

STAMPEDE

DIGITAL PROGRAM



ROUND 3

SATURDAY 6 MARCH 2021

7:45PM | GIO STADIUM

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STAMPEDE

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2021 SUPER RUGBY AU SEASON | ISSUE 2

6: Q & A

Dan McKellar gives us some of his thoughts heading into tonight's derby dustup against the Rebels.

9: HEAD TO HEAD

Two of the best playmakers in Australia go head-to-head in Noah Lolesio and Matt To'omua.

13: KEY PLAYERS - BRUMBIES

Who will be the difference for the Brumbies in tonight's game. We go through who will be the Hitman, the Cool customer, the match winner, and the key to victory.

19: SCOUTING REPORT - REBELS

Who you need to look out for tonight from the Rebels. Their biggest addition, their X-factor, their biggest loss and their glue guy.

23: FIXTURES

There's still plenty to come in Harvey Norman Super Rugby AU.

Plus500 BRUMBIES RUGBY
Established: 1996

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Contributors: Marty Cambridge | Photography: Getty Images



WHAT'S ON AT GIO



Blue Carpet VIP & Player Entrance



Slab/Big Screen (Showing game)



Band



Game Day Hosts



Bar & Food



Brumby Jack & Jill



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COACHES Q&A

WITH DAN MCKELLAR

A COUPLE OF NEW FACES IN THE LINE-UP THIS WEEK.

Yeah, Scotty he played runners last week, so he gets an opportunity, and, on the bench, big James Tucker is looking at his first game for the brumbies which is a great story, he has had to deal with a lot of adversity injury wise, so I'm pleased that he is back playing super rugby because it's been a while. It's just that time of the year I thought it was the right time to rotate guys that deserve an opportunity.

HOW HAS TUCKER FITTED INTO THE SQUAD?

Yeah well. He is a good fella; he just goes about his work. He has a lot of experience, whilst not playing many super rugby games he still knows his way around a footy field and the boys like him off the field which is good. He has a good sense of humour for a New Zealander, we enjoy his company.

THERE HAVE BEEN A FEW PEOPLE ON SOCIAL MEDIA GIVING CADEYRN NEVILLE A WRAP SAYING HE CAN'T BE FAR FROM A WALLABIES DEBUT. HOW PLEASED HAVE YOU BEEN WITH HIM SO FAR?

Yeah very pleased. We just must remember its 2 games into the season, he was excellent against the force. He has a clear understanding about what his role is, what's important and what's expected of him every week and he delivers that. It his second season with us and I think he is very comfortable here now, he's an important part of our group.

THERE IS A PUSH TO FILL THE FORTRESS THIS WEEK, HOW GOOD WILL IT BE TO SEE A BIG CROWD THERE THIS WEEK?

I checked the forecast, it's a beautiful evening it's not like we are in June or July where its minus 2 and freezing cold. The boys are playing good footy and full of confidence off their performance last week and in Perth, so there are no excuses really. We do really benefit off the energy the fans bring, it lifts the players and that's the beauty of playing at home so if we could get a good crowd this week that would be tremendous for us.

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MATCH PREVIEW

REBELS

The Plus500 Brumbies are in sparkling form having won two from two to start the 2021 season and now look ahead to their stiffest test to date against the Melbourne Rebels.

A hard-fought win in WA against the Force was followed by a record, 61-10 win over the NSW Waratahs at the Brumbies fortress GIO Stadium last Saturday night.

The Melbourne Rebels will be stinging after letting a golden chance to turn over tournament favourites the Queensland Reds on their home patch.

Dave Wessels' side outmuscled the Reds at Suncorp for 79 minutes and had a kick to win it at the death but Matt To'omua's missed penalty goal meant they left without the treats.

The performance caught the eye of many, however. The Rebels set piece was a real highlight, something the Brumbies coaches would have been keenly aware of.

With Joe Powell now in the Rebels ranks, Melbourne have added direction and organisation, and with To'omua and Reece

Hodge, the Rebels have two sharpshooters who can punish the Brumbies if they are undisciplined.

The Rebels elite trait is their work at the breakdown. In defence, they target the ball hard, especially in Hodge and To'omua's range. Depending on the whistle direction, that's a chance to go to the corner for the Brumbies, or 3 points for the visitors.

In attack, they hold the ball, frustrating the opposition into conceding a penalty, which they duly knock over the crossbar for 3.

It's effective, and the Rebels have pace and power out-wide to capitalize if you don't respect them there too.

This is going to be a dogfight, if the Rebels win any sort of markers physically. That will be the Brumbies biggest challenge.

At least on form, the Brumbies will be favoured if they can match the Rebels intensity. They are connected, forced to go on the road once again. They will bring furious intent, and the Brumbies must rise to that.

HEAD TO HEAD



LOLESIO

21

11

91%

AGE

SUPER RUGBY CAPS

2021 GOAL KICKING %



TO'OMUA

31

108

75%

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10 TAB



3 Allan Alaalatoa (C)

Mack Hansen

11 DOMA HOTELS



4 Darcy Swain

Irae Simone

12 THE HOWLING MOON



5 Cadeyrn Neville

Len Ikitau

13 Lighthouse



6 Rob Valetini

Andy Muirhead

14 Shaw and Partners Financial Services



7 Jahrome Brown

Tom Banks

15 Baydon Ag



8 Pete Samu

REPLACEMENTS



16 Lachlan Lonergan

Harry Lloyd

17 GAGE ROADS



18 Tom Ross

James Tucker

19 SOUTHPOINT



20 Tom Cusack

Ryan Lonergan

21 MIX 106.3

GIVIT 22

Reesjan Pasitooa

Issak Fines-Leleiwasa

23 G&K



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KEY PLAYERS (BRUMBIES)



THE HITMAN - CADEYRN NEVILLE

Cadeyrn Neville's stock has never been higher, the towering lock cultivating a reputation as a game-wrecking destroyer of worlds in the contact area.

Neville's maul defence has been particularly conspicuous, his ability to move bodies out of his way and find the ball carrier being a trait only the likes of a Rory Arnold share.

You won't find Neville chasing down wingers much, but in the middle of the park, he is the ultimate enforcer. He's a bouncer, and the gainline is his nightclub, and sorry but tonight's not your night.

KEY PLAYERS (BRUMBIES)



THE COOL CUSTOMER - IRAE SIMONE

We saw last week that the Rebels are going to be a stingy defence this season. Gaps weren't appearing for the Reds, and the Rebels lack of discipline was their only form of attack. The visitors will come hard off the line and won't give Noah Lolesio and Irae Simone much time.

Lolesio will be under the kosh, but Simone will have milliseconds to react. If he can deal with the heat, the Brumbies will have a good chance to fire in attack once again.

KEY PLAYERS (BRUMBIES)



MATCH-WINNER - PETE SAMU

If there's a player who could unlock the Rebels defence single-handedly, it's Pete Samu. The Rebels will be strong through the middle, so the Brumbies will have to find space on the edge, and that is where Samu eats.

He's been quietly going about his work in the first two rounds, a constant threat and perfect link between backs and forwards, but Pistol always shines against his hometown side and he'll love nothing more than to run a few in down the tram lines at the Fortress.

KEY PLAYERS (BRUMBIES)



THE KEY TO VICTORY - THE BACKROW

It's a simple theory, but if the Brumbies can win the battle at ruck time, they'll have a good chance of coming away with victory. The bulk of the onus for retaining and winning back the ball for the Brumbies, will be on the backrow.

Valetini will have to be the top-tackler and he, like Samu, loves to represent Melbourne by beating them in Brumbies colours. Brown will go all day and will have to contain Richard Hardwick. Samu, see above.



GAME DAY 23

REBELS

1 Cabous Eloff

Joe Powell **9**

2 James Hanson

Matt To'omua [c] **10**

3 Pone Faamausili

Marika Koroibete **11**

4 Ross Haylett-Petty

Reece Hodge **12**

5 Trevor Hosea

Stacey Ili **13**

6 Josh Kemeny

Lachlan Anderson **14**

7 Richard Hardwick

Tom Pincus **15**

8 Michael Wells

REPLACEMENTS

16 Ed Craig

Isaac Aedo Kailea **17**

18 Lucio Sordoni

Steve Cummins **19**

20 Rob Leota

TBC **21**

22 Frank Lomani

Glen Vaihu **23**

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SCOUTING REPORT (REBELS)



BIG ADDITION **- JOE POWELL**

Former Brumbies halfback Joe Powell's addition to this Melbourne Rebels side was evident in the team's performance against the Reds last week.

Powell brought a calmness to the Rebels they haven't had in a while, and with To'omua at 10, their chemistry will only grow.

It will be different to say the least seeing Joe Powell in a Rebels jersey at GIO Stadium, and the halfback matchup with Nic White will certainly be under a microscope, but the Canberra crowd will hope he has a good game, and that his team loses.

SCOUTING REPORT (REBELS)



BIG LOSS - DANE HAYLETT-PETTY

While he's still on the Rebels roster, not having Wallabies fullback Dane Haylett-Petty in their ranks right now is definitely Dave Wessels biggest concern.

Brumbies fans watched Haylett-Petty cut the side to shreds at times last season, and his leadership void has heaped the pressure on To'omua and Powell.

SCOUTING REPORT (REBELS)



X-FACTOR - REECE HODGE

If given the chance, Reece Hodge could legitimately convert a penalty on his own 22m line into 3 points. His presence on the field means teams are genuinely concerned they will concede points any time they're inside 60m from their own goal.

In theory, that means teams cannot force the issue at the ruck, stupid penalties leading to stupid points. It also means that if the Rebels are within striking distance on the scoreboard, they always feel they have a shot at winning.

SCOUTING REPORT (REBELS)



GLUE GUY - RICHARD HARDWICK

It's not an understatement to say that Richard Hardwick is the most underrated rugby player in Australia.

It seems he never has a bad game, never is not up for the contest. Hardwick inspired the Rebels win over the Brumbies last year, his pure enthusiasm and physicality setting the tone for their upset win.

He can play too and has to be respected out on an edge. He'll relish the chance to beat the Brumbies on their home patch.

UPDATED 2021 SUPER RUGBY AU DRAW



ROUND 1
FRI 19 FEB



9:55PM [AEST]
AWAY

ROUND 2
SAT 27 FEB



7:45PM
HOME

ROUND 3
SAT 6 MAR



7:45PM
HOME

ROUND 4
SAT 13 MAR



7:45PM
HOME

**B
V
E**

ROUND 6
FRI 26 MAR



7:45PM
HOME

ROUND 7
FRI 2 APR



7:45PM [AEST]
AWAY

ROUND 8
SAT 10 APR



7:45PM [AEST]
AWAY

ROUND 9
FRI 16 APR



7:45PM [AEST]
AWAY

**B
V
E**



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