

Amlin Opta Index player head to head (Backs)

Ben Foden (Northampton Saints)

Ben Foden is Northampton Saints' leading attacking player in the Heineken Cup this season, having accrued 1,112 Amlin Opta Index points in that facet of the game. The full-back has made 423 metres with the ball in hand, only three players from any club have made more than this. The 25-year-old has also crossed for two tries, made 11 clean breaks (the joint most in the competition with Joe van Niekerk), beaten 15 defenders and made six offloads in just six appearances. Overall, Foden is ranked as the 7th best attacking player in Europe this season.

Julien Cadelon is Perpignan's leading player based on the Amlin



1306	Overall Points	1450
1112	Attack	1077
42	Defence	297
34	Lineouts	14
118	Kicking	62

Julien Cadelon (Perpignan)

Opta Index this season. The winger has 1,450 AOI points overall with 1,077 of these coming in attack. Before this season he had never scored a try in 10 Heineken Cup appearances, this season he has already crossed for three. He is the only player in Europe this season to make over 600 metres with the ball in hand and this total has come from just six games. The 30-year-old has also made 10 clean breaks, beaten 15 defenders and made seven offloads. In defence he has also impressed, making 12 tackles and not missing a single one, reflected by his superior defensive score of 297 compared to just 42 for Foden.

Amlin Opta Index player head to head (Forwards)

Tom Wood (Northampton Saints)

In the back-row Tom Wood and Damien Chouly will come head to head. Tom Wood has had an impressive season and he is ranked as the 6th best forward in European rugby in 2010/11. His defensive score of 819 can only be beaten by three players, with this score boosted by his impressive tackle count of 77 hits and only three missed tackles. The other impressive part of his game can be found at the lineout, where he has won 29 throws for Northampton in the Heineken Cup this season, the 2nd most by any player from any club.



1607	Overall Points	1243
289	Attack	639
819	Defence	400
489	Lineouts	197
10	Kicking	7

Damien Chouly (Perpignan)

Chouly has a more attacking game than Wood, as can be seen by the difference in the AOI scores in this area of play, 639 points for Chouly compared with 289 for Wood. The Frenchman has made 184 metres on 42 carries for Perpignan this season, as well as making six offloads. In defence he has made 34 tackles and missed just two and in the lineout he has contributed with 12 lineout wins and three lineout steals. This gives him a lineout score of 197 which is the best score in this area of the game by any player from his club.

Heineken Cup semi-final

Northampton Saints v Perpignan, stadium:mk, Sunday 1st May, 15:00

Player	Score*	Av. Score**		Av. Score**	Score*	Player
Phil Dowson	1638	1289	Top Rated Player	1020	1450	Julien Cadelon
Ben Foden	1112	854	Top Rated Attacker	744	1077	Julien Cadelon
Tom Wood	819	660	Top Rated Defender	658	464	Bertrand Guiry
Dylan Hartley	603	334	Top Rated Lineout	128	197	Damien Chouly
Brian Mujati	817	520	Top Rated Scrummager	520	447	Nicolas Mas
Stephen Myler	736	432	Top Rated Kicker	432	396	Nicolas Laharrague

Northampton have the leading front-row in European competition this season according to the Amlin Opta Index. Their front row duo of Brian Mujati and Soane Tongaiha are the two leading scrummagers with scores of 817 and 800 respectively in this area of the game. At the lineout, Dylan Hartley has led the way, with a score of 603 at this set-piece he is well ahead of the chasing pack. The hooker has successfully

thrown 87 lineout deliveries, 25 more than any other player, misplacing just eight. Saints also have two other players in the top ten forwards, Tom Wood and Phil Dowson, who Perpignan must look out for. In the backs neither side have any players in the top ten, with the top ranked back in this fixture being Julien Cadelon (22nd). The kicking battle will come down to Stephen Myler (6th) and Nicolas Laharrague (15th). Myler has 81 points

in the Heineken Cup this season having slotted nine conversion, 20 penalties and one drop-goal. Laharrague has just 30 points thanks to two conversions, six penalties, one drop-goal and a try.

According to the AOI, Northampton will have the edge going into this match, with the combined power up front and also the skill in the backs to kill off their chances.

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