

Amlin Opta Index team of the round*

The Amlin Opta Index goes beyond providing match statistics, using unique mathematical formulae and modelling to objectively compare player performance in both European club competitions.

English duo, Alex Corbisiero (London Irish) and Dan Cole (Leicester), make the front row in the team after their performances against Munster and Benetton Treviso respectively. Both players won

100% of scrums on their own feed and Cole also achieved a 100% tackle rate (9/9). Gloucester's James Simpson-Daniel is in the team after victory in the Amlin Challenge Cup over Agen. Simpson-Daniel

scored two tries and made 155 metres. Leinster number eight, Sean O'Brien, made a game high 17 carries for a total gain of 86 metres as well as scoring a try against Racing Metro.

Position	Name	Team	Competition**	Score	Av. Pos. Score
15.	Isa Nacewa	Leinster Rugby	HC	430	166
14.	James Simpson-Daniel	Gloucester Rugby	ACC	436	145
13.	Sireli Naqelelevuki	Exeter Chiefs	ACC	413	148
12.	Seilala Mapusua	London Irish	HC	469	159
11.	Joe Ansbro	Northampton Saints	HC	390	158
10.	Freddie Burns	Gloucester Rugby	ACC	456	193
9.	Dimitri Yachvili	Biarritz	HC	376	162
1.	Alex Corbisiero	London Irish	HC	332	152
2.	Ross Ford	Edinburgh	HC	310	202
3.	Dan Cole	Leicester Tigers	HC	323	132
4.	Lisiata Fa'aoso	Agen	ACC	343	166
5.	Abdellatif Boutaty	Bayonne	ACC	291	130
6.	Vassili Bost	Montpellier	ACC	355	188
7.	Niall Ronan	Munster Rugby	HC	425	170
8.	Sean O'Brien	Leinster Rugby	HC	456	204

* Based on round six matches

**ACC = Amlin Challenge Cup HC = Heineken Cup

Amlin rugby ambassador Lawrence Dallaglio said...

"England fans will be happy to see two young English props make the team of the round this week. Dan Cole and Alex Corbisiero have both appeared in all six group games and both won 100% of scrums on their own feed in the last round. Joe Ansbro's form

will offer encouragement to Scotland fans, the winger made a game high 101 metres against Castres and also came up with a try and a try scoring pass. Ross Ford's form will also offer hope north of the border ahead of the Six Nations."



Amlin Opta Index player of the round: Seilala Mapusua (London Irish)



London Irish centre, Seilala Mapusua, is the player of round six after his impressive performance against Munster. The 30-year-old made a team high 11 carries for a total gain of 25 metres in the Heineken Cup match on Saturday. The Samoan also scored a try and completed all six of the tackles he attempted. Of these six tackles,

one was a try saving tackle and two were made behind the opposition gainline. Mapusua also put in a disciplined display as he didn't concede a single penalty or a single turnover. The big centre also impressed with his handling skills, he didn't misplace any of the six passes he made and he also successfully picked up two loose balls. Over the group stages of the Heineken Cup he has featured in all six of the Exiles' games. Only one centre in the competition, Brad Barritt (57), has made more carries than Mapusua (53) and only seven players

overall have made more offloads (9). The 38 tackles he has made, rate him as the busiest defender in the back-line at London Irish, with only Chris Hala'ufia and Nick Kennedy making more overall.

Points Breakdown	Av. Score*
Attack.....	315 98
Defence.....	124 52
Lineouts.....	0 2
Kicking.....	30 7

*Average score based on position

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top ten forwards of the season:

Name	Team	Score*	Av. Score**
Sean O'Brien	Leinster Rugby	2244	1313
Schalk Brits	Saracens	1720	1121
Hendre Fourie	Leeds Carnegie	1601	1092
Phil Dowson	Northampton Saints	1536	1074
Thomas Waldrom	Leicester Tigers	1531	1074
Tom Wood	Northampton Saints	1442	1092
Denis Leamy	Munster Rugby	1416	1312
Josh Turnbull	Scarlets	1413	1092
Luke Narryay	Gloucester Rugby	1393	1312
Joe van Niekerk	Toulon	1390	1312

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

Sean O'Brien put in yet another impressive display for Leinster last week, further extending his lead as the top performing player in Europe this season. The number eight is the only player to surpass the 2,000 index points mark so far, with his total of 2,244 almost 1,000 more than the average for his position, (1,313). Over the course of the pool stages he has made more carries (89) than any other player in the Heineken Cup and more metres (348) than any other forward in the competition. He has also beaten 16 defenders which is more than any player from any team, regardless of position. Add to that his defensive prowess which

has seen him make the 4th most tackles (62) in the tournament, and he has proved himself to be the all-round player this season. Hendre Fourie remains the leading player from the Amlin Challenge Cup so far, however an injury picked up in Leeds' final pool game could scupper his Six Nations ambitions for England. Other standout players in the pack this season have been the Northampton duo of Phil Dowson and Tom Wood who have both been rewarded for their good form with call ups to the England squad. In the backs, Jonathan Sexton has led the way. The Leinster fly-half has made five clean breaks and produced six offloads in

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top ten backs of the season:

Name	Team	Score*	Av. Score**
Jonathan Sexton	Leinster Rugby	1857	1113
David Skrela	Toulouse	1469	1113
Ian Humphreys	Ulster Rugby	1458	1113
Dave Walder	London Wasps	1332	1113
Jonny Wilkinson	Toulon	1322	1113
Joe Simpson	London Wasps	1311	1009
Ronan O'Gara	Munster Rugby	1301	1113
Julien Candelon	Perpignan	1284	863
Maxime Medard	Toulouse	1267	863
Sean Lamont	Scarlets	1260	863

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

his six appearances so far in the competition as well as achieving a goal kicking accuracy rate of 89%. The English contingent in the top backs of the season are Jonny Wilkinson (88% kicking rate) and the Wasps pair of Dave Walder (72%) and Joe Simpson. Wilkinson has impressed for Toulon and helped them to the quarter-final stages at their first attempt. The efforts of the Wasps half-back pairing was undone in defeat to Glasgow in round five, but a final day win over reigning champions Toulouse will give the Adams Park faithful cause for encouragement as the London side parachute into the Amlin Challenge Cup.