

Red Zone Conversion Telling Statistic of Opening Rounds

Arguably the most successful rugby club in Europe over the last couple of seasons has been Saracens, the double European champions have become the benchmark to which all other Premiership clubs aspire.

Saracens are personified by their 'wolfpack' defence and a ruthless edge. Their execution of strike moves and points to red zone visits ratio, together with a killer instinct, is statistic and has proved to make all the difference in the opening rounds.

Bath made an outstanding start to the season beating Leicester Tigers, ending a 14 year wait for a win at Welford Road, and defeating the exceptional Saracens to make it three victories from the last four encounters against Saracens at the Recreation Ground.



Photograph courtesy of Bath Rugby©

This was despite Bath having less possession in both games. They also had less phases in the red zone. Only 25 to Leicester's 43. The telling statistic lies a little deeper, taking a look at efficiency in the red zone Bath have an impressive 2.70 points per visit whilst Leicester only have 1.53.

It's a similar story against Saracens as Bath scored an impressive two points per visit, to Saracens 0.87, despite Saracens having 25 more phases in the red zone than their hosts. Therein lies Bath's recent downturn in form.

At Franklins Gardens, Bath gained zero points per visit and against Newcastle despite being considerably higher they were behind Newcastle's impressive 2.54 points per visit.

Worcester are propping up the table having lost all four opening games of the season. Worcester's problems may come down to establishing a platform. Statistics tell us that Worcester have a low gain line success, their highest from their most recent fixture (47.24% versus Gloucester) which also happens to be their best result of the season so far.

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At the other end of the table are champions Exeter Chiefs, who are known for their physical forward pack. Set piece is key to them and that has shown in their play.

On their opening day loss, to Johan Ackermann's Gloucester, both their lineout and scrum faltered whilst the Cherry and Whites found their set piece working almost perfectly.

Exeter's dominance has returned in their recent three games as their scrum has been won 100% in rounds two and three whilst the lineout wins were at 100% in round four. A very impressive feat from the Exeter pack.

Statistics can often go some way to telling the story, if Bath can regain some of their ruthlessness in the red zone they could be real force this season and Exeter will be hoping their set piece can retain their coveted title. As for Worcester improvement will be needed to avoid the relegation trapdoor.

All analysis provided by Insight Analysis.

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