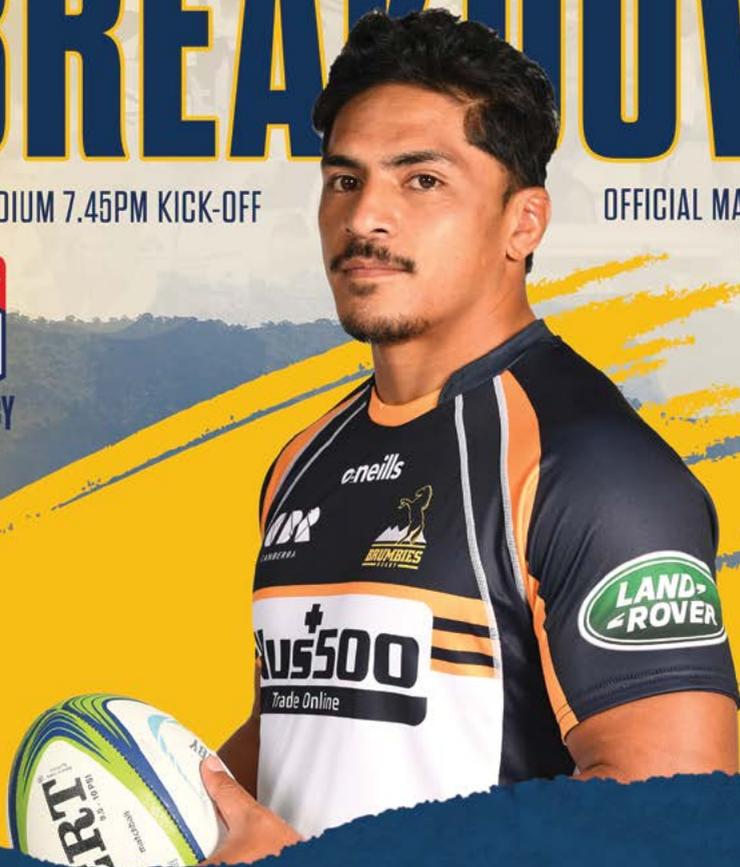


ROUND 9 | SATURDAY 13 APRIL 2019 | \$5.00

BREAKDOWN

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5.50PM: ACT VETS vs NAVY OLD SALTS

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BREAKDOWN

SEASON 2019, ISSUE 4



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GETTING TO KNOW YOUR BRUMBIES

Our feature interview with Pete Samu kicks off the Getting to Know Your Brumbies section in this edition plus Rob Valetini tells us his favourite things and Tom Cusack reveals his first and last.

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MORE THAN A CLUB

Get the inside scoop on the Grassroots competitions, the latest information from our Community Department, plus Super W and Academy updates.

25

MATCHDAY

It's match time! We welcome the Lions to GIO Stadium today and take a look ahead at the action on the field as well as statistically revisiting our previous matches.

41

IN OPPOSITION

Who's hot in the colours of the Lions. Find out all you need to know about today's opposition, their form and tactics, key players, their greatest day, season in stats and a pictorial look at previous encounters.

51

RETRO BRUMBIES

Our regular trip down memory lane is tinged with nostalgia as always! This week we shine the spotlight on former Brumbies skipper Stirling Mortlock and take a trip back in time to 2007 to recall the day that the South African touring side of 1971 visited the capital.

61

THE WORLD OF RUGBY

Have you missed out on what's been happening in the global game? Never fear we have your answers! With focus on the happenings in South Africa and New Zealand plus a look further afield in our Global News service.

69

FOR THE RECORD

All the important information about your Plus500 Brumbies including fixtures, results, playing records and the latest ladder standings.

Plus500 BRUMBIES RUGBY
Established: 1996

COACHES COMMENTS



Good evening everyone and welcome back to GIO Stadium for this evening's match against the Lions. The Lions have been Super Rugby Grand Finalists for the last three years and will provide a good test for us this evening.

The last time we were here, we enjoyed a great win over the Waratahs. Whilst the last two games did not produce the results we wanted the players' commitment over the past two weeks at training to turn things around has been outstanding.

I was really proud of the boy's effort in Christchurch last weekend and as a group we are continuing to learn and challenge each other to be better and drive high standards. We are the first to admit there are certainly things that we can improve on. However, we take a lot of confidence out of last week and we are excited to put in a quality performance back at home in front of our supporters.

This evening Joe Powell will play his fiftieth Super Rugby match. It's another milestone for Joe who continues to improve, and we congratulate him on the achievement. Players like Joe epitomise the Brumbies ethos of promoting and developing young talent through our Academy. Fifty games at this level is an enormous achievement and we are all very proud of Joe.

After tonight's match we head to South Africa, and then onwards to Argentina, to play the Stormers and Jaguares. In recent years we have enjoyed touring as a group and have performed well. Our aim tonight is to ensure we head overseas on the back of a quality performance against a quality team.

Your support, as ever, is much appreciated. Enjoy the game.

Dan McKellar

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR BRUMBIES



6

THE BIG INTERVIEW

Our feature-length interview this week is with Pete Samu. Find out about our Australian international's rugby journey from boyhood in Melbourne to the Plus500 Brumbies.

11

MY FAVOURITE THINGS

Like you, the Brumbies players have a selection of favourite things. Each week we ask a member of the team to tell us there's. Today we find out all about our flanker Tom Cusack.

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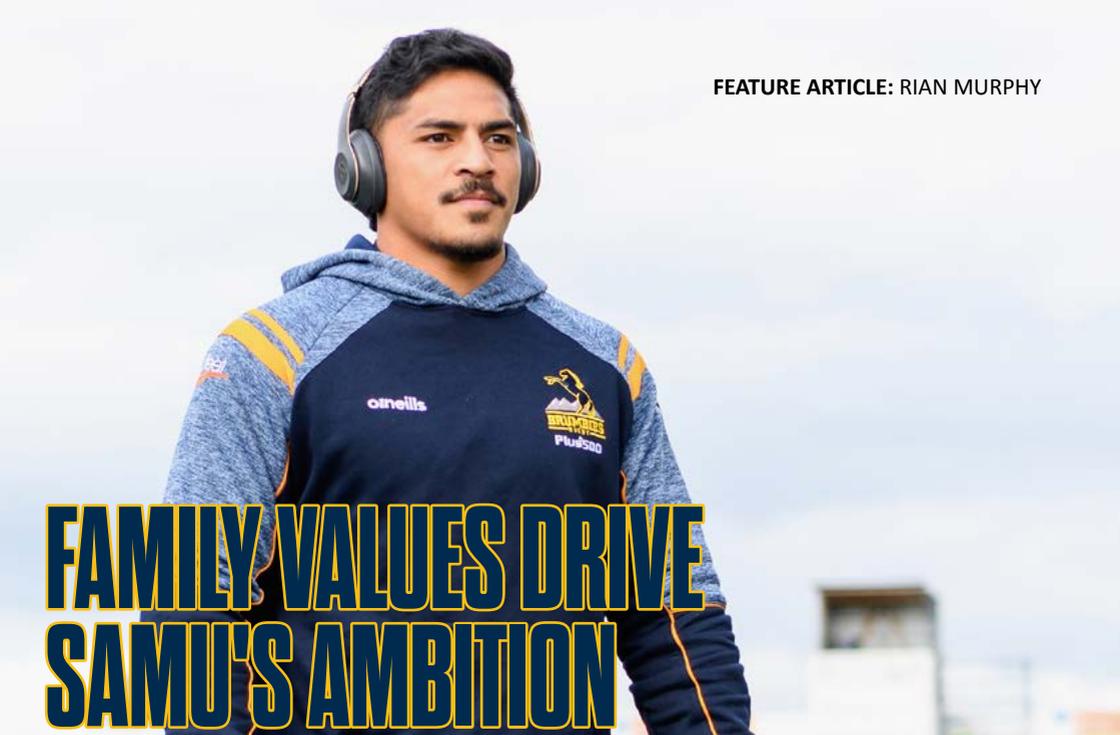
MY FIRST & LAST

Want to know what your Brumbies First and last were? Check out our new feature where the stars spill the beans. This week we chat to blockbusting backrower Rob Valetini.

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SOCIAL MEDIA

Find out what some of our stars have been doing off the field as we bring you up to date with the best of their Social Media.



FAMILY VALUES DRIVE SAMU'S AMBITION

Most international stars and two-time Super Rugby champions have an easier route to the top, but for Pete Samu, that journey took many twists and turns. From Melbourne, to Sydney, then Brisbane to Cornwall in England. Then on to Christchurch, and now in his new home in Canberra, one thing always gave him the strength to continue following his dream path; family.

It's a word which defines the Brumbies as well and having joined the side before this season from the Crusaders, Samu is certainly making himself at home in the Brumbies family. Raw results haven't been quite where Samu or the rest of his Brumbies brothers would have liked them to be so far, but on a personal level, the Wallabies flanker has shown plenty of the supreme power which caught Michael Cheika and Dan McKellar's gaze in his time in Christchurch.

While Samu was grabbing attention on the field, in the lead up to his eventual Test-debut, off it, he was grabbing the headlines, with the New Zealand Rugby Union threatening to block his selection for the Wallabies until the end of his deal with the Crusaders. Samu said in an exclusive interview for 'THE BREAKDOWN', that despite the media noise at the time, he was never fazed.

"It all happened really quickly in the end," Samu revealed. "I got a call from Cheik (Wallabies Coach Michael Cheika) and he said he was keen to have me back in Australia and I happened to be contemplating it at the time anyway. I had actually got a call from Dan (McKellar) at the time too so that was good because I knew then that there was a bit of interest back home.

"But yeah, all that noise at the time didn't bother me. I just focused on myself and the Crusaders and let other people do that

stuff. If I would have been blocked then, it would have been okay and, as I said, I was so focused on Crusaders winning another Championship that it didn't distract me too much. But obviously, when it was all sorted I was so happy, and to play soon after and get my cap was very special. I was lucky enough to play in those June tests which was amazing to represent my country and my family. It happened so quick, was on spring tour and was a huge honour."

Already now with two super Rugby medals in his back pocket, and a gold jersey in his hands, Samu then joined up with his new teammates in Canberra. Once he decided he was coming home to Australia, choosing the Brumbies, from Samu's perspective, was never in doubt, citing the club's unique culture as a key factor.

"Hearing about the environment and all that, especially from the boys in the Wallabies, they spoke very highly of the Brumbies and the Canberra community," Samu explained. "That was the biggest thing for me, to get a sense of the culture. The Brumbies are also really family-oriented and that was just another big tick for me. I love the city as well, still using the GPS to get around and that. I know how to get to training and back that's about it."

The culture was one thing, but there was another major draw card at the Brumbies for Samu. In Canberra, he would be able to play alongside one of his idols, Christian Lealiifano. Growing up in Melbourne, Samu said that Lealiifano was a source of real inspiration, not just because of his unique ability as a player, but because of his stature away from the field.



"I watched him playing against my older brothers when I was younger, and I admired him so much, "Samu remembered. "It was just the way he carried himself. I would watch from the sidelines and just be amazed. So, both being from Melbourne, he was an inspiration for me."

Rugby was a way of life for Samu growing up in Melbourne. The youngest of four boys, the game started out as a way for Samu to connect with his older siblings and he loved the game straight away. "I was born with a rugby ball in my hand, "Samu laughed. "But I played because they (his brothers) played, and all my mates did. At the start, I was playing for the enjoyment more than anything."

As he got older, Samu started to catch the eye of representative selection. Normally, this would continue where we would mention his Australian Schoolboy days, then Junior Wallabies, then Academy. Samu's story

wasn't written to be your typical fairy-tale however, his story is about perseverance, a hero's journey to prove to the world what he's made of. The origins of Samu's incredible grit and never-give-up mentality came when he was 16.

"I missed out on making a couple representative teams, and one in particular I was just gutted about, "Samu said, the memory still clearly fuel for his competitive fire. "Ever since then, I wanted to prove people wrong and I just kept pursuing my goals. After not making that team, my old man kind of put a bit of pressure on me to say, hey maybe you should focus on your schooling and that, but I just said, no I want to do this, and he believed me, so he let me do it."

So, despite his deep connection to his friends and family, Samu decided that rugby was his future, and by hook or by crook, he was going to make it happen. What ensued was a weird and wonderful journey which saw him play for Sunnybank in Brisbane, and St. Ives RFC Cornwall. But, it was in Sydney where everything began to change for Samu, swapping Pirates of Penzance for the famous Galloping Greens in Randwick. In the Shute Shield, Samu excelled, and at

different times was involved with the Waratahs and Rebels but could never quite convince them to give him a proper shot.

Luckily, Samu had impressed his boss at Randwick, Tony Lewis, so much that when Lewis left to take up the role as CEO of New Zealand ITM Cup side Tasman, he was able to give Samu's professional career a lifeline. The work still needed to be done, but in New Zealand, Samu came to life. Perhaps now with a group around him that truly recognized his gifts, Samu went from strength to strength and hasn't looked back since.

"I give full credit to Tasman. They gave the opportunities I needed to prove myself and put me out there so people could see me," Samu remarked. "I was playing in Sydney and got a call from him to see what I was doing, and if I was interested in coming to New Zealand and having a crack. I didn't have heaps going for me at the time. I had just finished up preseason with the Rebels and that didn't go to well, so I thought, why not? They opened up a lot of possibilities for me and pushed me to where I am today honestly."

The first to notice Samu's emerging talent were the Crusaders and after impressing once again, this time in their 'A' fixtures, Samu



earned a permanent contract with them, going on to win two Super Rugby titles in Christchurch. Imagine that. Going from the Rugby wilderness, to rubbing shoulders with the likes of Richie McCaw and Dan Carter.

“Being around those guys at that time, it honestly felt like a dream at times,” Samu recalled. “I respected those guys so much, watching them on TV so to be training alongside them, I couldn’t put it in to words but I remember thinking, I’ve earned this and there’s no turning back so I’ve got to keep working and hopefully stay a bit longer, and obviously it worked out for me, was there another couple seasons and won two titles, so yeah it was a special time in my life. I think most importantly for me, I made some lifelong friends over there.”

Friends who Samu has been in daily contact with since the recent tragedy that befell the Christchurch community. “The town has gone through a lot of trauma over the past years and I think that just brought the people of Christchurch together,” Samu said. “For them, having one of the best sports franchises in New Zealand, and in Rugby terms, probably the world, it’s such an amazing community. It’s similar to Canberra in a way, because everyone lives not too far

away from each other and the boys actually spend time away from training.

“I’ve been speaking with the boys over there pretty much every day, just to see how they’re going. I messaged them that day, they were on their way to Dunedin and all their families were okay. They were just so keen to get home to their families which you can imagine. Watching it happen, I knew those exact spots. I lived very close to where everything happened to ye, it hit home quite hard. It was very saddening to hear and to watch. That community will get through it, I’m sure of that.”

Through everything, while living out his dream which he had to work harder than anyone else to achieve, family and friends remain the central pillar of Pete Samu’s life. “When I look back on my career, with the Crusaders, with the Brumbies, it will be the friends I’ve made along the way which I will look back on the most. Knowing I gave everything to the game, to my career, to my family and to my teammates, that will be a success.”





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MY FAVOURITE THINGS

Plus500 Brumbies backrow tyro Rob Valetini took time out from his training schedule to tell us about his favourite things.....

FOOD	Asian
COFFEE ORDER	Flat White
DRINK	Mango Smoothie
SANDWICH FILLING	Egg
BAND / MUSICIAN	Chris Brown
TV SHOW	Vikings
MOVIE	Black Panther
OTHER SPORT	Basketball
VIDEO GAME	Rugby '08
GROUND PLAYED AT	AAMI Park
SPORTS HERO	Odell Beckham Jr
SCHOOL SUBJECT	Maths
DANCE MOVE	Milly Rock
ITEMS OF CLOTHING	Shoes
COLOUR	Blue
SUPERHERO	Black Panther
HOLIDAY DESTINATION	Fiji
WAY TO RELAX	Movies / Netflix



MY FIRST

CAR
MAZDA TRIBUTE

CELEBRITY CRUSH
CAMERON DIAZ

ALBUM / SONG LISTENED TO
RIVER OF DREAMS
BILLY JOEL

HOLIDAY
NEW ZEALAND

MOVIE WATCHED
MATILDA

VIDEO GAME PLAYED
FIFA 10

TRY I SCORED
U10 MARIST COLLEGE

AWARD WON
PARTICIPATION
YEAR 4 AT ST. BELLES

BOOK I READ
RAINBOW FISH

JOB (NON-RUGBY)
CUSACK'S FURNITURE
CUSTOMER SERVICE

MEAL I COOKED
PUMPKIN & RICOTTA GNOCCHI

PARTY I ATTENDED
FIRST BIRTHDAY

THING I DO IN THE DAY
MAKE BREAKFAST

INSTAGRAM FOLLOW
LUKE KIMBER



MY LAST

CAR
AMAROK

CELEBRITY CRUSH
JENNIFER ANISTON

ALBUM / SONG LISTENED TO
SHALLOW
LADY GAGA & BRADLEY COOPER

HOLIDAY
JAPAN

MOVIE WATCHED
GLADIATOR

VIDEO GAME PLAYED
FIFA 10

TRY I SCORED
MELBOURNE REBELS

AWARD WON
RUPA WRC PLAYERS PLAYER

BOOK I READ
HARRY POTTER & THE
CHAMBER OF SECRETS

JOB (NON-RUGBY)
CANBERRA CAROTEL DISH-PIG

MEAL I COOKED
LAMB CUTLETS, ROAST SPUD
AND GREEK SALAD

PARTY I ATTENDED
25TH BIRTHDAY

THING I DO IN THE DAY
TV

INSTAGRAM FOLLOW
LUKE KIMBER



A photograph of Tom Cusack, a rugby player, wearing a dark blue and white Canberra Brumbies jersey with orange accents. The jersey features logos for 'oneills', 'LAND ROVER', 'BRUMBIES 1937', and 'us500 Trade Online'. He is holding a rugby ball. The background is a stylized blue and white silhouette of a horse's head.

All-round dynamo Tom Cusack is the next to take part in our new series detailing 'My First & Last'.

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW

TOM?

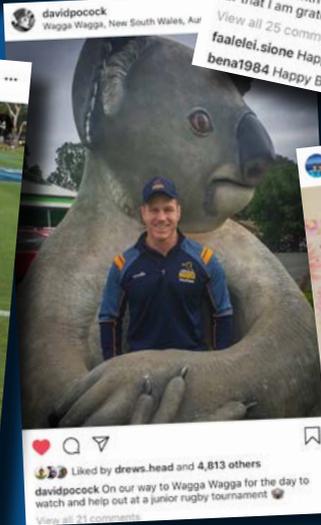
TOM CUSACK

POSITION: Backrow
DOB: 1/3/1993 (age: 25)
BIRTHPLACE: Canberra, ACT
HEIGHT: 191cm
WEIGHT: 101kg
SCHOOL: Marist College, Canberra, ACT

BRUMBY NUMBER: 194
SUPER RUGBY / BRUMBIES DEBUT: 2017 v Rebels, Melbourne
SUPER RUGBY CAPS: 23
SUPER RUGBY POINTS: 10 (2T)
ACT CLUB: Canberra Royals

GETTING TO KNOW THE BRUMBIES: SOCIAL MEDIA

The Plus500 Brumbies playing group are active on most forms of Social Media allowing the fans a glimpse into their live away from the training field and matchday. Here we take a brief look at what some of the players have been up to over the past few weeks.





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MORE THAN **A CLUB**



18

OUR VOLUNTEERS

What does it take to be a Plus500 Brumbies Volunteer? We feature the unsung heroes of our club in this special feature.

20

COMMUNITY NEWS

The latest news from our tireless Community team as they engage the next generation of rugby players across our region and beyond.

22

SUPER W

All the latest information from our Women's Super W program including fixtures, results and news.

OUR VOLUNTEERS

The Plus500 Brumbies are a team which is far bigger than the players you see on the field and the staff which wear the blue, yellow and white. As well as the heroes on the pitch, there are many working behind the scenes who contribute just as much to making sure the game day experience of everyone at GIO Stadium is as good as it can be.

Volunteers are the backbone of the sport and work to ensure that everything runs smoothly leading up to, during and after the matches which fans flock to attend. A large team of dedicated men and women work together in various roles to help fans get the most out of their days at the Brumbies home games in roles like customer service if anyone needs assistance.

These roaming marshals around the stadium are there to help at any point, whether it be for minor things like wanting to know where the nearest bathrooms are, to assisting should any first aid issues arise. Not only do volunteers help the fans but there are dedicated teams who help out the Brumbies when they need it most.

The match day medical team is a crucial part in the club's operation, being on standby in case there's any on-field dramas for the players. Consisting of emergency consultants who work in the emergency wards in Canberra's hospitals to registered nurses and sports medicine experts, the medical team is the most important team off the field if anything goes wrong on it.

Perhaps the most important people that you hope never to see, the medical experts have acted as volunteers for the Brumbies side since the team's inception and work tirelessly to ensure player welfare is a top priority when things go wrong. Volunteers are the unsung and unpaid heroes of the Brumbies, helping to ensure everything comes together for fans and the teams alike when it comes to match day.

Words: Jordan Mulach

GRIFFIN LEGAL

JOHN I DENT CUP UPDATE



Two rounds in and what a competition we are seeing so far! It's been an incredibly unpredictable start to the 2019 Griffin Legal John I Dent Cup and, by the time this program is published, Round 3 will have taken place. You can catch all of today's results and scorers from the Rugby Xplorer App. It's likely to have been another amazing round of club rugby.

The opening games of the season saw an incredible denouement to the match at Viking Park as the Gungahlin Eagles, who look every inch a side who may well go all the way this season, stunned the Tuggeranong Vikings thanks to a last minute try from Alex Small. The hooker was mauled over close to the line after the siren to secure a 29-26 away win.

Over at David Campese Oval the finish may have been a little more sedate but that didn't stop the Royals and Queanbeyan Whites serving up a thriller to open their respective journeys. Seth Going and Andy Muirhead scored the match-winning tries for the Royals who will be keen to avenge their 2018 Grand Final loss to the Vikings.

Round 2 continued to pile on the classics. A simply unbelievable ending at Jamison Oval saw the Vikings claw their way back from a 47-19 deficit to score four converted tries as Ryan Lonergan, Dean Wilson, Jayme Field and Rhys Griffiths found a way over in the last ten minutes. Lonergan's immaculate boot earned the Vikings a share of the spoils as it finished 47-47.

The Eagles continues to fly as they demolished Easts at the Nest with winger Corey Toole bagging five tries in a huge 74-5 home win. In total, Gungahlin claimed twelve tries as they moved to the top of the ladder in the early stages of the competition. Today's matches saw Easts play Royals at Griffith Oval and Owls, who won 40-23 away to Whites in Round 2, home to Wests at ANU.



BRUMBIES THRILL AT WAGGA COUNTRY VISIT



The Plus500 Brumbies headed to Country a fortnight ago as they travelled interstate to Conolly Rugby Park and Jubilee Sports Complex in Wagga for the Southern Inland Rugby Union Gala Day being held at the iconic venue.

The complete Brumbies Super Rugby squad, as well as some members of the club's successful Women's Buildcorp Super W set-up, converged on Wagga for the annual Gala Day, traditionally one of the largest country rugby carnivals in the region.

The Brumbies squad, replete with international stars such as Wallabies

David Pocock, Allan Alaalatoa, Scott Sio, Joe Powell, Henry Speight, Tevita Kuridrani, Folau Fainga'a and Rory Arnold undertook a variety of tasks to help support the day's activities.

Around 1,300 children from eleven clubs from throughout the Southern Inland zone took to the field in Wagga with eight fields being used to play what was a series of exciting and action-packed matches across the day. All 35 contracted Brumbies Super Rugby players were at the event, alongside Aussie Women's Sevens superstar Alicia Quirk to cheer on the children.



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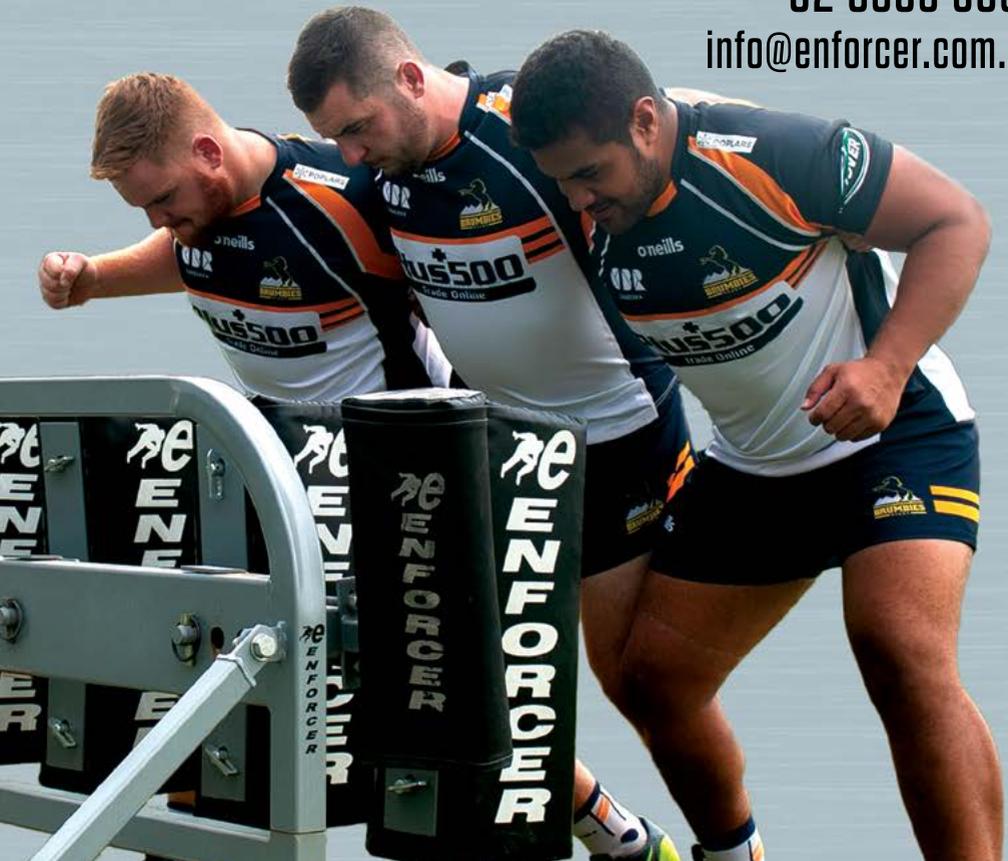
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WOMEN END SEASON IN THIRD PLACE

The Brumbies Women ended the second Buildcorp Super W season in third place having fallen to Queensland in the play off for a final spot. Here we recap their last two fixtures.

SUPER-W: ROUND 4

WIN SECURES FIRST PLAY-OFF SPOT

The Brumbies Women secured a first ever Play-Offs spot, an away semi-final against Queensland, after securing a 17-12 victory against Western Australia in Perth. The damage was done in the first-half as the away side scored three tries to lead 17-5, an advantage that they were to hold onto for the second forty minutes, showing excellent defensive skills to hold out a fast-finishing RugbyWA who also needed a win to progress. The home side had got off to a perfect start with a try inside the opening sixty seconds as wing Claudia Neilson crossed but, from then on, it was the Brumbies in control. Two tries in four minutes from Georgia O'Neill, her first at Super W level, and Remi Wilton, had the Brumbies in front. When Tayla Stanford claimed her fourth try of the campaign in first-half stoppage time, Adam Butt's team had a lead that they weren't to relinquish.

STATISTICS

Sunday 24 March 2019

Western Force (5) 12 (T: Neilson, Mason, C: Cope) Brumbies (17) 17 (T: O'Neill, Wilton, Stanford, C: Wood)
(UWA Sports Park, Perth)

TEAM

1. Violeta TUPUOLA (17. Stefanie STEWART-JONES 53'), 2. Louise BURROWS, 3. Peta COX (16. Anna KOROVATA 68'), 4. Emily SOGAL (20. Ema MASI 59'), 5. Shellie MILLWARD, 6. Michaela LEONARD, 7. Georgia O'NEILL, 8. Tayla STANFORD (19. Sammie MAXWELL 69'), 9. Remi WILTON (21. Jane GARRAWAY 74'), 10. Carly HILL, 11. Biola DAWA, 12. Sammie WOOD, 13. Michelle PERRY, 14. Brooke GILROY (23. Lanietta YABAKI 71'), 15. Rachel CROTHERS
REPLACEMENTS NOT USED: 18. Harriet ELLEMAN, 22. Emily MCDONALD

SUPER-W: PLAY-OFF

BRAVE BRUMBIES FALL AT PENULTIMATE HURDLE

Queensland set up a Super W grand final rematch against NSW after a 39-10 knockout final win against the Brumbies. The victory was hard earned though, with the Brumbies dominating the opening exchanges before their early efforts told in the final stages of the match as Queensland ran in three late tries. The Brumbies also had to deal with losing two of their best players, with gun forward Tayla Stanford stretchered off the field midway through the first half and captain Shellie Milward taken from the ground in the 71st minute following a shot from Ana Fotu that earned the Queensland forward a yellow card. After the home side led 12-0 early, the Brumbies fought back into the game as Biola Dawa crossed for her first Super W try on the cusp of half-time. That reduced the arrears to 12-7 at the break and gave the visitors hope of an upset, but the Queensland side ramped up the gears in the second half before running away with the clash late-on.

STATISTICS

Sunday 31 March 2019

Queensland Women (12) 39 (T: Cramer, Wong, Elisaia, Ngaha, Boyle, Turner, C: Cramer (2), Gould, P: Cramer) Brumbies Women (7) 10 (T: Dawa, C: Wood, P: Wood)
(Ballymore, Brisbane)

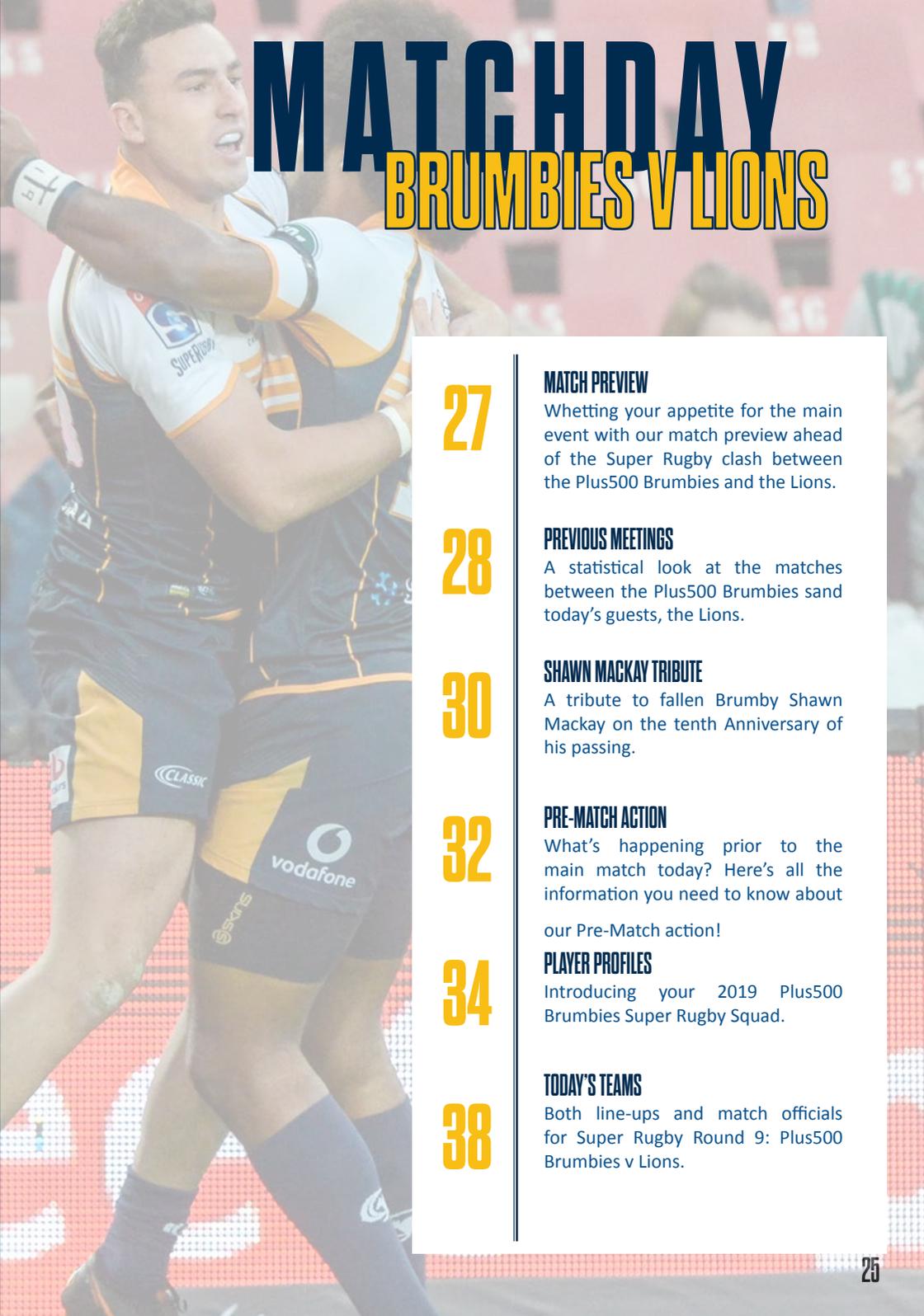
TEAM

1. Stefanie STEWART-JONES (16. Anna KOROVRTA 25', 17. Harriet ELLEMAN 63'), 2. Louise BURROWS, 3. Peta COX (18. Paige PENNING 71'), 4. Emily SOGAL, 5. Shellie MILLWARD (19. Sammie MAXWELL 71'), 6. Michaela LEONARD, 7. Georgia O'NEILL, 8. Tayla STANFORD (20. Ema MASI 16'), 9. Remi WILTON (21. Jane GARRAWAY 63'), 10. Carly HILL, 11. Biola DAWA, 12. Sammie WOOD, 13. Michelle PERRY, 14. Darcy READ (22. Emily MCDONALD 71'), 15. Rachel CROTHERS



BUILD CORP SUPER W CLUB STATS

NAME	2019 APPS	2019 PTS	CAREER APPS	CAREER PTS
Louise BURROWS	5	-	9	5 – 1t
Rachel CROTHERS	5	10 – 2t	5	10 – 2t
Peta COX	5	-	9	5 – 1t
Biola DAWA	4	5 – 1t	4	5 – 1t
Harriet ELLEMAN	4	-	6	-
Ngawai EYLES	1	-	1	-
Jane GARRAWAY	5	-	9	-
Brooke GILROY	4	-	5	-
Carly HILL	4	-	4	-
Grace KEMP	2	-	2	-
Anna KOROVATA	4	-	8	-
Sharyn LAWS	2	-	2	-
Michaela LEONARD	5	-	9	-
Jacky LYDEN	-	-	-	-
Irene MACARTHUR	2	-	2	-
Paremo MARSH	-	-	4	-
Ema MASI	2	-	2	-
Kristie MATTHEWS	-	-	-	-
Sammie MAXWELL	3	-	3	-
Emily MCDONALD	3	2 – 1c	3	2 – 1c
Michelle MILWARD	5	-	8	15 – 3t
Georgia O'NEILL	5	5 – 1t	8	5 – 1t
Claudia OBST	2	-	2	-
Paige PENNING	2	-	2	-
Michelle PERRY	5	10 – 2t	9	10 – 2t
Darcy READ	3	5 – 1t	6	10 – 2t
Tayla STANFORD	5	20 – 4t	9	25 – 5t
Stefanie STEWART-JONES	5	-	5	-
Emily SOGAL	5	-	5	-
Violeta TUPUOLA	4	-	6	-
Remi WILTON	5	15 – 3t	8	20 – 4t
Samantha WOOD	5	17 – 7c, 1p	9	24 – 9c, 2p
Lanieta YABAKI	1	-	1	-



MATCHDAY

BRUMBIES V LIONS

27

MATCH PREVIEW

Whetting your appetite for the main event with our match preview ahead of the Super Rugby clash between the Plus500 Brumbies and the Lions.

28

PREVIOUS MEETINGS

A statistical look at the matches between the Plus500 Brumbies and today's guests, the Lions.

30

SHAWN MACKAY TRIBUTE

A tribute to fallen Brumbie Shawn Mackay on the tenth Anniversary of his passing.

32

PRE-MATCH ACTION

What's happening prior to the main match today? Here's all the information you need to know about our Pre-Match action!

34

PLAYER PROFILES

Introducing your 2019 Plus500 Brumbies Super Rugby Squad.

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TODAY'S TEAMS

Both line-ups and match officials for Super Rugby Round 9: Plus500 Brumbies v Lions.

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Your Game



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MATCH PREVIEW: LIONS IN TOWN

The Lions from Johannesburg arrive at GIO Stadium this weekend in what's a hugely important clash for both teams as the Super Rugby competition reaches Round 9. The South Africans, beaten finalists in the last three Super Rugby Grand Finals, come into their tour of Australia and New Zealand, they pay the Chiefs next week, off the back of a shock 5-42 home loss to the Sharks (see page 64 for more details), a defeat that sees them drop to third on the South African Conference ladder.

In the highly competitive world of Super Rugby there's little time to bounce back from a defeat and a trip to Canberra, not usually a happy hunting ground for the South Africans, will be a tough test. The Brumbies, of course, also need a win. Heading into a two-week tour that will take in fixtures against the Stormers in Cape Town and the Jaguares in Buenos Aires, a win against one of the pre-tournament favourites would be a brilliant fillip for Dan McKellar and his squad.

It was the visiting team who snatched a dramatic win in the corresponding clash here in 2017 when Kwagga Smith went the length of the field for the only try in a match that the home side had dominated, both in terms of territory and possession. A similar scenario this evening, albeit with a turn around in the final result, would be most welcome for the home side.

There's been glimpses of brilliance in this Brumbies outfit at times throughout 2019, encapsulated by the quality of the try scored by Tevita Kuridrani in Christchurch last weekend, a move initiated by the pace and quality of Toni Pulu. Doing that on a more consistent basis has been the Brumbies watchword since pre-season and, should they get across the line tonight, it may well kick-start the kind of run-in we saw at the tail-end of last term.

What is for certain is that there will be fireworks. The Lions take no prisoners and play a fast, exciting brand of open running rugby. They score points, but defensively they tend to leak them as well. That should make for an exhilarating and exciting eighty minutes.

MATCH STATISTICS



V



OVERALL

IN CANBERRA

PLAYED



PLAYED



BRUMBIES WINS



LIONS WINS



DRAWN



BRUMBIES WINS



LIONS WINS



85 POINTS

91 POINTS

245 POINTS

246 POINTS



LAST FIVE

19/05/2018 — LIO 42 BRU 24

27/04/2012 — LIO 20 BRU 34

12/05/2017 — BRU 6 LIO 13

14/05/2011 — BRU 20 LIO 29

16/05/2015 — LIO 20 BRU 30

BIGGEST WIN

27/04/2012
LIONS 20 BRUMBIES 34

BIGGEST DEFEAT

19/05/2018
LIONS 42 BRUMBIES 24

GUTSY **IS CALLING**



READY?



REMEMBERING OUR FALLEN BROTHER TEN YEARS ON



SHAWN MACKAY

#NeverForgotten
#BrumbiesFamily



SHAWN MACKAY

BRUMBY #118

31 MAY 1982 - 6 APRIL 2009



This year marks the 10th anniversary of the passing of Brumby #118, Shawn MacKay. Following the match against the Sharks in 2009, after leaving a Durban nightclub, Shawn was crossing the road with his teammates to the team bus when he was hit by an armoured response vehicle. He was placed in an induced coma and later died from a cardiac arrest caused by a blood infection following surgery on 6 April that year.

All the Brumbies players and staff travelled to Shawn's funeral in Sydney on 15 April 2009. Seven jerseys were placed on his coffin to recognise his rugby career - the Clovelly Sea Eagles, Waverley College, the Sydney Roosters, Randwick, the Melbourne Rebels, the Australian Sevens and the Brumbies.

Shawn went to Waverley College in Sydney before joining the Sydney Roosters in 2000. He returned to Rugby Union in 2004 and was the captain of the Australia Sevens Team from 2005 until 2008. He won six state caps for NSW and played with Melbourne



in the NRC competition in 2007 before signing with the Brumbies in 2009.

He had always dreamed of playing in Super Rugby and against the Lions, the team's first match of their South African tour in 2009, his dream came true. He won a second cap the following week against the Sharks.

Shawn had all the characteristics of the best Brumbies. He was brave, humble, kind, respectful and passionate. He had a burning drive to be the best person and rugby player that he could be and would push himself to his absolute limits to achieve that. He also had a true love for life and was an amazing teammate.

Today the Rookie of the Year Award is presented in Shawn's name by his father, John, and his mother, Leonie, and the 24th place in the change room is always prepared at home games on the anniversary of his death, for our fallen friend.

Words: Pat McCabe

PRE-MATCH ACTION

ST EDMUNDS COLLEGE V KINROSS WOLAROI

KICK-OFF: 4.30PM



ST EDMUND'S
COLLEGE
CANBERRA • EST 1954

V



KINROSS WOLAROI
SCHOOL

1. Xavier Ward
2. Corey Davis
3. Remy Lemisio
4. Jed Stuart (C)
5. Liam Hagel
6. Marquis Mack
7. Daniel Cotter
8. Willie Mariner
9. Eamon Mccoola
10. Ryan Hoare
11. Kye Pearson
12. Daniel Shaw
13. Harry Buckley
14. Jonty Godfrey
15. Mason Evans

16. Lachlan Einfalt
17. Conor Ison
18. Nathan Hackett
19. Tj Mahoni
20. Francios Lagrange
21. Tommy Lachlan
22. Lachie Davies
23. Tyler Chan
24. Kyle Mccarron

1. William Smith
2. Digby Cooper
3. Rory Ellis-Peck
4. Fletcher Weber
5. Edward Taylor
6. Hamish Macdougall
7. Lachie Smith
8. Ben Bellamy
9. Nicholas Hay-McKenzie
10. Lachlan Donnelly
11. Hugh Aldersey
12. Sam Ridley
13. Charlie Wilson
14. Liam Choi
15. Preston Simpson

16. Harry May
17. Henry Ponder
18. Cody Kelso
19. Lew Connick
20. Josh Dominello
21. Lewis Dunshea
22. Fletcher Ryan
23. Alex Brien

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Driving the Brumbies



ALLAN ALAALATOA

Position: Prop
DOB: 28/1/1994 (age: 25)
Height: 1.82m
Weight: 120kg



TOM CUSACK

Position: Backrow
DOB: 1/3/1993 (age: 25)
Height: 1.91m
Weight: 101kg



RORY ARNOLD

Position: Lock
DOB: 1/7/1990 (age: 28)
Height: 2.08m
Weight: 120kg



FOLAU FAINGA'A

Position: Hooker
DOB: 5/5/1995 (age: 23)
Height: 1.78m
Weight: 106kg



TOM BANKS

Position: Outside Back
DOB: 18/6/1994 (age: 24)
Height: 1.86m
Weight: 93kg



TEVITA KURIDRANI

Position: Centre
DOB: 31/3/1991 (age: 27)
Height: 1.92m
Weight: 102kg



SAM CARTER

Position: Lock
DOB: 10/9/1989 (age: 29)
Height: 2.01m
Weight: 116kg



CHRISTIAN LEALIFANO

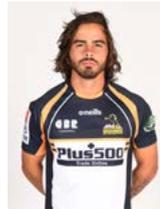
Position: Centre/Flyhalf
DOB: 24/9/1987 (age: 31)
Height: 1.79m
Weight: 95kg

YOUR 2019 Plus500 BRUMBIES



LESLIE LEULUAI-MAKIN

Position: Prop
DOB: 2/1/1992 (age: 27)
Height: 1.74m
Weight: 112kg



ANDREW MUIRHEAD

Position: Wing
DOB: 8/7/1993 (age: 25)
Height: 1.83m
Weight: 84kg



MATT LUCAS

Position: Scrumhalf
DOB: 29/1/1992 (age: 27)
Height: 1.72m
Weight: 82kg



DAVID POCOCK

Position: Flanker
DOB: 23/4/1988 (age: 30)
Height: 1.83m
Weight: 103kg



JOSH MANN-REA

Position: Hooker
DOB: 19/2/1981 (age: 37)
Height: 1.81m
Weight: 108kg



JOE POWELL

Position: Scrumhalf
DOB: 11/4/1994 (age: 24)
Height: 1.77m
Weight: 85kg



LACHLAN MCCAFFREY

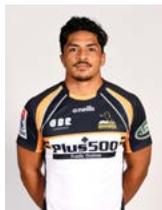
Position: Flanker / Number 8
DOB: 17/3/1990 (age: 28)
Height: 1.94m
Weight: 108kg



TONI PULU

Position: Wing
DOB: 28/11/1988 (age: 30)
Height: 1.84m
Weight: 93kg

THIS IS BRUMBIES COUNTRY



PETE SAMU

Position: Backrow
DOB: 17/12/1991 (age: 27)
Height: 1.85m
Weight: 102kg



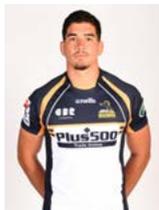
HENRY SPEIGHT

Position: Wing
DOB: 24/3/1988 (age: 30)
Height: 1.86m
Weight: 97kg



IRAE SIMONE

Position: Centre
DOB: 10/7/1995 (age: 23)
Height: 1.93m
Weight: 105kg



DARCY SWAIN

Position: Lock
DOB: 5/7/1997 (age: 21)
Height: 2.00m
Weight: 108kg



SCOTT SIO

Position: Prop
DOB: 16/10/1991 (age: 27)
Height: 1.87m
Weight: 115kg



TOM WRIGHT

Position: Inside Back
DOB: 21/7/1997 (age: 21)
Height: 1.86cm
Weight: 98kg



JAMES SLIPPER

Position: Prop
DOB: 6/6/1989 (age: 29)
Height: 1.85cm
Weight: 117kg



DAN MCKELLAR

Position: Head Coach
DOB: 17/7/76 (age: 42)

YOUR 2019 Plus500 BRUMBIES

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	TRIES
	PENALTY GOALS
	CONVERSIONS
	DROP GOALS
	HALF TIME
	FULL TIME

STARTING XV

- 1 Scott Sio
- 2 Folau Fainga'a
- 3 Allan Alaalatoa
- 4 Rory Arnold
- 5 Sam Carter
- 6 Pete Samu
- 7 Tom Cusack
- 8 Lachlan McCaffrey
- 9 Joe Powell
- 10 Christian Lealiifano
- 11 Toni Pulu
- 12 Tom Wright
- 13 Tevita Kuridrani
- 14 Henry Speight
- 15 Tom Banks

Replacements

16. Josh Mann-Rea
17. James Slipper
18. Leslie Leuluai
19. Darcy Swain
20. David Pocock
21. Matt Lucas
22. Irae Simone
23. Andy Muirhead



Match Officials

Referee: Rasta Rasivhenge
Assistant referee: Brendon Pickerill
Assistant referee: Mike Fraser

TRIES

PENALTY GOALS

CONVERSIONS

DROP GOALS

HALF TIME

FULL TIME



SQUAD



BACKS

Andries COETZEE
Ruan COMBRINCK
Ross CRONJE
Aphiwe DYANTYI
Tyrone GREEN
Nic GROOM
Elton JANTJIES
Sylvian MAHUZA
Lionel MAPOE
Shaun REYNOLDS
Wandisile SIMELANE
Courtnall SKOSAN
Dillon SMIT
Madosh TAMBWE
Harold VORSTER

FORWARDS

Jacobie ADRIAANSE
Cyle BRINK
Jan-Henning CAMPHER
Hacjivah DAYIMAN
Lourens ERASMUS
Rhyno HERBST
Johannes JONKER
Robert KRUGER
Stephan LEWIES
Malcolm MARX
Len MASSYN
Nathan MCBETH
Danie MIENIE
Marvin ORIE
Carlu SADIE
Marnus SCHOEMAN
Sti SITHOLE
Kwagga SMITH
Dylan SMITH
Wilhelm VAN DER SLUYS
Frans VAN WYK
Ruan VERMAAK
Warren WHITELEY

Officials:

#4: James Morris

#5: Reece Henshaw

TMO: James Leckie

*Team unavailable at time of production



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IN OPPOSITION

LIONS

42

THEIR FORM AND THEIR TACTICS

How have today's opponents been faring and why? Our 'Insider View' takes you into the tactics and form of our visitors the Lions.

44

KEY PLAYERS

Who's the main threat to the Plus500 Brumbies this afternoon? Breakdown takes an analytical view as to who might have the most influence for the Lions today.

47

THEIR GREATEST DAY

Every dog has its day, and some are better than others. Breakdown looks back at the most memorable moment in history for our guests the Lions. This week, it's the Lions 2016 Semi-Final victory over the Highlanders under the spotlight.

48

PHOTOS FROM THE PAST

There have been many memorable encounters between the Brumbies and our visitors to GIO Stadium today. Breakdown focus on our Greatest Victory and Toughest Loss against the Lions.

49

THE SEASON IN STATS

How many tries have our visitors scored this season, how many cards have they accumulated, how many tackles have they won and more! Our statistical look at the season so far for the Lions.

IN OPPOSITION: THEIR FORM AND TACTICS

Over the past three seasons, the Lions have been one of Super Rugby's true standard-bearers, making the final game of the season in every one of those seasons, yet never being able to claim the ultimate prize. Despite constantly climbing the mountain without reaching the summit, the roar from this Lions side is still there, if not quite as loud so far.

They're right there in the South African Conference, but the performances and results aren't quite matching last year, though they are still crazily dangerous, especially off counter-attack.

One thing they have that is perhaps unrivalled anywhere in the competition is the sheer pace and athleticism they possess through their side. From front to back the Lions have guys who can devastate you with their speed and power. The likes of Malcom Marx and Kwagga Smith in the pack, Aphiwe Dyanti and Courtnall Skosan in the backs are different athletes. Dyanti and Skosan in particular can leave you wondering how you are three tries down out of nowhere.

The Lions can beat you in many ways. They can dominate you, using their considerable power up front, led by Marx. Once they get on the front

foot, they have a creative flyhalf in Elton Jantjies who can cut you open at will. Jantjies is such an elegant player, he glides in to space while constantly scanning for opportunity. With the array of weapons for him to use, Jantjies natural abilities flourish. The Lions also profit from the Springboks playmakers excellence from the tee.

Jantjies can punish you with his goal kicking, which only furthers the Lions ability to retain the ball and go on the attack. Opposition sides know, once the Lions are within Jantjies range, their defensive aggression has to change, sensing any penalty will most likely lead to points.

We've seen the best and worst of the Lions so far this year. A great win against the Jaguares was followed by a tough loss against the Stormers. They were hammered then by the Bulls, that loss showing that if there is any weakness in the Lions it's their defence. Since Round Three, the Lions have shipped an average of 34 points per game.

Still, as they have done in their current run era of competitiveness, the Lions just try and score more. The Jaguares got 39 against them, so the Lions scored 47. The Rebels put up 33, the Lions answered with 36. A 24-37 win away to

the Sunwolves seemed to suggest the Lions had turned a corner and were about to go on a tear to the top of the South Africa Conference, but they came crashing back down against the Sharks.



Losing 42-5, at home, doesn't happen very often to the Lions. Perhaps the most alarming thing was that the Lions only scored five. Conceding 42 points is about par for the course for the Lions but not being able to generate scores is not like them at all, and a real cause for concern heading in to tonight's game.

Beware the beaten Lion however. They are never defeated. The last time the Lions visited GIO Stadium the Brumbies were on top for the entire game, but one breakout try from Smith gave the visitors a slim victory, so the Brumbies will have to be prepared for every version of this Lions team.



The Brumbies must win the collision zone, that's priority number one. If the Lions are on the backfoot, their exciting backline will have far less time to operate. Priority two will be turnover defence because if the Lions get a chance to run with room, look out.





IN OPPOSITION: TWO FROM THE FRONT

MALCOLM MARX

Position: Hooker

Height: 188cm

Weight: 114kg

International Caps: 23

The Captain of the Lions leads by example and is always at the heart of the action. A strong scrummager who enjoys being at the coalface, Marx has been with the Lions since his first appearance in the Golden Lions XV in 2014. A rapid, and meteoric rise, culminated in Marx leading his team to a trio of Super Rugby Finals, but the ultimate prize continues to elude the World Class hooker, much to his frustration. On a personal front, Marx was named the South African Rugby Annual 2018 Player of the Year joining an auspicious list of talent that includes Bryan Habana, Schalk Burger and Breyton Paulese. This followed on from a superlative 2017 in which he was named SA Rugby Player of the Year and SA Rugby Young Player of the Year. He was also voted South African Super Rugby Player of the Tournament. Marx is one of the new-style of all-round front rowers with the hooker having an incredible Super Rugby strike rate of 27 tries in 56 matches heading into the 2019 season. At international level, Marx was first selected for the Springboks in 2016 making his debut in the September Rugby Championship match against New Zealand that year. He has since moved onto 23 Test caps and is a sure-fire bet for the World Cup squad.

KWAGGA SMITH

Position: Flanker

Height: 182cm

Weight: 93kg

International Caps: 1

Those with good memories may well recall the impact that flanker Kwagga Smith, a former exponent of the Sevens game, had the last time the Brumbies welcomed the Lions to GIO Stadium in May 2017. On that cold night in Canberra Smith showed his explosive pace in securing turnover ball and racing fully sixty metres, outpacing the Brumbies cover, to claim the match-winning score in a game that ended 13-6 to the visitors. Arguably, he was one of only a few who could have made the distance, and it was that contribution that settled a contest that the home team had largely dominated. Having played over 150 times for the 'Blitzboks' in the World Sevens Series, Smith is no stranger to all-action performances, and he had brought that hunger for involvement into the fifteen-a-side game. An Olympian, having represented his country at the 2016 Summer Games in Rio, Brazil, where he won a Bronze Medal, he had previously claimed Gold at the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow. In July 2018, Smith joined Japanese side Yamaha Jubilo for the 2018-19 Top League season crossing for four tries in eleven matches before heading back to South Africa for the 2019 Super Rugby campaign. Previously, Smith had been a member of the South Africa under-20 team.

IN OPPOSITION: LIONS

IN OPPOSITION: TWO FROM THE BACK

ELTON JANTJIES

Position: Flyhalf

Height: 176cm

Weight: 88kg

International Caps: 32

Elton Jantjies has been a Lions mainstay for almost his entire career. Indeed, the one season he didn't don the famous Unions colours wasn't even his fault. In 2013, after the Lions were relegated from the South African Conference, Jantjies was loaned to the Stormers for the 2013 campaign. He returned home shortly after the Lions regained their prominent status, back to the team with whom he had sprung to prominence in 2011. It was while with the Golden Lions that the playmaker gained his well-deserved reputation, leading the team to the 2011 Currie Cup Final and kicking everything that came his way in a 42-16 win over the Sharks. Jantjies was the Super Rugby highest points scorer in the competition in 2017, scoring 203 points that term, and has now played in three successive Grand Finals without success. His darting from number ten, allied to a sound kicking game, has made him a regular choice for the Springboks having made his debut in the 2012 Rugby Championship against Argentina at Loftus Versfeld, Pretoria. He had worn the green and gold before that in a non-test cap against the Barbarians and has continued to perform at the highest level ever since. A quality operator who will have a major bearing on the Lions season.

APHIWE DYANTYI

Position: Wing

Height: 182cm

Weight: 87kg

International Caps: 12

Pace and dynamism are words that are regularly associated with wingers in Super Rugby. In some cases, its more justified than others, but there's no doubting that that Lions flyer Aphiwe Dyantyi fits the bill. Having burst onto the consciousness of Super Rugby fans with a stunning debut season in 2018, Dyantyi will be hoping that 2019 brings more of what he achieved in his breakthrough year. Having made his debut against the Sharks on the left wing he wasted no time in getting across the whitewash, claiming his maiden Super Rugby try just 22 minutes into the match. From there on he just kept scoring. A double followed in the win over the Jaguares with further tries coming his way against the Blues and Sunwolves. Dyantyi ended the year with seven tries to his name from fifteen appearances, enough to earn a quickfire call-up to the Springboks squad. A debut score in the defeat of England in the First Test in Johannesburg set the scene for a memorable start to his international career, a season that ended with six tries from thirteen caps, and the prestigious World Rugby Breakthrough Player of the Year Award. Perhaps Dyantyi's most impressive display was the sensational 36-34 victory over the All Blacks in Wellington in September last year, a match in which the winger flashed over for a brace of tries.





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THEIR GREATEST DAY: LIONS

It's a tough one when assessing the Greatest Day for our South African guests this evening, the Lions, as they've spent the last three seasons licking their wounds having lost three Grand Finals in succession. Defeated in the 2016 showdown, 3-20 at home by the Hurricanes, two successive losses followed to the Crusaders, the New Zealanders claiming a 25-17 win in Johannesburg in 2017 and a more convincing 37-18 win in Christchurch last season. That left the Lions with an unwanted record of being the only club to lose three Super Rugby Grand Finals in a row. And that's harsh on a side that has played some exhilarating rugby over the course of those three seasons. Making the breakthrough to reach their first Super Rugby Final is probably their prime moment in that sequence which is why we have plumped for that match here.

The semi-final encounter at a raucous Ellis Park on 30 July 2016 showed the Lions in all their glory. Exquisite in attack and leaky in defence, their policy of 'we will score more than you' has provided the backdrop to some of Super Rugby's greatest matches and the visit of the Highlanders was no exception. The Lions dominated for large periods of this match and outscored the Highlanders by five tries to four with Elton Jantjies leading the way with a 22-point haul thanks to a try, four conversions and three penalties as the home team won 42-30. The Lions fast paced style of play proved too much for the Highlanders who made several unforced errors which cost them victory.

MATCH DETAILS

Semi-Final

30 July 2016

Ellis Park, Johannesburg

Attendance: 50,000

Referee: Jaco Peyper

RESULTS

Lions 42 (T: Elton Jantjies, Rohan Janse Van Rensburg, Courtnall Skosan, Jaco Kriel, Lourens Erasmus, C: Elton Jantjies (4), P: Elton Jantjies (3))

Highlanders 30 (T: Matt Faddes, Lima Sopoaga, Waisake Naholo, Joe Wheeler, C: Lima Sopoaga (2), P: Lima Sopoaga (2))





FAMOUS VICTORY

Result: 34-20

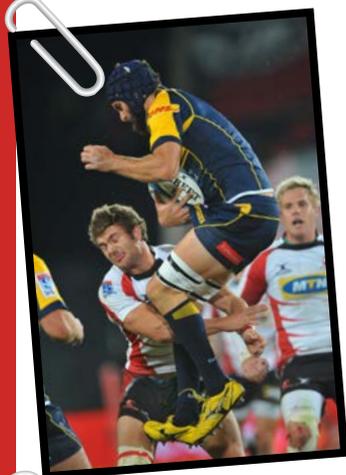
Date: 27/04/2012

Venue: Ellis Park, Johannesburg

Scorers: T: R. Murphy, H. Speight

(2), A. Smith, J. Tomane, B.

Alexander, C: J. Mogg, C. Lealiifano



TOUGHEST LOSS

Result: 20-29

Date: 14/05/2011

Venue: Canberra Stadium, Canberra

Scorers: T: A. Smith, S. Moore, M.

Giteau (2), P: Giteau (2)



LIONS

SEASON IN STATS — 2019

All statistics courtesy of sanzarrugby.com

OFFLOADS

44

[14th]

LINEOUTS WON

92.9%

[3rd]

CLEAN
BREAKS

65

[10th]

TRIES

26

[4th]

TACKLES WON

83.9%

[12th]

DEFENDERS
BEATEN

142

[8th]

SCRUMS
WON

94%

[4th]

RUCKS WON

96%

[5th]

CARRIES

763

[10th]

METRES
CARRIED

2,747

[8th]

3 YELLOW
CARDS

[=6th]

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RETRO BRUMBIES

52

LEADING FROM THE FRONT

Our exclusive series charts the captaincy career of every player who has led the Brumbies since the inception of Super Rugby in 1996. This week we spotlight Stirling Mortlock.

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THE BRUMBIES YEARS

Take a trip down memory lane and revisit a Brumbies season from the past. With focus on our best and worst performances, our player of the year and a fun look at what else happened globally that year. This week we look at 2007.

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TOURISTS TALES

The ACT has been the venue for many exciting visits from touring sides down the years. In this series we remember some of the best. This week sees a controversial visit from the South African tourists in 1971.



LEADING FROM THE FRONT

The Plus500 Brumbies have been blessed with some enigmatic and outstanding leaders since the inception of the club in 1996. In this new series we look at the men who have led the club into battle.

STIRLING MORTLOCK

The Plus500 Brumbies all-time leading points scorer, having amassed 1,019 since his debut back in 1998, it was his coolness under pressure and the ability to nearly always make the right read that allowed Stirling Mortlock to be a clutch captain for the club between 2004 and 2008. Mortlock was a natural Brumby, exhibiting flair and panache, and fledgling leadership skills from the moment he first pulled on the famous club colours, the opening match of the season against the Waratahs at Sydney Football Stadium on 28 February 1998. It wouldn't be long before he was troubling the scorers, five tries in his maiden year seeing Mortlock the second highest try scorer behind Stephen Larkham (7), in what was a difficult season for all involved as the Brumbies finished tenth.

Having missed the Finals in 1999, the year that Mortlock began to use his boot to prodigious effect, the youngster began to be a full part of Head Coach Eddie Jones' selections, a go-to player with the ball in hand and offering a reliable presence off the kicking tee. By the time he was considered for the leadership role, Mortlock had completed six seasons of Super Rugby and was seen as being the natural successor to the incumbent George Gregan. Upon his appointment in 2004, then Head Coach David Nucifora commented that "youth brings enthusiasm and that's what we need." Mortlock certainly brought that, and a lot more. He first led the Brumbies onto the field in February that year against the Blues at Canberra Stadium and, naturally, scored a try as the home side downed the 2003 Champions 44-27.

It was certainly proving to be a glorious baptism for Mortlock who didn't taste defeat as skipper until Round 4 when the Brumbies

were beaten in South Africa by the Bulls. It was one of only three losses the club would suffer in what turned into a magical year as the Brumbies took home the Super Rugby title for the second time. Unfortunately for the mercurial Mortlock, it wasn't he that was to lead the team into the Grand Final against the Crusaders on 22 May 2004. An untimely shoulder injury in the 32-17 Canberra Stadium Semi-Final win over the Chiefs put paid to that dream and stand-in skipper Owen Finegan was afforded the honour of leading the club into the showpiece occasion. As all true Brumbies fans know the Grand Final win, 47-38 against an All Black-laden Crusaders outfit in front of 28,753 fans, was one of the great Super Rugby matches.

Nucifora was replaced by Laurie Fisher for the 2005 season, Fisher electing to continue to use Mortlock in the captaincy role. That year was to be a truncated one for the centre who played seven of the eleven matches as the Brumbies missed out on the opportunity to defend their crown, missing finals football by five points. Tries were hard to come by, Mortlock managing just four, enough for second on the scorer's list though, Matt Giteau leading the way with a modest five. It was injuries that were to dog Mortlock for the remainder of his career, bar a complete run in

the team in 2006 when he played all thirteen games as captain of the side that ended the expanded competition, the tournament had grown by two sides, in sixth place.

The following season, 2007, was a tougher one for Mortlock personally as he played only six matches as Captain, George Smith matching that number and Alister Campbell leading the team for the one and only time in his career when both Mortlock and Smith were unavailable. His last match as skipper was against the Western Force at Subiaco Oval in Perth on 16 May 2008, a captaincy career spanning 44 matches. The team had a collective horror day with the boot as, despite scoring five tries, only one was converted and the Force won 29-22. Mortlock would leave the Brumbies at the end of the following season, the 2009 campaign, to join the newly formed Melbourne Rebels where he was named as the inaugural captain.

FIRST MATCH AS CAPTAIN

21/02/04 v Blues
(Canberra Stadium, Canberra) W 44-27

LAST MATCH AS CAPTAIN

16/05/08 v Western Force
(Subiaco Oval, Perth) L 22-29

BRUMBIES SUPER RUGBY RECORD

Brumby # 34
Debut: 28/02/98 v Waratahs
(Sydney Football Stadium, Sydney) L 7-32
Matches as Captain: 44
Appearances: 123
Points: 1,019 (53T, 161C, 144P)





THE SEASON

Final Position: 5th

A narrow miss for finals football for the Brumbies in 2007 despite a six-match winning streak to end the season. The damage, by that stage, had already been done by the inconsistent and lacklustre start to the year. It was a time when the Brumbies really struggled to find points with three matches in succession yielding just twenty-three. After defeating the Chiefs in Hamilton to start the competition, in itself a mighty task, losses to the Blues, Hurricanes and Bulls – all by small margins, either side of a scrappy, completely forgettable 6-3 win over the Reds in Brisbane, left the Brumbies in a precarious place on the ladder. Even a thirteen-point win over the Stormers was negated when, a week later, the team travelled to Bloemfontein and were sent packing by a Cheetahs side that rarely used to win matches of any description. That loss was to be the last of 2007 though as a win over the Sharks kick-started a run that saw victories against the Lions, Waratahs, Force, Crusaders and Highlanders. By then, it was too late, and the Brumbies missed the semi-finals by two-points.

THE KEY PLAYER

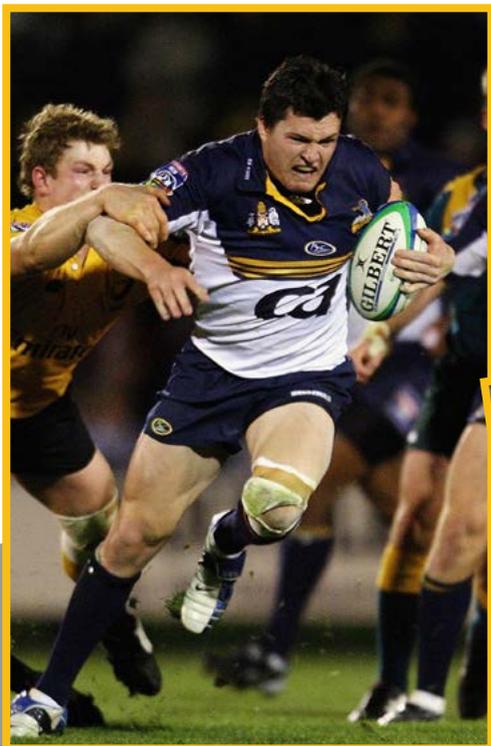
Whilst George Smith was well on the road to racking up the individual honours, being named as the Brett Robinson Player's Player of the Year once again, the best Back Award at the same presentation night in 2007 went to the multi-talented **Adam Ashley-Cooper**. It was by no means a vintage year on the try scoring front for the Brumbies, they managed a paltry twenty in thirteen matches, with Ashley-Cooper leading the way with three alongside Mark Chisholm, Julian Huxley and Stirling Mortlock. Ashley-Cooper was to play 78 times for the Brumbies between 2005 and 2011 scoring fourteen tries in the process, before switching to the Waratahs where his good form continued. A strong runner with ball in hand, and excellent defensively, he won 116 Australian caps scoring eleven World Cup tries including a semi-final hat-trick against Argentina in 2015 and five in 2011 that saw him end the tournament as joint highest try-scorer.

ONE TO REMEMBER

24/03/2007

Sharks 10 Brumbies 21
(ABSA Stadium, Durban)

A simply dominating performance against a team that would only lose three matches all season before eventually being narrowly denied the Super Rugby crown on their own turf by fellow South Africans the Bulls. This win, off the back of a physically imposing defensive display, was the first of the six-game winning run that almost brought finals football. A crowd of 38,787 saw the Australian side inflict a rare home loss on the Sharks. Indeed, this was their first and only home loss of the 2007 campaign. The Brumbies scored two tries through Julian Huxley and Adam Wallace-Harrison with Huxley, performing admirably, banging over



a conversion and three penalties. The free-scoring Sharks couldn't find a way through despite one try from Adriaan Jacobs and the crowd was sent home unhappy.

ONE TO FORGET

17/03/2007

Cheetahs 38 Brumbies 20
(Vodacom Park, Bloemfontein)

In contrast to the heroics in Durban a week later, this visit to Vodacom Park in Bloemfontein to meet a Cheetahs side rooted near the wrong end of the ladder, was an exercise in disappointment. The Cheetahs only managed four wins in the entire season, shipping 342 points in their thirteen matches, a record that was only beaten by the Reds' 438, that Queensland total exacerbated by their humiliating 92-3 rout at the hands of the Bulls. The Brumbies did manage three scores, Adam Ashley-Cooper, Mark Chisholm and Patrick Phibbs crossing the Cheetahs try-line, but the defensive solidity that was on display just seven days hence was markedly missing as the home side grabbed five of their own. The 17,830 crowd cheered their local heroes to the rafters at the final whistle, the high-point of their season and a Brumbies low.



SUPER RUGBY FINALS RESULTS

SEMI-FINALS

Sharks 34 Blues 18

Bulls 27 Crusaders 12

FINAL

Sharks 19 Bulls 20

ELSEWHERE IN...2007

- According to a study from researchers at the University of Copenhagen, all blue-eyed people can be traced back to one person who lived near the Black Sea 6,000 to 10,000 years ago.
- A Bowhead whale was discovered with the end of a harpoon left embedded in its neck from a previous hunt. It was found that the harpoon tip was originally manufactured in 1890, indicating the whale had survived a human attack more than a century ago.
- Siberia experienced orange snow. This orange snow was ruled to most likely caused by a heavy sandstorm in neighboring Kazakhstan. Tests on the snow revealed numerous sand and clay dust particles and a high iron-content, which were blown into Russia in the upper stratosphere.
- The Big Movies included Spider-Man 3, Shrek the Third, Transformers and Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End.
- Disneyland had to close the "It's a Small World" ride for several months in 2007 for renovations because people were too fat for the ride and the boats were regularly getting stuck.
- China tested a missile and shot down one of their own satellites, accidentally creating 2,087 pieces of space debris on crazy orbits, all of which are now required to be tracked to avoid space collisions.

THE

A.C.T. RUGBY NEWS

1971 SEASON

JULY 21

PRICE 10c

SOUVENIR PROGRAM

South Africa v A.C.T.

PRESIDENTS WELCOME

On behalf of the A.C.T. Rugby Union, its players and supporters, I take great pleasure in welcoming you to our National Capital.

Like Canberra itself, Rugby here is still something of an infant in years — but a very rapidly growing and energetic one. We hope we may convince you of this on the field. And we look forward to learning much from you, as reigning world champions of Rugby.

Some of you will recognise old friends in Peter Scott and Owen Butler. I am sure that you will leave many more behind you when your stay here is over.

Manuka Oval has seen some first-rate Rugby internationals in recent years, against the Lions, the All Blacks and Fiji. We look forward to another fine Rugby exhibition today — not only of the skills but also of the spirit of the game that brings us together.

JOHN HUNTER
PRESIDENT
A.C.T. Rugby Union

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1971: SECOND-HALF SPRINGBOK ONSLAUGHT

In this exclusive new series, Breakdown looks back at significant matches played by overseas tourists in Canberra against our local representative teams, the pre-cursors to today's modern Brumbies.

THE TOUR

The 1971 Springbok tour will be remembered for anti-apartheid demonstrations which took place at many of the matches in which the side participated. Many Australians objected to the visit of the South Africans on racial grounds and interfered with matches through smokebombs and abuse of the side. The Springboks carried on regardless, here to play rugby after all, despite the strong political ramifications surrounding their presence on these shores. By the time that they reached Canberra, the eighth stop on their nationwide journey, they were unbeaten having swept aside all State opposition ahead of the first test against Australia at the Sydney Cricket Ground, the match immediately preceding the ACT clash. The 'Boks beat the Australians 19-11 to go with wins over Western Australia (19-11), South Australia (43-0), Victoria (50-0), Sydney (21-12), New South Wales (25-3) and NSW Country (19-3). It was therefore a formidable task that lay ahead of the locals from Canberra and the surrounding region.

THE MATCH

It took an almighty effort from the tourists to keep their unbeaten record intact as the Springboks dug deep to claim victory. The Canberra Times reported the local's efforts in the following day's edition. *'Held to an 8-0 lead at half-time by a determined ACT defence, the touring South African rugby union team opened out its game in the second half and won 34-3 before 11,000 people at Manuka Oval, Canberra. The Springboks scored five converted tries, a dropped goal and two penalties to a penalty. The tries were scored by Tanie Roux, Robbie Barnard, Thys Lourens, Jan Ellis, playing as a replacement in the second half, and Peter Swanson. Dawie Snyman kicked the dropped goal, both penalties and all the conversions for 19 points. The ACT penalty, the only success in six attempts, was kicked by Peter Payten.'* The rushing of passes from the ACT ensured that the South Africans were disoriented in possession and, coupled with some handling errors and poor tactical kicking, gifted the home side plenty of possession. Manuka Oval saw a record crowd of 10,811 turn up for the match. ACT wing Kim Thurbon certainly left an impression with a *'run which bedazzled the Boks as he danced through them until one huge forward crying "enough of this" took him by the collar and whirled him overhead and crashing to the turf.'* It was that kind of afternoon.

How the teams line up

SOUTH AFRICA V **A.C.T.**

3:00pm
Referee: Mr. R. Lamb (Western)

South Africa: 13. M. LOUW, 14. R. BARNARD, 15. H. MARAIS (CAPT.), 16. L. HEDBERG, 17. S. STUMBLE, 18. S. MADOUALL, 19. A. BATES, 20. F. DU PREEZ, 21. S. C. LORD, 22. A. BUTLER, 23. M. LOURENS, 24. J. SPES, 25. M. DU FLEISS, 26. P. RYAN, 27. P. BRYEN, 28. G. CARTAN, 29. O. DE VOS, 30. J. TUNATARDA, 31. F. REYTON, 32. P. SCOTT, 33. A. VAN DER WATT, 34. S. NOMS, 35. K. THURBON, 36. D. SPENCER, 37. O. A. ROUX, 38. J. ELLIS, 39. P. SWANSON, 40. I. PROCTER, 41. A. BRIDGEMAN, 42. P. PAYTEN, 43. M. HEALEY, 44. G. HUGHES, 45. G. HUGHES, 46. G. HUGHES, 47. G. HUGHES, 48. G. HUGHES, 49. G. HUGHES, 50. G. HUGHES, 51. G. HUGHES, 52. G. HUGHES, 53. G. HUGHES, 54. G. HUGHES, 55. G. HUGHES, 56. G. HUGHES, 57. G. HUGHES, 58. G. HUGHES, 59. G. HUGHES, 60. G. HUGHES, 61. G. HUGHES, 62. G. HUGHES, 63. G. HUGHES, 64. G. HUGHES, 65. G. HUGHES, 66. G. HUGHES, 67. G. HUGHES, 68. G. HUGHES, 69. G. HUGHES, 70. G. HUGHES, 71. G. HUGHES, 72. G. HUGHES, 73. G. HUGHES, 74. G. HUGHES, 75. G. HUGHES, 76. G. HUGHES, 77. G. HUGHES, 78. G. HUGHES, 79. G. HUGHES, 80. G. HUGHES, 81. G. HUGHES, 82. G. HUGHES, 83. G. HUGHES, 84. G. HUGHES, 85. G. HUGHES, 86. G. HUGHES, 87. G. HUGHES, 88. G. HUGHES, 89. G. HUGHES, 90. G. HUGHES, 91. G. HUGHES, 92. G. HUGHES, 93. G. HUGHES, 94. G. HUGHES, 95. G. HUGHES, 96. G. HUGHES, 97. G. HUGHES, 98. G. HUGHES, 99. G. HUGHES, 100. G. HUGHES.

ACT: 1. P. PAYTEN, 2. P. SCOTT, 3. M. HEALEY, 4. G. HUGHES, 5. G. HUGHES, 6. G. HUGHES, 7. G. HUGHES, 8. G. HUGHES, 9. G. HUGHES, 10. G. HUGHES, 11. G. HUGHES, 12. G. HUGHES, 13. G. HUGHES, 14. G. HUGHES, 15. G. HUGHES, 16. G. HUGHES, 17. G. HUGHES, 18. G. HUGHES, 19. G. HUGHES, 20. G. HUGHES, 21. G. HUGHES, 22. G. HUGHES, 23. G. HUGHES, 24. G. HUGHES, 25. G. HUGHES, 26. G. HUGHES, 27. G. HUGHES, 28. G. HUGHES, 29. G. HUGHES, 30. G. HUGHES, 31. G. HUGHES, 32. G. HUGHES, 33. G. HUGHES, 34. G. HUGHES, 35. G. HUGHES, 36. G. HUGHES, 37. G. HUGHES, 38. G. HUGHES, 39. G. HUGHES, 40. G. HUGHES, 41. G. HUGHES, 42. G. HUGHES, 43. G. HUGHES, 44. G. HUGHES, 45. G. HUGHES, 46. G. HUGHES, 47. G. HUGHES, 48. G. HUGHES, 49. G. HUGHES, 50. G. HUGHES, 51. G. HUGHES, 52. G. HUGHES, 53. G. HUGHES, 54. G. HUGHES, 55. G. HUGHES, 56. G. HUGHES, 57. G. HUGHES, 58. G. HUGHES, 59. G. HUGHES, 60. G. HUGHES, 61. G. HUGHES, 62. G. HUGHES, 63. G. HUGHES, 64. G. HUGHES, 65. G. HUGHES, 66. G. HUGHES, 67. G. HUGHES, 68. G. HUGHES, 69. G. HUGHES, 70. G. HUGHES, 71. G. HUGHES, 72. G. HUGHES, 73. G. HUGHES, 74. G. HUGHES, 75. G. HUGHES, 76. G. HUGHES, 77. G. HUGHES, 78. G. HUGHES, 79. G. HUGHES, 80. G. HUGHES, 81. G. HUGHES, 82. G. HUGHES, 83. G. HUGHES, 84. G. HUGHES, 85. G. HUGHES, 86. G. HUGHES, 87. G. HUGHES, 88. G. HUGHES, 89. G. HUGHES, 90. G. HUGHES, 91. G. HUGHES, 92. G. HUGHES, 93. G. HUGHES, 94. G. HUGHES, 95. G. HUGHES, 96. G. HUGHES, 97. G. HUGHES, 98. G. HUGHES, 99. G. HUGHES, 100. G. HUGHES.

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THE WORLD OF RUGBY

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THE BIG FEATURE

Each edition we will take a closer look at a relevant topic concerning the World of Rugby. This week our correspondent brings you a review of the Six Nations looking ahead to the Northern Hemisphere's potential Rugby World Cup prospects.

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SOUTH AFRICA

The latest Super Rugby news and views from the Republic. Who's leading the way and who's impressing in South Africa?

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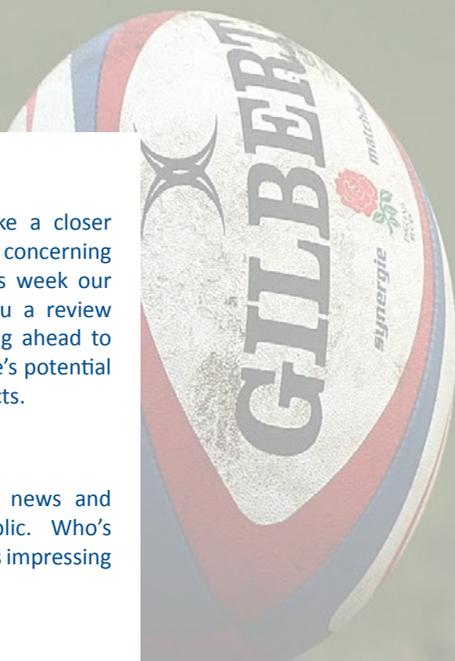
NEW ZEALAND

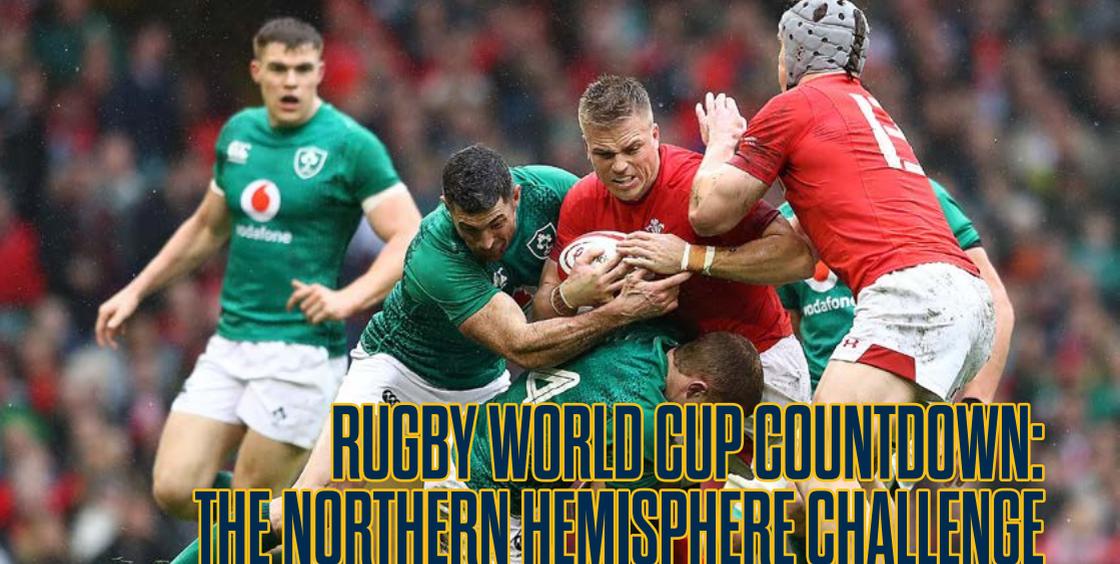
The latest Super Rugby news and views across the Tasman. Who's leading the way and who's impressing in New Zealand?

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GLOBAL NEWS

Catch up with the most important topics making rugby news around the World in our bite-sized news section.





RUGBY WORLD CUP COUNTDOWN: THE NORTHERN HEMISPHERE CHALLENGE

In a World Cup year, it seems every game of professional rugby has some extra spice added in, a sense that every result or god-forbid, injury will have massive implications for September. With the World Cup looming, we wanted to have a quick look back at the Six Nations to see how they're travelling as we wait for Japan.

WALES

[RWC GROUP D: Australia, Georgia, Fiji, Uruguay]

Wales didn't blow away the competition by any stretch but winning a Grand Slam in this era of the Six Nations is still quite rare. Wales win ugly, but they are very effective at what they do. There's no trickery, no variation, they just hammer up in defence and look to capitalise on mistakes. They will be who they are and say, can you beat us? So, they probably won't win a World Cup, or the hearts of neutrals, but you can bet Wales will beat up a few teams on their way, the Wallabies will hope they're up to the task in Group D.

be argued. Despite actually only winning three games (losing a dour affair to Wales, and drawing against Scotland, 38-38) no team reached the level England did, throughout the tournament. They were scary good against Ireland, shutting down the perceived 'best euro-challengers' at the World Cup, and demolished both France and Italy, scoring tries for fun. The defeat to Wales did hurt them, and shows they are probably still a half-notch below contenders in Japan.

IRELAND

[RWC GROUP A: Scotland, Japan, Russia, Samoa]

ENGLAND

[RWC GROUP C: France, Argentina, USA, Tonga]

Eddie Jones' England were the best side in the Six Nations this year. Fact. And it can't

Throughout the competition, we never got to see the Ireland that beat New Zealand in Spring. Were we all wrong about them, and they're just not that good, or are they a sleeping contender who held back in the Six Nations? Ireland looked a shell of



themselves in truth. Outworked by England, stagnant against Italy, Scotland and France then pummelled by Wales, traits that haven't been associated with this Irish team lead by Joe Schmidt. They were SO bad, that it's fair to ask, were they holding back on purpose? Schmidt said this year's championship would be different. We'll wait and see.

the second forty minutes against England at Twickenham suggested. But when they are bad, they are awful. On a positive note for Scotland, it's a massive deal for them to even reach that level, some of the time. It makes them extremely dangerous in a Rugby World Cup setting, as a controversial Craig Joubert penalty, which we won't go in to anymore, promise, will attest to.

France Italy

[RWC GROUP C: France, Argentina, USA, Tonga]

[RWC GROUP B: New Zealand, South Africa, Namibia, Canada]

If the Six Nations was decided in the first half of Round One, France would have won in a landslide. Against Wales, they played the most overwhelmingly powerful forty minutes anyone has out together this year. And then, they were incredibly average for the rest of the tournament. That is the quintessential French rugby experience and, once again we have absolutely no clue where they are going to be. They could win it, but they could also come fourth in their group. Who knows ?

How did Italy fair in the Six Nations? Actually, better! No, they didn't win any game as was the predictions before the competition started, but there was genuine improvement there. Italian rugby is not a lost cause just yet, but they will obviously struggle at the Rugby World Cup in this group. The games against Namibia and Canada will be their most important. They just have to start winning, even against the weaker sides but South Africa and New Zealand will, surely, prove to be too strong.

Scotland

[RWC GROUP A: Ireland, Japan, Russia, Samoa]

See France.....Just kidding, but seriously Scotland are becoming France in some ways. When they're good, they're unplayable, as



VIEW FROM SOUTH AFRICA

The South Africa conference was busted wide open in Round 8 as the Sharks produced a performance that few predicated in Johannesburg, romping to an incredible 42-5 victory away to the Lions. The Sharks outscored the Lions by six tries to one to move to the top of the Conference standings with Makazole Mapimpi crossing for two of the them. The Durban-based side could even afford for their usually reliable goalkicker, Robert Du Preez, to have an off day with the boot, landing only one of four conversion attempts.

There was a further shock in Pretoria as the Jaguars, whom the Brumbies face in a fortnight in Buenos Aires, stunned the home supporters with a 22-20 victory. That result seemed mostly unlikely as the game entered the final seven minutes of action as the home side comfortably led by 20-10. Manie Libbok kicked five penalties to go with Jacob Stighling's try and the Bulls looked home and dry. Cue replacement Domingo Miotti. He was only the field for nine minutes, but it was enough to turn the tide of the match, the substitute crossing for two tries, one of which he converted himself, to seal a remarkable come from behind victory for the Argentines.

The Stormers meanwhile, slumped to the bottom of the Conference as they went down to the Reds in Friday Night Football at Suncorp Stadium in Brisbane. The home side were too sharp for their guests from the Republic, claiming a 24-12 success and scoring three tries. Brandon Paenga-Amosa, Samu Kerevi and Tate McDermott claimed tries for the Australians with Kobus Van Dyk and Damian De Allende replying for the team from Cape Town. The Brumbies tour begins with a visit to Cape Town next weekend.

Whilst the Lions take to the field at GIO Stadium against the Brumbies this evening, their fellow South African Conference teams will also face tough matches. The Stormers were in Melbourne last night to take on the Rebels, whilst later tonight the Sharks meet the Jaguares at Jonsson Kings Park in Durban. With only seven points separating first from fifth in the South African Division, every point is vital and will need to be earned between now and finals time.





VIEW FROM NEW ZEALAND

As we know, the Crusaders continue to lead the New Zealand Conference, and the overall standings, after they turned on the style in the second half to defeat the Brumbies last weekend, and it's the Hurricanes who continue to cling to their coat-tails after the Wellington side won an epic against the Highlanders at Forsyth Barr Stadium in Dunedin in Round 8.

It looked like it would be the Highlanders celebrating their success at the final whistle as they led 28-17 with nineteen minutes to play after claiming four tries through Shannon Frizzell, Ash Dixon, Kayne Hammington and James Lentjes. However, the Hurricanes would not lie down and forced their way back into the match as Ardie Savea claimed his second try. Ngani Laumape won it for the 'Canes in the 66th minute with Beauden Barrett adding eleven points form the boot.

The Blues are third in the New Zealand standings after they edged out the Waratahs in a thrilling match played at Eden park in Auckland. The hosts eventually won 32-29 but it was a close-run thing after a spirited Waratahs fightback. Tries from Tom Robinson and Caleb Clarke had the Blues 17-0 ahead

after only eighteen minutes and looking good for the points.

However, the Waratahs fought back and scores from Israel Folau, his 60th in Super Rugby making him the highest try-scorer ever in the competition, and Will Miller had the game back in the balance. An Alex Newsome try cancelled out one from TJ Faiane, in what was becoming an end-to-end affair. But the Blues did enough, a penalty from Otere Black putting them out of reach despite a late try from Jake Gordon that briefly threatened a Waratahs upset.

Last night the Crusaders kicked off Round 9 against the Highlanders at Christchurch Stadium and, by the time you read this, the Chiefs and the Blues will have met at FMG Stadium in Waikato.





WORLD OF RUGBY: GLOBAL NEWS

SAN DIEGO SET TO HOST WORLD'S BEST IN WOMEN'S RUGBY SUPER SERIES

The world's top five teams will gather in San Diego in June and July for a round-robin Super Series that promises to showcase the best that women's international 15s has to offer. Kicking off for the first time in three years and increasing from four to five teams, the Super Series will feature world number one New Zealand, Six Nations Grand Slam winners England, Canada, France and USA. The tournament was last hosted by USA in 2016 where Canada won the title and England claimed the runners-up for the second consecutive year. Hosted in partnership with World Rugby, the Women's Rugby Super Series 2019 serves as a meaningful step in generating more exposure for the women's game and providing its top performers with much-needed playing time.

MTAWARIRA BREAKS SOUTH AFRICAN RECORD

Veteran front-row Tendai "Beast" Mtawarira made history when he ran out for the Sharks against the Lions in Johannesburg last Saturday. Mtawarira broke Adriaan Strauss' record for being the most capped South African Super Rugby player. After this Round 7 match against the Bulls in Durban, the Springbok pair have both featured in 156 appearances in the competition, but Mtawarira now holds the record on his own. Strauss represented the

Cheetahs and then the Bulls, but Mtawarira has accomplished this record for just one team, the Sharks since making his debut in 2007.

STADE FRANCAIS AND PAUL O'CONNELL TO PART WAYS

Stade Francais have announced that their forwards coach, Paul O'Connell, will leave the Top 14 outfit at the end of the current season. The former Ireland, Munster and British and Irish Lions second-row joined Stade Francais on a two-year contract last August, with the option of a further year, but will now leave after just one season. Stade Francais wished the 39-year-old well and said via a statement that "O'Connell is and will always be considered a member of the Stade Francais Paris family." O'Connell, who was rumored to join Toulon, revealed his intention to leave Stade in a statement released on the club's website but said he will not be joining another club.

IAN BOTHAM GRANDSON SIGNS FOR CARDIFF

James Botham, grandson of England cricket legend Sir Ian Botham, has signed his first senior contract with Cardiff Blues. The back-row forward was joined by tight-head prop Keiron Assiratti and Shane Lewis-Hughes in signing first professional deals. Wales Under-20s international Botham is the son of former Cardiff wing Liam. Botham said: "It's great to sign my first professional deal and I'm really happy it's at Cardiff Blues, where I've spent the last three years in the academy]," Botham said.

“It was a massive honour to make my Pro14 debut earlier in the season having played a lot in the Anglo-Welsh Cup, in the A-League and Cardiff RFC - now I am hungry for more.”

LEICESTER'S SCOTLAND FORWARD OUT FOR SEASON WITH CONCUSSION

Leicester Tigers' Scotland back row David Denton will not play again this season as he recovers from concussion. The 29-year-old has not played since 6 October when he was hurt in the 23-15 Premiership win over Northampton. “Ultimately, the decision was taken out of his hands by experts,” said Leicester head coach Geordan Murphy. “He's disappointed to not be out there with the lads but understands the importance of the situation and his long-term health.” Denton, a summer signing from Worcester, had started all six of Leicester's matches before his injury in the match at Twickenham.

RECORD-BREAKING AMERICAS RUGBY CHAMPIONSHIP

A scintillating Americas Rugby Championship (ARC) provided a further boost to the expansion of the sport in the Americas, home to one of the world's fastest-growing fanbases. The continental tournament, which is supported by World Rugby funding as part of its global growth strategy, was won by Argentina XV. The five-round competition played across 10 venues, set new fan-engagement and attendance records, capturing the imagination of a region that has

seen the number of fans increase by more than seven per cent since 2017 to a staggering 198.2 million (above the worldwide average increase of one per cent). The six participating teams showcased their talent while four of them - Argentina, Canada, Uruguay and USA - also used this year's tournament as key preparation for Rugby World Cup.

URUGUAY QUALIFY FOR WORLD RUGBY U20 TROPHY 2019

Uruguay will play in their seventh consecutive World Rugby U20 Trophy and 10th in total after a 38-13 victory over Chile in the Sudamerica U20s confirmed their place in the line-up for the tournament in São José dos Campos in Brazil from 9-21 July. With the win, Uruguay advance to face Argentina in the Sudamerica U20s final on Saturday. Los Pumitas, who are preparing for the World Rugby U20 Championship on home soil in June, were 90-5 winners over Brazil in the earlier fixture on Wednesday.





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FOR THE RECORD

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FIXTURES, RESULTS AND STATISTICS

Everything you need to know regarding the 2019 Super Rugby competition fixtures, who we play, when and the forthcoming statistics that matter.

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HOW THEY STAND

The latest Super Rugby Competition Ladders from the three Conferences in Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. Who is leading the way and who is off the pace?

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CLUB STATISTICS 2019

Who's played the most games? Who's scored the most tries? Who leads the points scoring? What are your favourite players overall statistics? Find out here!



FIXTURES & STATISTICS

FIXTURES

JANUARY

26 Rebels (h – Fr) W 52-38

FEBRUARY

7 Waratahs (h – Fr) W 34-28

15 Rebels (h) L 27-34

23 Chiefs (h) W 54-17

MARCH

1 Hurricanes (a) L 13-43

8 Rebels (a) L 26-29

15 Waratahs (h) W 19-13

24 Reds (a) L 14-36

30 Bye

APRIL

6 Crusaders (a) L 14-36

13 Lions (h) 19:45

20 Stormers (a) 23:05

28 Jaguares (a) 07:40

MAY

4 Blues (h) 19:45

12 Sunwolves (h) 16:00

18 Bye

24 Bulls (h) 19:45

JUNE

1 Sunwolves (a) 15:15

8 Waratahs (a) 19:45

15 Reds (h) 19:45

All matches will be screened live and exclusive on Fox Sports. Tickets from www.ticketek.com.au.

BROWN AND FIFITA JOIN FAMILY

Jahrome Brown and Vunipola Fifita have become the latest players to be capped by the Plus500 Brumbies, making their debuts in recent weeks. Brown came off the bench for Tom Cusack at Suncorp Stadium in Brisbane, memorably scoring a try with his first touch in the 71st minute. Fifita meanwhile, became Brumby #219 when he replaced James Slipper in the 72nd minute of the match against the Crusaders in Christchurch last weekend.



POWELL TO HIT CAP #50

Plus500 Brumbies scrumhalf Joe Powell will play his 50th Super Rugby match for the Brumbies this weekend against the Lions at GIO Stadium. Powell made his debut back in 2015 at this venue, against the Rebels, and clocks up half a century of games with three tries to his name. The Canberra local, who plays for the Vikings club, has also made four international appearances for Australia.

HOW THEY STAND IN 2019

Australian Conference

#	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	PD	BP	PTS
1	Rebels	7	5	0	2	208	164	+44	3	23
2	Waratahs	7	3	0	4	169	161	+8	4	16
3	Reds	7	3	0	4	167	175	-8	2	14
4	Brumbies	7	2	0	5	167	208	-41	3	11
5	Sunwolves	8	2	0	6	191	261	-70	2	10

New Zealand Conference

#	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	PD	BP	PTS
1	Crusaders	8	6	1	1	221	126	+95	3	29
2	Hurricanes	8	5	1	2	206	203	+3	1	23
3	Blues	7	4	0	3	165	157	+8	3	19
4	Highlanders	7	2	1	4	161	171	-10	4	14
5	Chiefs	7	2	1	4	196	241	-45	2	12

South African Conference

#	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	PD	BP	PTS
1	Sharks	7	4	0	3	182	108	+74	5	21
2	Bulls	7	4	0	3	178	150	+28	2	18
3	Lions	7	4	0	3	179	203	-24	2	18
4	Jaguars	7	3	0	4	162	188	-26	2	14
5	Stormers	7	3	0	4	122	158	-36	2	14

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CLUB STATS

Name	2019 APPS	2019 PTS	CAREER APPS	CAREER PTS
Allan ALAALATOA	5	5 – 1t	64	10 – 2t
Rory ARNOLD	6	5 – 1t	64	30 – 6t
Tom BANKS	7	5 – 1t	35	65 – 13t
Jahrome BROWN	2	5 – 1t	2	5 – 1t
Sam CARTER	6	5 – 1t	111	45 – 9t
Tom CUSACK	6	-	23	10 – 2t
Murray DOUGLAS	4	-	14	-
Blake ENEVER	4	-	49	5 – 1t
Folau FAINGAA	6	30 – 6t	19	45 – 9t
Vunipola FIFITA	1	-	1	-
Mack HANSEN	1	-	1	-
Wharenui HAWERA	4	4 – 2c	35	190 – 2t, 42c, 32p
Ben HYNE	-	-	5	-
Len IKITAU	-	-	0	-
Jordan JACKSON-HOPE	3	-	14	5 – 1t
Bayley KUENZLE	-	-	0	-
Tevita KURIDRANI	7	15 – 3t	112	120 – 24t
Christian LEALIFANO	7	36 – 1t, 14c, 2p	143	884 – 20t, 158c, 154p, 2dg
Leslie LEULUAIALII-MAKIN	6	-	39	-
Noah LOLESIO	-	-	0	-
Ryan LONERGAN	2	-	3	-
Matt LUCAS	5	-	54	16 – 2t, 3c
Josh MANN-REA	7	5 – 1t	67	40 – 8t
Lachlan MCCAFFREY	6	5 – 1t	34	25 – 5t
Connal MCINERNEY	1	-	7	-
Andrew MUIRHEAD	5	-	19	30 – 6t
Chance PENI	3	10 – 2t	17	45 – 9t
David POCKOCK	3	-	112	95 – 19t
Joe POWELL	7	-	49	15 – 3t
Toni PULU	2	-	33	70 – 14t
Tom ROSS	3	-	3	-
Pete SAMU	7	-	40	45 – 9t
Irae SIMONE	6	-	16	-
Scott SIO	6	-	91	20 – 4t
James SLIPPER	7	-	111	25 – 5t
Henry SPEIGHT	5	10 – 2t	113	215 – 43t
Darcy SWAIN	2	-	3	-
Lausii TALIAULI	2	-	25	30 – 6t
Rob VALETINI	4	5 – 1t	7	10 – 2t
Tom WRIGHT	3	5 – 1t	3	5 – 1t



WHAT YOU MAY HAVE MISSED

A thrilling win over the Waratahs at GIO Stadium last time we were here set the pulses racing in traditional Brumbies styles as the old enemy from across the border was sent packing. The Brumbies retained the Dan Vickerman Cup with a 19-13 success over those clad in Blue, a forward-dominated effort seeing Folau Fainga'a roll across for a brace of tries and the 'Tahs pinged for a penalty try when the pack looked destined for a third. The home side were denied a dream finish when Ryan Lonergan appeared to have scored a fourth try, only for the score to be chalked off for a knock-on.

There followed a disappointing trip to Queensland as the Reds turned over the Brumbies with a 36-14 success at Suncorp Stadium. The away side looked lethargic in hot and humid conditions and, despite well-taken tries to Henry Speight and Jahrome Brown, with his first touch on debut, were well beaten by a fired up and intense home outfit. The Reds took their chances when they came, running in a couple of turnover tries for a bonus-point win.

A strong second half from the Crusaders last week saw the Brumbies fall to a 36-14 defeat against in New Zealand, the home side running in five tries in the second stanza to remain at the front of the competition after Round 8.

The visitors scored two excellent tries through Christian Lealiifano and Tevita Kuridrani but the home side proved too good after the interval.

RESULTS

Super Rugby R5: Plus500 Brumbies (12) 19 (T: Fainga'a (2), Penalty-Try, C: Lealiifano) Waratahs (5) 13 (T: Hooper, Newsome, P: Foley)

Super Rugby R6: Reds (10) 36 (T: Higginbotham, Feauai-Sautia, McDermott, Hegarty, Paenga-Amosa, C: Hegarty (4), P: Hegarty) Plus500 Brumbies (0) 14 (T: Speight, Brown, C: Lealiifano (2))

Super Rugby R7: Crusaders (0) 36 (T: Reece (2), Jordan (2), Taufua, C: Mo'unga (3), Cameron, P: Cameron) Plus500 Brumbies (7) 14 (T: Lealiifano, Kuridrani, C: Lealiifano (2))





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