

### Amlin Opta Index player head to head (Backs)

#### Ronan O’Gara (Munster Rugby)

Both of these two fly-halves make it into the top ten backs of the season based on the Amlin Opta Index. Ronan O’Gara (6<sup>th</sup>) just edges out Nick Evans (7<sup>th</sup>) however the Kiwi has played two games fewer than the Irishman in Europe in this campaign. Their kicking scores are almost identical with O’Gara notching up 758 and Evans 753. The differences in their game can be seen in their respective attacking and defensive scores, with O’Gara leading the way going forward and Evans accruing more points in defence. O’Gara’s defensive score is let down by the fact that he has missed 11 of



1568	<b>Overall Points</b>	1546
666	<b>Attack</b>	500
109	<b>Defence</b>	261
35	<b>Lineouts</b>	32
758	<b>Kicking</b>	753

#### Nick Evans (Harlequins)

the 45 tackles he has attempted whereas Evans has missed just two of the 20 he has attempted. The Irish number 10 has also conceded four penalties whereas Evans has conceded none. On the surface of things it appears as though Evans has the better stats going forward as well, he has made 270 metres on just 24 carries, making five clean breaks along the way, compared to just 105 metres on 30 carries and one clean break for O’Gara. However, Evans has conceded 10 turnovers on these 24 carries, only four players in the Amlin Challenge Cup have conceded more this season.



### Amlin Opta Index player head to head (Forwards)

#### Denis Leamy (Munster Rugby)

Denis Leamy has a much higher score than Nick Easter in the Amlin Opta Index this season, but the Irish number 8 has played three more matches. If you look at their score as an average per game then they are very closely matched with Leamy scoring an average of 224 per game and Easter 209 per game. Leamy has the edge in attack with Easter holding the slight advantage in defence. Leamy has made 168 metres on 67 carries for Munster in the Heineken Cup and Amlin Challenge Cup this season, making three clean breaks and managing nine offloads in the process. Easter has managed 107 metres on 40 carries



1566	<b>Overall Points</b>	836
856	<b>Attack</b>	336
618	<b>Defence</b>	404
77	<b>Lineouts</b>	85
15	<b>Kicking</b>	11

#### Nick Easter (Harlequins)

but has failed to make a single clean break in Europe yet this season. In defence, Easter has missed two of the 35 tackles he has attempted (94% success) which is the same success rate as Leamy, three of 54 (94%). Leamy has accrued 618 points in defence which ranks him as the best defender at Munster this season and the 22<sup>nd</sup> best defender in all of European competition. The battle in the back-row in this match will be vital in deciding which side progresses to the final in Cardiff. Leamy has had more game time in Europe this season, but when Easter has played has been just as impressive as the Irishman.



### Amlin Challenge Cup semi-final

#### Munster Rugby v Harlequins, Thomond Park, Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> April 13:00

Player	Score*	Av. Score**		Av. Score**	Score*	Player
Doug Howlett	<b>1612</b>	1060	Top Rated Player	1341	<b>1546</b>	Nick Evans
Doug Howlett	<b>1338</b>	765	Top Rated Attacker	515	<b>610</b>	Tom Guest
Denis Leamy	<b>618</b>	513	Top Rated Defender	660	<b>605</b>	Will Skinner
Mick O'Driscoll	<b>391</b>	268	Top Rated Lineout	268	<b>168</b>	George Robson
Marcus Horan	<b>100</b>	520	Top Rated Scrummager	520	<b>255</b>	Mark Lambert
Ronan O'Gara	<b>758</b>	432	Top Rated Kicker	432	<b>753</b>	Nick Evans

Doug Howlett has been Munster's most dangerous attacking player in Europe this season. The Kiwi is in fact the 2<sup>nd</sup> rated attacker from any club in European action in 2010/11, with an Amlin Opta Index attacking score of 1,338. The winger has made 391 metres with the ball in hand, beaten 16 defenders and made eight offloads. For Harlequins, Nick Evans is their key man who will pull the strings. Also hailing from

New Zealand, Evans has impressed with his kicking this season and he is the 5<sup>th</sup> ranked kicker on the AOI despite playing just five games for the London side. In defence for Harlequins, Will Skinner has been their top performer, having made 48 tackles and missed just five, only eight players in the Amlin Challenge Cup have made more hits than this. With 168 AOI points, George Robson has been Quins' leading lineout

exponent in Europe this season; he has claimed 16 throws as well as one steal so far. For Munster, Mick O'Driscoll has been the star performer in this area of the game with 391 AOI points. The Irishman has claimed 27 lineouts so far, including three steals, only four players in either the Amlin Challenge Cup or the Heineken Cup have won more for their side.

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