



PARKER PEN CHALLENGE CUP



Bath Rugby

Beziers

LINEUPS

15 Regis. BIANCO

14 Philippe ESCALLE (C)

12 Guillaume DELMOTTE

Alain BOUSQUET

Nicolas DURAND

Tariel RATIANIDZE

Sébastien BRUNO

Pablo CARDINALI

П

•

Yoan AUDRIN

10 Gaël ARANDIGA



LINEUPS

Matt PERRY 15 **Iain BALSHAW 14**

Andrew HIGGINS 13 Olly BARKLEY 12

Simon DANIELLI 11

Mike CATT 10 Martyn WOOD 9

David FLATMAN 1

Jonathan HUMPHREYS 2

Duncan BELL 3

Steve BORTHWICK 4

Danny GREWCOCK (C) 5

Andy BEATTIE 6

James SCAYSBROOK 7

Isaac FEAUNATI 8

REPLACEMENTS

Ross BLAKE 16 Lee MEARS 17

Matt STEVENS 18

Chris MALONE 19

Kevin MAGGS 20

Michael LIPMAN 21

Rob FIDLER 22

HEAD COACH John CONNOLLY







GREWCOCK (C)











Ž

CAMISULI

(5)

JEANNARD

8

NYANGA

3

RDINALLI







DELMOTTE

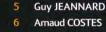












Lionel CAMISULI

Steven HALL

Yannick NYANGA

REPLACEMENTS

16 Abraham TOLOFUA

17 Dimitri SZARZEWSKI

18 Mamadou KOITA

19 Adrian PETRACHE

20 Olivier LLARI

21 Pierre BRONCAN

22 Olivier GARGALLO

HEAD COACH:

Jean Pierre ELISSALDE





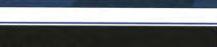


TODAY'S OFFICIALS REFEREE Giulio DE SANTIS (Italy) TOUCH JUDGES Stefano MANCINI (Italy) & Salvatore DE FALCO (Italy)









PARKER PEN CHALLENGE CUP

1 BOUSQUET

PARKER PEN

TODAY'S VISITORS

Beziers

By Dom Rumbles







t is all to play for at the Rec this afternoon and Beziers will not only be confident that they can progress through to the semi-finals of the Parker Pen Challenge Cup, but that they can also be the first side to win at the Recreation Ground this season.

Jean Pierre Elissalde's side are defending a slender five point advantage having let a 24–6 half time lead slip at Le Stade Mediterranee, but the French outfit will know that they have the game capable of repelling everything that Bath have in attack. Beziers are direct both in attack and defence and will not give an inch across the park without a fight.

It is an age old saying that the French do not travel well, but do not read anything into it. Beziers have faired extremely well on their travels so far this season and are gaining in confidence with every game in this tournament. After narrowly making it

have gone from strength to strength. They defeated Grenoble away from home in the opening leg of their second round game and carried the advantage home when they entertained their French rivals at Le Stade Mediterranee.

Unlike Colomiers, Beziers base their game around what is an extremely powerful forward pack. There is a real eastern European feel to the pack with five internationals from Georgia, Romania and Russia and as anyone who watched the World Cup knows. Georgia produces some very capable forwards. Indeed the Beziers eight is one of the most feared in France and is a major factor behind the club's climb to fourth in Pool Two of the French Top 16' championship this season.

There are a number of notable performers in the Beziers pack. Hooker and Captain Sebastien Bruno has international experience with France, as

lineout where French international Steven Hall combines well with Guy Jeannard.

Indeed last weekend's result will have served to boost confidence. Like Bath Rugby the French outfit have been desperately struggling with injuries over the past couple of weeks. Ten of their registered squad for European competition are currently injured and they are also without regular fly half Gonzalo Quesada.

Having signed for the club after the World Cup, the Argentinean international was not registered in time to compete in this competition.

With Montferrand in a commanding position in their tie against Saracens, Beziers will be looking to ensure that French interest is maintained when the draw for the semi-final is made next week. Today's match looks set to be a thrilling encounter, but will Beziers and their tough defence hold against what is sure to be a Bath Rugby