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Pulse Energy Highlanders to play the Lions

Pulse Energy Highlanders Head Coach Jamie Joseph has refreshed the forward pack for Saturday night's game against the Lions. Josh Hohneck and Tom Franklin get a break from the starting 23 while Shane Christie and Elliot Dixon move to the bench. Siosua Halanukonuka will get his first start while Alex Ainley replaces Franklin in the middle row. Luke Whitelock moves from number eight to blindside flanker making way for Liam Squire at the back of the scrum. Dan Pryor will start at openside giving the pack a great deal of mobility in what is expected to be a fast paced game.

In the backs hard running midfielder Rob Thompson will make his debut for the Highlanders at second-five. Jason Emery who performed well last week, will again look to make impact from the bench.

Ben Smith will captain the side.

Pulse Energy Highlanders v Lions, Forsyth Barr Stadium, Sat Mar 12th 7.35pm

1. Brendon Edmonds
2. Liam Coltman
3. Siosua Halanukonuka
4. Alex Ainley
5. Joe Wheeler
6. Luke Whitelock
7. Dan Pryor
8. Liam Squire
9. Aaron Smith
10. Lima Sopoaga
11. Patrick Osborne
12. Rob Thompson
13. Malakai Fekitoa
14. Matt Faddes
15. Ben Smith (c)

Reserves

16. Ash Dixon
17. Daniel Lienert-Brown
18. Ross Geldenhuys
19. Elliot Dixon
20. Shane Christie
21. Josh Renton
22. Hayden Parker
23. Jason Emery

Unavailable due to injury: Waisake Naholo (leg), Marty Banks (knee) Fumiaki Tanaka (calf) Tei Walden (concussion)

Head Coach: Jamie Joseph **Assistant Coaches:** Tony Brown ,Scott McLeod **Manager:** Paul McLaughlan
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