EDINBURGH VS RC TOULON



FRIDAY 16 OCTOBER, 8PM
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EDINBURGH VS TOULON

MANAGING DIRECTOR'S WELCOME

EDINBURGH VS TOULON



Good evening and welcome to Hive Stadium for tonight's EPCR Challenge Cup opening match against RC Toulon.

It is incredibly exciting to start our European journey on home turf, especially against such a massive side. Toulon are one of the greats of European rugby, and to welcome them to our home for a successive year is an enthralling prospect. Last year's match against the same opponent was one of our biggest results in recent years, and we'll be hoping for the same on Friday night.

It has been a great start to the season, which has seen us pick up three wins from three, and 14 points from a possible 15 in the United Rugby Championship. We've managed to win in different ways in all of our matches, but the thing I am most proud of is the impact our young players are making to these wins.

Players like Freddy Douglas, Malelili Satala, and Liam McConnell have stepped up to be central figures in the team, with new signings James Grayson and Geordie Gwynn both impressing in the trio of matches we've had so far. With players like Darcy Graham and Duhan van der Merwe to add back into the mix, i'm excited about where this squad can go this season.

EDINBURGH VS TOULON

MANAGING DIRECTOR'S WELCOME





It has also been brilliant to see some of our academy players making their capital debuts, and making big impacts to turn games in our favour. Rory McHaffie has featured from the bench in every match so far, and the young winger had a dream home debut scoring the winning try to beat the Stormers at the death.

Prop Jamie Stewart then debuted the following week, coming on for club centurion Pierre Schoeman to help secure a bonus point win in Parma. Both players have bright futures, and it's brilliant to see them getting stuck into their first senior minutes.

A player that has a few more minutes under his belt is club co-captain Magnus Bradbury, but it has been wonderful to see his form in the early part of the season. A crucial try that showed all of his power in Italy was a momentum swinger - one of his 22 carries in a player of the match display.

It is early days in the season, but it is so good to see our team play with such fight, and such care for the jersey they are wearing. I'm hopeful tonight will be a positive step in our journey as a team, and I can't wait to hear the noise you'll bring to make Hive Stadium bounce!

Enjoy the rugby!
Douglas Struth, Managing Director

EDINBURGH
VS
TOULON

EPCR WELCOME

EPCR WELCOME

Welcome to this new season of the EPCR Challenge Cup! This is a competition where you never quite know what to expect: underdogs shake up the order, long journeys forge teams, and every weekend can produce a surprise. This edition promises to be more open than ever.



Last season ended in record-breaking style in Bilbao. Montpellier Hérault Rugby crowned an unbeaten campaign by beating Ulster 59-26, with nine tries, seven conversions and 59 points, all new EPCR Challenge Cup Final records. Their third title draws them level with Harlequins and ASM Clermont Auvergne as the competition's most successful clubs. Across our competitions, 1.4 million fans filled the stands, more than 70 million viewers followed the action, and matches were broadcast live in 177 countries and territories. In Bilbao, 96,000 spectators were there for the two finals, generating an estimated €55 million in economic impact for the region.

This season, 18 clubs from England, France, Georgia, Ireland, Italy, Scotland, South Africa and Wales will chase the trophy, and the Challenge Cup welcomes back two familiar faces. Black Lion, flag-bearers of Georgian rugby, and the Toyota Cheetahs from Bloemfontein return to the competition, bringing new head-to-heads and some of the most unique away trips in the game.

EPCR WELCOME

The Cheetahs will face Perpignan, Bayonne, the Dragons RFC and Zebre Parma. Black Lion will take on Toulon, Vannes, Edinburgh and the Ospreys. In the remaining pool, Lyon, Castres, the Hollywoodbets Sharks, Newcastle Red Bulls, Benetton Rugby and Scarlets will battle for qualification, and the Lyon players will have one dream in mind: reaching a final in their home city. With the defending champions now competing in the Investec Champions Cup, one thing is certain: the trophy will change hands.

And every point will matter more than ever. Two important rule changes come into force this season, affecting qualification for the Round of 16 and the Offensive Try Bonus. Both are designed to raise the stakes in every match: more jeopardy throughout the pool stage, even more to play for, and every reason for teams to attack from the first minute to the last. The road leads to Lyon, where OL Stadium will host the EPCR Challenge Cup Final on 21 May 2027, alongside the Investec Champions Cup Final. Ten years after the unforgettable 2016 Finals, we look forward to welcoming supporters from around the world back to France's gastronomic capital for a celebration of the very best of international club rugby.

Off the pitch, we continue to build on impACT, our social responsibility strategy. This season, we launched the Emirates Nourishment Programme alongside Emirates and the Kolisi Foundation. Over the next four years, the programme will provide around 400,000 nutritious breakfasts every year to some 2,000 schoolchildren, 1.6 million breakfasts in total by 2030. A meal served every morning means a child who comes to school, concentrates in class and is ready to seize the opportunities in front of them. With rugby as a source of inspiration and role models who embody resilience and teamwork, the programme shows everything our sport can achieve.

Whether you are in the stands or watching from home, you can follow the competition thanks to our broadcast partners: Premier Sports in the UK and Ireland, beIN SPORTS and France Télévisions in France, SuperSport in South Africa, FloRugby in North America, FOX Sports in Latin America, as well as EPCRugby.TV, our OTT platform. Our thanks go to them for bringing fans closer to their clubs, wherever they are. We would also like to thank our partners, Emirates, Investec, DHL, Georgia Tourism, Jaecoo, Gilbert and Macron, whose loyal support helps this competition grow year after year.
Finally, to our players, clubs, coaches, support staff, match officials, volunteers and media, and above all to you, the fans: thank you for your passion and commitment. You give meaning to everything we build.
Enjoy the match and let the adventure begin!

DOMINIC MCKAY
EPCR CHAIRMAN

JAECOO 7

FIND THE POWER TO GO ON AND ON



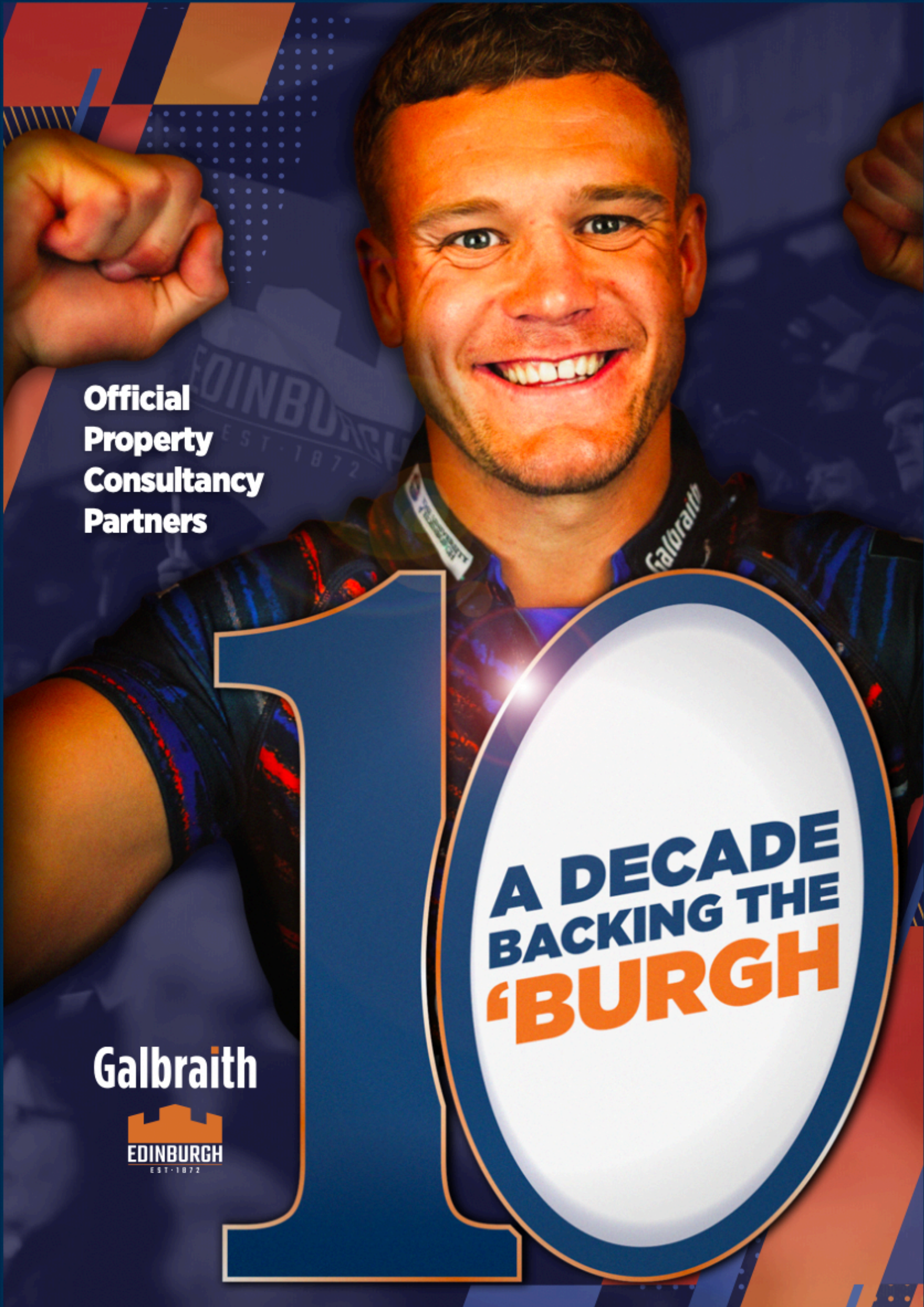
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STARTING XV

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EWAN ASHMAN	02
OLLIE BLYTH-LAFFERTY	03
CALLUM HUNTER-HILL	04
GLEN YOUNG	05
TOM CURRIE	06
FREDDY DOUGLAS	07
MAGNUS BRADBURY (CC)	08
HECTOR PATTERSON	09
JAMES GRAYSON	10
MALELILI SATALA	11
MOSESE TUIPULOTU	12
MATT CURRIE (CC)	13
DARCY GRAHAM	14
PIERS O'CONOR	15

16. JERRY BLYTH-LAFFERTY 17. JAMIE STEWART 18. PAUL HILL
19. GRANT GILCHRIST 20. EUAN MCVIE
21. CONOR MCALPINE 22. GEORDIE GWYNN 23. RORY MCHAFFIE



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VENDREDI 16 OCTOBRE - 21H
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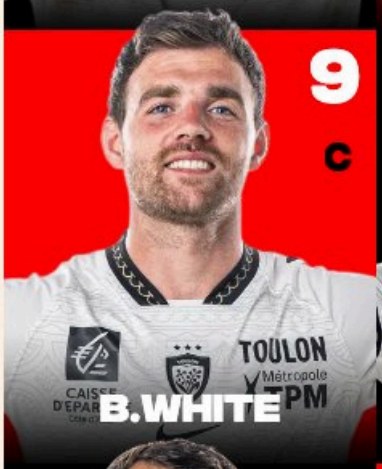




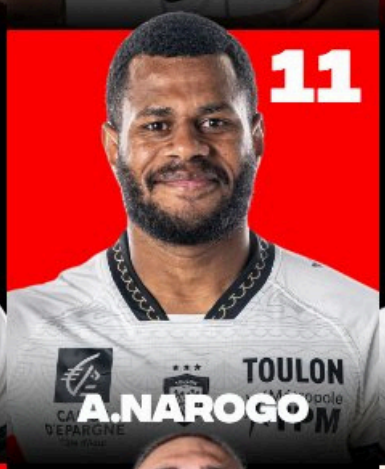








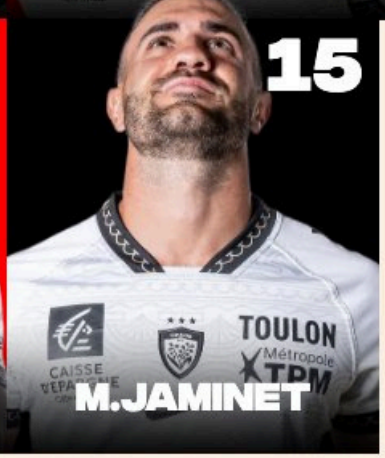












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EDINBURGH TO HONOUR FORMER PLAYERS ON 30TH ANNIVERSARY EUROPEAN JERSEY

Edinburgh Rugby will mark the recent passing of two of its former captains, Scott Hastings and Ally Donaldson, and flanker Graham Dall, on the capital's European jersey this season.

The trio were part of Edinburgh's first ever professional side in 1996, featuring in the club's inaugural European match against Bath. All three players have left an indelible mark on rugby in the capital – as players and as men in the wider rugby community.

Each player will have their initials and heritage number printed on the thirteen, ten, and seven jerseys, acting as a tribute to their contributions to the shirt in their times representing the capital.

Hastings (#871), who was the club's first professional club captain, left behind a legacy as a Scottish rugby great. The centre earned 65 Scotland caps between 1986 and 1997, and went on two British & Irish Lions tours.

A huge figure at Watsonian FC, Scott's rugby story will always be firmly rooted in the capital.



Gavin Hastings, Scott's brother and Edinburgh #854, said: "Rugby is a very close community, and I think rugby players have a great affinity for one another. Ally and Scott were both deeply committed improving the lives of people they came in contact with. I've lost a brother, and a guy I had huge amount of respect for, and it's tough.

"But rugby honours their former players well, and I think this is a lovely gesture to wear the numbers and initials of both players in their European games this season."

Donaldson (#911) made a huge impact on the rugby landscape in Edinburgh, both as a player and as a coach and teacher. Ally captained the capital in 1997, and while at Currie he steered the club on the pitch to their success in the inaugural Tennent's Shield in 1996.

His influence reached far beyond the pitch, nurturing multiple talents into the professional echelons of the game as Director of Rugby at George Watson's College, including Stuart McInally and current Edinburgh stand-off Cammy Scott.

Katie Donaldson, Ally's daughter, added: "We're really honoured that Edinburgh Rugby are paying tribute to our dad, because rugby was such a big part of dad's life and our family's life, and we're really excited to see the strip at a European game."

In addition to the club captains that passed away this year, the club will also pay tribute to flanker Graham Dall, who sadly died last year. Dall (#932) started against Bath in 1996, and was a great part of the Heriot's and Edinburgh Rugby family.

Whilst he was a Scotland-A international and gifted rugby player, he was also a talent in the medical world, becoming an orthopaedic surgeon, working in the NHS at the Borders General Hospital in Melrose, specialising in ankle and foot surgery.

His initials and heritage number will be placed on the seven jersey for the club's European fixtures this season.

All three players would have part of the 1996 side present at the game this Friday, as guests of the club in hospital, to celebrate the club's European anniversary.





It's good 2 give

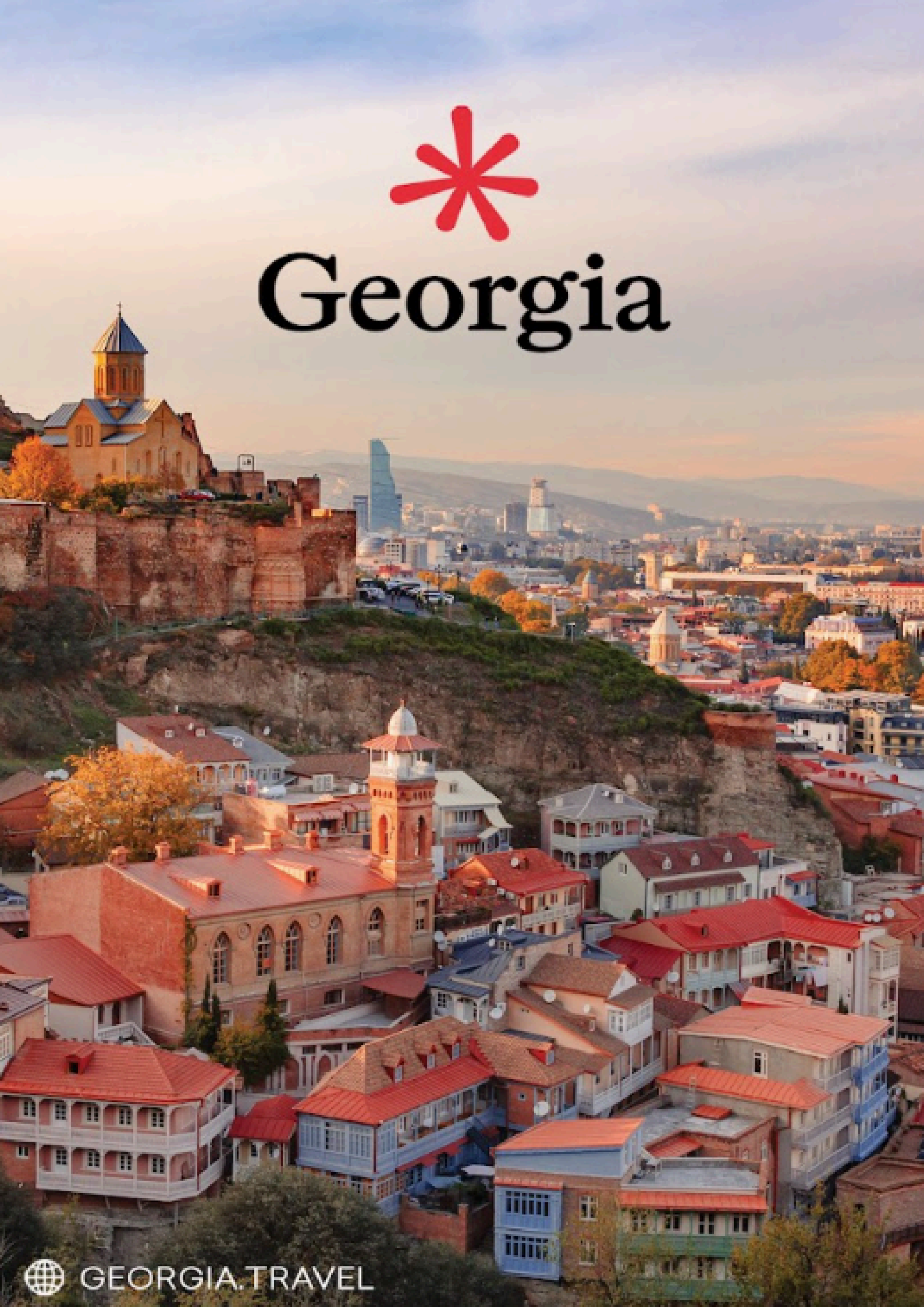
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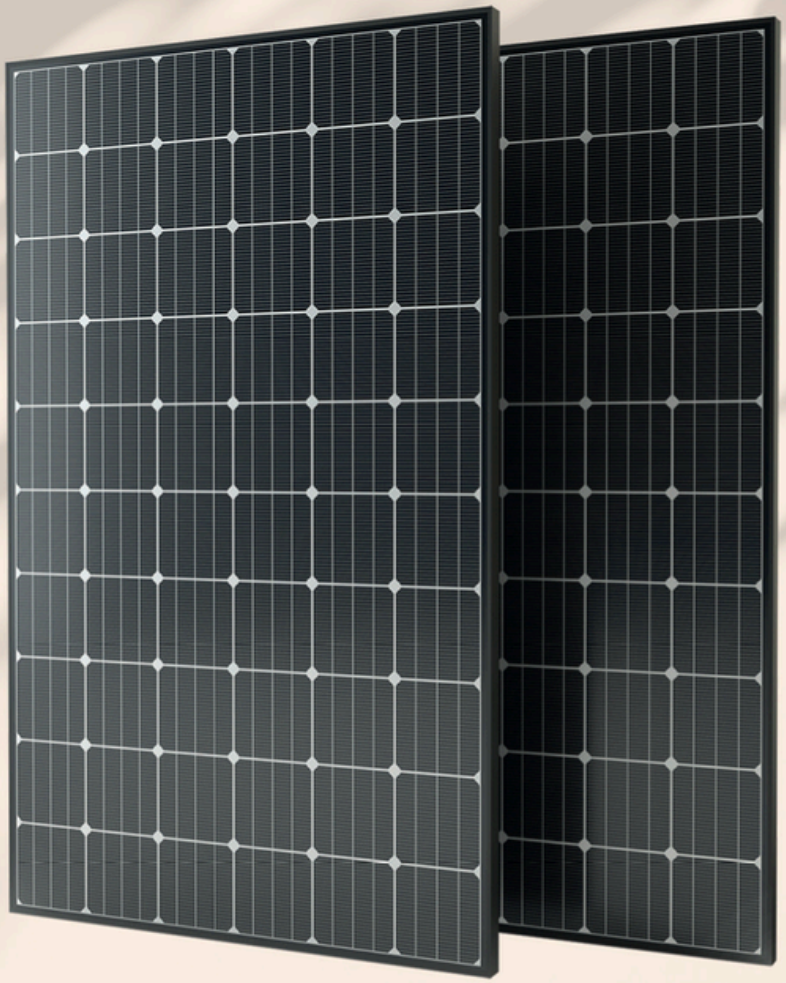
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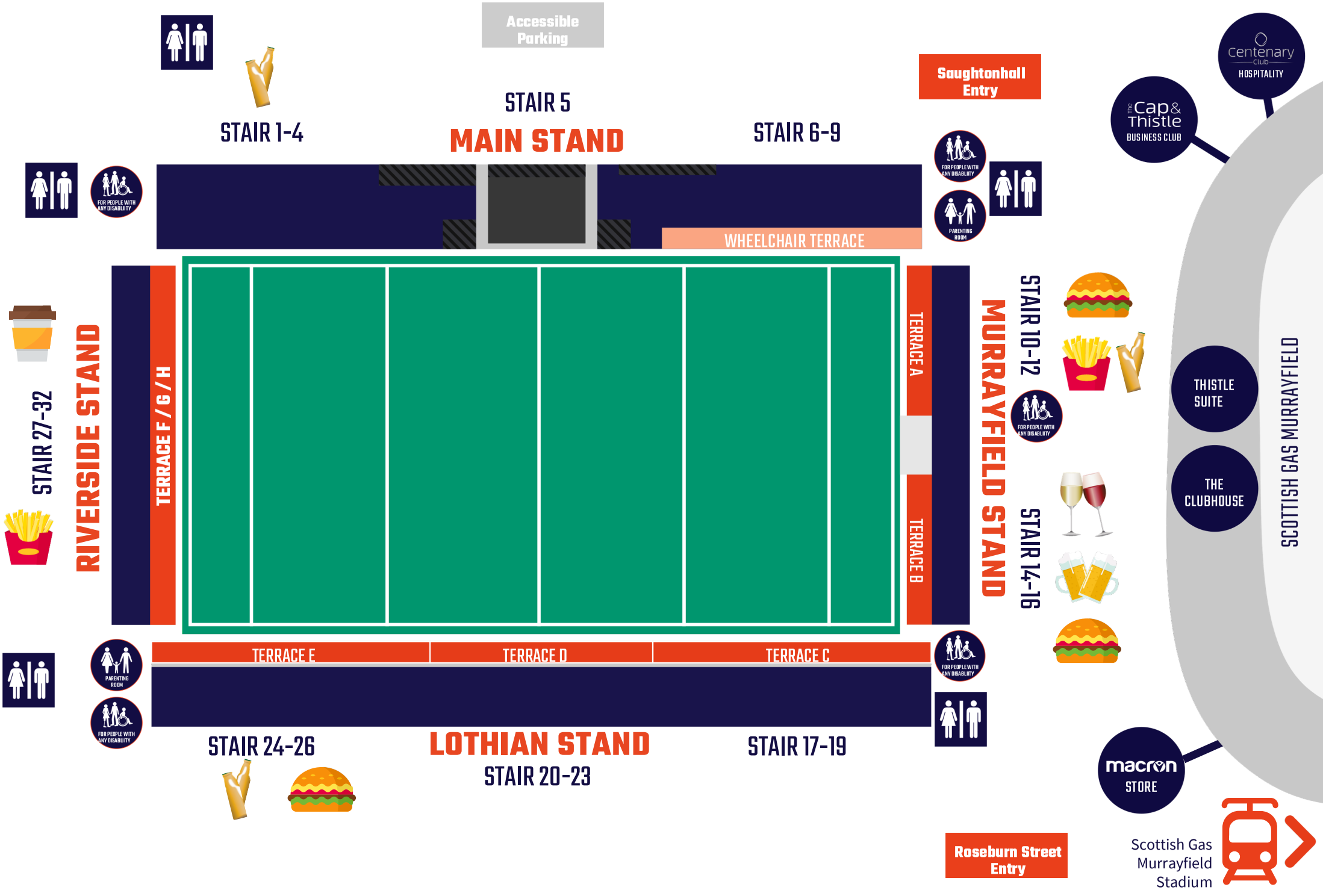
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Edinburgh Rugby made it three wins from three in the BKT United Rugby Championship and moved to the top of the table, scoring four tries in a 29-12 bonus-point victory over Zebre Parma in Italy.

Sean Everitt's side had to play through two yellow cards and needed the final play of the game to secure the fourth try.

They were in control for most of the afternoon, dominating possession and territory at a ground where wins have been hard to come by in recent years.

James Grayson opened the scoring with an early penalty after Zebre were penalised for sealing off. The momentum didn't last. Malelili Satala was sent to the sin bin for a deliberate knock-on, and Zebre made the extra man count.

After Ewan Ashman was penalised for not releasing, they took a quick tap. Captain Alessandro Fusco started the move, linked with Simone Gesi and took the return pass to score.

The 14 men nearly hit back straight away. Just before Satala returned, Geordie Gwynn showed real pace and power on the wing and went over in the corner. The TMO found the ball had come loose under pressure from two covering defenders as he grounded it, so the try was ruled out.

Edinburgh kept pressing with their offloading game, then switched to power when they got into the Zebre 22 just before the half-hour.

Big carries from Pierre Schoeman, Ashman and Magnus Bradbury sucked in defenders, and the ball went wide for co-captain Matt Currie, who crashed through two tacklers to put the visitors back in front.

Four minutes before the break, Zebre went down to 14 when Fusco was carded for offside. Edinburgh kicked the penalty to the corner and drove the lineout over, with Freddy Douglas touching down at the back of the maul. That made it 15-5 at half-time.

The start of the second half belonged to Edinburgh. The forwards made wave after wave of carries with penalty advantage, and on 55 minutes co-captain Bradbury powered over under the posts from a Douglas assist. Grayson converted for 22-5. Bradbury had been outstanding all afternoon and fully deserved the try.





Edinburgh went down to 14 again when replacement hooker Harri Morris was shown yellow for a dangerous clear-out. Ashman came back on to cover the front row, and Douglas went off.

Zebre used the period to score their second try just before Morris returned, with Giacomo Ferrari forcing his way over. The conversion made it 22-12.

That left the bonus point on the line, and Edinburgh made sure of it. Once they had the ball back, they kicked a penalty to the corner, and the rolling maul carried replacement back-row Tom Currie over in the final minute. Grayson's conversion completed a 29-12 win.

The URC now pauses as the European campaign begins. On Friday 16 October (kick-off 8pm) Edinburgh welcome RC Toulon to Hive Stadium for Round 1 of the EPCR Challenge Cup.

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