



BATH RUGBY VS BEZIERES

PARKER PEN CHALLENGE CUP
QUARTER FINAL, SECOND LEG
SATURDAY 31 JANUARY 2004
KICK-OFF 2.15pm

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VOLUME 4 ISSUE 10



PARKER PEN CHALLENGE CUP



Bath Rugby

Beziers



LINEUPS

- Matt PERRY 15
- Iain BALSCHAW 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 FEANATI 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



LINEUPS

- 15 Regis. BIANCO
- 14 Philippe ESCALLE (C)
- 13 Yoan AUDRIN
- 12 Guillaume DELMOTTE
- 11 Alain BOUSQUET
- 10 Gaël ARANDIGA
- 9 Nicolas DURAND
- 1 Tariel RATTANIDZE
- 2 Sébastien BRUNO
- 3 Pablo CARDINALI
- 4 Steven HALL
- 5 Guy JEANNARD
- 6 Arnaud COSTES
- 7 Lionel CAMISULI
- 8 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

PARKER PEN CHALLENGE CUP

TODAY'S VISITORS

Beziers

By Dom Rumbles



New caption...



It 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 fared 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