwe - Do you remember meeting me 2 years ago?



Ruaridh

School / Club:

Stirling County RFC

Favourite Players:

Darcy Graham

Favourite memory from a game you've watched or played in?

Playing with my friends at my rugby team

If you could meet any player from our club, past or present, who would it be, and what would you ask them?

Darcy - how many more tries do you want to score for Edinburgh?

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Eleghosa

School / Club:

Clovenstone Primary

Favourite Players:

Harri Morris

Favourite memory from a game you've watched or played in?

When Harri came to our school and we played small games in the hall

If you could meet any player from our club, past or present, who would it be, and what would you ask them?

Darcy Graham - what is the favourite try you have scored?

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Khadija

School / Club:

Clovenstone Primary

Favourite Players:

Harri Morris

Favourite memory from a game you've watched or played in?

When Harri Morris came to my school and we played some rugby with him

If you could meet any player from our club, past or present, who would it be, and what would you ask them?

Duhan Van Der Merwe - Do you prefer playing for Edinburgh or Scotland ?

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HECTOR PATTERSON PENS FIRST PRO-DEAL

HP9



HECTOR
PATTERSON

Edinburgh Rugby is delighted to announce scrum-half Hector Patterson has signed his first professional contract with the club.

The 21-year-old put pen to paper on the deal just days after impressing on his professional debut, scoring a try and contributing strongly at nine as Edinburgh edged a dramatic 31–30 victory over Zebre Parma at Hive Stadium on Friday night.

Patterson came through the ranks at Jed-Forest and Hawick RFC before progressing through the Edinburgh Rugby academy, and was part of the Scotland side that won the 2024 World Rugby U20 Trophy.

On Friday, the Denholm-born scrum-half delivered a composed and assured display from the base – kicking well, providing clean service to stand-off Ross Thompson and the forwards, while finishing a well-worked team move to get his name on the scoresheet.

Rugby runs deep in the Patterson family. Hector’s father, Derrick, was a former Scotland scrum-half who earned two senior international caps in the 1990s and represented his country at the 1995 Rugby World Cup.

NEWS

Derrick made his Edinburgh District debut against Glasgow at Goldenacre in November 1992, becoming player number 914. More than 30 years later, his son pulled on the Edinburgh jersey for the first time against Zebre to become player number 1351 – a detail that will not have been lost on either of them.

Patterson joins a group of academy graduates who have recently stepped up to professional contracts at the club, following back-row duo Freddy Douglas and Liam McConnell, and tighthead prop Ollie Blyth-Lafferty – all three of whom lined up alongside him against Zebre on Friday.

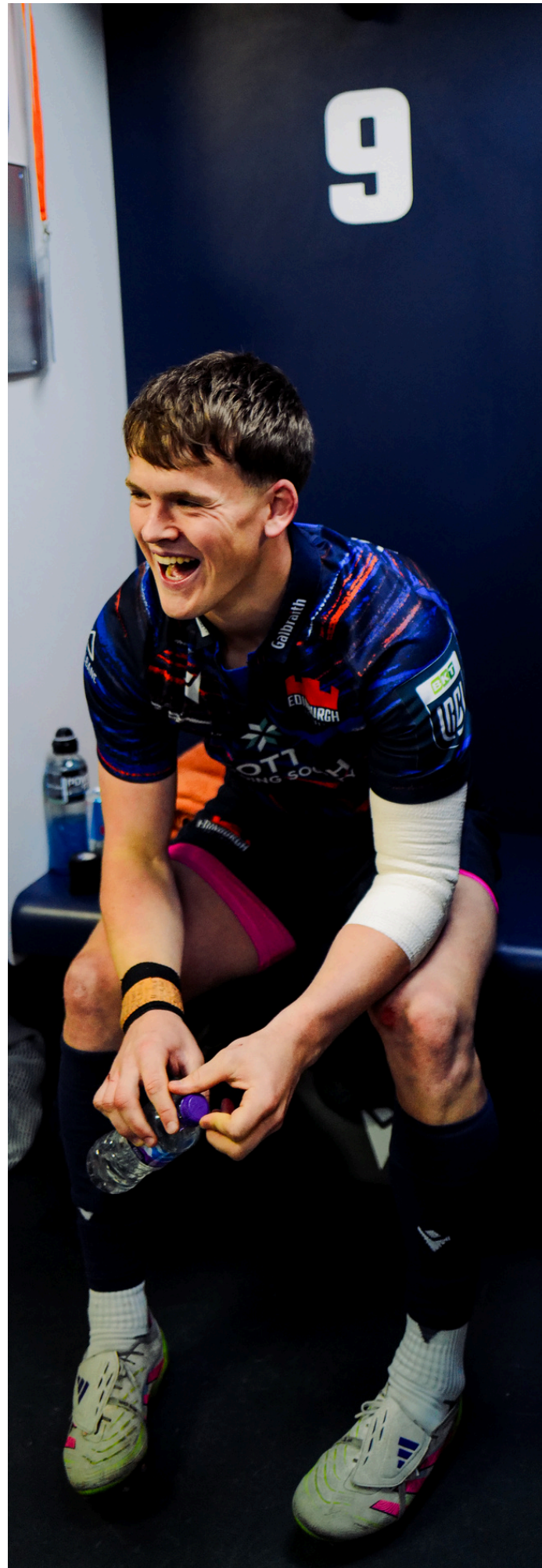
On the new deal, Patterson said: “Friday night was everything I dreamed it would be. Pulling on that jersey for the first time in a competitive match, in front of our own fans at Hive Stadium, was a moment I’ll carry with me forever. I loved every single minute of it and it’s only made me hungrier for more.

“Signing my first pro deal is what I’ve been working towards my whole career. To get here, at this club, feels incredibly special.

“I feel like I can really kick on and keep improving as a player under Sean [Everitt, Head Coach] and the coaching staff. The environment here gives you every opportunity to develop. I’m excited for what the future holds and I want to repay the faith the club has shown in me.”

Head Coach Sean Everitt added: “Hector worked hard for his opportunity and he took it well on Friday. The kicking game, the service, the try – he was composed throughout. It was a really encouraging debut.

“This is what happens when players commit to their development. Freddy, Liam and Ollie have shown a pathway is there for young players who are willing to put the work in, and Hector is the latest to follow that route. It’s great to see and we’re looking forward to watching him continue to grow.”





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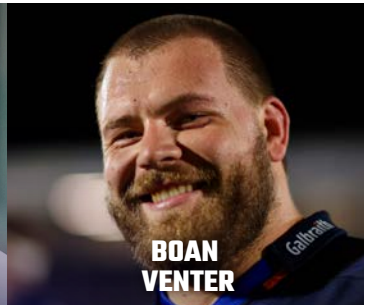


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SENIOR SQUAD



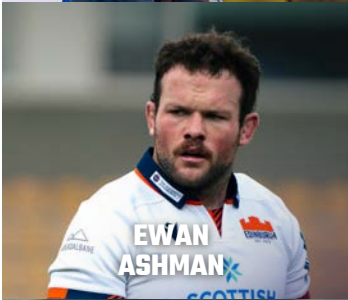
LOOSEHEAD



TIGHTHEAD



HOOKER



LOCK



LOCK + BACKROW



BACK ROW



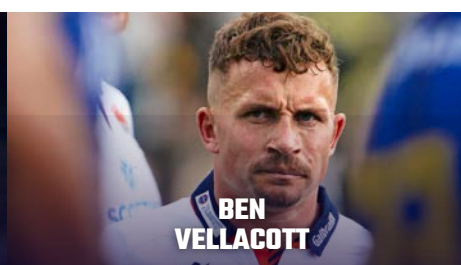
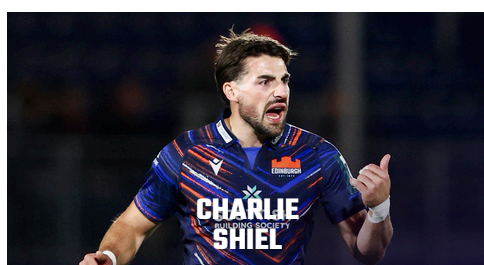
SENIOR SQUAD



BACK ROW



SCRUM-HALF



FLY HALF



CENTRE



BACK THREE



ACADEMY



JERRY BLYTH-LAFFERTY

OLLIE BLYTH-LAFFERTY

JACK BROWN

SAM BRYD

ISAAC COATES

FIN DOYLE

OLLIE DUNCAN

HENRY KESTERTON

SAM LEWENI

CHRISTIAN LINDSAY

HAMISH MACARTHUR

RORY MCHAFFIE

ROSS MCKNIGHT

EUAN MCVIE

NAIRN MONCRIEFF

HECTOR PATTERSON

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LIAM MCCONNELL



SAM BYRD



EWAN ASHMAN



JAMES WHITCOMBE



HAMISH WATSON



ROSS THOMPSON



JAMES LANG



HARRY MORRIS



BEN MUNCASTER



FREDDY DOUGLAS



ROB CARMICHAEL



HARRY PATERSON



PADDY HARRISON



PIERRE SCHOEMAN



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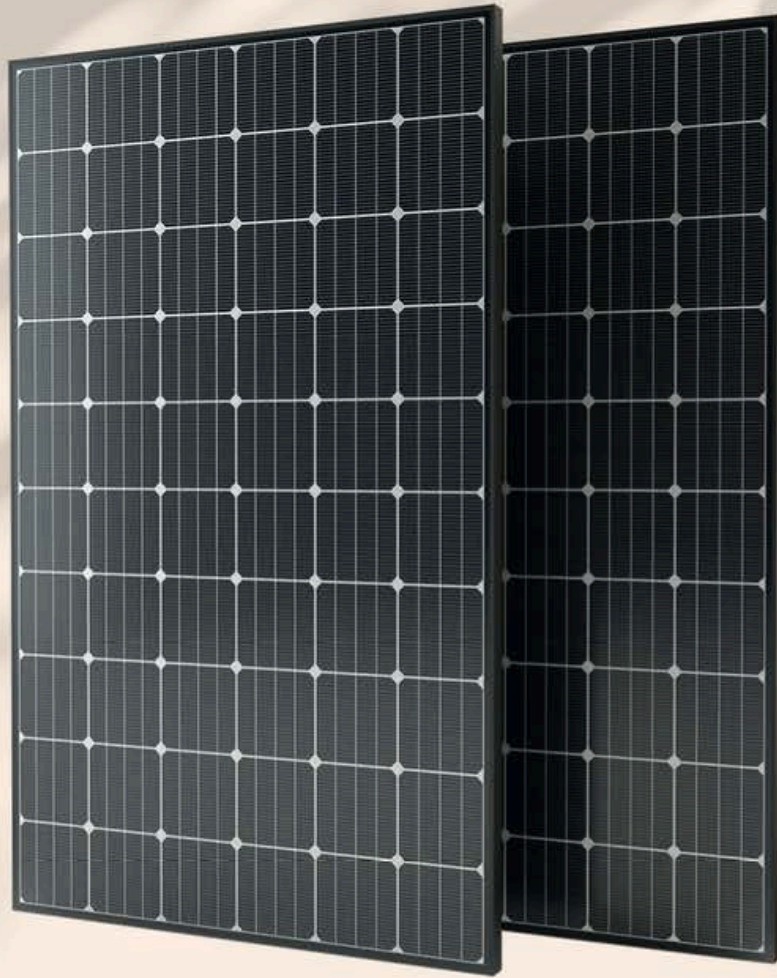
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Connor Boyle **Blind Korn**
Magnus Bradbury **No broke boys** Disco lines, tinashe
Jack Brown **That's the way I like it** KC and the sunshine band
Rob Carmichael **Funkytown** Lipps Inc.
Luke Crosbie **The Spark** Kabin Crew, Lisdoonvarna Crew
Matt Currie **Samba de Janeiro** Bellini
Tom Currie **Again** Fetty wap
Tom Dodd **Crazy** Gnarlz Barkley
Freddy Douglas **Starboy** The Weekend
Grant Gilchrist **Rocking all Over the World** Status Quo
Wes Goosen **Hey ya** Outcast
Darcy Graham **I like it, I love it** Tim McGraw
Paddy Harrison **Country Roads** John Denver
Ben Healy **Heaven is a Place on Earth** Belinda Carlisle
Paul Hill **Girls just wanna have fun** Cindy lauper
Callum Hunter-Hill **For Whom The Bell Tolls** Metallica
Mikey Jones **Gold Dust** DJ fresh
James Lang **I like it like that** Pete Rodriguez
Conor McAlpine **Barbara Streisand** Duck sauce
Ross McCann **I can't hold back** Survivor
Liam McConnell **Born Slippy** Underworld
Harri Morris **Whos that girl** Eve
Ben Muncaster **Hawaii 5 0 theme song** Brian Tyler, Keith power
Piers O'Connor **Levels** Avicii
Harry Paterson **Lady Writer** Dire Straits
D'Arcy Rae **Sabotage** Beastie Boys
Dylan Richardson **The Ketchup Song (Asereje)** Las Ketchup
Malelili Satala **Luther** Kendrick Lamar
Pierre Schoeman **Praise** Elevation Worship
Cammy Scott **Fire** Kasabian
Charlie Shiel **Yes sir, I can boogie** Baccara
Sam Skinner **California Dreamin'** The Mamas & the Papas
Marshall Sykes **Everyday** Eric prydz
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 **Boom Boom Boom** The Outhere Brothers
Boan Venter **The Glen** Levi Herson
Hamish Watson **This is the One** Stone Roses
James Whitcombe **Rock the casbah** The clash
Angus Williams **Back in Black** ACDC
Glen Young **We like to party** Vengaboys

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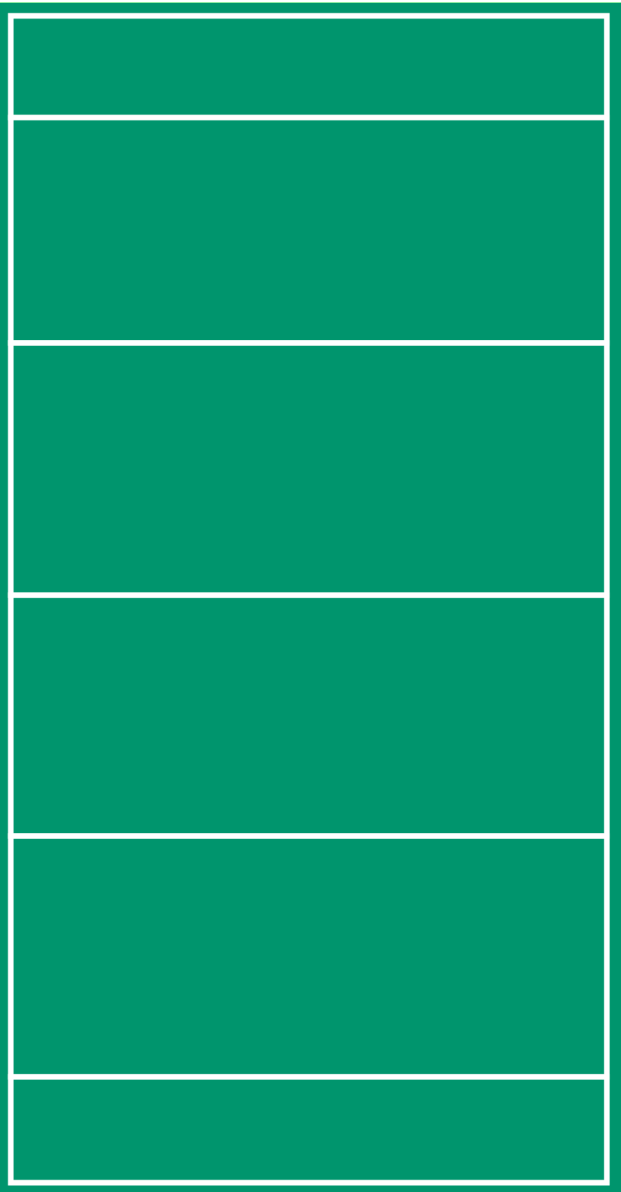
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TERRACE A
TERRACE B

MURRAYFIELD STAND

STAIR 10-12
STAIR 14-16



STAIR 24-26



LOTHIAN STAND

STAIR 20-23

STAIR 17-19

TERRACE E

TERRACE D

TERRACE C



STAIR 1-4



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STAIR 5

STAIR 6-9

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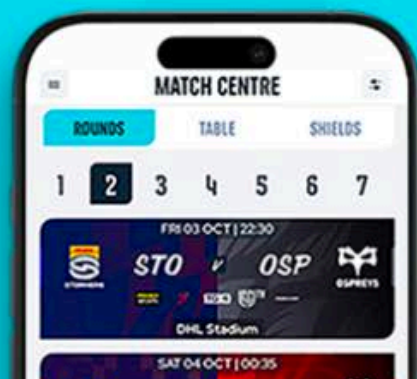
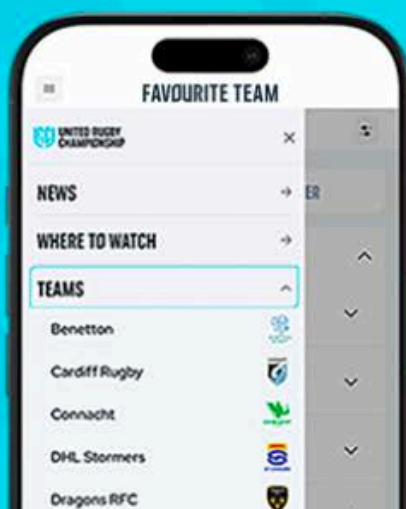
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THE NEXT GENERATION: EDINBURGH'S YOUTH STEP UP AGAINST ZEBRE



It was a night that had everything – lead changes, late drama, a debut to remember, and a crowd roaring Hive Stadium into life. But running through Friday's 31–30 victory over Zebre Parma was a thread worth pausing on.

Nine players aged 24 and under featured in Edinburgh's matchday 23. The starting XV averaged just 25.1 years old. The full squad: 25.7.

For a group that has had to grow up quickly this season, Friday night felt like another step forward.

Patterson announces himself

The standout storyline was Hector Patterson. The 21-year-old academy graduate from Denholm – who came through the ranks at Hawick RFC and was part of the Scotland side that won the 2024 World Rugby U20 Trophy – made his professional debut at scrum-half and took his chance with both hands.

Patterson showed composure throughout, setting up Connor Boyle's opening try before crossing for his own score after a well-worked team move – Piers O'Connor's deft chip releasing Malelili Satala, whose powerful carry created the space for the debutant to finish. A debut he will not forget in a hurry.

Thomson back, Tuipulotu committed

Findlay Thomson made a welcome return to the side alongside Patterson in the backs – the 21-year-old centre had been out since November’s display against Ospreys, and showed few signs of rust on his comeback from a thumb injury. Partnering him in midfield was Mosese Tuipulotu, 24, who this week signed a new two-year deal with the club.

On the wing, Malelili Satala continues to grow into the senior game. The 21-year-old’s carry and offload in the build-up to Patterson’s try was a moment of real quality, and the winger is gaining in confidence with each appearance.



Holding his own up front

At tighthead prop, 20-year-old Ollie Blyth-Lafferty put in another solid shift against tough opposition. The opportunities have come thick and fast for the academy product this season, and he is taking them in his stride.

Douglas and McConnell impress

In the back-row, Freddy Douglas, 20, and Liam McConnell, 21, were both effective throughout – energetic, physical, and consistently involved. Both are developing well at this level and will be better for the experience of a night like Friday.

Contributions from the bench

Tom Currie (21), Jack Brown (20), and Cammy Scott (24) all played their part after coming on, with Scott stepping up to take the kicking duties and converting Boan Venter’s last-gasp score to seal the win.

Twelve of the 23 players on Friday came through this club’s academy system. These are young players finding their feet at professional level, working hard, and producing moments to be proud of.



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LAST TIME OUT

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EDINBURGH RUGBY 31 - 30 ZEBRE PARMA



Edinburgh Rugby delivered a dramatic Friday Night Lights performance at Hive Stadium, with replacement prop Boan Venter crashing over in the dying stages and Cammy Scott converting to seal a pulsating 31–30 bonus point victory over Zebre Parma on Support our Services night.

The hosts wasted no time in setting the tone. Within the opening five minutes, a Zebre breakdown error handed Edinburgh the platform they needed.

Stand-off Ross Thompson found the corner with a precise kick, and from the resulting lineout the home side worked through the phases before debutant Hector Patterson picked out Connor Boyle, who dotted down for the opening score. Thompson added the conversion.

The visitors refused to be rattled. Two Edinburgh penalties gave Zebre the momentum they needed, and scrum-half Alessandro Fusco darted over just four minutes later, with Giovanni Montemauri adding the extras.

The Italians were not done. Another penalty conceded put Zebre back inside Edinburgh's 22, and a well-timed wide pass found Simone Gesi with space to glide over in the corner. The conversion was missed, but Zebre had turned the match on its head.

15. Piers O'Connor
14. Darcy Graham
13. Mosese Tuipulotu
12. Findlay Thomson
11. Malelili Satala
10. Ross Thompson
9. Hector Patterson

1. Pierre Schoeman
2. Ewan Ashman
3. Ollie Blyth-Lafferty
4. Marshall Sykes
5. Grant Gilchrist (C)
6. Liam McConnell
7. Freddy Douglas
8. Connor Boyle

Replacements

16. Dylan Richardson
17. Boan Venter
18. Paul Hill
19. Glen Young
20. Tom Currie
21. Ben Vellacott
22. Cammy Scott
23. Jack Brown

Edinburgh responded with the quality of a side that refused to be shaken. A deft chip through from Mosese Tuipulotu released Malelili Satala, whose powerful carry drew in defenders before he offloaded to the supporting Patterson, who crossed for his first try in Edinburgh colours. Thompson's conversion put the home side back ahead.

The momentum stayed with Edinburgh. A penalty earned the hosts a foothold in opposition territory, and after a sustained spell of pressure, Patterson turned provider again – finding hooker Ewan Ashman, who powered through three defenders to dot down. The conversion was missed, but Edinburgh's lead was growing.

Zebre had the final word of the half, however. An Edinburgh offside infringement handed Montemauri a routine penalty, cutting the gap to four points as the teams headed for the tunnel.



Zebre emerged from the break with intent. Full-back Jacopo Trulla seized on a defensive lapse, breaking clear to run in from 30 metres and hand the visitors the lead for the second time.

Edinburgh steadied themselves. Replacement stand-off Cammy Scott took over the kicking duties, finding the corner twice from penalty positions.

From one of those lineouts, the forwards constructed a trademark rolling maul and Ashman powered over for his second try of the night – a fitting reward for an outstanding individual display that would later earn him the BKT URC Player of the Match award.

With ten minutes remaining, a Zebre penalty edged the visitors back in front by a single point. Then, after a lengthy TMO review, a Zebre try was confirmed and Montemauri added the conversion – suddenly, a six-point gap looked like it might be too much to bridge.

Edinburgh refused to buckle. Driven by determination and crowd noise, they recycled phase after phase, working their way back into range. When replacement prop Boan Venter bulldozed his way over the line, Hive Stadium erupted. Scott stepped up and nailed the conversion to complete the comeback – and secure a precious bonus point in the process.

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