



BATH RUGBY VS L'AQUILA

PARKER PEN CHALLENGE CUP
FIRST ROUND, SECOND LEG
SATURDAY 13 DECEMBER 2003
KICK-OFF 2.15pm



SPONSORS



VIRGIN MOBILE MAN OF THE MATCH

TEXT - 07952 100 555

THE OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME OF BATH RUGBY

PRICE £2.50

RUGBYCALL 09068 884554

WEB:WWW.BATHRUGBY.COM

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 7



PARKER PEN CHALLENGE CUP



Bath Rugby

L'Aquila



LINEUPS

Matt PERRY 15
Iain BALSHAW 14
Kevin MAGGS 13
Andrew HIGGINS 12
Simon DANIELLI 11

Olly BARKLEY 10
Hentie MARTENS 9

David BARNES 1
Lee MEARS 2
Matt STEVENS 3
James HUDSON 4
Danny GREWCOCK (C) 5
Scott GRAY 6
James SCAYSBROOK 7
Chris GOODMAN 8

REPLACEMENTS

Ross BLAKE 16
Rob HAWKINS 17
Duncan BELL 18
Alex CROCKETT 19
Mike TINDALL 20
Rob FIDLER 21
Isaac FEAUNATI 22

HEAD COACH:
John CONNOLLY



LINEUPS

15 Danilo CARPENTE
14 Stefano PIETROPAOLI
13 Santiago RODINO
12 Giuliano ROSSI
11 Fabrizio SCIPIONI

10 German CAGNOLO
9 Marco FONTANAZZA

1 Rodrigo SANCHEZ
2 Hernan MAZINO
3 Juan José RAPETTI
4 Facundo LOPEZ
5 Fabrizio PARISSE
6 Andrea TAGLIAVENTO
7 Carlo CAIONE
8 Nicolas BRIGNONI

REPLACEMENTS

16 Flavio TRIPODI
17 Massimo ALFONSETTI
18 Gabriele SORRENTINO
19 Massimiliano DE PAOLIS
20 Francesco HOSTIÉ
21 Nicolas CANAVOSIO
22 Francesco G NAPOLI

HEAD COACH:
Jean-Michel VUILLEMIN



TODAY'S OFFICIALS

REFEREE Didier MENE

TOUCH JUDGES Gerrard BORREANI & Eric GAUZINS



PARKER PEN CHALLENGE CUP

TODAY'S VISITORS L'Aquila

By Dom Rumbles



Since joining the Six Nations in 2001, the club game in Italy has gone from strength to strength.

Three sides now compete in the top echelon of the European game—the Heineken Cup, whilst eight sides will compete in this season's Parker Pen Challenge Cup—a competition that has caught the imagination with its unique two-legged format.

One such side is L'Aquila. In an Italian Super Ten competition dominated by the wealthier Benetton Treviso and Calvisano clubs, L'Aquila have been one of the leading lights in Italian rugby for several years. The club has won the Italian championship five times, with the most recent success coming in 1994. This season will be only their third in European competition having spent last season in the European Challenge Cup. However, it is also interesting to note that the club participated in the Heineken Cup

during the 2000–01 season, although they did not progress past the pool stages.

Last season, the Italian side's Parker Pen Challenge Cup campaign ended at the first hurdle when they went down 133–19 on aggregate to French side Colomiers (who we could meet in the second round). Having dropped into the shield competition, L'Aquila went on to face Dinamo Bucharest—the side that lost out to Saracens and famously lost one of their players in the process! The matches were close, but went the way of Romanians 61–60 on aggregate. It was a campaign that reflected their domestic season. Despite some big wins, the side, based some 70 miles from Rome, went on to finish eighth in the Super Ten Championship.

So far this season it has been a similar story for L'Aquila. Currently eighth in the table, they recently lost narrowly to Rovigo with their only win of the campaign coming over GRAN Parma.

Despite not having the capital clout of the

'big three' available to them L'Aquilians are extremely passionate about their rugby and thrive on a strong community. They are not a side packed with star names. However, they do have one or two internationals of note. Prop Toledo Sanchez and back rower Nicolas Brignoni represented Uruguay in the World Cup and will have come face to face with Iain Balshaw, Mike Tindall and Mike Catt. German Cagnolo, Carlo Caione, Massimiliano De Paolis and Pierpaolo Rotilio have all represented Italy, whilst Hiroaki Ito is a Japanese international and Facundo Lopez has a couple of caps for Argentina.

With a first leg deficit to overcome, the Italian side will be looking for a performance in which they can take some pride this afternoon. If they are to be knocked out of the competition, then the Parker Pen Shield awaits—a tournament which they will believe is there for the taking.

