

CUP FINALISTS COME TO MURRAYFIELD

Friday, 08 May 2009

Scottish Rugby hosted the coach and captains of the Scottish Hydro Electric Cup, Shield, Bowl and Plate today as they made final preparations for the climax of the 2008/2009 season. Scottish Hydro Electric Cup Finals Day, 10 May, Murrayfield Stadium

Cup final: Heriot's v Melrose (kick-off 4pm)

Shield final: Glasgow Hawks v Peebles (kick-off 2pm)

Bowl final: Aberdeenshire v Edinburgh University (kick-off 12.15pm)

Plate final: Aberdeen University v Duns (kick-off 10.30am)

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Currently placed third and fourth in Premier Division One, Heriot's and Melrose will go head-to-head for the second season running (kick-off 4pm).

Last year Melrose accelerated into a 28-0 lead and, while Heriot's staged a dramatic 24-point fight-back, the gap was too much for the Edinburgh side to reclaim and the cup headed for the Greenyards.

Melrose captain, Scott Wight, said: "It's the achievement of the season to run out of the Murrayfield tunnel in front of a big crowd. The whole town's buzzing, we're getting a few buses filled so hopefully Sunday will be a good day.

"Training has gone well all week, it's been sharp. Since the league finished we channeled all our efforts into coming to Murrayfield and defending the Cup that we won last year.

"It'd be a great achievement to win it twice in a row which has only been done once before."

Heriot's scrum-half, Graham Wilson, added: "The excitement's building and there will definitely be a few nerves but all the boys are really looking forward to it. We've had a good couple of weeks since the semi-final – the boys just can't wait to be out there."

Glasgow Hawks will face Peebles in the Shield final (kick-off 2pm) after they saw off Jed Forest in a tricky 30-20 encounter at Old Anniesland. Their Tweedside opponents made the final following a journey across the borders to Dumfries where they won 17-7 at Park Farm.

Glasgow Hawks' - Scotland under-20 scrum-half - Peter Jericevich, said: "Obviously we were really happy to stay up in Premiership 1 this season so hopefully we'll finish off with some silverware.

"Peebles will be tough opposition but hopefully we can turn them over and get the win. We've got a lot of young, fit players, and a lot of fast boys out wide so if we can get the ball to the likes of Jono Wright and Craig Gossman hopefully we can score some tries."

Peebles' captain and prop, Willie Aitken, added: "We're all really looking forward to Sunday. We're all set and have had the best preparation to a game we've had all season so I'm sure it'll be enjoyable.

"I keep telling myself it'll be just another game but it'll definitely be different coming out here in front of a big crowd – we're well up for it.

"We're strong in the pack and have got some great kickers and runners who'll hopefully knock some holes in them."

Edinburgh University made the Plate final (kick-off 12.15pm) with a league and cup double over city rivals Murrayfield Wanderers at Inverleith Park and face Aberdeenshire in the final after they saw off a visiting Ross High at the Woodside Sports Complex.

Edinburgh University captain and number 8, Jamie Clegg, said: "It's going to be a massive occasion for us. It's the first time in the club's history to play at Murrayfield Stadium.

"Hopefully we'll bring a bit of support along, play some exciting rugby and get the crowd on their feet."

Aberdeenshire captain and flanker, Craig Livingston, added: "I'm a bit in awe to be honest, it's amazing. I can't believe I'm going to be leading Aberdeenshire out, I've been at the club for 10 years and it's a great honour.

"It's a massive occasion for the club. We've never come near to reaching Murrayfield before so we'll be taking a lot of supporters down with us. We're a real community club and are looking forward to it.

"Obviously these guys [Edinburgh University] are going to be favourites. They're three divisions higher than us, that's the facts, but we have good young players. We're not just a bunch of old guys who'll stick it up the jumper and try and bully the students up front.

"We know how we want to play, we've got a game plan and are confident we can cause an upset."

The Plate final will see the return of current holders Aberdeen University who made the long trip south to Volunteer Park to come away with a fine 24-19 win over Hawick Linden. They will face Duns to who eased past Dunbar 66-3 at their home ground Hardens Field (kick-off 10.30am).

Dom Dunnet, Aberdeen University captain and back-row forward, said: "It's always a tremendous occasion coming to Murrayfield, particularly for a student team run entirely by students.

"We've always had issues with boys having other commitments at the weekends and so on but it's great to be back here and we'll obviously be looking to lift the Plate once more.

"We've got a young, quick, fast team. We'll be looking to use the ball, use our width and get some quick ball going. That seems to be our strength and the way we play rugby. We like to play exciting rugby, we like to move the ball around and we'll be looking to do that on Sunday."

Jamie Renton, Duns' captain, said: "I was here ten years ago as a substitute when we won the bowl final and to come back as captain is an outstanding feeling for me.

"We've got a good young set of backs who know how to throw a ball about. They're very quick. We've got a couple of good wingers who can do the business and our centres are outstanding tacklers and aggressive runners."

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Aberdeen University RFC15. Tom Rattray14. Redha Guedroudj

13. Michael Hunter

12. Paddy Traylor

11. Bret Martin10. Euan Kelly

9. David Reekie1. Alexander Purdie

2. Greig Ramsay

3. Finlay Hay

4 James Fearon

5. Fraser Galbraith

6. William Yates

7. Dom Dunnett (Captain)

8. Murray WyllieSubstitutes

16. Andrew Light

17. Jack Chillas

18. Andrew Massie

19. Alex Jackson

20. Chris Hunter

21 Murray Robertson

22 Kyle Bayliss Duns RFC Duns RFC15. Dale Robertson14. Kevin Aitchison

13. Danny Lamb

12. Scott Lindsay
 11. David Hutchison10. Ged Lamb
 9. Marco Crolla1. Allen Whellans
 2. Cameron Hill
 3. Chris Archer
 4. Jacobus Van Wyk
 5. James Thorburn
 6. Chris Blaikie
 7. Jamie Renton
 8. Falaniko PelasioSubstitutes
 16. James Murphy
 17. Keith Davidson
 18. Richard Darling
 19. Richard Burns
 20. Max Nimmo
 21. Barry Hamilton
 22. Euan Reed Aberdeenshire RFC15. Michael MacLugash14. Steve Penny
 13. James Broadribb
 12. Alex Moore
 11. Robbie Anderson10. Stefan Cole
 9. Gary Leith1. Andrew Sutherland
 2. Shaun Mountain
 3. Steven Cook
 4. John Mason
 5. Rory Chalmers
 6. Craig Livingston (Captain)
 7. Josh Selby
 8. Andrew CookSubstitutes
 16. Matthew Christie
 17. James Baxendale
 18. Malcolm White
 19. Russel Hempsey
 20. Tim Condon
 21. Duncan Coull
 22. Mike Roulston Edinburgh University RFC15. Matt Bennet14. Rick Wright
 13. James McTurk
 12. Tom Clarke
 11. Michael Johnson10. Ian McGhee
 9. Jean-Paul Stichbury1 Jonny Crombie
 2 Adam Howie
 3 Chris Corry
 4 Henry White
 5 Phil Lucas
 6 Peter Service
 7 Jacob Kenney
 8. Jamie Clegg (capt)Substitutes
 16. Mathew Payne
 17. Greg Douglas
 18. Michael MacDonald
 19. Stephen Knox
 20. Jamie Doubleday
 21. Ben Lyons
 22. John Geddie Glasgow Hawks RFC15. Craig Gossman14. Jono Wright
 13. Robbie Hair
 12. Gavin McDonald
 11. Sean Murray10. Ian Noble (CAPTAIN)
 9. Peter Jericevich1. Gary Strain
 2. John MacLay
 3. Gavin Mories
 4. Nick Campbell
 5. Allan Kelly
 6. Mat Whittleston
 7. Graham Harkness
 8. Grant StrangSubstitutes
 16 Joe Stafford

17 Nico Nyemba
 18 Tom McGarrity
 19 Greg Francis
 20 Paddy Boyer
 21 Mike Rainey
 22 Stuart Low Peebles RFC15. Donald Anderson14. David Anderson
 13. Alan Smellie
 12. Craig Borthwick
 11. Neil Hogarth10. Dan Boughtwood
 9. Drew Moore1. Willie Aitken (capt)
 2. Ryan Mcconnell
 3. Neil Clark
 4. David Harvey
 5. Raymond Jocelyn
 6. James Oakes
 7. Donald Sangster
 8. David PatonSubstitutes
 16. Trevor Keen
 17. Adam Clark
 18. Sandy Smellie
 19. Ian Rodger
 20. Euan Jackson
 21. Neil Warnock
 22. Craig Hunter Heriot's RC15. Jonathan Alston14. Graham Thomson
 13. David McCall
 12. Richard Mill
 11. Colin Goudie10. Oliver J Brown
 9. Graham Wilson1. Alan Dymock
 2. Finlay Gillies
 3. Wullie Blacklock
 4 Tammias McVie
 5 Matthew Reid
 6. Struan Dewar
 7. Chris Fusaro
 8. Jamie SymeSubstitutes
 16. Stewart Mustard
 17. Malcolm Welch
 18. Jamie Parker
 19. Sandy McCutcheon
 20 Brian Walls
 21 Greig Rutherford
 22 Andrew Douglas Melrose RFC15. Jordan Macey14. Callum Anderson
 13. James Lew
 12. James King
 11 Chris Hardie10. Scott Wight (Captain)
 9. Scott McCormick1. Stan Williams
 2. Wayne Mitchell
 3. Richard Higgins
 4. Graeme Dodds
 5. Stuart Johnson
 6. William Wallace
 7. John Dalziel
 8. Ross MillerSubstitutes
 16. Lindsey Gibson
 17. Nick Beavon
 18. Andrew Gillie
 19. Ross Ovens
 20. Douglas Dodds
 21. Alec Jessop
 22. Jamie Murray

Match day information:

Admission: Adults £10; Concessions (OAP, Student and U18) £5

Turnstiles open: 9:30am

Car parking is free and is on a first come first served basis