

Americans Overseas: Wyles Looks to Big Game Sunday

Written by Alex Goff

Saturday, 15 December 2012 23:01

USA and Saracens fullback Chris Wyles is readying for Sunday's European Cup big clash with Munster at Vicarage Road.

The two teams played last week at Munster's home ground of Thomond Park, with the hosts winning 15-9. It was the first loss for Saracens in Heineken Cup action.



“There was a great atmosphere at Thomond Park so from that point of view it lived up to expectations, but for us as a team we were disappointed,” said Wyles. “It’s harder to play on the road, but at the end of the day, why the Heineken Cup is such a difficult competition because you need to win both your home and away games to make sure you get to the quarterfinals. And the other thing is, if you don’t win you have to come away with bonus points on the road, and we did get a bonus point, so it’s all to play for.”

Playing at home is a big deal for Saracens, but it’s common knowledge they don’t have the best atmosphere at their park. The club is getting a new home ground in February, with a synthetic surface, but for now they are going to do their best.

“Vicarage Road may not be amazing, but this is a big game and there’ll be a lot of Munster fans there, too, so it should be good,” Wyles said.

Both Saracens and Munster are both 2-1 in Pool 1. Racing Metro won Saturday and moved to 3-1.

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In European action this weekend, Samu Manoa contributed several big plays as Northampton somehow edged Ulster 10-9 and improve to 2-2 in Pool 4. Taku Ngwenya and Biarritz shut out Connacht 17-0 to improve to 2-2 in Pool 3.

In the Amlin Challenge Cup, two teams with Americans on their rosters won without those players taking the field – Wasps and Stade Francais.

Wasps (Paul Emerick) is 3-1 and leads Pool 3. Stade (Scott LaValla) is 4-0 and leads Pool 5.