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# BREAKDOWN

## SEASON 2019, ISSUE 9



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### GETTING TO KNOW YOUR BRUMBIES

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### MORE THAN A CLUB

Our More than a Club segment kicks-off with a three-page dedication to our departing Brumbies before a lengthy chat with Buildcorp Super W star Harriet Elleman.

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### MATCHDAY

It's match time! It's Quarter Final time at GIO Stadium this evening and take a look ahead at the action on the field as well as statistically revisiting our previous matches.

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### IN OPPOSITION

Who's hot in the colours of our opponents tonight? Find out all you need to know about the opposition, their form and tactics, key players, their season in review, season in stats and a pictorial look at previous encounters.

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### RETRO BRUMBIES

Our regular trip down memory lane is tinged with nostalgia as always! This week we shine the spotlight on four of our greatest finals' performances looking back to 1997, 2002, 2004 and 2013.

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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.

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### 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

# WELCOME FROM CEO PHIL THOMSON



Good evening everyone and welcome to GIO Stadium for our highly anticipated Quarter Final match-up against the Sharks from Durban. Congratulations to Dan McKellar, his staff, the playing squad and everyone associated with the Plus500 Brumbies for securing a fourth Australian Conference title.

The 2019 Super Rugby season has been enthralling with many unpredictable results. Our season started slowly, but we have found some consistent form in the second half of the season.

The team has been playing an entertaining and exciting style of rugby and it has been great to see them enjoying their rugby. We have won seven out of our eight matches at home so far this season and the support that we have received at each match is greatly appreciated.

Tonight should be a very exciting match. Both teams have been in good form leading into this fixture and I'm sure that everyone here tonight will witness a memorable game.

This evening, we also farewell ten of our playing squad who are leaving the Brumbies family at the culmination of our season. You can read more about the departing players in tonight's program, but I'd like to place on record here my thanks to those leaving for everything they have contributed to the Brumbies during their time at the club and wish them all the best in the future.

I'd like to personally thank everyone for supporting the Brumbies. Get behind the team tonight as we continue our Super Rugby journey in 2019.

# GETTING TO KNOW YOUR BRUMBIES

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## THE BIG INTERVIEW

A special edition of Getting To Know, kicks off with an in-depth four-page Question and Answer session with Head Coach Dan McKellar in which the Brumbies boss talks players, the 2019 season and his take on the Brumbies yesterday, today and tomorrow.

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## SCOTT SIO: CENTURION

Celebrating the magnificent achievements of prop forward Scott Sio who won his 100th Brumbies cap in the Round 18 match with the Reds right here at GIO Stadium in Canberra.

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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.



# EXCLUSIVE: DAN MCKELLAR Q&A

*Plus500 Brumbies Rian Murphy sat down with Head Coach Dan McKellar to discover his take on the 2019 season and the roller-coaster ride of leading the club.*

## DAN, FIRST OF ALL, HOW ARE YOU?

"I'm good, I suppose I'm like the team in a good place. We're enjoying what we're doing, we always do but it's always nice when games and results are going your way, so feeling fresh and ready to attack these next three weeks."

## YOU'RE TOWARDS THE BACKEND NOW, OF YOUR SECOND SEASON AS HEAD COACH OF THE BRUMBIES, DO YOU FEEL MORE COMFORTABLE IN YOUR ROLE NOW?

"I felt pretty comfortable last year, to be honest. I've been coaching a long time now. Am I more comfortable this year? Yeah, that would be accurate. You're always learning in this game, you can't ever sit on your hands in rugby and think you know everything in this game because that's never going to be the case, but I'm very comfortable with the staff and our leaders, they're all doing a great job, so yeah, I'm really enjoying being the coach of the Brumbies."

## TALK TO US ABOUT YOUR COACHING TEAM, WHAT'S IT LIKE

### WORKING WITH LAURIE FISHER?

"We work really well together. I've got an enormous amount of respect for Lord, always have. When I was coaching Tuggeranong Vikings, he would be encouraging me to come in and watch sessions, sit in on meeting, I was blown away back then. He was the first person to give me opportunity in super rugby, backed me. Worked with him then for a period of time with Bernie then he went to Gloucester. I never hesitated when I was looking for senior coach, I knew Laurie was going to be the one. He's a Canberra man, loves Canberra, loves the Brumbies and he's an outstanding coach with so much knowledge to pass on. Do I bounce ideas of Laurie every day? 100%. Do I pass ideas on with Hewy? Yes. I respect all my staff, but Laurie has been in this industry for 20 years, been an assistant to a team that won the comp and played a huge role in 2013 when we were 10 minutes away. He's great to work with, I enjoy coaching with him and the downtime, having a beer after a game, celebrating a win."

## PETER HEWAT SEEM'S TO HAVE A CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PLAYERS. WAS IT IMPORTANT FOR YOU TO HAVE THAT LINK BETWEEN YOURSELF AND THE PLAYERS?

"I thought about the makeup of my coach group. I wanted an experienced coach of quality, and I wanted a quality backs coach as well. But you don't want the same across the board, like we do with players you want different skill sets. We complement each other well. Hewy definitely has that close relationship with the players, that trust and I like to think we all do. It's not long ago that Hewy was playing professional rugby, and the players respect that. He knows though, when it's time to be on and get our details right and that we deliver our messages the way we need to. He also knows when it's time to have a laugh as well. It's so intense in this environment if you're serious all the time and intense, at some point there's going to be a breakdown. "

## HOW IMPORTANT IS THAT COACHING TEAM DURING THE INEVITABLE UPS AND DOWNS OF A SEASON?

"You've got to stick tight. It's not been all roses, there's definitely been a few thorns. After the game (against the Waratahs) we all sat in a circle and talked, and we did the same after the Melbourne loss, which was a really disappointing night. So I just said to the players remember where we were 10 weeks ago, the change and the feel in the environment. The hard times help you appreciate the good times. How you react in those times, you get a good judge on a person, and we all just stuck tight, no finger pointing and did the things we had to, to get better. "

## DESPITE THE INTENSITY OF THE JOB, DO YOU FIND TIME TO ENJOY THE SEASON?

"I enjoy every day. We're blessed to do what we do. I used to sell orthopaedic implants to surgeons, and I loved that job too but that was a job, this is a passion. It was a hobby that's



turned in to a career. We say it to the players; you've got to enjoy the wins. When we put on a good performance, you enjoy it, and take time to enjoy the time in the sheds after a win."

## HOW DO YOU GO ABOUT KEEPING GUYS FRESH DURING THE YEAR?

"You learn as a coach, there's always a physical toll during the week, and you have to be conscious of the load it's players' bodies but something I'm very aware of now is their mental load. Our responsibility as coaches is making sure our messages are clear and right. Sometimes you don't get it right, but you're always trying to make sure that when they run out on a Saturday, they're physically and mentally ready for the challenge."

## WHAT CHANGED DURING THE SEASON, TO SPARK THIS RUN?

"I think we're a more rounded football side now, more balanced. On the backend of last year, we had this fearless mindset. We weren't scared of making mistakes, or talking about errors in meetings, and we still don't but I think now we've got the balance right. We

hoped to bring the 2018 finish into round one against the Rebels, and we saw pieces of it but didn't get the balance right, but then we play the Chiefs and win by 20 and suddenly you think we can continue to do that. Went to the Hurricanes, played too much footy and gave away some breakaway tries. I think the change ultimately came after the Reds. We made some adjustments around standards at training, about preparation, routines. Poey presented to the group about how he goes about his week. We made the changes by driving the standards on the pitch and playing to our strengths. Scrum, maul and lineout, we never went away from that, but focusing on that gave us more chance to exploit opportunities from unstructured situations and counterattack. So now, I think we're just more balanced, not one dimensional."

#### DID YOU FIND THE WHOLE 'MAUL-TRY' DISCUSSION, FUNNY OR ENFURIATING?

"There were all those emotions. There were times when we thought it was funny, but I think we found it a little bit annoying after the Blues game. We'd just travelled, Canberra to Sydney, Sydney to Joburg, Joburg to Cape Town, Cape Town to Sao Paulo then to Buenos Aires in a

week. Played two tough footy games, then BA to San Diego, San Diego to Sydney, Sydney to Canberra with the Blues waiting for us on that Friday, who are a dangerous side. We knew that game we had to be smart tactically and attack them where we knew we could get some wins. There were so many positives out of that game, beating another Kiwi side, a much improved and well-coached Kiwi side, and there was all this negativity around it and that disappointed us. We knew we weren't that one-dimensional side, and these past few weeks have backed that up."

#### HOW IMPORTANT IS SET-PIECE TO YOUR PHILOSOPHY AS A COACH?

"Massive, set-piece and defence. Especially leading into finals. I feel like your best opportunities come off what you do in defence. We're seeing real benefits of the adjustments we've made in that area. Set-piece is a big part of this club though. We do more work on scrum and lineout than any other club, most boys who come here will tell you that."

#### BIG HELP IN THAT AREA WAS GETTING JAMES SLIPPER TO THE CLUB, DID YOU EXPECT HE WOULD HAVE SUCH A BIG IMPACT??

"I did actually. I've always rated him really highly. I remember watching him play in a 2014 Bledisloe at Suncorp, he was just so aggressive, and he



took it to the All-Blacks that night. I knew Slips a little, we'd met a few times but good mates of mine knew him well and always spoke very highly of his character, good bloke, good family, I knew he'd flourish in this environment. It was just convincing him, and he didn't need too much convincing. The only thing was how it was going to work with Slip and Scotty going to work and I think both players attitudes have been tremendous and they're both benefiting from it, as is the team."

### FELLOW FRONT ROW ALLAN ALAALATOA, IS HE UP THERE WITH THE BEST IN THE WORLD NOW?

"I think Allan's World Class! Early in his career, we moved him to loosehead, just to get him in the team. It probably wasn't a popular decision, Al's always seen himself as a tighthead, but we made that choice to give him more minutes and exposure to Super Rugby. He was actually turning into a quality loosie, but we then made the decision to bring him back across which was always going to be the case. My concern when we made the change was where we still going to get the carries, the defensive efforts, the quality around the park, and we still do. There's not many tightheads running around who scrummage like that who are able to back

that up with quality involvements around the park. We're blessed to have two world class looseheads, a world class tighthead and a hooker who's catching them quickly."

### YOU'VE SAID CHRISTIAN LEALIFANO HAS IMPROVED AS A LEADER, WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?

"He's always been a leader, a very positive leader. What he's developed over time is the ability to drive standards, drive accountability within the group. He challenges us as coaches, the players and himself. We've worked really hard on being connected as a group, making sure we're together and there's one voice and message during games and breaks in play, and that would be visible for people during games, and Christian drives that. Off the park, the time he gives to his teammates is second to none. On the park, his game is now back to the level it was before he got sick, he's worked really hard on that. For me, he's the most consistent, best defensive ten in the country. Sharp in attack, genuine running threat and he's so good in any group."

*Check out [brumbies.com.au](http://brumbies.com.au) for part two of our sit down with Plus500 Brumbies Head Coach Dan McKellar.*





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# BRUMBIES CENTURIONS

*(statistics correct up to 17.06.19)*

**154** Ben ALEXANDER

**148** Christian LEALIFANO

**142** George SMITH

**136** George GREGAN

**123** Stirling MORTLOCK

**120** Sam CARTER

**120** Tevita KURIDRANI

**120** Henry SPEIGHT

**117** Stephen MOORE

**116** Stephen LARKHAM

**112** Jeremy PAUL

**102** Mark CHISHOLM

**100** Scott SIO

**100** Bill YOUNG

**SCOTT SIO — CENTURION**

# SCOTT SIO — CENTURION



To Ben Alexander, Christian Lealiifano, George Smith, George Gregan, Stirling Mortlock, Sam Carter, Tevita Kuridrani, Henry Speight, Stephen Moore, Stephen Larkham, Jeremy Paul, Mark Chisholm, and Bill Young we can add the name Scott Sio.

It's an elite band. To play just one Super Rugby match is an achievement but to rack up a century is impressive. To do it in the colours of just one club is limited to a very few. Sio, legendary prop, has joined that small-band, the group of players to have raised the bat on 100 appearances for the Brumbies.

When Sio walked onto the field on a chilly Canberra evening last Saturday he became just the 14th man to play 100 matches for the club in Super Rugby. Sio is the fifth front-rower to achieve the feat, following Ben Alexander, Stephen Moore, Jeremy Paul and Bill Young and with plenty of elite-level rugby ahead of him, should make inroads into the Brumbies legends ahead of him on the list.

Whilst he's appreciative of the praise heaped upon him for reaching the century, Sio is as modest and humble as you would expect as a son of Samoan heritage. "It's pretty special to reach that milestone and I'm honoured. But one thing I want to be remembered for is being in the teams that are successful. That's what I'm striving for," Sio said in a media conference ahead of the Reds match.

The world-class Tighthead recently committed his future to the Brumbies, inking a new three-year deal and admitting that he has loved his stay in Canberra, the team that gave him his chance in Super Rugby in 2012.

"I have loved every minute of my time at the Brumbies and really enjoy the culture and the environment that we have at the club," Sio said at the time of the announcement. "It's a unique family atmosphere that is recognised throughout the rugby World and I love being part of it.

"We have a wonderful fan-base who give us tremendous support and I enjoy playing in front of them in Canberra. The team is developing well, and we have a young and enthusiastic group that promises much for the future, and I am looking forward to playing my part in bringing success to the Brumbies."

Sio, ironically given tonight's Super Rugby Quarter Final opposition, made his Brumbies debut against the Sharks as a 65th minute replacement for Ruaidhri Murphy who is now Scrum Coach at the club and has been in Argentina as part of the junior Wallabies Coaching set-up, starting out on a rugby journey that has seen him scale the heights.

Indeed, given the choice of any player on the planet to stabilise your team at number 1 in a World XV, the name Scott Sio might well be near the top of that list. Funnily enough, James Slipper, his erstwhile companion on the right of the scum would probably be another of the names thrown into the mix of that particular conversation, showcasing the depth of talent in the ACT in that position.

His team-mates certainly recognise the dogged-enthusiasm, ruthless carrying and tireless work rate of the man known as 'Big Dog' amongst his friends. One of those closet to him, Allan Alaalatoa, reiterated the humble nature of a player who is hugely respected amongst fellow players and coaches alike.

"We were saying it was the big dog week, that it was Scotty Sio's week, but he brushed it straight away," Alaalatoa said in the lead-up to the Pasifika Round clash with the Queenslanders. "He's shifted everything to preparing every day and that shows the man he is. He's a humble man and doesn't like the attention. He knows this weekend is crucial and that's where the concentration should be.

"I think deep down because of Scotty and the man he is around the group, everyone is going to want to dig deep for him. When we're hurting on the field, we'll see him and know that we want to make him proud. It's his special day."

Sio's special week began with a presentation of his 100th cap jersey by his father, Tevita, a proud Samoan who was a big part of that countries epic Rugby World Cup journey in 1991. There followed the match, and a post-game presentation of his specially embroidered cap. Scott made a speech, of course he was obliged to, but as is his wont, it was focused on being thankful and being part of a great team.

That's a team that's won a fourth Australian Conference Championship and a team that runs out against the Sharks this evening bidding to make the last four of the cut-throat competition. It's a tough ask but would be undoubtedly tougher without Sio. One hundred caps. And it's not done yet.



# 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 life 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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A group of rugby players in orange and black jerseys are huddled together on a field. The jerseys feature 'saflee' and 'UNIVERSITY OF CANBERRA' logos. The shorts have 'CIVIUM' and 'vodafone' logos. The background is a bright, slightly blurred outdoor setting.

# MORE THAN A CLUB

## FAREWELL TO BRUMBIES

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As well as celebrating our place in the knockout stages of the Super Rugby competition, tonight is a sad occasion as we bid a fond farewell to the players who have put their heart and soul into playing for our club. In this special three-page spread we profile each departing star.

## BUILDCORP SUPER W INTERVIEW

22

Wrapping up our series of interviews with some of the members of our Buildcorp Super W squad, Breakdown caught up with British-born Harriet Elleman to discuss the national women's competition, her journey and rugby closer to home.

# FAREWELL TO BRUMBIES

*Signing for the Plus500 Brumbies is often a dream come true for many players, so much so that, to quote Shakespeare, 'parting is such sweet sorrow'. This evening, we say a fond farewell to ten Brumbies who have shone brightly under the lights of GIO Stadium throughout their tenure at the club.*



## RORY ARNOLD

Brumby #: 172  
Brumbies Debut: 2015 v Reds (Canberra)  
Super Rugby Appearances: 72  
Points: 40 (8t)

A menacing second-row lock forward Rory Arnold departs the club for Toulouse having been a huge presence, literally, both on and off the field. His gigantic reach has claimed many a line-out for the club and his ling-limbs have enabled him to rampage in the loose to score right tries none finer than his fantastic effort against the Reds at GIO Stadium last year. A genuine threat in both the set-piece and loose, Arnold leaves the club having made 72 appearances prior to tonight's match.

## SAM CARTER

Brumby #: 140  
Brumbies Debut: 2011 v Rebels (Canberra)  
Super Rugby Appearances: 120  
Points: 45 (9t)

Sam Carter was a genuine Brumbies leader in every sense of the word. The lock forward led the club with distinction on 26 occasions as captain and is one of a select band who have played over 100 matches for the club. Carter leaves for the Pro14 and Ulster Rugby, having made 120 appearances for the Brumbies since his debut in 2011 against the Rebels in Canberra, having established himself as a firm favourite with the ACT fan-base.



## WHARENUI HAWERA

Brumby #: 188  
Brumbies Debut: 2017 v Crusaders (Christchurch)  
Super Rugby Appearances: 36  
Points: 190 (2t, 42c, 32p)

Flyhalf Wharenui Hawera left the Brumbies earlier this month, linking up with the Kubota Spears in Japan, having plated 36 times in Super Rugby. Hawera was signed by former Brumbies coach Steve Larkham to help fill the playmaking void left by the unavailability of Christian Lealifano and went on to notch up 190 points including two tries. The Kiwi-born number ten, possessed with an astute kicking game, was a popular member of the Brumbies group amongst his team mates.

### BEN HYNE

Brumby #: 185

Brumbies Debut: 2016 v Reds (Canberra)

Super Rugby Appearances: 5

Points: 0

Backrower Ben Hyne has had an awful time with injuries over the past two seasons after bursting onto the scene as a robust and dynamic flanker against the Reds in Canberra back in 2016. Hyne recovered from his first knee injury to captain the Tuggeranong Vikings NRC team but suffered a second knock-back in pre-season. Brumby #185, Hyne leaves the club having made five first team appearances across his four seasons in the Capital.



### JORDAN JACKSON-HOPE

Brumby #: 184

Brumbies Debut: 2016 v Rebels (Melbourne)

Super Rugby Appearances: 15

Points: 5 (1t)

A precociously talented utility back, Jordan Jackson-Hope heads to Japan at the conclusion of his Plus500 Brumbies contract having played 15 games for the club, the latest as a replacement in last week's Rod Macqueen Cup clash against the Reds at GIO Stadium. A beautifully-balanced runner Jackson-Hope has shown his quality this season in the Runners set-up earning a couple of Super Rugby appearances along the way.

### CHRISTIAN LEALIIFANO

Brumby #: 108

Brumbies Debut: 2008 V Crusaders (Christchurch)

Super Rugby Appearances: 148

Points: 943 (20t, 186c, 155p, 2dg)

One of the Brumbies greatest ever players, Christian Lealiifano will continue his rugby career in Japan after calling time on his twelve-year association with the Brumbies, a decade plus of service that, has seen him play 148 matches and lodge nearly 950 points. Lealiifano made his debut for the Brumbies in 2008 against the Crusaders in Christchurch and latterly made his Test bow in unique circumstances, against the British & Irish Lions on their 2013 tour and made a much-publicised return from a battle with leukemia in 2018. A true brumbies legend.



### JOSH MANN-REA

Brumby #: 159

Brumbies Debut: 2013 v Rebels (Canberra)

Super Rugby Appearances: 69

Points: 40 (8t)

Bongo, as he is affectionately known, was a late starter to elite level rugby union, having made his Brumbies debut in 2013 against the Rebels in Canberra, after joining the club from the Waratahs for whom he made one Super Rugby appearance. An untimely injury ended his involvement in the 2019 season and, at 38-years-old has decided to call an end to his professional career. A favourite amongst fans and players alike, his down-to-earth demeanour and genuine love for the game shine through.



#### CHANCE PENI

Brumby #: 201  
Brumbies Debut: 2018 v Sunwolves (Tokyo)  
Super Rugby Appearances: 17  
Points: 45 (9t)

Chance Peni leaves the Brumbies after appearing in nine Super Rugby matches, after joining the club from the Western Force in 2018. At his best, Peni provides punch and athleticism out wide and a genuine nose for the try-line that has yielded an impressive strike-rate of nine tries in seventeen Super Rugby matches for the Brumbies and Force. A solid performer at NRC level, Peni made his Brumbies bow in the win over the Sunwolves in Tokyo at the start of last season.

#### DAVID POCOCK

Brumby #: 153  
Brumbies Debut: 2013 v Reds (Canberra)  
Super Rugby Appearances: 112  
Points: 95 (19t)

A raft of injuries curtailed David Pocock's tenure with the Brumbies but there is no doubt that when he was available, the mobile ball-winning flanker, was one of the greatest players to ever pull on a Brumbies jersey. There's no doubt that he hasn't bowed out as he would have wished, having made 43 appearances for the club, and his incredible knack of stealing opposition ball will be missed. A stint in Japan with the Panasonic Wild Knights beckons, before the future opens up for Pocock.



#### HENRY SPEIGHT

Brumby #: 134  
Brumbies Debut: 2011 v Chiefs (Canberra)  
Super Rugby Appearances: 120  
Points: 225 (45t)

Speight has been a hugely influential member of the club since making his debut in 2011 against the Chiefs in Canberra, crossing for his first try in Brumbies colours a week later, against the Rebels in Melbourne. Since then Speight, who has also claimed nineteen caps for Australia and scored four tries, has moved onto 45 tries for the club in 120 appearances in becoming one of the finest wings of his generation and a fans-favourite in the process. His passion for the club, its supporters and the city is well-documented and his smile and persona will be much-missed as he heads North to Brisbane.

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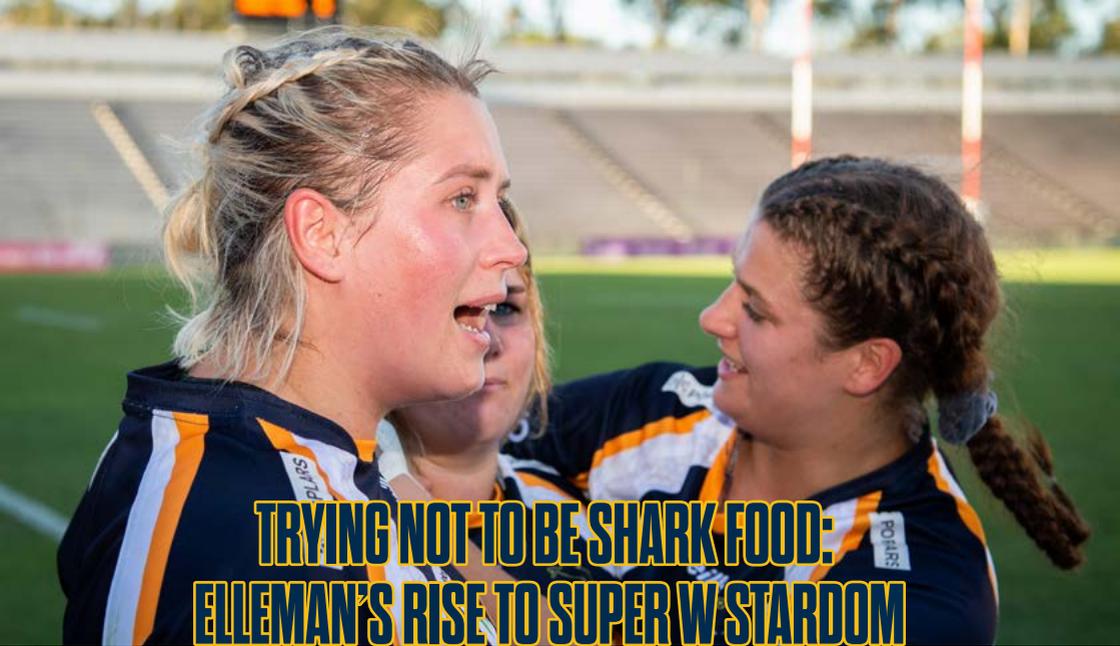


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## TRYING NOT TO BE SHARK FOOD: ELLEMAN'S RISE TO SUPER W STARDOM

British born Harriet Elleman has been a sports code hoper since birth, a feature which is also reflective of the Brits' moving nature. Harriet first started competing in sports competitively whilst living in Nowra, her love for the ocean flourished, swimming in long distance open water ocean swims (2km or 5km) from an early age. Upon moving to Wagga, Elleman transferred from the sea to the land and began her rugby union career, taking up Rugby 7's. She then finally made the jump to 15's some four years after her rugby union career began, landing herself a spot in the Brumbies Buildcorp Super-W 2018 squad.

As Elleman's first competitive past-time, taking up long distance ocean swimming. Not many could bear the cold South-East Australian waters year-round, let alone dabble with the idea of coming face-to-face with a dangerous predator. Whilst Elleman never encountered a shark herself, the opportunity was always omnipresent.

Perhaps, this being a leading factor of why the hooker/flanker was a fierce competitor for the Brumbies in the past season.

"I was born in England and grew up in Nowra on the South-Coast of New South Wales," Elleman recalled. "I went to Nowra high school and started swimming from there. I still try to get to pool every week or two and swim about 2km in my lunch break, everybody says it's crazy, but it just comes so naturally because I swam for so long. It's really hard to be a part of that now living in rural Australia, there isn't much. We can't swim in our lake at the moment because there is blue and green algae. I haven't really done it properly since I got to university, but I do really miss it and be able to go out and swim and be able to swim freely in the ocean.

"We used to do this swim called the 'Captain Christie' in Gerringong and it was around the headland. One of the warnings was don't hug too close to the rocks because there are great nurse sharks. So, you just swim in a big group,

but because you're skinny you just hope not to be lunch. I'm very competitive so I was more into trying to win than worrying about what was on the ocean floor."

Whist discussing these 'oversized fish', it is interesting to note the English-born star competed a Bachelor of Animal Science, graduating from Charles Sturt University in Wagga in 2016. However, in attempting to follow this line of career, difficulty arose when attempting to reach her football dreams. Elleman's previous employer being unable to accommodate for the timely sacrifice of training and games and everything else that encompasses being a professional athlete.

"I was accepted into a Bachelor of Animal Science and my original goal was to get into vet science," she revealed. "Unfortunately, that didn't come to fruition and so I got my animal science degree and have stayed in Wagga ever since. I was working in hospitality and it was time for me to move on from the hotel. It was very hard to travel for footy because I was playing for the Brumbies in the year we went to nationals. They pretty much told me that it was my job or footy, so I said to them 'well I don't really know if I can keep working if you're not going to support my career.' I now work at Flynn Sprake Financial Planning in Wagga Wagga and they have been supportive of my rugby career since day one and I haven't looked back since."

Charles Sturt University was not only academically major for Elleman, this is also where the swimmer cross rugby star first developed her love for the oval ball game. The 'beach turned country girl' beginning her career as the first captain of the Wagga Agricultural College Women's 7s team. Elleman then went on to represent her University at two Australian University



Games in Rugby Sevens, winning gold at both tournaments in 2015 and 2016. The flanker continued her rugby 7's campaign representing the Southern Inland Rugby Union in their 7s representative side for several years. Latterly, her first encounter with the Brumbies was being selected in their Women's 7's team, being selected in the squad which would play at Nationals in 2016.

"We started a women's competition in Wagga in 2013 and there was a girl in my degree who was trailing a team," Elleman commented. "I saw a poster in the gym and I did a bit of touch and I thought that I would give this a bit of a crack and I've never looked back. I played 7's from about 2012 to about 2016, Southern Inlands were made aware of 15's trials for Brumbies for nationals. My coach at the time said, 'I really think you should give it a crack, you'd be great at 15's, see how it goes' and so I took a few of my team mate over there and trialed. I didn't make the 15's team but I

realised how much fun 15's is and how much more there is to it than 7's. I thought I'm definitely coming back next year to trial and I did, and I was lucky enough to be selected."

Switching from 7's to 15's was the flankers next move. Elleman was selected in the 2018 Brumbies Super-W squad and has been a vital part of the Brumbies squad ever since. Transferring her 7's skills, she has become the sharp and dynamic flanker that the Brumbies needed. Reflecting upon the season, the 26-year-old made the trip from her town of residence (Wagga Wagga) three times a week for training, forming a small convoy on her way. The sacrifice is evident, with Elleman making the two-and-a-half-hour trip throughout the season without ruling out a return to the smaller-sided code.

"I would go back and play a bit of 7's, I'm definitely not as fast as I think I am or was!" she laughed. "But I definitely do love 15's more now that I've had the opportunity to play and have been part of the team. For some reason I just really enjoy it, it's much more tactical. The last Super-W season was hard, the commuting and the travel and fitting it in with work. I travelled three days a week, Monday, Wednesday and Friday. The drive was about two-and-a-half hours each way. Luckily, I had another girl from Wagga who travelled with me, we would do a bit of a car pool. The training was awesome, and I loved it so much and I loved our coaching staff and support staff. There were long training sessions and a hard preseason, but towards the end of the season I felt like we really came into our own."

The South-Coast local is looking forward to the potential of being a part of the 2020 Super W season, with pre-season for that competition merely an arm's length away. If



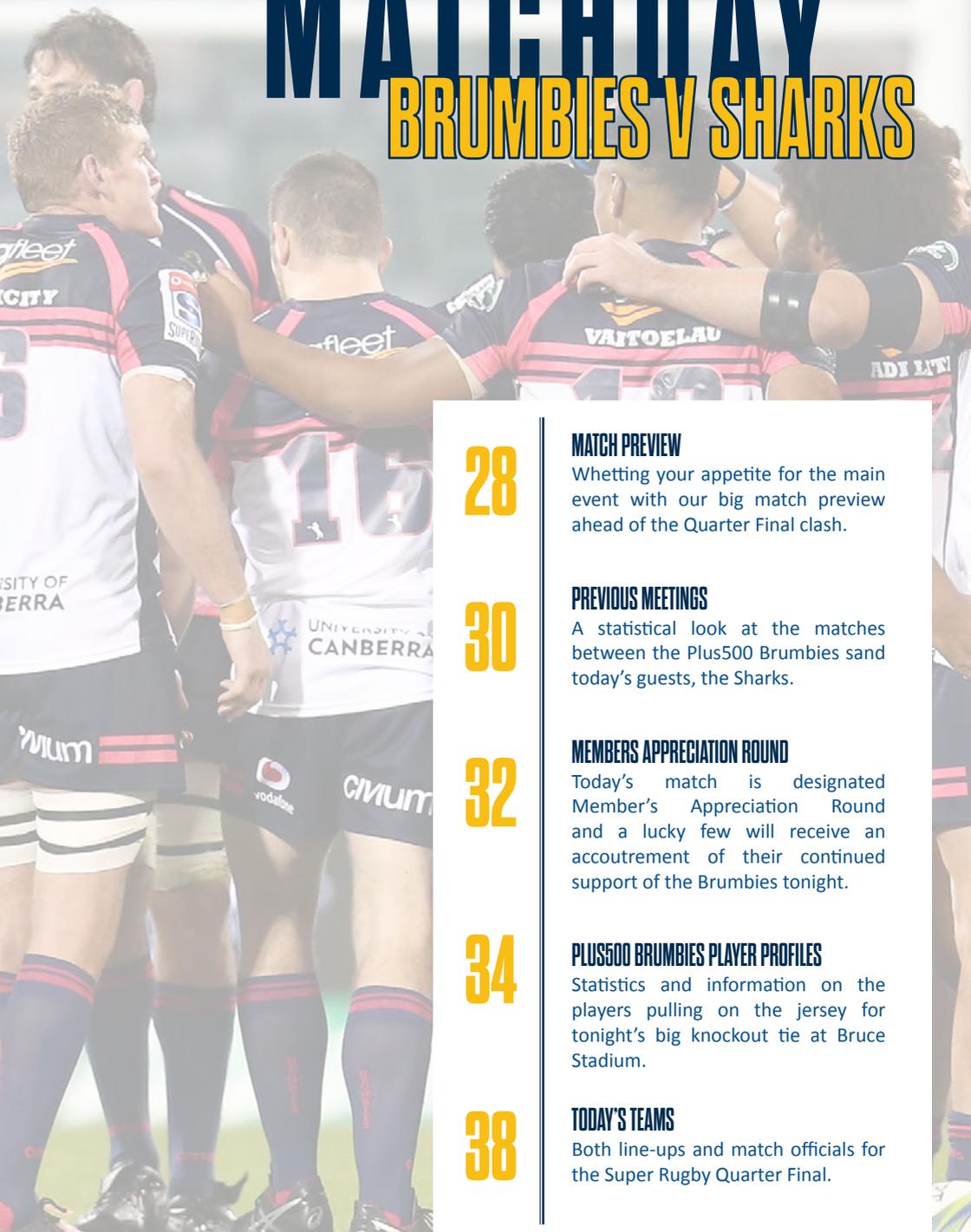
selected, the Brumbies will be looking to use Elleman's explosive and tenacious attitude if they hope to take a step further up the ladder and make the 2020 Super W final.

"I'm definitely looking forward to it," Elleman said. "I think it will be another brilliant opportunity, obviously I would still have to get through that trial period and hopefully get selected again, that's definitely the goal at the moment. I'm hoping it will be a bigger season next year, playing everyone once is great and then you go into the semi-final, but I think having a longer season, you'd be able to see how all the teams have developed, that's what I would like."

Words: Natasha Prior

# MATCHDAY

## BRUMBIES V SHARKS



28

### MATCH PREVIEW

Whetting your appetite for the main event with our big match preview ahead of the Quarter Final clash.

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### PREVIOUS MEETINGS

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

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### MEMBERS APPRECIATION ROUND

Today's match is designated Member's Appreciation Round and a lucky few will receive an accoutrement of their continued support of the Brumbies tonight.

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### PLUS500 BRUMBIES PLAYER PROFILES

Statistics and information on the players pulling on the jersey for tonight's big knockout tie at Bruce Stadium.

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### TODAY'S TEAMS

Both line-ups and match officials for the Super Rugby Quarter Final.

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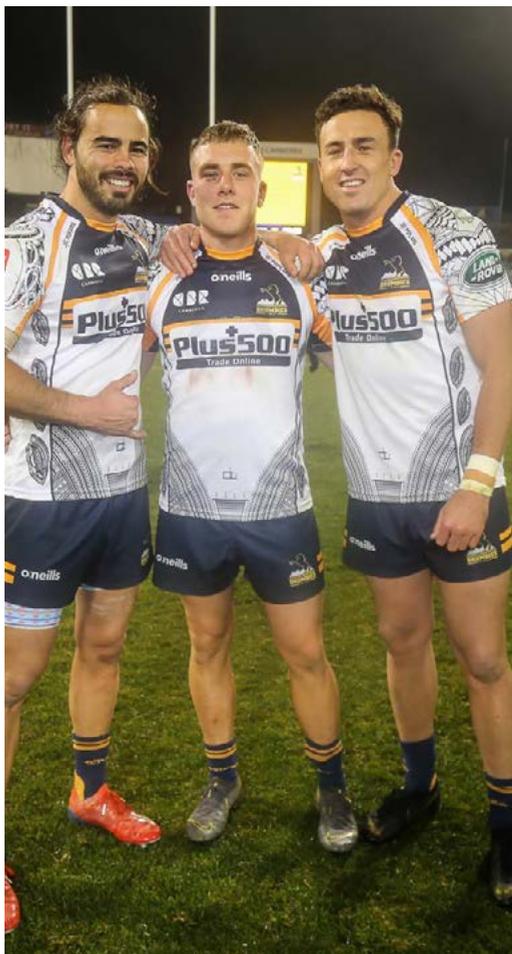
Did you like the Pasifika jerseys that the boys wore against the Reds last week? Well, now's your chance to get your hands on one!

There are two ways you can secure your jersey, via purchasing a replica from our online club shop, or bidding a match-worn jersey in the online auction.

As you may have seen the Pasifika jerseys are now live on the Brumbies online shop. These unique and fantastic jerseys will be available for pre-order until Wednesday 26 June. Please note that from that date on, it will be another six weeks before we have the actual stock. As soon as the stock arrives, all orders will be sent out.

Can't wait that long? Want a match-worn version? Then head to [www.allbids.com.au](http://www.allbids.com.au) and search for 'Brumbies Pasifika Jersey'. These kits are the actual ones worn by the 3-players that took to the field in the 40-27 win over the Reds at GIO Stadium on Saturday 15 June.

The auction will run until Monday 24 June so log on and have a look, you might grab yourself a rare piece of rugby memorabilia at a fantastic price!





## MATCH PREVIEW: SHARKS

It's finals time and the Plus500 Brumbies are ready to take on the Sharks, with a third Super Rugby title just three wins away. It's been an incredible run for the Brumbies. A perfect record in the past six games has earned Dan McKellar's side the Australian conference crown, but the guts of the Brumbies playoff run has happened at home, at the Fortress, GIO Stadium.

Other than a opening round loss to the Rebels, which was in the balance, the Brumbies have been imperious at Bruce, winning seven in a row including a 40-27 beatdown of the Reds last time out.

Tonight's opponents, the Sharks snuck into the top-eight by the skin of their sharp teeth. Lukhanyo Am's last second try secured the Sharks passage to the playoffs, but just because their route to this clash was through the backdoor, these Sharks have plenty of bite, believe that.

Much like last year, the 2019 Sharks are a team capable of remarkable performances. Playing

against them is much like swimming in Shark infested waters. Whenever you dip your toe in, you know there's the potential that they'll attack and if they do, the result can be devastating but there not necessarily always going to hurt you.

Round one, the Sharks looked so dangerous against the Sunwolves, then they backed that up by beating the Blues. Round six and eight saw the Sharks put on a show against the Rebels and the Lions, but surrounding those victories were heavy defeats at the hands of the Bulls and Jaguares.

So, you might think Brumbies fancy their chances tonight and they will, but the Sharks have shown enough that they can't be taken lightly. Look at Round 11 and 12. On the road to the 'Tahs and the Crusaders, tonight's visitors came away with one win and a draw, so they've proven they're more than capable of travelling and performing.

Recent results haven't been perfect, but that game last week against the Stormers tells you all you need to know about the Sharks. Backs to the wall, they were able to gut out that result in Cape Town, and they'll arrive in Canberra full of confidence.



History suggests that this one will be tight, and tense. In 2018, the Brumbies came away with a narrow victory. The year before, the Sharks snatched victory from the claws of defeat, the Brumbies execution in the final minutes letting them down.

The Brumbies are a different side to that one however, different to 2018 as well. Some things you can show on the field. There is more variety in the Brumbies attack now. Playing free-flowing rugby, is not as easy as just saying you're going to do it. It takes time and patience, and after some hiccups, the Brumbies have a potency to their play the Sharks haven't seen. The spirit in the group is different as well. Not to say previous teams didn't have a sense of togetherness, it's just the work McKellar and Christian Lealiifano have done off the park to bring the team together is paying dividends now.

There are no guarantee's in sport, and if the Brumbies are even five percent off their game, the Sharks will strike but you just get the feeling that this Brumbies team has the momentum. It's going to be a cracking game, and we'll just have to wait and see who's hungrier, the Shark or the Wild Horse!



# MATCH STATISTICS



V



THE SHARKS

## OVERALL

PLAYED



BRUMBIES WINS



SHARKS WINS



DRAWN

0

## IN CANBERRA

PLAYED



BRUMBIES WINS



SHARKS WINS



271 POINTS

389 POINTS

494 POINTS

568 POINTS

## LAST FIVE

17/03/2018 — BRU 24 SHA 17	16/03/2013 — SHA 10 BRU 29
04/03/2017 — BRU 22 SHA 27	31/03/2012 — BRU 26 SHA 29
10/05/2014 — BRU 16 SHA 9	

## BIGGEST WIN

10/03/2000  
BRUMBIES 51 SHARKS 10

## BIGGEST DEFEAT

14/03/1998  
BRUMBIES 23 SHARKS 41

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# BRUMBIES MEMBERS APPRECIATION

The Plus500 Brumbies would not be the great club it is without our loyal members, fans and supporters. Every season, we acknowledge those who have braved rain, hail and shine to watch our beloved team.

In 2019, 748 members attended every single home game of the regular season. Twenty-three of these members were then selected at random to receive a 2019 Jersey signed by the entire squad. The list of winners is below.

We thank all our members and fans for their continued attendance and support of the Brumbies as well as Rugby in the ACT and Southern NSW.

**JUSTIN ARNOLD**  
**TAMARA DADSWELL**  
**TONY DELAHUNTY**  
**MARGARET DOUGALL**  
**SARAH DOYLE**  
**BRIAN GUNN**  
**DAVID HONEYMAN**  
**CATHERINE HOBBS**  
**ANN HOWSON**  
**DARRIN HUNTER**  
**IRENE JONES**  
**CLAIRE KERR**  
**SUZANNE LLOYD**  
**WILLIAM MONAGHAN**  
**PATRICK O' DONNELL**  
**ALISTAIR PEARCE**  
**LYNDALL READ**  
**KIM SHRIVES**  
**JACK SUTTON**  
**ANDREW TEMPLETON**  
**DOUG TINNEY**  
**GREGORY WARD**  
**MARK WESLCOTT**





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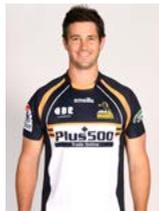
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## ALLAN ALAALAOA

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



## SAM CARTER

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



## RORY ARNOLD

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



## TOM CUSACK

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



## TOM BANKS

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



## FOLAU FAINGA'A

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



## JAHROME BROWN

Position: Flanker  
DOB: 29/9/1996 (age: 22)  
Height: 1.89m  
Weight: 105kg



## TEVITA KURIDRANI

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

# YOUR 2019 Plus500 BRUMBIES



## CHRISTIAN LEALIFANO

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



## CONNAL MCINERNEY

Position: Hooker  
DOB: 2/3/1995 (age: 23)  
Height: 1.81m  
Weight: 104kg



## LESLIE LEULUAI-MAKIN

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



## JOE POWELL

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



## MATT LUCAS

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



## TONI PULU

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



## LACHLAN MCCAFFREY

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



## PETE SAMU

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

# THIS IS BRUMBIES COUNTRY



## 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



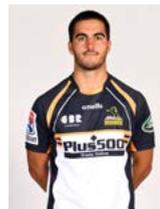
## ROB VALETINI

Position: Backrow  
DOB: 3/9/1998 (age: 20)  
Height: 1.93m  
Weight: 113kg



## JAMES SLIPPER

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



## TOM WRIGHT

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



## HENRY SPEIGHT

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



## DAN MCKELLAR

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

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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 Rob Valetini
- 7 Tom Cusack
- 8 Pete Samu
- 9 Joe Powell
- 10 Christian Lealiifano
- 11 Toni Pulu
- 12 Irae Simone
- 13 Tevita Kuridrani
- 14 Henry Speight
- 15 Tom Banks

\*team subject to change,  
official line-up not available  
at time of publication

## Replacements

16. Connal McInerney
17. James Slipper
18. Leslie Leuluaiialii-Makin
19. Darcy Swain
20. Lachlan McCaffrey
21. Jahrome Brown
22. Matt Lucas
23. Tom Wright



Match O

**Referee:** Mike Fraser  
**Assistant referee:** Angus Gardner

TRIES

PENALTY GOALS

CONVERSIONS

DROP GOALS

HALF TIME

FULL TIME



## THE SHARKS

# SQUAD



Craig Burden  
Cullen Collopy  
Coenie Oosthuizen  
Thomas du Toit  
John-Hubert Meyer  
Ruben van Heerden  
Gideon Koegelenberg  
Hyron Andrews  
Daniel du Preez  
Jacques Vermeulen  
Tyler Paul  
Luke Stringer

**Backs (12)**  
Louis Schreuder (captain)  
Cameron Wright  
Robert du Preez  
Curwin Bosch  
Makazole Mapimpi  
Andre Esterhuizen  
Jeremy Ward  
Lukhanyo Am  
Kobus van Wyk  
S'bu Nkosi  
Aphelele Fassi  
Rhyno Smith

## Officials:

**Assistant referee:** Graham Cooper  
**TMO:** James Leckie

**Forwards (15)**  
Juan Schoeman  
Mzamo Majola  
Kerron van Vuuren

\*team subject to change, official line-up not available at time of publication



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# IN OPPOSITION

## SHARKS



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### THEIR FORM AND TACTICS

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

44

### KEY PLAYERS

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

46

### SEASON REVIEW

We take a look back at our opponents 2019 season to date and how they reached this stage of the competition.

49

### THE SEASON IN STATS

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

# IN OPPOSITION: THEIR FORM AND TACTICS

Forget the fact they scraped into the playoffs, leave the regular season record aside, the Sharks are a good side to be respected. Normally, by any calculation a seven-win, eight loss record isn't good, and it's not good enough for the Sharks. They're a better side than that, but still, they've shown enough signs that they'll feel they've got the goods to come into GIO Stadium and win.

They've had their big days out, for sure. Rounds one and two promised a lot for the Natal side, 45-10 away to the Sunwolves was a great way to start the year, followed by a comprehensive win at home to the Blues.

In and around that it wasn't all smooth swimming for the Sharks. They beat the Rebels but lost to the Bulls twice one time getting shellacked 37-14. Then came the Lions in Round eight, a 42-5 win away from home, probably the best performance from the Sharks all season but they failed to back that up the following week where they were pumelled by the Jaguares, 51-17.

As was the trend, the Sharks then lost again this time to the Reds, but after that they went into Sydney and beat the 'Tahs and were minutes away from being the first side to topple the Crusaders, a draw in Christchurch still being a fantastic result.

Closing out the year, the Sharks repeated the cycle again, taking two defeats against the 'Canes and Jaguares sandwiched by key

victories over the Lions and Stormers. That final result in Cape Town ultimately was the result which bought the Sharks their tickets to Canberra, and that game told almost everything you need to know about their style and approach.

The Sharks are unapologetically abrasive. In attack, the Sharks run the ball at you and hope to break you down physically. In some ways, the Sharks resemble their namesake trying to escape a tank of water. They'll ram it, and ram it, and ram it until they either break the glass or knock themselves out.

If you're not strong enough to take it, it's effective and they'll run all over the top of you. The Sharks are top eight in both run metres and advantage line success. That tells you they carry the ball effectively.

Their problem in attack is scoring tries. They are a basketball team who can drive to the basket with brute force but can't finish at the hoop. The Sharks rely on kicking goals and defence to win games, and why not if it works? Set-piece is a strength for the Sharks as well, something which fits their style. The Sharks rank handsomely in the lineout and scrum win stats, and they'll use that weapon to drag opposition teams into deep water.

As Dan McKellar told us in THE BREAKDOWN earlier, defence and set-piece are the pillars of winning rugby. The Sharks have both of those things going for them, which is what makes them so threatening now we're in the business end.

The Sharks aren't a good defensive team. They're elite. They unquestionable have the best defensive line in the entire competition, by the numbers and the eye-test. They've had their moments where they've been embarrassed in defence, sure, everyone does in Super Rugby but consistently, the Sharks line integrity makes them a contender.



If styles make fights, this is going to be brutal. The Brumbies have come up against similar sides this year and have used different game plans. The Lions are not unlike the Sharks, and that night the Brumbies looked to spread the ball and tire out the Lions pack.



Then, you can say the Bulls and Sharks share some DNA, and that occasion the Brumbies were prepared to be patient, make the Bulls attack from deep and counter punch at the right time. The Sharks, with that defensive line, pose a separate threat. Overplaying could lead to the Brumbies gifting penalties and turnover ball to the Sharks. Underplay, and get in to a fight, and you're playing in to the Sharks hands, the side who had to travel as well.

As always, the middle option is most preferable, so the Brumbies will most likely play much like they did against the Bulls. Front up against the carry, play smart and punish opportunities when they come, but this will be a rough, so be prepared for impact.





## IN OPPOSITION: TWO FROM THE FRONT

### JACQUES VERMEULEN

Position: Flanker

Height: 197cm

Weight: 104kg

Super Rugby Caps: 37

Jacques Vermeulen is quickly making a name for himself in the world of Super Rugby with the 24-year-old flanker a virtual ever-present in the Sharks march towards the Quarter Finals. Born in Paarl Vermeulen, who averages 62 minutes per match in the 2019 completion, first made his name with Western Province whom he represented from an early age, first pulling on the representative colours when he was at Primary School. Such was his quality in the early years that it was almost inevitable he would represent his country at Schools level, earning caps against England, Wales and France. The flanker's rise up the rugby ranks continued when he was selected for South Africa at under-20 level, playing a part as the Junior Springboks were beaten by England in the Final of the 2014 IRB Junior World Championships in New Zealand. A move to the Sharks in 2017 saw him make the step up to Super Rugby playing eight matches in his debut season.

### DANIEL DU PREEZ

Position: Loose Forward

Height: 196cm

Weight: 112kg

Super Rugby Caps: 52

Daniel du Preez has played in 15 games for the Sharks in 2019 and is one of their most consistent players. The large number 8 plays a physical game and has an immense presence at the breakdown. Dan made his Super Rugby debut in 2015 at 19 years of age when he was selected on the Sharks' bench before he had even played a game of senior provincial rugby. Daniel is the son of former Springbok halfback Robert du Preez and has two brothers that play with him at the Sharks: An older brother also named Robert who plays flyhalf and a twin brother named Jean-Luc who plays in the forwards. Du Preez has scored 7 tries so far this season making him one of the Sharks' best attacking options and he has an incredible work rate, averaging 12 runs and 9 tackles per game. Daniel has had a great season for his team, and it will be important for the Brumbies to shut him down in attack.

# IN OPPOSITION: TWO FROM THE BACK

## LUKHANYO AM

Position: Centre

Height: 186cm

Weight: 97kg

Super Rugby Caps: 57

Lukhanyo Am is the man of the moment for the Sharks, after his 80th minute heroics against the Stormers put his team through to the quarter finals. Am's third try of the season was enough put their Cape Town rivals to bed in a thrilling match that the Shark trailed for most of the game. Lukhanyo made his Super Rugby debut for the Southern Kings in 2016, featuring in 10 games for the side before joining the Sharks for the start of the 2017 season. He was an important part of the team in 2017 and helped his team make the finals series that year. His form earned him a call up into the Springboks squad and he has since earned 6 caps for his country, scoring one try. Am is deceptively strong and is a good runner of the ball, he is a constant threat in attack and is equally capable in defence. His ability to keep players like Tevita Kuridrani and Irae Simone under control will be essential if the Sharks are to pull off an upset.

## ROBERT DU PREEZ

Position: Flyhalf

Height: 192cm

Weight: 98kg

Super Rugby Caps: 47

Robert du Preez has played in all 16 of the Sharks' matches in 2019, proving how integral he is to the team's success on the field. He had an illustrious career as a junior, starring for representative provincial sides as well as the South African U20 side. Robert joined the Sharks at the start of the 2018 season after playing for one year with the Stormers. He immediately became a regular starter for the team, forcing young star Curwin Bosch to move to fullback. Following a breakout year where he was Super Rugby's second highest point scorer with 2015 points (behind Bernard Foley who finished with 223), Robert was selected alongside his brothers in the 43-man extended South Africa side for the June internationals. It was the first time three siblings had been picked in the same Springboks squad, and Robert made one appearance for his country. The way du Preez plays, you could be forgiven for thinking he is a lot more experienced than he really is. He carries an air of control and is very good at handling pressure situations.

**Words: Pat Woods**





## AN INSIGHT INTO HOW THE SHARKS MADE THEIR WAY INTO THE FINALS

At the beginning of Round 18, the Sharks looked as though their finals hopes were gone. Sitting in fifth position in the South African Conference, needing to beat the Stormers in Cape Town and rely on other match results to go their way. The men from Durban somehow find themselves in a quarterfinal against the Plus500 Brumbies at GIO Stadium.

Finishing the season on 37 points with 7 wins, 8 losses and 1 draw, the Sharks are considered the underdogs of this year's finals. On paper, the season record doesn't look pretty but those wins that they managed to come by have proved absolutely crucial to their success and demonstrates how close this year's Super Rugby tournament has been across the board.

Let's delve into where the Sharks were able to record some of those critical victories that have meant that they've secured a spot in this year's Finals.

### **ROUND 2** **OPPOSITION: BLUES** **RESULT: 26-7**

For their first home game of the season, this was a match that statistically the Sharks should have lost but somehow didn't. The Blues had 66% possession for the match and in the second

half alone they had 84% possession but only scored the one try. Territory wise in the second half, the Sharks were only in the Blues' half for only 11%. How did they manage to win and get the bonus point from this match is unbelievable. The Sharks defence in this game was monstrous. A total of 140 tackles (double that of the Blues), 6 turnovers whilst only conceding 11 penalties, which isn't that bad considering how one-sided the statistics were.

### **ROUND 8** **OPPOSITION: LIONS** **RESULT: 42-5**

Travelling to Johannesburg to take on the Lions is no easy task for any team. Especially when they have topped the South African Conference the last few years as well reaching the Final for three years straight. It took the Sharks a while to get rolling in this game, scoring their first try of the match not until the 20th minute, but from there it was all smooth sailing for the visiting team. Demolishing the Lions left, right and centre, the combination of Robert du Preez and Curwin Bosch completely outplayed the opposition. With 72% of the match played in the Lions half, 645 running metres and 20 offloads, everything just fell in to place for the Sharks that day.

**ROUND 11****OPPOSITION: NSW WARATAHS****RESULT: 23-15**

The first of their three match tour of Australia and New Zealand couldn't have gone any better. Defeating the Waratah's at their new home at Bankwest Stadium in Parramatta. In this match we saw the infamous red card to Jed Holloway and yellow card to Jack Dempsey, leaving the Waratahs with only 13 players on the field against a 15 strong Durban outfit. This was a close fought match, both sides gave it all but at the end of the day the player advantage for the Sharks was all they needed to snatch victory. The Waratahs shot themselves in the foot in terms of their season in this fixture but the Sharks proved how every match it critical in a season of Super Rugby.

**ROUND 12****OPPOSITION: CRUSADERS****RESULT: 21-21**

Imagine travelling to the oppositions home ground where they have known what defeat tastes like only a handful of times in recent memory. Imagine scoring all the points for your team against the most successful Super Rugby side in history. That's what the Sharks and in particular 22 year fullback Curwin Bosch achieved back in Round 12. Yes it wasn't a victory, but it wasn't a loss. If the Sharks had actually lost this game they would of ended up 5th and last

in the South African Conference with no way of reaching the Finals. The Crusaders held on to the ball for 70% of the match and had 74% territory in their favour but yet couldn't find that extra gear to pull away from the Sharks. Who would of thought a draw was so good?

**ROUND 18****OPPOSITION: STORMERS****RESULT: 12-9**

Needing a win and other results to go their way in order to reach the quarterfinals, the Sharks managed to steal victory from the Stormers in Newlands in the 80th minute. Leading 5-3 at half time, the Sharks couldn't penetrate the strong Stormers defensive line. Jean-Luc de Plessis of the Stormers kicked a late penalty to edge in front 9-5 only for their dreams to shatter before their very eyes minutes later. The last minute try to Lukhanyo Am was probably the most important of his career so far.

So here we are. It's the Brumbies taking on the Sharks at GIO Stadium in the quarterfinals of the 2019 Super Rugby Season. Both teams are dangerous, both teams can cause serious damage with the ball. But only one team can win.

**Words: Rob Davison**



# SHARKS

SEASON IN STATS — 2019

*All statistics courtesy of sanzarrugby.com*

OFFLOADS

**137**

[Rank: =8th]

LINEOUTS WON

**85.30%**

[Rank: 13th]

CLEAN

BREAKS

**149**

[Rank: 13th]

TRIES

**40**

[Rank: 13th]

TACKLES WON

**85.70%**

[Rank: 4th]

DEFENDERS

**BEATEN**

**328**

[Rank: 11th]

SCRUMS  
WON  
**93%**

[Rank: =6th]

RUCKS WON  
**95%**

[Rank: =12th]

CARRIES  
**1,852**

[Rank: 8th]

METRES  
CARRIED  
**6,830**

[Rank: 8th]

**7** YELLOW  
CARDS

[Rank: =7th]

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# RETRO BRUMBIES

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## FINALS SPECIAL 1

Taking a look back at our first Finals appearance, the 1997 Semi-Final against the Hurricanes at Bruce Stadium in 1997.

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## FINALS SPECIAL 2

We travelled to Sydney for our 2002 Semi-Final against the Waratahs and came back with a record win.

56

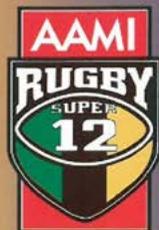
## FINALS SPECIAL 3

The 2004 Finals series saw us begin our challenge for the trophy with a visit from the Chiefs to Canberra Stadium.

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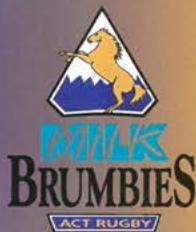
## FINALS SPECIAL 4

South African opposition in the form of the Cheetahs stood in the way of our progress from the Quarter Finals back in 2013.

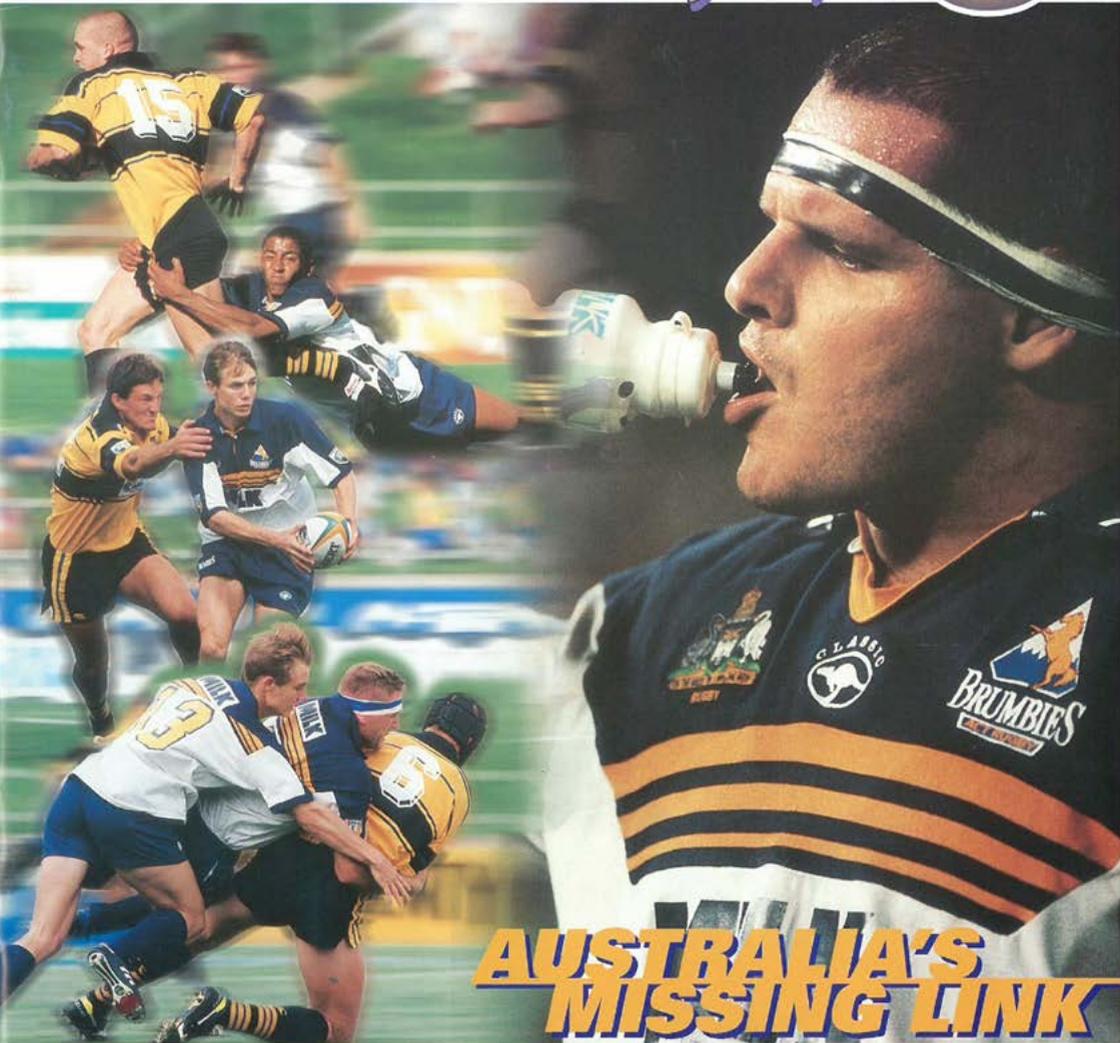


# BRUMBIES

*Rugby*



\$4



**AUSTRALIA'S  
MISSING LINK**

**ACT MILK BRUMBIES  
VS  
WELLINGTON HURRICANES**

AAMI SUPER 12 • FINALS SERIES • BRUCE STADIUM MAY 24, 1997.

**SEMI-FINAL**

# RETRO BRUMBIES: FINALS REVIEW 1997

## THE MATCH

Super 12 Semi-Final

24 May 1997

(Bruce Stadium, Canberra)

Brumbies 33 (T: Gregan, Holbeck (2), Roff, Hardy, C: Knox, P: Knox (2)) Hurricanes 20 (T: Cullen (2), C: Preston (2), P: Preston (2))

Attendance: 23,731

Referee: Andre Watson

**THE TEAM:** 1. Patricio NORIEGA, 2. Marco CAPUTO, 3. Ewen MCKENZIE, 4. John LANGFORD, 5. David GIFFIN, 6. Owe FINEGAN, 7. Brett ROBINSON, 8. Troy COKER, 9. George GREGAN, 10. David KNOX, 11. Joe ROFF, 12. Pat HOWARD, 23. James HOLBECK, 14. Mitchell HARDY, 15. Stephen LARKHAM

**REPLACEMENTS:** 16. Rod KAFER, 17. Geoff LOGAN, 18. Ipolito FENUKITAU, 19. Justin HARRISON, 20. Dean ZAMMIT, 21. Timote TAVALEA

The Brumbies faced the unusual circumstances of playing the same opposition in successive matches as the Hurricanes provided the final regular season opponents for the club on Sunday 18 May, a week before the Semi-Final took place. Having defeated the Wellington side 35-29 on their own patch, the Brumbies were confident that they could repeat the feat and make their first Super Rugby Final. And, it was a confidence that was well-founded. If anything, the Brumbies did it easier than the week before, easing to a 33-20 win over the New Zealand side who had finished seven points behind the second-placed Brumbies on the Super Rugby ladder. James Holbeck claimed two of the home team's five tries with George Gregan, Mitch Hardy and Joe Roff all crossing the whitewash. David Knox landed eight points with the boot meaning that a brace of scores from Christian Cullen wasn't enough for the Hurricanes.

**AFTERMATH:** The Brumbies travelled to Auckland to face the Blues in the Grand Final and were beaten by 23-7 with Joe Roff scoring, and converting, his own try.



ALIX 60877922 CANBERRA AUCKLAND May 24 1997 Andrew Holmes Joe Roff in action after a try of the tactics of Hurricanes Steve Linnage to score one of his two tries during ACT's 33-20 Super 12 semi final win at the Bruce stadium, Canberra. PHOTO PRESS/Steve Linnage



ALIX 60877922 CANBERRA AUCKLAND May 24 1997 Andrew Holmes George Gregan passes the opposition goalkeeper during ACT's 33-20 Super 12 semi final win at the Bruce stadium, Canberra. PHOTO PRESS/Steve Linnage

# THE SEMI-FINAL



Saturday, May 18  
Aussie Stadium, Sydney

## Waratahs v Brumbies



Official Partner of the NSW Waratahs

**WIN!**

YOUR



LUCKY NUMBER

Turn to Page 43  
for all the details

# RETRO BRUMBIES: FINALS REVIEW 2002

## THE MATCH

Super 12 Semi-Final

18 May 2002

(Aussie Stadium, Sydney)

Waratahs 10 (T: Staniforth, C: Burke, P: Burke) Brumbies 51 (T: Bond, Paul, Harrison, Finegan, Howard, Pen-Try, C: Huxley (5), Mortlock, P: Huxley (2), Walker)

Referee: Paddy O'Brien

**THE TEAM:** 1. Bill YOUNG, 2. Jeremy PAUL, 3. Ben DARWIN, 4. Justin HARRISON, 5. Dan VICKERMAN, 6. Owen FINEGAN, 7. George SMITH, 8. Scott FAVA, 9. George GREGAN, 10. Stephen LARKHAM, 11. Andrew WALKER, 12. Pat HOWARD, 13. Stirling MORTLOCK, 14. Graeme BOND, 15. Mark BARTHOLOMEUSZ

**REPLACEMENTS:** 16. Damian FLYNN, 17. Angus SCOTT, 18. David PUSEY, 19. Tamaiti HORUA, 20. Travis HALL, 21. Joel WILSON, 22. Julian HUXLEY

Quite simply one of the best Brumbies performances of all time as they didn't just beat the Waratahs, they humiliated their old rivals and on their own turf to boot. The home side were extremely confident that this would be their year, having finished a point ahead of the Brumbies on the accumulated ladder to earn their home Semi-Final at Aussie Stadium in Sydney. Earlier the same season, and at the same venue, the Waratahs had edged the Brumbies 19-11 in a battle of attrition, so there was very little indication of the massacre that was to follow. The Brumbies blew away the Waratahs in a plethora of tries as six times the me from the ACT crossed the line. With Julian Huxley slowly turning the screw by kicking almost everything that came his way, the waratahs were outclassed in almost every aspect. It was a thumping victory that still hurts those of a blue persuasion.

**AFTERMATH:** Backing up on the road a week later proved to be too tough for the Brumbies as the Crusaders won the Jade Stadium Final 31-13 in Christchurch.



# STAMPEDE

[www.brumbies.com.au](http://www.brumbies.com.au)

## CA Brumbies v Chiefs

Tooheys New Super 12 Series

Semi Final

Canberra Stadium

Saturday 15 May 2004

Kick Off 7.30pm

Getty Images

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FINALIST 2000

CHAMPIONS 2001

FINALIST 2002

SEMI FINALIST 2003

# RETRO BRUMBIES: FINALS REVIEW 2004

## THE MATCH

Super 12 Semi-Final

15 May 2004

(Canberra Stadium, Canberra)

Brumbies 32 (T: Mortlock, Gerrard, Chisholm, Samo, Rathbone, C: Roff (2), P: Roff) Chiefs 17 (T: Bates, Fa'atau, C: Jackson (2), P: Jackson)

Attendance: 23,191

Referee: Jonathan Kaplan

**THE TEAM:** 1. Bill YOUNG, 2. Jeremy PAUL, 3. Nic HENDERSON, 4. Radike SAMO, 5. Mark CHISHOLM, 6. Owen FINEGAN, 7. George SMITH, 8. Scott FAVA, 9. George GREGAN, 10. Stephen LARKHAM, 11. Mark GERRARD, 12. Matt GITEAU, 13. Stirling MORTLOCK, 14. Clyde RATHBONE, 15. Joe ROFF

**REPLACEMENTS:** 16. David PALAVI, 17. Guy SHEPHERDSON, 18. David GIFFIN, 19. Jone TAWAKE, 20. Matt HENJAK, 21. Mark BARTHOLOMEUSZ, 22. Joel WILSON

Having topped the Super Rugby ladder in 2004 by six points, the Brumbies were justifiably favourites to go all the way and claim the title and the fourth-placed Chiefs were summarily despatched with reasonable ease on a cold May evening in Canberra. Over 23,000 turned up to see the top of the table Brumbies play the fourth-placed Chiefs for the second week in succession, the Brumbies having won 15-12 in Hamilton the week before, and most would have returned home happy at the outcome. The Brumbies crossed for five tries shared between Stirling Mortlock, Mark Gerrard, Mark Chisholm, Radike Samo and Clyde Rathbone with Joe Roff landing eight points from the kicking tee. In a peculiar twist of fate, Glen Jackson, playing in his last game for the Chiefs, who kicked two conversions and a penalty in the match, went on to referee the 2013 Qualifying Final match between the Brumbies and the Cheetahs.

**AFTERMATH:** The Brumbies claimed a glorious Super Rugby triumph defeating the Crusaders 47-38 at Canberra Stadium in one of the greatest Super Rugby Finals ever played.



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# STAMPEDE

THE OFFICIAL MATCH PROGRAM OF BRUMBIES RUGBY



## THE WAIT IS OVER

SUNDAY, JULY 21, 2013

UNIVERSITY OF CANBERRA BRUMBIES V  
CHEETAHS

CANBERRA STADIUM, BRUCE - KICK OFF 4.10PM



# RETRO BRUMBIES: FINALS REVIEW 2013

## THE MATCH

Super Rugby Qualifying Final

21 July 2013

(Canberra Stadium, Canberra)

Brumbies 15 (P: Lealiifano (4), White)

Cheetahs 13 (T: Sadie, Benjamin, P: Smit)

Attendance: 14,020

Referee: Glen Jackson

**THE TEAM:** 1. Scott SIO, 2. Stephen MOORE, 3. Ben ALEXANDER, 4. Scott FARDY, 5. Sam CARTER, 6. Peter KIMLIN, 7. George SMITH, 8. Ben MOWEN, 9. Nic WHITE, 10. Matt TOOMUA, 11. Clyde RATHBONE, 12. Christian LEALIFANO, 13. Tevita KURIDRANI, 14. Henry SPEIGHT, 15. Jesse MOGG

**REPLACEMENTS:** 16. Siliva SILIVA, 17. Ruan SMITH, 18. Fotu AUJELUA, 19. Colby FAINGA'A, 20. Ian PRIOR, 21. Andrew SMITH, 22. Joe TOMANE

In the Qualifying Final for 2013 the Brumbies, who had finished top of the Australian Conference by two-points from the Reds, were tasked with taking on a Cheetahs team who had finished second in the South African version, some seven points behind the champion Bulls. In a strangely complicated system, the Brumbies played off to reach the semi-finals as they'd finished six points worse off than the Chiefs, who won the New Zealand Conference, and three behind the Bulls. The Finals match was far from an entertaining affair, but as the two packs ground it out in front of just over 14,000 at Canberra Stadium, the South African's ill-discipline was to cost them dear. Despite scoring two tries to nil, the Brumbies kept the scoreboard ticking over via penalties with Christian Lealiifano landing four and Nic White one to edge the home side over the line 15-13.

**AFTERMATH:** The Brumbies defeated the Bulls 26-23 at Loftus Versfield in Pretoria before losing the Super Rugby Grand Final 27-22 to the Chiefs in Hamilton.



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# THE WORLD OF RUGBY

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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.

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## SOUTH AFRICA

The latest Super Rugby news and views from the Republic. Who's making the news 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 making the news and who's impressing in New Zealand?

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## THE ROAD TO THE FINAL

SANZAAR's Finals explanation and how we might host a semi-final encounter with the Chiefs from New Zealand.



## RWC 2019 MASCOT REN-G CALL ON RUGBY FANS TO 'PASS IT BACK' AND HELP DISADVANTAGED CHILDREN IN ASIA

With less than 100 days to go until Rugby World Cup 2019 in Japan, World Rugby and ChildFund are thrilled to announce that the world's most famous and recognisable shishi – Ren-G – are lending their support as Ambassadors to ChildFund Pass It Back, a key component of Rugby World Cup 2019's Impact Beyond legacy programme.

Embodying the five values of rugby – integrity, passion, solidarity, discipline and respect – the Rugby World Cup 2019 mascot Ren-G aim to use their celebrity status for good and are calling on rugby fans around the globe to 'pass it back' for disadvantaged children in Asia. For Ren, who loves the connections that rugby creates, being an Ambassador for ChildFund Pass It Back is an important way to bring people together – the fans around the world, and those children living in developing communities who are facing significant challenges due to poverty. G loves the fighting spirit and fair play of rugby and believes all children, regardless of their birthplace, should be given an equal opportunity to benefit from the transformative power of sport. But most importantly, Ren-G feel that being Ambassadors for ChildFund

Pass It Back is about solidarity. Through their support of ChildFund Pass It Back, they want everyone to share the spirit of rugby and give more children and young people the chance to play, learn and grow.

## MUNSTER RECRUIT LARKHAM AS NEW SENIOR COACH

Australian World Cup-winner Stephen Larkham has agreed to join Munster as their new senior coach until 2022. The 45-year-old is the latest high-profile addition to Johann van Graan's backroom team following the appointment of ex-England coach Graham Rowntree. The ex-Australia attack coach succeeds former Ireland full-back Felix Jones. Munster are rebuilding their backroom team after Jones and forwards coach Jerry Flannery both declined offers to extend their contracts last season. Larkham, who won 102 caps for Australia, has signed a three-year contract and will join the province in August, subject to gaining a work permit, where he will work alongside Van Graan, Rowntree and defence coach JP Ferreira. "I have had a number of conversations with Johann and I'm very excited to be working with him, as our views on rugby are very similar," said Larkham, who won the 1999 World Cup with the Wallabies. I'm also looking forward to meeting



and working with not only the other coaches in Graham and JP but also the very talented group of players that Munster have."

## HARLEQUINS SIGN RUGBY LEAGUE LEGEND

### SEAN LONG AS COACH

Harlequins have announced that rugby league legend and current St Helens assistant coach Sean Long will join the Londoners from next season. The Saints are currently top of the Super League table and secured their place in the Challenge Cup semi-final with victory over Wakefield Trinity on June 1. A former rugby league scrum-half who played for both England and Great Britain, Long also won a host of domestic titles across his career including two World Club Challenges, four Grand Finals and five Challenge Cups. He was a Lance Todd winner three times and awarded the Man of Steel Trophy in 2000 as a result of being the best player in the Super League that season.

## BRODIE RETALICK INKS NEW DEAL THAT INCLUDES JAPAN STINT

Brodie Retalick has signed a new three-year deal with New Zealand Rugby (NZR) and the Chiefs which will see him take an extended break from the game in New Zealand before committing through to 2023. Under the terms of the deal announced, Retalick will leave New Zealand at the end of the year and play two seasons in Japan's Top League in 2020 and 2021, with an extended family break in between. He

will then return to rugby in New Zealand in May 2021 and play through to the end of the 2023 season. A Rugby World Cup 2015 winner and the New Zealand and World Player of the Year in 2014, 28-year-old Retalick is now into his eighth season of professional rugby and been a powerhouse player ever since making his professional debut as a 21-year-old in 2012. He played his 75th Test in the last game of 2018 and is the latest of a number of leading players who have committed long-term to New Zealand Rugby.

## WOMEN'S RUGBY SUPER SERIES WILL BE HARDER THAN THE WORLD CUP

The Women's Rugby Super Series tournament will be harder than a World Cup, according to England captain Sarah Hunter. The top five teams in the world all meet in San Diego, with Grand Slam champions England opening their campaign against USA on 28 June. Simon Middleton's side then face Canada, France and world champions New Zealand in the round-robin tournament. "It's incredible for us to have this opportunity," Hunter told BBC Sport. "In some respects, you could say it is harder than a World Cup. You probably wouldn't play the top five sides in the world during a World Cup campaign, so it gives us a great chance to actually see where we are at."

Sources: World Rugby, Planet Rugby, BBC Rugby



## VIEW FROM SOUTH AFRICA

Former Sharks and Kings centre Tristan Blewett has been invited to try out for NFL side the New Orleans Saints. The 22-year-old Blewett was born in Johannesburg but grew up in Durban where he was schooled at the famous Hilton College. He played for the Sharks between 2016 and 2018 before moving to Port Elizabeth in September last year for a short stint at the Kings.

He joined New Orleans Gold late in 2018 on a two-year contract and was the standout performer in their recently concluded Major League Rugby campaign in the USA. But Blewett didn't just make a lasting impression in USA rugby circles, he also caught the eye of those involved in American football.

"It's too good a story, I can't tell you," Saints coach Sean Payton said about his surprise invitation to Blewett. "If I told you a local artist texted me about this rugby player... Here's what you have to understand, when someone sends you something about a player, obviously that happens a lot. If it's a college player, I might forward it to Jeff Ireland. If it is a pro player I will forward it to Terry Fontenot.

"When someone's recommendation comes, you go about the process every time, knowing that there might be 44 out of 44 where there's nothing to it, but then on the 45th one, there might be Taysom Hill. In a different way. I'm not making the same comparison. It was an email, a text forwarded. It is easy to work out a player who's right here. That was kind of it."

Blewett says he never expected to receive a call-up from an NFL team, but now that he has, he intends to make the most of the opportunity.

"When I first came over with my coach, I was joking about it, saying, 'I'm going to live here to play American football', and then two weeks ago when I got the call we both laughed like "it actually happened," he said. "I told my mom a day or two ago, but I think no one back home really knows much of football, and neither do I. So, I think as I learn I'll sort of explain it to them."

Courtesy: SARugbyMag.co.za



## VIEW FROM NEW ZEALAND

Wellington is the latest in a growing number of provincial rugby unions to remove under-13 representative rugby from their programme. A move already made in North Harbour, Canterbury, Auckland, Southland, Otago, South Canterbury, Taranaki and Tasman, the youngest representative team in the Wellington Rugby Football Union will be under-16.

WRFU head of community rugby Will Caccia-Birch said the change was made as there was clear evidence that the selection or non-selection of players at under-13 level was considered counter-productive in increasing and retaining players at junior level. The union will now put a concentrated emphasis on skill development for all junior players instead of a select few, with New Zealand rugby endorsing the approach. It's a move that is expected to be adopted by all provincial unions eventually.

"We want to give all boys and girls who sign up to play rugby at their clubs and primary schools the best possible experience to develop their skills, whether that be in contact rugby or non-contact versions of the game such as Rippa Rugby or Quick Rip," Caccia-Birch said.

"The moment we start selecting a relatively small number of players on supposed talent and potential at this age, we are immediately neglecting a significant number of budding

young players, who at 10, 11 or 12 years of age, are only just beginning their rugby."

More than 350 junior players are registered in Wellington under-13 grades and will be able to take advantage of further development as opposed to a group of just 25 who would ordinarily be involved in the representative programme. The move was part of a wider shift driven by New Zealand Rugby in an attempt to stop players moving away from rugby when they entered high school.

North Harbour was the first union to make the changes, with the Herald revealing they would be ending their junior representative programme in late February. "Harbour's purpose is 'Improving Lives, Through Rugby', and when it comes to our community we want to maximise engagement and grow participation through quality experiences," the union's general manager David Gibson said at the time. "For us this means cultivating a climate of development and fun around our junior rugby programmes and putting the kids at the centre of the experience."

Courtesy: New Zealand Herald



# THE ROAD TO THE FINAL

After 18 Rounds and 120 matches of the regular season the quarter-finalists for the 2019 Super Rugby tournament have been confirmed by SANZAAR in accordance with the tournament rules. After a very competitive season the configuration of the quarter-finals was only determined after the very last match of the season when the Bulls beat the Lions to earn a bonus point win in Pretoria.

The four quarter-final hosts: The three Conference Winners - ranked 1 to 3 based on total tournament points; and the best wildcard team (based on total tournament points and regardless of Conference) ranked 4.

The Crusaders finished the regular season as New Zealand Conference winners for the third year in a row, and the highest ranked team in the tournament, finishing on 58 points after 11 wins. The Jaguares won the South African Conference for the first time finishing with 11 wins and 51 points. In the Australian Conference the Brumbies finished top with 10 wins and 48 points.

The last quarter-final host spot is taken by the Hurricanes who finished second in New Zealand Conference with 53 points.

The four away quarter-finalists: The four next best wildcard teams (based on total tournament points and regardless of Conference) ranked 5 to 8. Therefore, the four teams earning quarter-final places and ranking places 5 to 8 are: Bulls 41 points (South African Conference); Sharks 37 points (South African Conference); Chiefs 36 points (New Zealand Conference); and Highlanders 36 points (New Zealand Conference).

## THE QUARTER-FINALISTS AND THEIR RANKINGS ARE:

1. Crusaders - New Zealand Conference Winners
2. Jaguares - South African Conference Winners
3. Brumbies - Australian Conference Winners
4. Hurricanes
5. Bulls
6. Sharks

- 7. Chiefs
- 8. Highlanders

## 2018 SUPER RUGBY QUARTER-FINAL DRAW

- QF1: Crusaders [1] versus Highlanders [8]
- QF2: Hurricanes [4] versus Bulls [5]
- QF3: Jaguares [2] versus Chiefs [7]
- QF4: Brumbies [3] versus Sharks [6]

Quarter-final Match Schedule (all times local)

Fri June 21: Crusaders v Highlanders, Christchurch Stadium Christchurch @ 19:35

Sat June 22: Hurricanes v Bulls, Westpac Stadium, Wellington @ 19:35

Fri June 21: Jaguares v Chiefs, Jose Amalfitani Stadium, Buenos Aires @ 19:05

Sat June 22: Brumbies v Sharks, GIO Stadium, Canberra @ 20:05

## SEMI-FINAL DRAW:

Pre-determined draw as follows (highest ranked team to host):

- SF1: Winner QF1 v Winner QF2
- SF2: Winner QF3 v Winner QF4

## FINAL DRAW:

(highest ranked team to host):

Final: Winner SF1 v Winner SF 2

## TICKETING INFORMATION

In the event that the Plus500 Brumbies defeat the Sharks this evening, and the Chiefs defeat the Jaguares in Argentina, we would host a semi-final here at GIO Stadium in Canberra next weekend. Full ticketing information on the semi-final, should we be hosting, will be available on the club's website and social media channels post-match tonight.





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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) W 31-20

20 Stormers (a) W 19-17

28 Jaguares (a) L 15-20

### MAY

4 Blues (h) W 26-21

12 Sunwolves (h) W 33-0

18 Bye

24 Bulls (h) W 22-10

### JUNE

1 Sunwolves (a) W 42-19

8 Waratahs (a) W 35-24

15 Reds (h) W 40-27

***All matches will be screened live and exclusive on Fox Sports. Tickets from [www.ticketek.com.au](http://www.ticketek.com.au).***

## MCINERNEY HISTORIC TREBLE

When hooker Connal McInerney came off the bench in Tokyo in Round 16, the hat-trick of tries that he collected made him only the fifth player in Super Rugby history to score three tries as a replacement. Not only did McInerney achieve this feat, the tries were the first he had scored at the elite level. In so doing, the young rake also became the 20th Brumbies player to claim a try this season. Only the 2015 squad, where 22 players crossed, can beat that total.

## CONGRATULATIONS SCOTT SIO

# 100

BRUMBIES  
CAPS



## SIO BRINGS UP TON

As celebrated elsewhere in this souvenir edition of the match program, Scott Sio became the latest Brumbie to reach the magical 100 cap mark when he started against the Reds at GIO Stadium last weekend. Sio joins Sam Carter, Tevita Kuridrani, Christian Lealiifano and Henry Speight as Brumbies centurions whilst James Slipper and David Pocock have also played over 100 Super Rugby games.

# HOW THEY STAND IN 2019

## Australian Conference

#	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	PD	BP	PTS
1	Brumbies (Q)	16	10	0	6	430	366	+64	8	48
2	Rebels	16	7	0	9	393	465	-72	6	34
3	Waratahs	16	6	0	10	367	415	-48	6	30
4	Reds	16	6	0	10	385	438	-53	4	28
5	Sunwolves	16	2	0	14	294	584	-290	4	12

## New Zealand Conference

#	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	PD	BP	PTS
1	Crusaders (Q)	16	11	3	2	497	257	+240	8	58
2	Hurricanes (Q)	16	12	1	3	449	362	+87	3	53
3	Chiefs (Q)	16	7	2	7	451	465	-14	4	36
4	Highlanders (Q)	16	6	3	7	441	392	+49	6	36
5	Blues	16	5	1	10	347	369	-22	8	30

## South African Conference

#	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	PD	BP	PTS
1	Jaguars (Q)	16	11	0	5	461	352	+109	7	51
2	Bulls (Q)	16	8	2	6	410	369	+41	5	41
3	Sharks (Q)	16	7	1	8	343	335	+8	7	37
4	Lions	16	8	0	8	401	478	-77	3	35
5	Stormers	16	7	1	8	344	366	-22	5	35

Q — Qualified for Quarter Finals

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# CLUB STATS

Name	2019 APPS	2019 PTS	CAREER APPS	CAREER PTS
Allan ALAALATOA	14	5 – 1t	73	10 – 2t
Rory ARNOLD	14	20 – 4t	72	45 – 9t
Tom BANKS	16	30 – 6t	44	90 – 18t
Jahrome BROWN	11	5 – 1t	11	5 – 1t
Sam CARTER	15	5 – 1t	120	45 – 9t
Tom CUSACK	13	5 – 1t	30	15 – 3t
Murray DOUGLAS	10	5 – 1t	20	5 – 1t
Blake ENEVER	5	-	50	5 – 1t
Folau FAINGAA	15	55 – 11t	28	70 – 14t
Vunipola FIFITA	1	-	1	-
Mack HANSEN	1	-	1	-
Wharenui HAWERA	5	4 – 2c	36	190 – 2t, 42c, 32p
Ben HYNE	-	-	5	-
Len IKITAU	2	-	2	-
Jordan JACKSON-HOPE	4	-	15	5 – 1t
Bayley KUENZLE	-	-	0	-
Tevita KURIDRANI	16	35 – 7t	120	140 – 28t
Christian LEALIFANO	15	95 – 1t, 42c, 3p	148	943 – 20t, 186c, 155p, 2dg
Leslie LEULUAIALII-MAKIN	15	-	48	-
Noah LOLESIO	-	-	0	-
Ryan LONERGAN	5	2 – 1c	6	2 – 1c
Matt LUCAS	10	-	59	16 – 2t, 3c
Josh MANN-REA	9	5 – 1t	69	40 – 8t
Lachlan MCCAFFREY	10	15 – 3t	38	35 – 7t
Connal MCINERNEY	8	15 – 3t	14	15 – 3t
Andrew MUIRHEAD	11	10 – 2t	25	40 – 8t
Chance PENI	3	10 – 2t	17	45 – 9t
David POCKOCK	3	-	112	95 – 19t
Joe POWELL	16	5 – 1t	58	20 – 4t
Toni PULU	10	5 – 1t	41	75 – 15t
Tom ROSS	3	-	3	-
Pete SAMU	15	15 – 3t	48	60 – 12t
Irae SIMONE	15	15 – 3t	25	15 – 3t
Scott SIO	15	-	100	20 – 4t
James SLIPPER	16	5 – 1t	120	30 – 6t
Henry SPEIGHT	12	20 – 4t	120	225 – 45t
Darcy SWAIN	10	-	11	-
Lausii TALIAULI	2	-	25	30 – 6t
Rob VALETINI	8	5 – 1t	11	10 – 2t
Tom WRIGHT	11	15 – 3t	11	15 – 3t



Scott Sio celebrated his 100th Plus500 Brumbies appearance as the club celebrated winning the Australian Conference Championship for a fourth time by retaining the Rod Macqueen Cup with a 40-27 win over the Reds at GIO Stadium in Canberra. Dan McKellar's side warmed up for the Quarter Final clash with the Sharks, the South African franchise sealing their place in the last eight with an after the siren try in Cape Town, by running in half-a-dozen tries including a first score for the club by replacement forward Murray Douglas.

The Scottish lock-cum-flanker became the 23rd Brumbie to claim a five-pointer in 2019, setting a new club record on the night the team won their sixth match on the trot and their seventh in succession at their home venue. The records and achievements kept piling up. The Brumbies started poorly and trailed 0-7 to an early Reds score and might have been further behind had the visitors not had a second try ruled out as Taniela Tupou hit Brumbies skipper Christian Lealiifano high and late, earning himself a ten-minute spell in the sin-bin.

Wallaby Lock Scott Higginbotham follows later in the half, cynically collapsing a rolling maul that was bearing down on the Reds line on the stroke of half-time, a penalty try the inevitable outcome. By then the hosts had claimed scores through wing Andy Muirhead and number eight Lachlan McCaffrey to establish a lead they never really looked like relinquishing. Further tries from Rory Arnold, Tom Wright, with an intercept, and Douglas extended the lead and saw a bonus-point victory before the presentation of the Conference trophy could follow.

## RESULTS

**R18:** Plus500 Brumbies (19) 40 (T: Muirhead, McCaffrey, Penalty Try, Arnold, Wright, Douglas, C: Lealiifano (3), Lonergan) Reds (10) 27 (T: Hegarty, Paia'ua, Mafi, C: Hegarty (3), P: Hegarty, D: McGahan)



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