



Wednesday, September 22, 2010

SARU Media Release

Absa Currie Cup Preview – Week 12

The Xerox Lions will have to continue their recent form at Coca-Cola Park and defeat The Sharks on Saturday (17h05) when these sides meet up in this crucial Absa Currie Cup week 12 clash in Johannesburg.

The hosts have enjoyed a successful four-match winning streak at home during the last few weeks in this season's competition. Their last defeat in Johannesburg was back in week four when the Vodacom Blue Bulls recorded a 32-18 victory at Coca-Cola Park.

However since then, the Xerox Lions clawed their way back into semi-final contention following a string of home results against the Vodacom Western Province (46-28), Vodacom Free State Cheetahs (30-26), GWK Griquas (40-49) and the Platinum Leopards (45-22).

The Johannesburg side are currently in fifth position on Absa Currie Cup log with 31 log points. This match against the log-leading The Sharks is their second last home game of the season. They travel to Bloemfontein next weekend for their Friday evening clash against the Vodacom Free State Cheetahs who are also in the hunt to qualify for next month's playoffs.

The Xerox hosts the Barloworld Toyota Pumas in their final league fixture of the season.

The Vodacom Free State Cheetahs are at home this weekend and will be aiming to secure maximum points from their clash against the Barloworld Toyota Pumas at Vodacom Park on Friday at 19h00.

The Bloemfontein side (32) are currently one point clear of the Xerox Lions on the Absa Currie Cup Premier Division log. They are however also one point behind the third-placed Vodacom Blue Bulls who are on the road this weekend.

The defending champions like the Free State side will also be intending to maximise their opportunity to achieve crucial log points when they take on the bottom of the log Platinum Leopards in Potchefstroom on Saturday at 15h00.

The Platinum Leopards has conceded the most points in the 2010 Absa Currie Cup – 474; and have also conceded the most tries – 67.

Meanwhile The Sharks could cement their right to host an Absa Currie Cup semi-final while Vodacom Western Province could go one step closer to book themselves a home playoff match if both these sides secure victories in the 2010 competition this weekend.

Vodacom Western Province host the GWK Griquas, who are also still in contention to compete for a final-four spot, at Newlands in Cape Town on Friday at 19h10.

The Sharks and Vodacom WP have been the best attacking sides in the 2010 Absa Currie Cup. Both these sides have scored 47 tries. The Cape outfit has accumulated 407 points from their 11 games this season while the log-leaders have notched up 388 from the same number of games.

Province though will have to defeat either the Vodacom Blue Bulls (Pretoria) or The Sharks (Newlands) to claim that vital home semi-final game. The defending champions, pending on Vodacom WP results could easily still host a semi-final if they secure a hat-trick of victories against the Platinum Leopards, Vodacom Western Province and the GWK Griquas.

Full Absa Currie Cup Premier Division Previews – Week 12:

Xerox Lions v The Sharks



Coca-Cola Park, Johannesburg

Saturday 25 September 2010. Kickoff: 17h05

Referee: Jason Jaftha (SARRA)

Assistant referees: L Jam (AR1), C du Preez (AR2)

TMO: S Veldsman

Head to Head: Xerox Lions v The Sharks (since 2005)

P: 12 W: 3 L: 9 PF: 196 PA: 292

16/07/2005	Lions 16	Sharks 22	The Absa Stadium, Durban
23/06/2006	Lions 22	Sharks 33	The Absa Stadium, Durban
19/08/2006	Lions 22	Sharks 21	Ellis Park, Johannesburg
30/06/2007	Lions 14	Sharks 7	Ellis Park, Johannesburg
01/09/2007	Lions 3	Sharks 21	The Absa Stadium, Durban
13/10/2007	Lions 19	Sharks 12	The Absa Stadium, Durban
26/07/2008	Lions 11	Sharks 16	The Absa Stadium, Durban
27/09/2008	Lions 20	Sharks 34	Coca-Cola Park, Johannesburg
11/10/2008	Lions 14	Sharks 29	The Absa Stadium, Durban
15/08/2009	Lions 19	Sharks 30	Coca-Cola Park, Johannesburg
03/10/2009	Lions 17	Sharks 19	The Absa Stadium, Durban
07/08/2010	Lions 19	Sharks 48	The Absa Stadium, Durban

Xerox Lions' recent form at home:

- The hosts secured home victories against the 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).

The Sharks' recent form on the road:

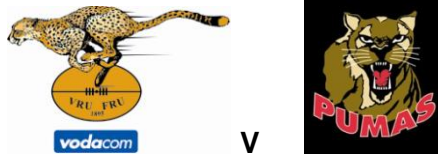
- The Durban side conceded two away defeats - against the Vodacom Blue Bulls (40-34) in week nine, and also suffered a 40-34 loss to the GWK Griquas in the opening weekend of the 2010 Absa Currie Cup.
- The Sharks though secured victories on the road against the Vodacom Free State Cheetahs (25-13) and 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 information:

- The Sharks recorded a 48-19 victory over the Xerox Lions during week five of the 2010 Absa Currie Cup.
- The Sharks flyhalf Patrick Lambie is currently the leading points' scorer in the Absa Currie Cup this season – 152.
- The Xerox Lions flyhalf Elton Jantjies is currently the sixth leading points' scorer in the 2010 Absa Currie Cup – 110.
- The Sharks lock Alistair Hargreaves made his Springbok debut in Cardiff earlier this year. He also represented the SA Schools in 2004.
- The Xerox Lions fullback Jaco Taute along with Jantjies and Lambie represented the Baby Boks at this year's IRB Junior World Championship in Argentina.
- The Sharks winger Lwazi Mvovo is currently the second leading try-scorer in the 2010 Absa Currie Cup – nine. He is five tries behind GWK Griquas winger Bjorn Basson.
- 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 Sharks No 8 Ryan Kankowski has played in 15 Tests for the Springboks. He also represented the SA Emerging Boks in 2007.
- 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.

- Referee Jason Jaftha will handle this game between the Xerox Lions and The Sharks in Johannesburg.

Vodacom Free State Cheetahs v Barloworld Toyota Pumas



Vodacom Park, Bloemfontein

Friday 24 September 2010. Kickoff: 19h00

Referee: **Joey Salmans (SARRA)**

Assistant referees: **A Sehlako (AR1), F Yamile (AR2)**

TMO: **N/A**

Head to Head: Vodacom Free State Cheetahs v Barloworld Toyota Pumas (since 2005)

P: 4 W: 4 L: 0 PF: 205 PA: 72

15/07/2005	Free State 50	Pumas 3	Vodacom Park, Bloemfontein
22/07/2006	Free State 42	Pumas 27	Vodacom Park, Bloemfontein
15/09/2006	Free State 68	Pumas 12	Puma Stadium, Witbank
07/08/2010	Free State 45	Pumas 30	Puma Stadium, Witbank

Vodacom Free State Cheetahs' recent form at home:

- The hosts secured three home victories against the Vodacom Blue Bulls (20-14), GWK Griquas (33-26) and the Platinum Leopards (57-0), but have also conceded two home defeats against The Sharks (25-13) and Vodacom Western Province (25-11) in this season's competition.
- The Vodacom Free State Cheetahs suffered two home defeats during last year's competition against the GWK Griquas and The Sharks.

Barloworld Toyota Pumas' recent form on the road:

- The visitors have already conceded three defeats on the road during the 2010 Absa Currie Cup against the Vodacom Western Province (54-13), Vodacom Blue Bulls (38-15) 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 information:

- The Vodacom Free State Cheetahs recorded a 45-30 victory over the Barloworld Toyota Pumas when these sides last met during week five of this season's competition.

- Vodacom Free State Cheetahs Louis Strydom has played in 110 Absa Currie Cup games and has scored 822 points in his career. He is also the fifth leading points' scorer (114) in the 2010 Absa Currie Cup Premier Division.
- Barloworld Toyota Pumas flyhalf Elgar Watts (8) is currently the third leading try-scorer in the 2010 Absa Currie Cup.
- Winger Jongi Nokwe has scored 47 Absa Currie Cup tries in his career. (Vodacom Free State Cheetahs – 24, Boland Cavaliers – 23).
- Loose-forward Kabamba Floors will be playing in his 100th Absa Currie Cup game on Saturday. (Vodacom Free State Cheetahs – 75, SWD Eagles – 24).
- The Barloworld Toyota Pumas winger Allister Kettledas scored 18 tries during the 2009 Absa Currie Cup First Division.
- Vodacom Free State Cheetahs flanker Hendro Scholtz could earn his 98th Absa Currie Cup cap for the Bloemfontein side on Saturday.
- The Barloworld Toyota Pumas' Hannes Franklin and Jacques Coetzee represented the Auto & General Lions during the 2010 Vodacom Super 14.
- Vodacom Free State Cheetahs centre Robert Ebersohn captained the SA Under-20s during the 2009 IRB Junior World Championships.
- Barloworld Toyota Pumas utility back Shaun Venter represented the SA Sevens during the 2009 IRB Sevens World Series.
- Vodacom Free State Cheetahs prop Coenie Oosthuizen competed in the 2009 IRB Junior World Championships for the Baby Boks.
- Referee Joey Salmans will handle the game between the Vodacom Free State Cheetahs and the Barloworld Toyota Pumas.

Platinum Leopards v Vodacom Blue Bulls



Profert Olien Park, Potchefstroom

Saturday 25 September 2010. Kickoff: 15h00

Referee: **Nathan Pierce (SARRA)**

Assistant referees: **F Groenewald (AR1), S Breytenbach (AR2)**

TMO: **G Coetzee**

Head to Head: Platinum Leopards v Vodacom Blue Bulls (since 2005)

P: 5 W: 0 L: 5 PF: 107 PA: 278

02/09/2005	Leopards 24	Blue Bulls 69	Loftus Versfeld, Pretoria
07/10/2005	Leopards 10	Blue Bulls 61	Royal Bafokeng Stadium, Phokeng
21/08/2009	Leopards 11	Blue Bulls 44	Loftus Versfeld, Pretoria
09/10/2009	Leopards 24	Blue Bulls 61	Royal Bafokeng Stadium, Phokeng
06/08/2010	Leopards 38	Blue Bulls 43	Loftus Versfeld, Pretoria

Platinum Leopards' recent form at home:

- The hosts have already suffered four home defeats – against 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 Blue Bulls' recent form on the road:

- The defending champions secured one away victory over the Xerox Lions (32-18) in Johannesburg 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 information:

- The Vodacom Blue Bulls secured a 43-38 victory over the Platinum Leopards at Loftus Versfeld when these side's last meet during week five in the 2010 Absa Currie Cup.
- The Platinum Leopards has conceded the most points in the 2010 Absa Currie Cup – 474; and have also conceded the most tries – 67.
- The Vodacom Blue Bulls flyhalf Jacques-Louis Potgieter is currently the fourth leading points' scorer in this season's competition – 145.
- Prop Jaco Engels has played a combined total of 94 Absa Currie Cup games for the Vodacom Blue Bulls, Boland Cavaliers and the Platinum Leopards.
- The Platinum Leopards scrumhalf Michael Bondesio is the fourth leading try-scorer in this season's competition – six.
- 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.

- Utility loose-forward Derick Kuun (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.
- The Platinum Leopards' Cecil Dumond is the brother of Monty Dumond currently competing in the Absa Currie Cup First Division for the EP Kings.
- 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.
- No 8 Gerrit-Jan van Velze captained the Vodacom Blue Bulls during their successful 2010 Vodacom Cup campaign.
- Australian referee Nathan Pierce will take charge of this game between the Platinum Leopards and the Vodacom Blue Bulls.

Vodacom Western Province v GWK Griquas



Newlands Stadium, Cape Town

Friday 24 September 201. Kickoff: 19h10

Referee: Marius Jonker (SARRA)

Assistant referees: P Legoete (AR1), M van Zyl (AR2)

TMO: S Veldsman

Head to Head: Vodacom Western Province v GWK Griquas (since 2005)

P: 10 W: 8 L: 2 PF: 366 PA: 166

29/07/2005	WP 42	Griquas 16	Newlands, Cape Town
05/08/2006	WP 27	Griquas 23	Absa Park, Kimberley
30/09/2006	WP 55	Griquas 17	Newlands, Cape Town
11/08/2007	WP 30	Griquas 25	Absa Park, Kimberley
06/10/2007	WP 37	Griquas 07	Newlands, Cape Town
12/07/2008	WP 20	Griquas 21	Absa Park, Kimberley
19/09/2008	WP 30	Griquas 18	Newlands, Cape Town
07/08/2009	WP 32	Griquas 33	GWK Park, Kimberley

26/09/2009 WP **43** Griquas **3** Newlands, Cape Town
07/08/2010 WP **50** Griquas **3** GWK Park, Kimberley

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 though secured home victories over the 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.

GWK Griquas' recent form on the road:

- The Kimberley side conceded defeats on the road against the Xerox Lions (40-29), Vodacom Blue Bulls (39-38) in Pretoria, against the Vodacom Free State Cheetahs (33-26) in Bloemfontein and The Sharks (48-30) in Durban.
- The GWK Griquas however defeated the Platinum Leopards (41-27) in Potchefstroom during week four's action of this season's Absa Currie Cup.
- During the 2009 competition, they achieved victories on the road against the Boland Cavaliers, Platinum Leopards, Vodacom Free State Cheetahs and the Xerox Lions.

Additional information:

- Vodacom Western Province secured a convincing 50-3 victory over the GWK Griquas in Kimberley when these sides met in week five of the 2010 Absa Currie Cup.
- GWK Griquas winger Bjorn Basson is the leading try-scorer in the 2010 Absa Currie Cup – 14. Basson made his Test debut for the Springboks against Wales earlier this year.
- Vodacom WP flyhalf Willem de Waal is currently the second leading points' scorer in this season's competition – 150. De Waal has accumulated 1363 points in his Absa Currie Cup career – 259 points for the Platinum Leopards, 811 for the Vodacom Free State Cheetahs and 293 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 GWK Griquas flyhalf Naas Olivier is the third leading points' scorer in this season's competition – 145. Olivier has scored 675 points in his Absa Currie Cup career. The pivot has added 220 for Vodacom Western Province, 163 for the Platinum Leopards and 301 for his current side.
- 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 six tries.

- Leon Karemaker (GWK Griquas) represented the SA Schools in 2003 and the SA Under-21s in 2004.
- 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.
- GWK Griquas flanker Davon Raubenheimer represented the SA Under-21s in 2005.
- Referee Marius Jonker will handle the game at Newlands between Vodacom Western Province and GWK Griquas.

Absa Currie Cup Premier Division Log:

	P	W	D	L	PF	PA	PD	B	Pts
<i>The Sharks</i>	11	9	0	2	388	239	149	10	46
<i>Vodacom Western Province</i>	11	8	0	3	407	191	216	6	38
<i>Vodacom Blue Bulls</i>	11	6	0	5	314	280	34	9	33
<i>Vodacom Free State Cheetahs</i>	11	7	0	4	308	255	53	4	32
Xerox Lions	11	6	0	5	315	310	5	7	31
GWK Griquas	11	5	0	6	348	369	-21	10	30
Barloworld Toyota Pumas	11	3	0	8	240	426	-186	5	17
Platinum Leopards	11	0	0	11	224	474	-250	5	5

Absa Currie Cup Premier Division – Leading points' scorers:

		T	C	P	D	Pts
<i>Patrick Lambie</i>	<i>The Sharks</i>	3	25	29	0	152
Willem de Waal	Vodacom Western Province	0	24	34	0	150
Naas Olivier	GWK Griquas	2	30	24	1	145
Jacques-Louis Potgieter	Vodacom Blue Bulls	1	23	31	0	144
Louis Strydom	Vodacom Free State Cheetahs	0	18	26	0	114
Elton Jantjies	Xerox Lions	2	17	22	0	110
Elgar Watts	Barloworld Toyota Pumas	8	11	7	0	83
Bjorn Basson	GWK Griquas	14	0	0	0	70
Clayton Durand	Platinum Leopards	0	13	9	0	53

Lwazi Mvovo	The Sharks	9	0	0	0	45
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Absa Currie Cup Premier Division – Leading try-scorers:

		Tries
<i>Bjorn Basson</i>	<i>GWK Griquas</i>	14
Lwazi Mvovo	The Sharks	9
Elgar Watts	Barloworld Toyota Pumas	8
Gio Aplon	Vodacom Western Province	6
Michael Bondesio	Platinum Leopards	6
Keegan Daniel	The Sharks	5
Pieter Louw	Vodacom Western Province	5
Jongi Nokwe	Vodacom Free State Cheetahs	5
Coenie Oosthuizen	Vodacom Free State Cheetahs	5
Jano Vermaak	Xerox Lions	5

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