

Amlin Opta Index player head to head (Backs)

Jonathan Sexton (Leinster Rugby)

Jonathan Sexton has been the top performing back in European rugby this season according to the Amlin Opta Index. The Leinster and Ireland fly-half has 2,206 AOI points, the 2nd most of any player, with 951 of these coming through his boot. He has slotted 14 conversions and 15 penalties so far as well as crossing for three tries to give him a points total of 88. David Skrela is currently the 2nd ranked back in Europe this season, with 781 AOI points coming thanks to his kicking. The 32-year-old has notched up 84 points in the Heineken Cup this season thanks to 12 conversions, 19 penalties and one drop-goal. In attack, Sexton



David Skrela (Toulouse)

has a much higher AOI score than Skrela, the one area of their games in which the Irishman significantly outperforms his opponent. Skrela has made more carries (44 v 30) but made less metres (72 v 138), he has also conceded 12 turnovers where as Sexton has conceded only seven. In defence, Skrela has missed twice as many tackles (8 v 4) as Sexton however he has also made more successful tackles (49 v 40). When comparing their distribution types it is evident that Sexton favours the pass (68%) more than Skrela (58%), whereas the Frenchman has a greater tendency to carry (15% v 11%) or kick (27% v 21%) when he receives the ball.

2206	Overall Points	1686
814	Attack	492
441	Defence	413
951	Kicking	781

Amlin Opta Index player head to head (Forwards)

Richardt Strauss (Leinster)

Richardt Strauss (10th) just makes it into the top 10 forwards of the season with an Amlin Opta Index score of 1,552. Behind only his countryman, Schalk Brits, he is the 2nd ranked hooker in Europe this season. Both Strauss and William Servat are extremely closely matched in all aspects of their games except defence where Strauss has outperformed his opponent. With a score of 666 in this facet of the game, the South African ranks as the 12th best defender on the AOI. He has made 60 tackles so far in his seven appearances (five missed tackles), only six players in the Heineken



William Servat (Toulouse)

Cup have made more than this. Servat has made just 22 tackles in his six appearances, missing only one in the process however. In the lineout both of these players have identical scores, which ranks them as joint 19th in this particular set-piece situation. Servat has thrown 48 successful lineouts and misplaced seven whereas Strauss has thrown 52 successful throws and misplaced eight. In attack, Strauss has made 35 carries for a gain of 126 metres, which is the 3rd most by any hooker in the Heineken Cup this season, whereas Servat has made a more modest 68 metres from 47 carries.

1552	Overall Points	1029
584	Attack	555
666	Defence	172
302	Lineouts	302

Heineken Cup semi-final

Leinster Rugby v Toulouse, Aviva Stadium, Saturday 30th April, 15:30

Player	Score*	Av. Score**		Av. Score**	Score*	Player
Sean O'Brien	2581	1310	Top Rated Player	1341	1686	David Skrela
Sean O'Brien	1650	515	Top Rated Attacker	744	1122	Maxime Medard
Sean O'Brien	872	660	Top Rated Defender	660	486	Thierry Dusautoir
Richardt Strauss	302	334	Top Rated Lineout	334	302	William Servat
Mike Ross	289	520	Top Rated Scrummager	520	732	Census Johnston
Jonathan Sexton	951	432	Top Rated Kicker	432	781	David Skrela

Based on the Amlin Opta Index Leinster have the top two performing players in Europe in their ranks, Jonathan Sexton and Sean O'Brien. Both of them have consistently been putting in displays that have earned them impressive scores on the AOI. The key battle in this game will be between the two fly-halves, Sexton and David Skrela (2nd ranked back), however there will be clashes all over the pitch to entertain the spectators. Maxime Medard has been

Toulouse's leading attacking player so far, with a AOI score of 1,122 in this area of the game. This marks him as the 6th best attacking player in Europe this season, and the leading back that will be playing in this match. He has made 415 metres (6th most) with the ball in hand on 56 carries, going past eight defenders and making eight clean breaks along the way. In the scrum Census Johnston has been prolific for Toulouse, earning a mighty 732 AOI points

in this set-piece which rates him as the 3rd best scrummager in Europe this season. Sean O'Brien has been far and away the leading player in Europe this season, and his overall game is remarkable. He is Leinster's leading attacking and defensive player this season, having made a competition high 98 carries for 380 metres as well as 77 tackles, the 2nd most by any player.

*Based on cumulative scores **Average score based on position