



Wednesday, 6 October 2010

SARU Media Release

Absa Currie Cup Preview – Week 14

Personal records for Willem de Waal and Bjorn Basson, as well as semi-final hosting rights are at stake when the 2010 Absa Currie Cup enters one of its most exciting final rounds of league competition.

Three sides are set to battle it out for home ground advantage in the semi-finals. The Sharks will host one of the two playoff games, while Vodacom Western Province, the Vodacom Free State Cheetahs or the Vodacom Blue Bulls are in line to host the other playoff game next weekend.

The Cape side are currently on 44 log points while the other contenders – Vodacom Free State Cheetahs (42) and the Vodacom Blue Bulls (42) – are all still in the hunt of hosting a final-four game.

All Province need to do is defeat The Sharks at Newlands on Saturday (17h05) to secure a home semi-final. If Vodacom WP lose and fail to gain any bonus points, they will still qualify for the semis, but could find themselves languishing in fourth position on Saturday evening and will then have to travel to Durban to play The Sharks in the semis.

In that case the Vodacom Free State Cheetahs, who take on the Platinum Leopards at the Royal Bafokeng Stadium in Phokeng on Friday (19h00), or the Vodacom Blue Bulls who are in Kimberley on Saturday for their game against the GWK Griquas (15h00), will end in second position and thus host a semi-final.

The Bloemfontein side however have the inside lane on the defending champions from Pretoria, due to their superior points' differential. Naka Drotske's side currently have a points' difference of 94 while the Vodacom Blue Bulls are on 51.

The Xerox Lions could mathematically still finish in fourth position on the log and thus make the semi-finals. They will however have to hope that the Platinum Leopards upset the Vodacom Free State Cheetahs or the GWK Griquas defeat the Vodacom Blue Bulls in Kimberley.

Meanwhile Vodacom WP flyhalf Willem de Waal could re-write the Absa Currie Cup record books on Saturday and become the second leading points' scorer in the history of the competition.

De Waal is only six points away from equalling former Northern Free State and Free State Cheetahs flyhalf Eric Herbert's tally of 1402 points. He is currently the leading points' scorer (183) in the 2010 competition and has accumulated 1396 points during his career. Former Northern Transvaal pivot Naas Botha (1699) is the leading points' scorer in the history of the Absa Currie Cup.

GWK Griquas winger Bjorn Basson will also have the chance of setting a new Absa Currie Cup try-scoring record in Kimberley when his side hosts the Vodacom Blue Bulls on Saturday.

Basson who was named the Absa Currie Cup Player of the Month for September has scored 19 tries this season and equalled the try-scoring record (19) which is held by former Western Province wing Carel du Plessis and former Leopards wing Colin Lloyd.

In Potchefstroom, Vodacom Free State Cheetahs flanker Hendro Scholtz will earn his 100th Absa Currie Cup cap for the Bloemfontein side when they take on the Platinum Leopards on Friday. The veteran loose forward has also represented the Springboks in five Tests.

Absa Currie Cup – The Semi-final contenders:



THE SHARKS **The Sharks**, who are currently in first position on the Absa Currie Cup log with 52 points, have already confirmed their status as one of the two sides that will host a semi-final this year, irrespective of the result at Newlands on Saturday.

Currently: In first position (52)

Best possible finish: First

Worst possible finish: First



W.P. RUGBY
Vodacom **Vodacom Western Province** have their Absa Currie Cup home semi-final aspirations in their own hands. All they need to do in order to book a final-four clash at Newlands will be to defeat The Sharks on Saturday. Defeat at Newlands for the hosts on Saturday though could see them relegated to third or even fourth position on the log which will result in Vodacom WP having to play an away semi-final.

Currently: In second place (44)

Best possible finish: Second

Worst possible finish: Fourth



The **Vodacom Free State Cheetahs** are still contenders to host an Absa Currie Cup semi-final. They must achieve maximum points from their clash against the Platinum Leopards and hope that The Sharks defeat Vodacom Western Province at Newlands. If the Bloemfontein side fail to achieve any log points from their game against the Platinum Leopards, they could mathematically fall out of the top four and be overtaken by the Xerox Lions on points difference.

Currently: In third position (42)

Best possible finish: Second

Worst possible finish: Fifth



The defending champions, like the Vodacom Free State Cheetahs, are still contenders to host an Absa Currie Cup semi-final. The **Vodacom Blue Bulls** must achieve maximum points from their clash in Kimberley against the GWK Griquas on Saturday and hope that Vodacom Western Province and the Vodacom Free State Cheetahs lose this weekend. The Pretoria side could mathematically still fall out of the top four on point difference if they fail to gain any log points against the GWK Griquas and the Xerox Lions recorded a huge victory over the Barloworld Toyota Pumas.

Currently: In fourth position (42)

Best possible finish: Second
Worst possible finish: Fifth



The **Xerox Lions**, who are currently in fifth position on the Absa Currie Cup log, must defeat the Barloworld Toyota Pumas on Friday and hope that the Vodacom Blue Bulls or the Vodacom Free State Cheetahs fail to achieve any log points from their games this weekend for them to sneak in to the top four. The Johannesburg side will also have to secure a huge victory at Coca-Cola Park to improve their points' difference in order to overtake the Vodacom Blue Bulls or the Vodacom Free State Cheetahs.

Currently: In fifth position (38)

Best possible finish: Third

Worst possible finish: Fifth

Absa Currie Cup Premier Division Previews – Week 13:

Vodacom Western Province v The Sharks



Newlands Stadium, Cape Town

Saturday 9 October 2010. Kickoff: 17h05

Referee: Mark Lawrence (SARRA)

Assistant referees: B Crouse (AR1), M van Zyl (AR2)

TMO: S Veldsman

Head to Head – Vodacom Western Province v The Sharks (since 2005):

P: 11 W: 5 L: 6 PF: 262 PA: 246

10/09/2005	WP 47	Sharks 19	Newlands, Cape Town
01/10/2005	WP 45	Sharks 21	The Absa Stadium, Durban
01/07/2006	WP 25	Sharks 28	Newlands, Cape Town
25/08/2006	WP 6	Sharks 16	The Absa Stadium, Durban
06/07/2007	WP 16	Sharks 32	The Absa Stadium, Durban
08/09/2007	WP 22	Sharks 19	Newlands, Cape Town
20/06/2008	WP 25	Sharks 28	The Absa Stadium, Durban
08/08/2008	WP 10	Sharks 32	Newlands, Cape Town
11/07/2009	WP 29	Sharks 15	Newlands, Cape Town
29/08/2009	WP 21	Sharks 9	The Absa Stadium, Durban
21/08/2010	WP 16	Sharks 27	The Absa Stadium, Durban

Vodacom Western Province's recent form at home:

- The hosts suffered their first home defeat of the 2010 season in week eight after the Vodacom Free State Cheetahs recorded a 29-24 victory at Newlands.
- Vodacom WP secured home victories over the GWK Griquas (48-32), Platinum Leopards (59-17), Vodacom Blue Bulls (15-12), Xerox Lions (32-0) and the Barloworld Toyota Pumas (54-13).
- Province conceded one home defeat (a 21-19 semi-final loss to the Vodacom Blue Bulls) during last year's Absa Currie Cup.

The Sharks' recent form on the road:

- The Durban side conceded three away defeats – against the Xerox Lions (22-20), Vodacom Blue Bulls (40-34) in week nine, and also suffered a 40-34 loss to the GWK Griquas in the opening weekend of the 2010 Absa Currie Cup.
- The Sharks though secured victories on the road against the Vodacom Free State Cheetahs (25-13) and Platinum Leopards (51-6) in the 2010 Absa Currie Cup.
- The Sharks suffered one defeat on the road during the 2009 Absa Currie Cup against Vodacom Western Province. They were also the only team to defeat the Vodacom Blue Bulls at Loftus Versfeld during last year's competition.

Additional game information:

- Vodacom WP flyhalf Willem de Waal is currently the leading points' scorer this season – 183. De Waal has accumulated 1374 points in his Absa Currie Cup career – 259 points for the Platinum Leopards, 811 for the Vodacom Free State Cheetahs and 326 for WP since joining them in 2008.
- The Vodacom WP pivot has twice scored 212 points in a season, back in 2006 and 2007 for the Vodacom Free State Cheetahs.
- The Sharks flyhalf Patrick Lambie is currently the fourth leading points' scorer in the 2010 Absa Currie Cup – 163.
- Vodacom Western Province winger Gio Aplon, who made his Springbok debut this year, represented the SA Sevens during 2007 – 2009. He is currently the fourth leading try-scorer in the 2010 Absa Currie Cup with seven tries.
- The Sharks winger Lwazi Mvovo is currently the second leading try-scorer in the 2010 Absa Currie Cup – 12. He is seven tries behind GWK Griquas winger Bjorn Basson.
- Vodacom WP scrumhalf Dewaldt Duvenage and GWK Griquas' Johan van Deventer represented the SA Under-20s during the 2008 IRB Junior World Championship in Wales.
- The Sharks lock Alistair Hargreaves made his Springbok debut in Cardiff earlier this year. He also represented the SA Schools in 2004.
- The Sharks No 8 Ryan Kankowski has played in 15 Tests for the Springboks. He also represented the SA Emerging Boks in 2007.

- Referee Mark Lawrence will handle the game between the Vodacom Western Province and The Sharks.

Platinum Leopards v Vodacom Free State Cheetahs



Royal Bafokeng Stadium, Phokeng

Friday 8 October 2010. Kickoff: 19h00

Referee: Marius Jonker (SARRA)

Assistant referees: A Sehlako (AR1), C du Preez (AR2)

TMO: N/A

Head to Head – Platinum Leopards v Vodacom Free State Cheetahs (since 2005):

P: 4 W: 0 L: 4 PF: 34 PA: 242

02/07/2005	Leopards 0	Free State 54	Vodacom Park, Bloemfontein
14/08/2009	Leopards 17	Free State 71	Olen Park, Potchefstroom
02/10/2009	Leopards 17	Free State 60	Vodacom Park, Bloemfontein
20/08/2010	Leopards 0	Free State 57	Vodacom Park, Bloemfontein

Platinum Leopards' recent form at home:

- The hosts have already suffered six home defeats – against the Vodacom Blue Bulls (35-26), Vodacom Free State Cheetahs (45-30), Vodacom Western Province (42-23), GWK Griquas (41-27), Barloworld Toyota Pumas (27-26) and the Xerox Lions (43-13) in this season's competition.
- The Platinum Leopards won only one home game during last year's Absa Currie Cup Premier Division, a 50-16 victory over the Boland Cavaliers.

Vodacom Free State Cheetahs' recent form on the road:

- The Vodacom Free State Cheetahs recorded a 25-23 victory over the Vodacom Blue Bulls at Loftus Versfeld in week three and a 45-30 win over the Barloworld Toyota Pumas during week five's action in this year's competition. They however conceded a 30-26 defeat against the Xerox Lions in week six and a 30-16 loss against The Sharks of the 2010 Absa Currie Cup.
- The visitors won four games on the road during last year's Absa Currie Cup including their semi-final win over The Sharks in Durban.

Additional game information:

- Vodacom Free State Cheetahs flyhalf Louis Strydom is the fifth leading points' scorers in the Absa Currie Cup (2010) – 134.

- Winger Jongi Nokwe has scored 47 Absa Currie Cup tries in his career. (Vodacom Free State Cheetahs – 24, Boland Cavaliers – 23).
- Vodacom Free State Cheetahs flanker Hendro Scholtz could earn his 100th Absa Currie Cup cap for the Bloemfontein side on Saturday.
- The Platinum Leopards have conceded the most points in the 2010 Absa Currie Cup – 576; and have also conceded the most tries – 73.
- Vodacom Free State Cheetahs centre Robert Ebersohn captained the SA Under-20s during the 2009 IRB Junior World Championships.
- The Platinum Leopards scrumhalf Michael Bondesio is the seventh leading try-scorer in this season's competition – six.
- Vodacom Free State Cheetahs prop Coenie Oosthuizen competed in the 2009 IRB Junior World Championships for the Baby Boks.
- The Platinum Leopards' Cecil Dumond is the brother of Monty Dumond currently competing in the Absa Currie Cup First Division for the EP Kings.
- Referee Marius Jonker will handle the game between the Vodacom Free State Cheetahs and the Platinum Leopards.

GWK Griquas v Vodacom Blue Bulls



GWK Park, Kimberley

Saturday 9 October 2010. Kickoff: 15h00

Referee: Jonathan Kaplan (SARRA)

Assistant referees: P Legoete (AR1), D Haasbroek (AR2)

TMO: Gerrie Coetzee

Head to Head – GWK Griquas v Vodacom Blue Bulls (since 2005):

P: 11 W: 1 L: 10 PF: 224 PA: 495

10/09/2005	Griquas 30	Blue Bulls 49	Absa Park, Kimberley
30/09/2005	Griquas 00	Blue Bulls 59	Loftus Versfeld, Pretoria
29/07/2006	Griquas 20	Blue Bulls 39	Loftus Versfeld, Pretoria
23/09/2006	Griquas 22	Blue Bulls 60	Absa Park, Kimberley
30/06/2007	Griquas 26	Blue Bulls 18	Absa Park, Kimberley
01/09/2007	Griquas 3	Blue Bulls 46	Loftus Versfeld, Pretoria
15/08/2008	Griquas 12	Blue Bulls 41	Loftus Versfeld, Pretoria

26/09/2008	Griquas 22	Blue Bulls 58	Absa Park, Kimberley
15/08/2009	Griquas 24	Blue Bulls 25	GWK Park, Kimberley
03/10/2009	Griquas 27	Blue Bulls 61	Loftus Versfeld, Pretoria
20/08/2010	Griquas 38	Blue Bulls 39	Loftus Versfeld, Pretoria

GWK Griquas' recent form at home:

- The hosts conceded two defeats at home – against the Vodacom Free State Cheetahs (33-28) and Vodacom Western Province (50-3) in the 2010 Absa Currie Cup. They have however recorded home victories over The Sharks (40-34) in week one, Xerox Lions (26-20) in week three, Barloworld Toyota Pumas (58-25) in week six and the Platinum Leopards (29-20) in week 11 in this year's competition.
- The GWK Griquas had a mixed season in terms of results in Kimberley during last year's competition. They recorded four wins and three defeats at GWK Park including victories over semi-finalists Vodacom Western Province and runners up Vodacom Free State Cheetahs.
- The Kimberley side suffered home defeats against the Xerox Lions and the Vodacom Blue Bulls last year.

Vodacom Blue Bulls' recent form on the road:

- The defending champions secured away victories over the Xerox Lions (32-18) in Johannesburg and Platinum Leopards (39-26) in Potchefstroom, but conceded four defeats on the road against the Barloworld Toyota Pumas (22-21), Vodacom Western Province (15-12), Vodacom Free State Cheetahs (20-14) and The Sharks (34-28) in this season's Absa Currie Cup.
- The Vodacom Blue Bulls conceded four defeats on the road during last year's competition against Vodacom Western Province, Vodacom Free State Cheetahs, The Sharks and the Xerox Lions. The visitors though defeated WP in their 2009 Absa Currie Cup semi-final clash at Newlands.

Additional game information:

- The Vodacom Blue Bulls flyhalf Jacques-Louis Potgieter is currently the second leading points' scorer in this season's competition – 171.
- GWK Griquas winger Bjorn Basson is the leading try-scorer in the 2010 Absa Currie Cup with 19 tries and is seven tries clear of the second-placed The Sharks winger Lwazi Mvovo.
- Basson equalled the Absa Currie Cup try-scoring record of 19 held by former Western Province winger Carel du Plessis (1989) and the Platinum Leopards' Colin Lloyd (2006).
- Prop Jaco Engels has played a combined total of 95 Absa Currie Cup games for the Vodacom Blue Bulls, Boland Cavaliers and the Platinum Leopards.
- GWK Griquas flyhalf Naas Olivier is currently the fourth leading points' scorer in the 2010 Absa Currie Cup – 169.

- Vodacom Blue Bulls loose forward CJ Stander captained the SA U20s during this year's IRB Junior World Championship in Argentina and was a member of the Baby Boks' squad of 2009 in Japan. He also captained the SA Schools team in 2008.
- The Vodacom Blue Bulls flanker Deon Stegmann (2004) and centre Stefan Watermeyer (2005, 2006) both represented the SA Schools.
- Vodacom Blue Bulls flanker Dewald Potgieter captained the SA Schools team in 2005.
- Utility loose-forward Derick Kuün (Vodacom Blue Bulls) represented the SA Schools in 2002 and the SA Sevens in 2005.
- Vodacom Blue Bulls flyhalf Francois Brummer and winger Gerhard van den Heever both competed at the 2009 IRB Junior World Championship in Japan for the SA Under-20s. Stephen Dippenaar represented the Baby Boks at the 2008 tournament.
- Referee Jonathan Kaplan will handle this game between the Vodacom Blue Bulls and the GWK Griquas in Kimberley.

Xerox Lions v Barloworld Toyota Pumas



Coca-Cola Park, Johannesburg

Friday 8 October 2010. Kickoff: 19h10

Referee: Lourens van der Merwe (SARRA)

Assistant referees: M Kemp (AR1), M de Villiers (AR2)

TMO: Johan Meuwesen

Head to Head - Xerox Lions v Barloworld Toyota Pumas (since 2005):

P: 3 W: 0 L: 3 PF: 196 PA: 55

05/08/2006	Lions 74	Pumas 15	Ellis Park, Johannesburg
29/09/2006	Lions 89	Pumas 10	Puma Stadium, Witbank
20/08/2010	Lions 33	Pumas 30	Puma Stadium, Witbank

Xerox Lions' recent form at home:

- The hosts secured home victories against The Sharks (22-20), GWK Griquas (40-29), Vodacom Western Province (46-28), Vodacom Free State Cheetahs (30-26) and the Platinum Leopards (45-22) at Coca-Cola Park.
- The Xerox Lions though suffered a 32-18 defeat against the Vodacom Blue Bulls in their other home game of the 2010 Absa Currie Cup season.

- The Johannesburg side conceded two defeats at Coca-Cola Park during last year's competition against The Sharks (30-19) and the GWK Griquas (23-19).

Barloworld Toyota Pumas' recent form on the road:

- The visitors have already conceded defeats on the road during the 2010 Absa Currie Cup against the Vodacom Free State Cheetahs (59-24), Vodacom Western Province (54-13), Vodacom Blue Bulls (38-15), GWK Griquas (58-25) and The Sharks (27-17).
- The Barloworld Toyota Pumas though defeated the Platinum Leopards (27-26) in their only away win during this season's competition.

Additional game information:

- Former SA Under-20 flyhalf Elton Jantjies has scored 134 points during the 2010 Absa Currie Cup season. He scored the most points in an Absa Currie Cup Premier Division match this year when he added 31 points during his side's 46-38 victory over Vodacom Western Province in Johannesburg.
- The Xerox Lions hooker Edgar Marutlulle earned his SA Schools colours in 2005 competed for the SA U19s in 2006 and played for the SA Students in 2008 and 2009.
- The Barloworld Toyota Pumas winger Allister Kettledas scored 18 tries during the 2009 Absa Currie Cup First Division.
- Xerox Lions scrumhalf JP Joubert is the first SA player to play for seven provinces – Griffons, SWD Eagles, Boland Cavaliers, GWK Griquas, Vodacom Blue Bulls and the Golden Lions.
- The Barloworld Toyota Pumas' Hannes Franklin and Jacques Coetzee represented the Auto & General Lions during the 2010 Vodacom Super 14.
- Xerox Lions centre Waylon Murray represented the Springboks in three Tests.
- Barloworld Toyota Pumas utility back Shaun Venter represented the SA Sevens during the 2009 IRB Sevens World Series.
- Referee Lourens van der Merwe will handle the game between the Xerox Lions and the Barloworld Toyota Pumas.



Absa Currie Cup Premier Division log:

	P	W	D	L	PF	PA	PD	B	Pts
<i>The Sharks</i>	13	10	0	3	471	267	204	12	52
<i>Vodacom Western Province</i>	13	9	0	4	487	259	228	8	44
<i>Vodacom Free State Cheetahs</i>	13	9	0	4	410	316	94	6	42
<i>Vodacom Blue Bulls</i>	13	8	0	5	389	338	51	10	42
Xerox Lions	13	7	0	6	374	373	1	9	37

GWK Griquas	13	6	0	7	441	448	-7	12	36
Barloworld Toyota Pumas	13	3	0	10	295	546	-251	6	18
Platinum Leopards	13	0	0	13	256	576	-320	5	5

Leading Absa Currie Cup Premier Division Scorers:

		T	C	P	D	Pts
Willem de Waal	Vodacom Western Province	0	30	41	0	183
Jacques-Louis Potgieter	Vodacom Blue Bulls	1	29	36	0	171
Naas Olivier	GWK Griquas	3	38	25	1	169
Patrick Lambie	Sharks	3	29	30	0	163
Elton Jantjies	Xerox Lions	2	23	26	0	134
Louis Strydom	Vodacom Free State Cheetahs	0	25	28	0	134
Bjorn Basson	GWK Griquas	19	0	0	0	95
Elgar Watts	Barloworld Toyota Pumas	9	13	8	0	95
Clayton Durand	Platinum Leopards	0	15	15	0	75
Lwazi Mvovo	The Sharks	12	0	0	0	60

Leading Absa Currie Cup Premier Division Try-scorers:

Bjorn Basson	GWK Griquas	19
Lwazi Mvovo	Sharks	12
Gio Aplon	Vodacom Western Province	7
Keegan Daniel	The Sharks	7
Odwa Ndungane	The Sharks	7
Michael Bondesio	Platinum Leopards	6
JJ Engelbrecht	Vodacom Western Province	6
Ashley Johnson	Vodacom Free State Cheetahs	6
Shaun Venter	Barloworld Toyota Pumas	6
Stefan Watermeyer	Vodacom Blue Bulls	6



Absa Under-21 Championship log:

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Blue Bulls	12	9	3	0	48
The Sharks	11	9	2	0	46
Western Province	11	10	1	0	46
Free State	11	6	5	0	35
Platinum Leopards	11	3	8	0	20
Lions	12	3	9	0	18
Boland Cavaliers	12	0	12	0	1

Absa Under-21 Championship fixtures:

Friday 8 October 2010 Platinum Leopards v Free State (17h05) Phokeng

Saturday 9 October 2010

Vodacom WP v The Sharks (14h45)

Newlands



Absa Under-19 Championship log:

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Western Province	11	10	1	0	48
Blue Bulls	12	9	3	0	46
The Sharks	11	7	4	0	37
Platinum Leopards	11	6	5	0	31
Lions	11	4	7	0	21
Free State	11	3	8	0	17
Griffons	11	0	11	0	4

Absa Under-19 Championship fixtures:

Friday 8 October 2010

Platinum Leopards v Free State (15h00)

Phokeng

Saturday 9 October 2010

Vodacom WP v The Sharks (11h15)

Newlands

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