

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

#### Sean O'Brien (Leinster Rugby)

Sean O'Brien has been consistently the leading player in European rugby this season. The back-row forward has led the rankings throughout the season and he finishes the campaign as the top performing attacking and defensive player. He has made more carries (115) than any other player in the Heineken Cup this season as well as more metres than any other forward. The 24-year-old has also beaten 19 defenders, which is a competition high by anyone, back or forward. Defensively, only Joe Worsley (90) has made more tackles than O'Brien (84) which has helped him reach a defensive score of 971.



2867	<b>Overall Points</b>	1903
1827	<b>Attack</b>	932
972	<b>Defence</b>	869
34	<b>Lineout</b>	102
34	<b>Kicking</b>	0

#### Phil Dowson (Northampton Saints)

Based on the Amlin Opta Index, Phil Dowson is Northampton's leading player in the Heineken Cup this season. His score of 1,903 is the 4th best by any player from any club with 869 of these AOI points coming in defence having made 64 tackles and missed just four. Another aspect of his game which has impressed has been his discipline, he has conceded just one penalty so far in this campaign. Going forward he has made 84 carries, which is the 3rd most by any player in the competition, making 161 metres and beating four defenders along the way.



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

#### Jonathan Sexton (Leinster Rugby)

Looking at the Amlin Opta Index, Jonathan Sexton is the leading back in European rugby this season, his score of 2,494 is over 500 points higher than the next best back. His kicking has contributed 1,097 of these points thanks to 16 conversions and 21 penalties (95 points). In attack Sexton has crossed for three tries in the Heineken Cup, as well making 35 carries for a gain of 152 metres. His distribution analysis shows that he carries 12% of the ball he receives in comparison to just 5% by Stephen Myler and that he kicks only 19% of possession compared to 29% by the Saints fly-half.



2494	<b>Overall Points</b>	1593
855	<b>Attack</b>	284
542	<b>Defence</b>	427
0	<b>Lineout</b>	9
1097	<b>Kicking</b>	873

#### Stephen Myler (Northampton Saints)

Myler has notched up 94 points in the Heineken Cup this season thanks to 11 conversions, 23 penalties and one drop goal. This prowess with the boot has helped him score 873 Amlin Opta Index points, ranking him second in this area of the game. The majority of the rest of the Northampton fly-half's points have come in defence where he has made 41 tackles and not conceded a penalty. Myler is one of only eight players to have played all eight games in the competition and to have not conceded a penalty (Sexton is another of these players).



### Heineken Cup final

#### Leinster Rugby v Northampton Saints, Millennium Stadium, Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May, 17:00

Player	Score*	Av. Score**		Av. Score**	Score*	Player
Sean O'Brien	<b>2867</b>	1497	Top Rated Player	1497	<b>1903</b>	Phil Dowson
Sean O'Brien	<b>1827</b>	589	Top Rated Attacker	976	<b>1376</b>	Ben Foden
Sean O'Brien	<b>972</b>	755	Top Rated Defender	587	<b>884</b>	Roger Wilson
Richardt Strauss	<b>330</b>	382	Top Rated Lineout	382	<b>683</b>	Dylan Hartley
Mike Ross	<b>333</b>	594	Top Rated Scrummager	594	<b>968</b>	Brian Mujati
Jonathan Sexton	<b>1097</b>	493	Top Rated Kicker	493	<b>873</b>	Stephen Myler

This year's Heineken Cup final will feature the leading exponents from each of the five categories in the Amlin Opta Index. Sean O'Brien has been the stand-out player in Europe this season and he holds the accolades of being the leading defensive and attacking player as well as the top performing player overall. In the set piece areas of the game Northampton have led the way; they have the top two scrummagers (Brian Mujati and Soane

Tongaiuha) and the leading lineout performer (Dylan Hartley). Jonathan Sexton is the player that could tip the balance in Leinster's favour though as he currently leads the kicking facet of the Amlin Opta Index. For Northampton, Ben Foden will be a key player; the England full-back has crossed for three tries this season and has made 530 metres with the ball in hand, the 3<sup>rd</sup> most by any player. He has also beaten 17 defenders

which is a mark that only Sean O'Brien has bettered this season. Hartley has been the star of Saints' lineout, having thrown a remarkable 101 successful throws in this campaign, 39 more than any other hooker from any club in the tournament. In the scrum Leinster will have to be at their best to overcome the might of Mujati and Tongaiuha who have helped Northampton win 92% of their own feeds.

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