



### **Sam Prendergast named the 2025 BKT Rising Player**

- Ireland fly half, Sam Prendergast has won the inaugural BKT Rising Player Award
- The BKT Rising Player Award was introduced in 2025 to celebrate players who have made significant contributions to their team throughout the Guinness Men's Six Nations
- The BKT mantra of 'Growing Together' is the foundation for the Rising Player Award, rewarding the rising star of the Championship
- To be eligible, players must have received their first Guinness Men's Six Nations cap in 2025

#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Ireland's Sam Prendergast has been named the inaugural winner of the 2025 BKT Rising Player Award, following his standout performances and contributions to his side during their Guinness Men's Six Nations campaign.

New for the 2025 Championship, the BKT Rising Player Award recognises players who have made a significant impact for their team throughout the Guinness Men's Six Nations and celebrates the individuals who exemplify a team mentality whilst performing at the highest level.

Inspired by BKT's mantra of 'Growing Together,' the award is reserved for players who have earned their first Guinness Men's Six Nations cap and acknowledges their emergence on the elite international stage.

Prendergast was selected as the winner following a vote by representatives from the host broadcast partners spanning each of the Six Nations, following the conclusion of the Round Four fixtures. Prendergast's performances throughout the tournament were deemed to have been instrumental in Ireland's campaign, cementing his status as a standout young talent.

In the lead up to Round Five, and instrumental in being awarded the title of BKT Rising Player, Prendergast amassed 44 points, placing him among the top ten Irish players for points scored in the opening four games of a single Guinness Six Nations campaign. He was also responsible for 2 try assists, making him joint top in setting up tries over the four rounds.



The Ireland fly half was joined on a shortlist of young players, who all had compelling campaigns, and announced themselves in front of millions of fans, as well as their teammates. As the eventual winner, Prendergast saw off tough competition from the likes of France second-row Mickaël Guillard, Scotland centre Tom Jordan and Wales back-three Blair Murray.

The 22-year-old Leinster and Ireland playmaker has previously won the coveted U20 Six Nations Player of The Championship, before going on to make his Ireland senior debut during the 2024 Autumn Nations Series match against Fiji. Prendergast has since established himself as a key member of the national senior team, starting every game for Ireland in the 2025 Guinness Men's Six Nations, beginning with his first cap in the Championship against England in front of his home fans.

Commenting on the achievement, **Ireland fly-half Sam Prendergast** said:

*"I am delighted to receive this award and I would like to thank all those who voted for me.*

*I have really enjoyed playing in my first Guinness Six Nations and it is a really special feeling to represent your country.*

*While individual awards are nice recognition, Rugby is a team sport and I would like to pay tribute to my team-mates and coaches who have helped me over the last number of months."*

Commenting on Sam Prendergast winning the BKT Rising Player Award, **Julie Paterson, Chief of Rugby at Six Nations Rugby**, said:

*"The Guinness Men's Six Nations is rugby's most anticipated annual occasion and offers young players the opportunity to announce themselves on the global stage. More than that though, the Championship allows the likes of Sam Prendergast and the stars of the future to graduate from the U20 Six Nations Championship with honours, and cement their place within their teams, at the highest level.*

*Sam has been an integral player for his team and would have taken a great deal from his contribution to Ireland's performances this season. He has showcased his skill, talent, and team mentality, which is at the heart of the sport. Congratulations also need to go to every player earning their first cap in this year's Championship and highlights the hugely exciting young talent coming through in each of the six nations."*



**Lucia Salmaso, Managing Director of BKT Europe**, added:

*"It is an honour to present this award to a player who has demonstrated embodying the values of rugby and BKT, as well as being one of the best young talents in the global sports scene".*

*"For the first time in its history, the Six Nations has an official award dedicated to emerging talents, an award that holds great significance for us at BKT as we strongly believe in the importance of nurturing passions, starting with sports, and we look forward to seeing many more flourish in the upcoming editions"*

The BKT Rising Player Award will also feature in the Guinness Women's Six Nations, which gets underway on the 22<sup>nd</sup> March, with young players graduating from the women's development pathway competition and onto the senior stage, helping set the tone for another exciting edition of the Championship.

**ENDS**