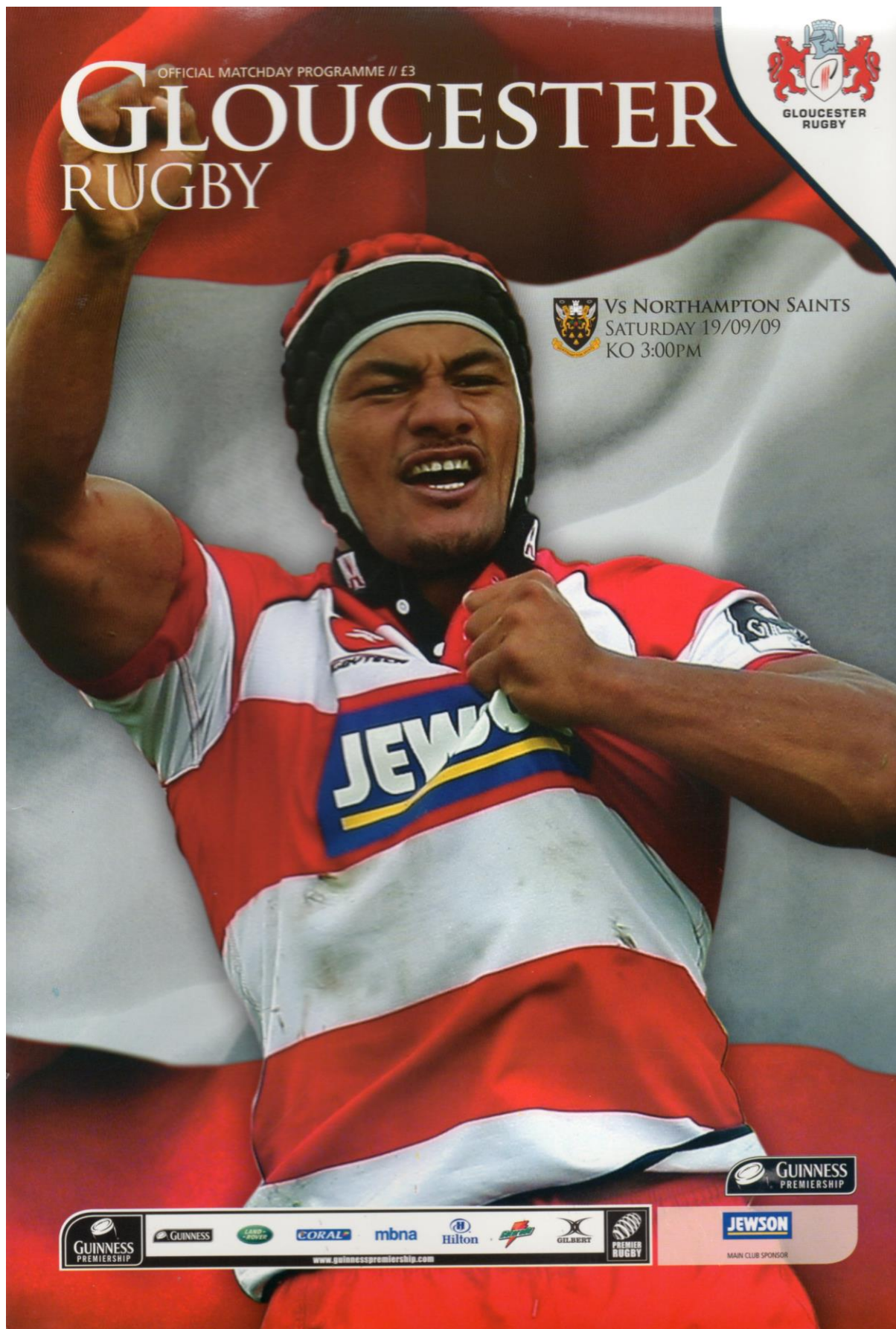


GLOUCESTER RUGBY

OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME // £3



Vs NORTHAMPTON SAINTS
SATURDAY 19/09/09
KO 3:00PM



GUINNESS

LAND-ROVER

CORAL

mbna

Hilton

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GILBERT



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MIKE TINDALL

MIKE TINDALL CAPTAIN'S CORNER

I think it's fair to say after the events in Reading last weekend that we're glad to be back at Kingsholm!

The last two weeks have shown what a competitive league the Guinness Premiership can be and how you can go from the highs of victory to the depths of despair within the space of a few days.

From a purely personal perspective, it's been a frustrating couple of weeks. For obvious reasons, I was really looking forward to the Bath game to kick off the season.

I missed out the tail end of last season through injury and had worked incredibly hard throughout preseason to get myself in the best possible shape for this campaign.

Having featured in the preseason friendlies and feeling in pretty good form, you can imagine how annoyed I was to have to leave the field against Bath with the job still to be completed.

All credit to Tim Molenaar though. He's only literally been at the club for five minutes and wasn't even named as part of the 23 to take on Bath. It was only when Apo (Satala) pulled up during the warm up that he was drafted onto the bench and, for him to contribute as he did when he replaced me, was a fine effort.

Similarly, I was disappointed to miss out on the London Irish game at the Madejski Stadium last weekend.

I was part of the Gloucester side that was well beaten there last

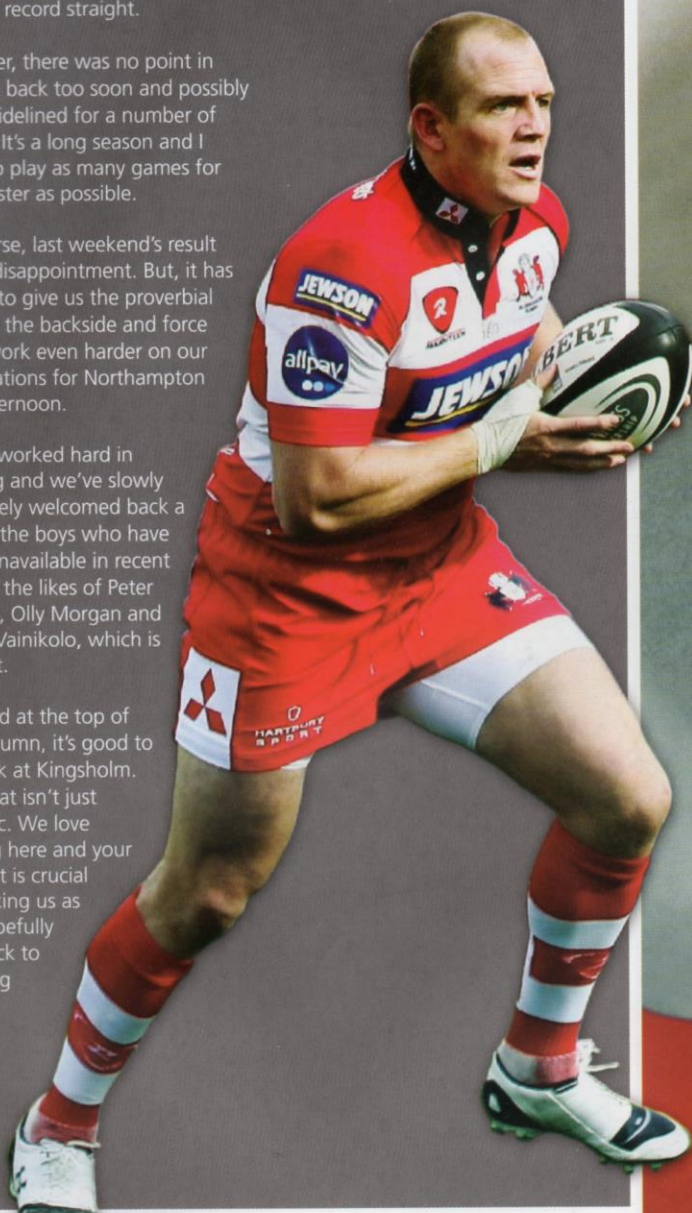
season so I'm well aware of what a tough place it can be to play at and would have loved the opportunity to put the record straight.

However, there was no point in rushing back too soon and possibly being sidelined for a number of weeks. It's a long season and I want to play as many games for Gloucester as possible.

Of course, last weekend's result was a disappointment. But, it has served to give us the proverbial kick up the backside and force us to work even harder on our preparations for Northampton this afternoon.

We've worked hard in training and we've slowly but surely welcomed back a few of the boys who have been unavailable in recent weeks, the likes of Peter Buxton, Olly Morgan and Lesley Vainikolo, which is a boost.

As I said at the top of this column, it's good to be back at Kingsholm. And that isn't just rhetoric. We love playing here and your support is crucial in backing us as we hopefully get back to winning ways.



GARETH BUTLER GLOUCESTER VS NORTH

DISCIPLINE has become a bit of a buzz word around Kingsholm after the opening two rounds of the Guinness Premiership.

Gloucester have managed to ship an impressive five yellow cards, four in one game last week and three inside the last quarter, which must be some kind of record.

There can be few arguments about any of them. Andy Hazell's stamp was as clear as day to get things off and running against Bath a couple of weeks back.

Then Charlie Sharples joined the club with his early tackle towards the end of the first half last week. If the winger hadn't hauled back Elvis Seveali'i he was in for a clear try so you can have some sympathy with his actions. I fully expected referee Dean Richards to go under the sticks afterwards and award a penalty try so Gloucester probably got off lightly.

Then came the 10 minutes of craziness at the end of the game. Gloucester were actually leading the second half 7-3 when Akapusi Qera broke from a scrum too quickly having already been warned. It was probably slightly harsh for a relatively minor infringement.

Minutes later, and with the forwards under immense pressure a man down, Pierre Capdevielle dragged a maul down right on the Gloucester line. Another situation where Richards could have gone under the sticks, which he did shortly afterwards with Capdevielle off the field and Gloucester down to 13.

Gareth Delve's yellow card was the



THERE HAS BEEN A MASSIVE ONUS ON PRIDE AND PASSION FROM BRYAN REDPATH SINCE HE TOOK OVER FROM DEAN RYAN. IT SEEMS THE PLAYERS HAVE TAKEN UP THAT MANTLE AND ARE REALLY ON THE MENTAL EDGE WHEN THEY ARE OUT ON THE FIELD THIS SEASON.

most clear cut of the whole lot. The whole stadium saw what he did so the referee couldn't ignore it. Whatever his motives were you can't lash out like that in the modern game and expect to get away with it, especially with the spotlight currently on the world of rugby.

There has been a massive onus on pride and passion from Bryan Redpath since he took over from Dean Ryan. It seems the players have taken up that mantle and are really on the mental edge when they are out on the field this season.

Hazell in particular pushed the boundaries to their very limit against Bath throughout his time on the field.

AMPTON SAINTS

The Citizen



The problem is when you go out so aggressively you find yourself constantly on the edge of the law.

That aggression can sometimes blind players and impair their ability to control what they are doing – which was certainly evident in the case of Hazell against Bath.

But then when he reined it in a bit against London Irish he was less effective, Steffon Armitage getting the better of him on the day.

While the aggression and commitment certainly needed cranking after the disappointing end to last season, that has to come within, or at least on the edge of, the laws.

THE SKILL IN PLAYING AGGRESSIVELY IS TO KNOW WHERE THE LINE IS. CERTAIN PLAYERS HAVE THE KNACK OF PUSHING THE LAWS AND GETTING AWAY WITH IT – AND THEY ARE CONSISTENTLY THE ONES REGARDED AS THE BEST.

Premiership games cannot be won with four players spending time off the field. Hazell admitted himself that his moment of madness only served to jeopardise the result of the West Country derby.

The skill in playing aggressively is to know where the line is. Certain players have the knack of pushing the laws and getting away with it – and they are consistently the ones regarded as the best.

The England World Cup winning XV was full of them – Back, Hill, Dallaglio and Johnson.

In the current game Richie McCaw, George Smith and Schalk Burger are masters of the art, although the latter showed against the Lions that even the best lose it on the odd occasion.

A return of the passion to Kingsholm is something not one fan doesn't want to see.

There may have been a time when the Kingsholm pack was feared because the players got away with foul play and as a result the opponents were intimidated. An aggressive forward effort is crucial to Gloucester's success this season, to make up for what they lack in size up front.

But it is also crucial that players are savvy as to when they bend the laws and which referees will allow them to get away with bits and pieces others will not.

When it came down to it last week, Gloucester were soundly beaten by a better London Irish pack. Their frustration with that boiled over and the yellow cards were the result.

BRYAN REDPATH HEAD COACH

Q. THE LAST TWO WEEKS HAVE BEEN A VIVID EXAMPLE OF THE HIGHS AND LOWS OF LIFE IN THE GUINNESS PREMIERSHIP?

"Absolutely. Nobody ever said that this was going to be easy. The Guinness Premiership is an incredibly competitive league. I know it's a cliché and, you hear it time and again, but any team can beat any other on any given day."

"You only have to be a fraction below your best and other sides have the ability to take full advantage. Bath didn't play to their potential at Kingsholm a fortnight ago and we didn't at the Madejski last weekend."

Q. WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED FROM THE TWO GAMES SO FAR AND WHAT WILL YOU BE FOCUSSED ON FROM HERE ON IN?

"I thought that we did a very professional job against Bath. With it being the first game of the season, in front of the Sky cameras, it was a big occasion and emotions were running high."

"Now, the old heads like Tins have seen these sorts of occasion many times before. However, we had a number of new players who were pulling on the Gloucester shirt for the first time and it would have been very easy for those players to be distracted."

"In fact, the new players fitted



in very well. Nicky Robinson gave us the control we needed at fly half. He took the right options and kept us in the right places on the field."

"Meanwhile, Eliota Fuimaono-Sapolu put in an excellent performance considering his late arrival at the club following World Cup duty with Samoa in the summer. The Shed seem to have taken him to their heart already and the feeling seems to be mutual."

"And we've all had a good chuckle about Dave Attwood, the newly anointed 'Enforcer' of Gloucester Rugby according to a certain internet messageboard! Seriously, Dave did a very solid job and we were very happy with him."

"Overall, we did what we had to against Bath but there was still a lot of room for improvement.

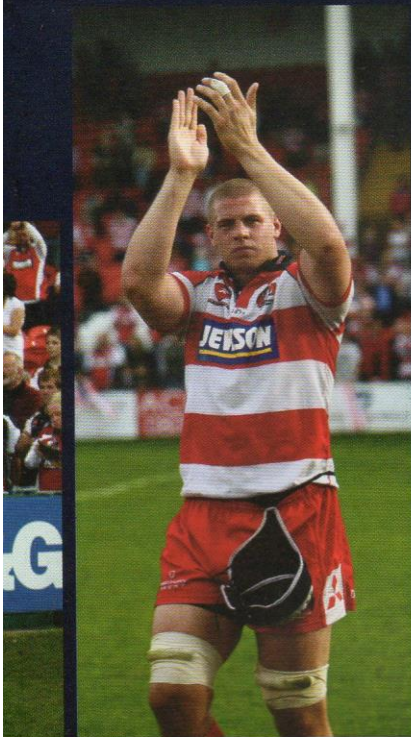
The game was still very much in the balance midway through the second half when the two interceptions clinched it for us."

"We need to be more clinical when we get ourselves into those situations and close out those types of games."

"Last weekend against London Irish, we simply didn't execute well enough. We started well and the first quarter of the match was pretty even."

"But then they started to apply pressure to our lineout and we didn't help our cause by committing a few turnovers in our own half which gave them all the possession and territory they needed."

"We were over worked in defence as a result, the yellow cards followed and the rest is history."



"It's important to keep it in perspective though. London Irish are an excellent side. They finished runners up in the Guinness Premiership final and came within a point of winning the whole shooting match. They were good, we weren't and the better team won. End of story."

"So, we've done our analysis this week but it's important not to over analyse these things. We've identified what we have to do this weekend and have worked hard on it this week."

Q. NORTHAMPTON HAVE WON ONE FROM TWO, THE SAME AS GLOUCESTER. THEY'LL PRESENT A TOUGH CHALLENGE?

"They could well have won two from two. They came within inches of beating Saracens at Wembley last weekend. And, knowing Jim

Mallinder as I do, that will irk him and he'll have been working Saints hard this week."

"They've done incredibly well since their return to the Premiership. The teams coming back up to the top flight from the Championship have traditionally taken a little while to find their feet."

"However, Northampton bucked the trend last season. They were competitive in the Guinness Premiership, made the semi finals of the EDF Energy Cup and won the European Challenge Cup of course. To compete on three fronts like that takes some doing."

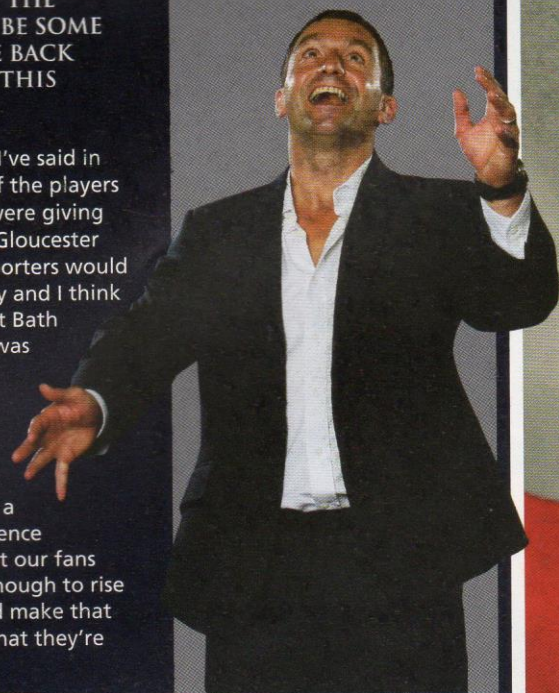
"So, we will have to up our game against them this afternoon. I haven't been able to fault our commitment and endeavour in the past two matches but we do need to look after our own ball and execute our game plan."

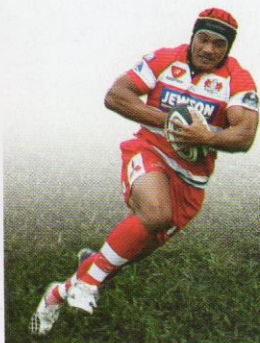
Q. GIVEN ALL OF THE ABOVE, IT MUST BE SOME COMFORT TO BE BACK AT KINGSHOLM THIS AFTERNOON?

"Without a doubt. I've said in recent weeks that if the players showed that they were giving everything for the Gloucester cause that the supporters would respond accordingly and I think we saw that against Bath when the backing was magnificent."

"Playing at Kingsholm, in front of our home supporters is a magnificent experience and I'm hoping that our fans will feel inspired enough to rise to the occasion and make that crucial difference that they're capable of."

"AND WE'VE ALL HAD A GOOD CHUCKLE ABOUT DAVE ATTWOOD, THE NEWLY ANOINTED 'ENFORCER' OF GLOUCESTER RUGBY ACCORDING TO A CERTAIN INTERNET MESSAGEBOARD! SERIOUSLY, DAVE DID A VERY SOLID JOB AND WE WERE VERY HAPPY WITH HIM."





PLAYER PROFILE: ELIOTA FUIMAONO-SAPOLU

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

WHAT'S THE FIRST GAME YOU REMEMBER WATCHING?

It was All Blacks versus Australia on TV when I was a lot younger. I remember asking someone why they were only playing about five minutes each way and then it was pointed out to me that I was watching the highlights!



WHO IS YOUR SPORT'S BEST PUNDIT?

I kind of like the group of guys who do The Rugby Club on Sky. I think they're quite funny.

WHO HAS MADE THE WORST EVER ATTEMPT TO PRONOUNCE YOUR NAME?

(Laughs) Everybody! The Bath PA announcer when he first started was quite funny. I think his name was Alastair? He was hilarious. He started ok with 'Eliota' and then mumbled a bit and finished off with 'Eliiiiiiiiiiiii!'!

WHO'S GOT THE FLASHIEST MOTOR AT THE CLUB?

Lesley Vainikolo, definitely!

IF MONEY WAS NO OBJECT WHAT WOULD YOU BUY?

I'd buy all the freehold land in Samoa and make it so that you can't sell it and then give it back to the people of Samoa.

WHICH CHARITIES DO YOU SUPPORT AND WHY?

Yes, I support three villages back home in Samoa. They're probably not organised charities like they have over here in England but it's a Third World Country so I try and do my bit.

CAN YOU PLAY A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT?

I'm trying, I'm actually learning the piano at the moment.

IF YOU COULD BE IN A BAND, WHICH ONE WOULD YOU CHOOSE?

Kings of Leon, definitely. The music's awesome.

HOW WOULD YOU IMPROVE THE END OF



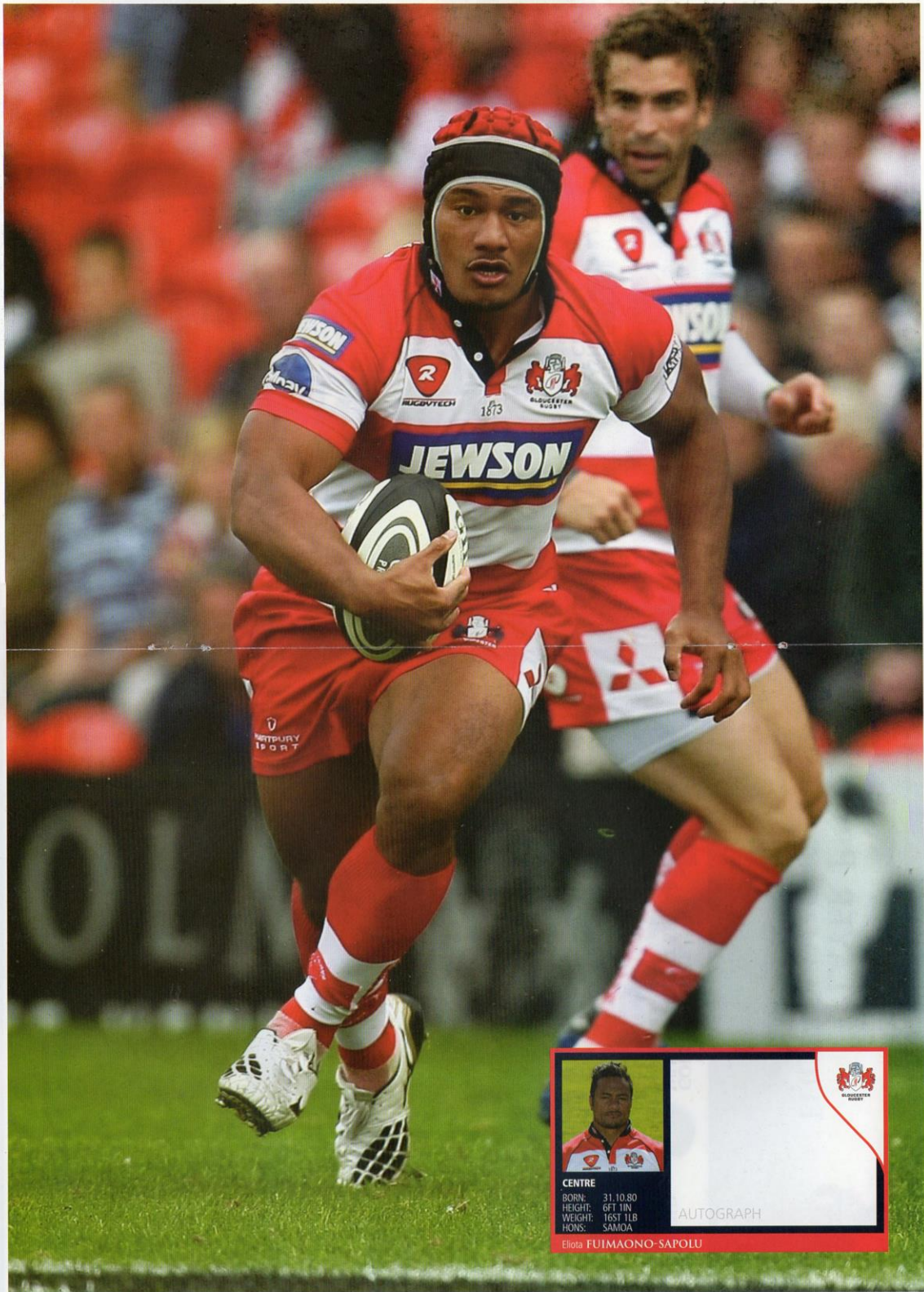
SEASON PLAY OFFS?

I believe in the playoffs. It keeps the interest going and provides a bit of added pressure and excitement as you have to win on that one day.

WHAT'S YOUR NICKNAME AT THE CLUB AND HOW DID IT COME ABOUT?

Eli. For obvious reasons – it's easy to pronounce!





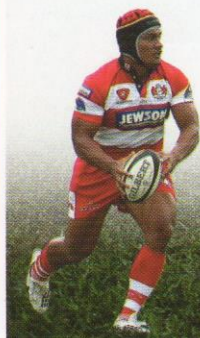
CENTRE

BORN: 31.10.80
HEIGHT: 6FT 11IN
WEIGHT: 16ST 1LB
HONS: SAMOA

AUTOGRAPH

Eliota FUIMAONO-SAPOLU





PLAYER PROFILE: ELIOTA FUIMAONO-SAPOLU

WHICH PLAYER DID YOU MOST ADMIRE WHEN YOU WERE GROWING UP?

Tough question but Stephen Bachop who played for Samoa and also the All Blacks. When he was with Samoa he played in the side that beat Wales in the 1999 Rugby World Cup. Simply because he was such an intelligent player.

HAS SPORT EVER BROUGHT TEARS TO YOUR EYES?

No. Apart from painful injuries.

IF THERE WAS ONE RUGBY RELATED RULE OR LAW THAT YOU

COULD CHANGE, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

If you'd asked me six months or a year ago I'd have said bring back the maul because I think the maul is a brilliant thing.

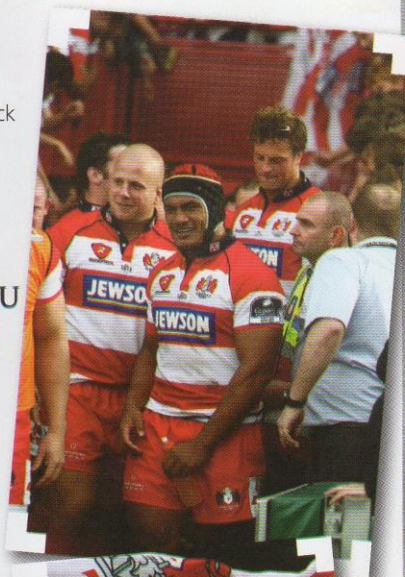
WHAT'S THE MOST COMMON MISTAKE YOU SEE PEOPLE MAKE WHEN PLAYING YOUR SPORT?

Trying to avoid contact. It's

a direct sport, a physical sport and it's part of the game.

WHERE IN THE WORLD IS THE BEST NIGHT OUT?

Brisbane.

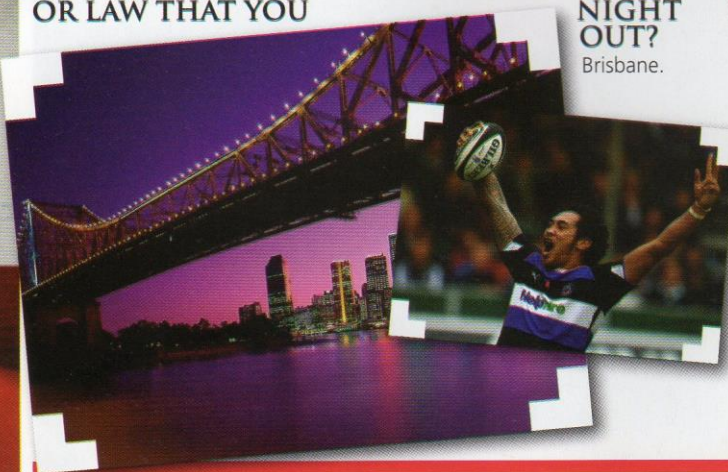


WHO IS YOUR BEST FRIEND IN RUGBY?

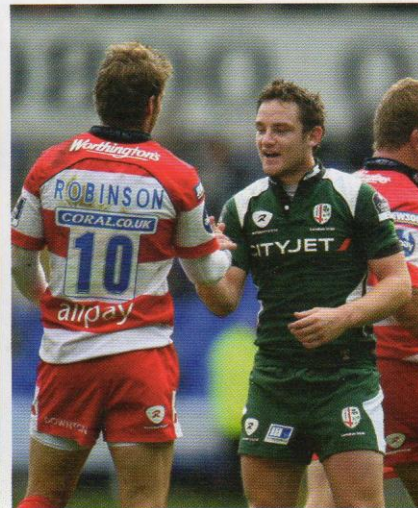
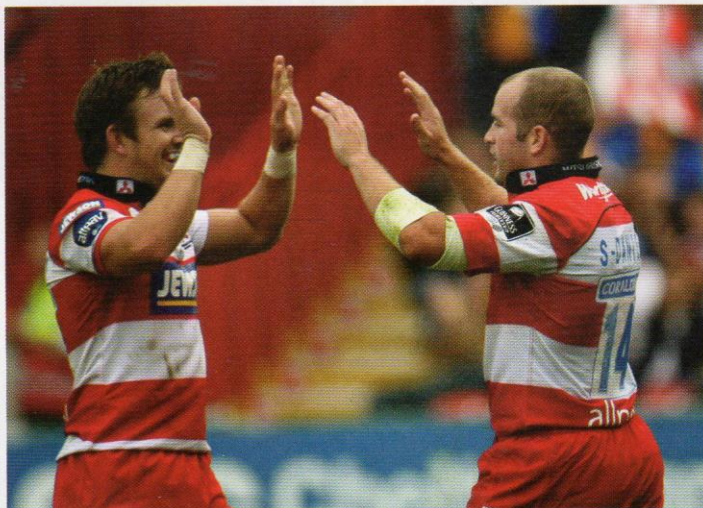
Jonny Faamatuainu at Bath.

HOW WAS YOUR FIRST EXPERIENCE OF PLAYING AT KINGSHOLM? YOU SEEMED TO RELISH IT?

Absolutely awesome. Words can't describe it really, I absolutely loved it. I really can't believe how loud the Shed are! The noise was incredible.



BOB FENTON'S KINGSHOLM NEWS



WELL, talk about emotional roller coasters... only two weeks of the season gone and I'm already staggering.

Basking in the sunshine a fortnight ago we could have been forgiven that we were watching the start of something special as we got off to the best possible start to a season by beating Bath at home, new players seemingly settling in well, slamming the door on Bath and their much-vaunted off-loading game.

Andy Hazell back to his wrecking-ball best, Sinbad picking up his form seamlessly, a brilliant debut from both Nicky Robinson and Dave Attwood and seeing a very pumped up Eliota FS smashing everything including his own chest and new club badge as he celebrated the great win over his former employers.

And how did we follow that up? Just seven days later we are comprehensively – and that's an understatement – undone up at the mad jet ski stadium. To be honest from my vantage point up

in the South Stand there only ever looked like being one winner of that game. With some young pup by the name of Ryan Lamb pulling the strings they proved to be the same muscularly efficient outfit that they were last season.

Of course it was too early to decide that we were world-beaters after one game at home, and it's way too early to say we are headed for also-ran status after one defeat. The results across the board show one thing for sure, though, this division is probably more competitive than it ever has been. Away wins are going to be as rare as rocking horse droppings and maintaining home form is an absolute must.

It's good to be back at Kingsholm again though, for years we have been going to the Mad Stad and to be honest I don't quite know what to make of it.

Bowling in to the stadium about half an hour before kick off I was in time to witness the horror show that was something by the name

of 'Stavros Flatley' some fat old boy staggering around with his shirt off. Entertainment??? You can see the same thing almost every Friday night in Eastgate Street, and not many people applaud then either. And then he came back at half time...

I'm old enough to remember going to watch Irish when they were Irish, and played at Sunbury. After a few years of being nomads they end up at Reading with a very new audience – not so many Irish accents to be heard, just some very nicely spoken people from Berkshire. All of which makes it very odd when they sing Irish folk songs and worse still an attempt at 'Ireland's Call'. Am I missing something here???

Saracens are now so far down this road that there is no hope for them and the trip to the third world stadium that is Vicarage Road in a few weeks time threatens to be another horror show – and they've even recorded a Saracens Song to assault us with. It's all a bit plastic, we go for the game- to watch two sides slug it out in a great sport, we don't – or I



don't – need this 'product'.

But to be fair, if it all helps attract a new audience and convert a few natives to take up rugby, or to find out more about the sport it's worth it. It's probably just me, I am getting older and even curmudgeonlier by the minute!

For all the reasons mentioned above, it's a pleasure to welcome our friends from Northampton to Kingsholm today. The Saints are still a proper rugby club, proper supporters who understand what is going on in front of them, a great heritage in the game and our clashes with them over the years are among the best games you will see. Like us they tend to travel well, and having a good few opposition supporters in the ground always makes for a great atmosphere.

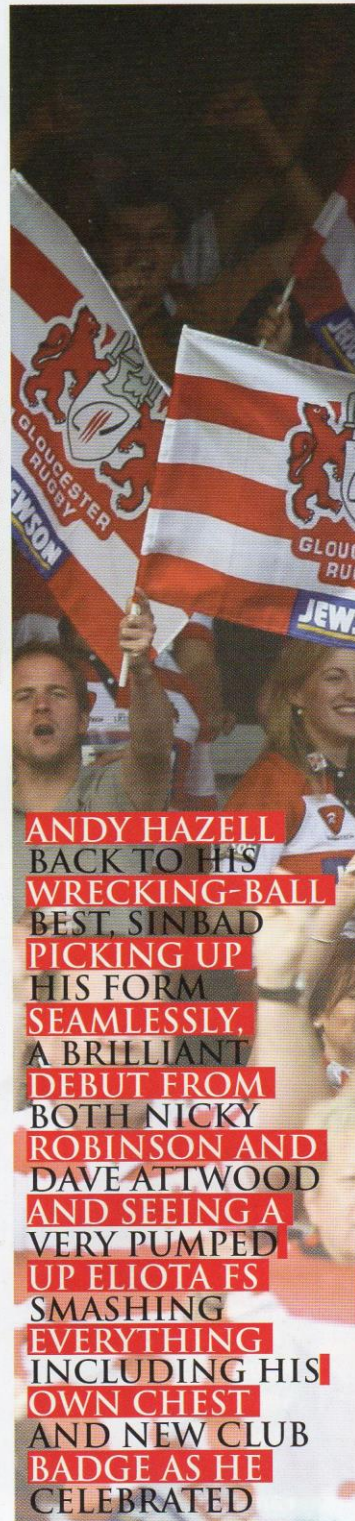
They are hotly tipped by many pundits for a top four berth by the end of this season, given their recruitment over the summer and the fact that they have Jim Mallinder – one of the brightest

and most personable coaches in the Premiership – at the helm, they are probably right. Had it not been for a very iffy decision last weekend they would be two from two for the season, and are probably still very sore from that disallowed try.

So we can anticipate a degree of bounce back from them today, but no doubt our coaches will have laid the law down and our guys will know what is expected of them, and they will have a massive point to prove. I think we can look forward to another cracker today!

Finally, the other weekend I was walking through town with one of my elder boys who told me that a friend of his is about to start at Gloucestershire Uni. Being from London he asked my lad "What's Gloucester like?" Having explained about the various bars and clubs he said to his friend "You have to be into rugby too, if you live in Gloucester and are not a rugby fan, they put your council tax up..."

Sounds about right to me...



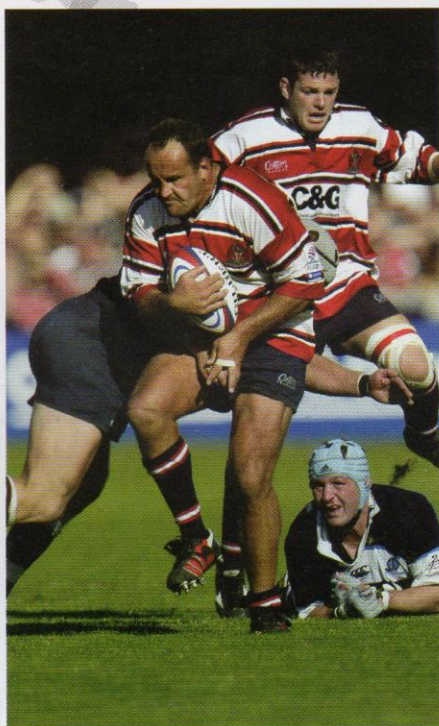
DAVE KING'S WORLD OF RUGBY

WITH Iain Balshaw departing from Kingsholm in the close season for French club, Biarritz, the total of English players now playing in Top 14 is rising. The following are now opting to play in France.

BRIVE:	Andy Goode, Steve Thompson, Ben Johnston, Simon Hughes, Riki Flutey, Jamie Noon, Shaun Perry.
MONTAUBAN:	Nick Adams, Mathew Clarkin
CASTRES:	Phil Christophers
BIARRITZ:	Magnus Lund, Iain Balshaw, Ayoola Erinle
STADE FRANCAIS:	James Haskell, Tom Palmer, Ollie Phillips
MONTPELLIER:	Ollie Smith
PERPIGNAN:	Perry Freshwater
TOULON:	Kris Chesney, Joe El Abd, Jonny Wilkinson, Tom May

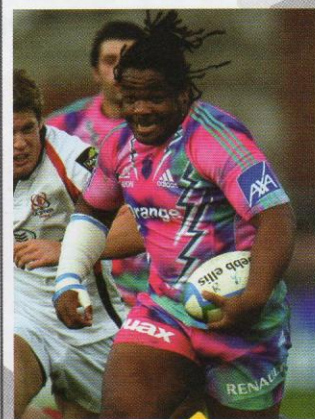
The annual salary budgets per season for French clubs are in advance of the Guinness Premiership. The following apply, Stade Francais £8.88m, Clermont Avergne £8.34m, Toulouse £8.34m, Toulon £6.90m, Biarritz £6.41m, Brive £6.41m, Perpignan £6.17m, Bayonne £5.67, Montpellier £5.67m, Castres £5.42m, Bourgoin £4.78m, Montauban £4.68m, Dax £3.85m, Stade Montois £2.46m. In the Guinness Premiership each club has a salary cap of £4m.

WE have had only one of the twelve Zimbabwe born players to have played in the Premiership. That was prop forward Paul Johnstone who came to Kingsholm from Bristol in 1999. Other players to feature from that country have been Garth Chamberlain (Wasps 2004-), Dean Dewdney (Bristol 1999-2001), Peter Dixon (Bath 2005-), Scott Gray (Northampton 2008-), Steve Hartley (Bath, Sale 1999-2001), Kai Horstmann (Worcester 2005-), Nils Mordt (Northampton, London Irish 2004-2008), Conan Sharman (London Scottish 1998-1999), Doug Trivella (Rotherham 1998-2001), Kennedy Tsimba (Bath 1997-1998).



EUROPE'S top ten average attendance for 2008-2009 saw Gloucester in ninth place. Those average attendances were as follows:

1. Stade Francais	31,048
2. Toulouse	21,753
3. Leicester	17,358
4. Toulon	17,346
5. Munster	16,500
6. Harlequins	15,237
7. Leinster	15,174
8. Clermont Avergne	14,609
9. GLOUCESTER	14,215
10. Northampton	13,258

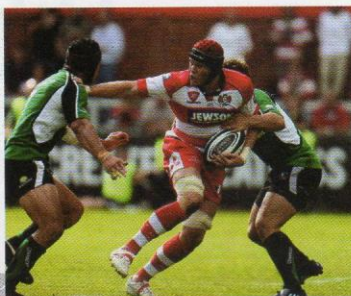


REVIEWING

the red and yellow cards received in the 2008-2009 season, these were the total administered in the Guinness Premiership, Sale and Worcester 13 each, Gloucester 12, London Irish 11, Bristol, Harlequins and Newcastle 10 each, Saracens and Leicester 9 each, Northampton 8, Bath and Wasps 7 each.



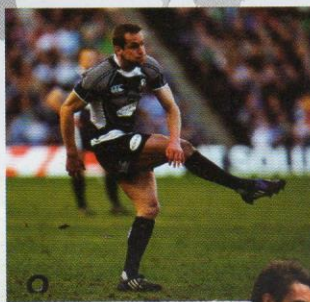
LUKE NARRAWAY, our England back row forward, had been helping out the Malvern players in their pre-season training at their Spring Lane ground. The Worcester based player had been included in Martin Johnson's pre-season England Saxons squad along with team mate Nick Wood. Luke now faces a 3 month break due to a back operation.



NORTHAMPTON SAINTS are seeking planning permission to build a £6 million 3,000 seater stand at the Sturtridge end of the ground which along with 10 new corporate boxes and a function suite will see the capacity at Franklin's Gardens rise from 13,500 to £17,000 for the 2010-2011 season.



OUR former player, Chris Paterson was voted the 2008-2009 'Player of the Season' by the Scotland Ruby Supporter's Club. Last season Chris recorded 196 points for Edinburgh – three tries, 32 conversions, 38 penalties and 1 dropped goal. The utility back now has 95 caps and a personal point's tally of 738 points. Chris now needs three tries to pass Tony Stanger and Ian Smith's joint record of 24 tries.

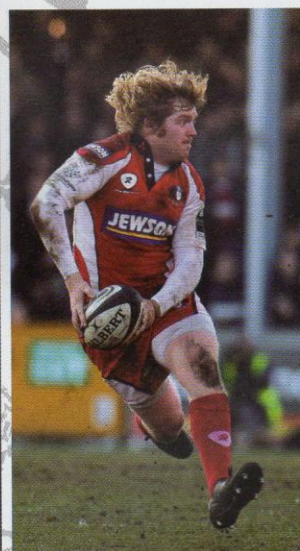


NICKY ROBINSON, our close season signing from Cardiff Blues, made 109 appearances for the Blues, with 20 as a replacement. In a career which started in the 2003-2004 season, he recorded 22 tries, kicked 99 penalties and 115 conversions. He also recorded 15 drop goals. In total, Nicky totalled 682 points in all competitions for the Blues. In a career with Cardiff RFC and Cardiff Blues Nicky made 179 appearances (149 +30), scored 33 tries, kicked 155 penalties and 191 conversions and recorded 18 dropped goals. This combined total took Nicky Robinson past the thousand point mark with 1065.



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

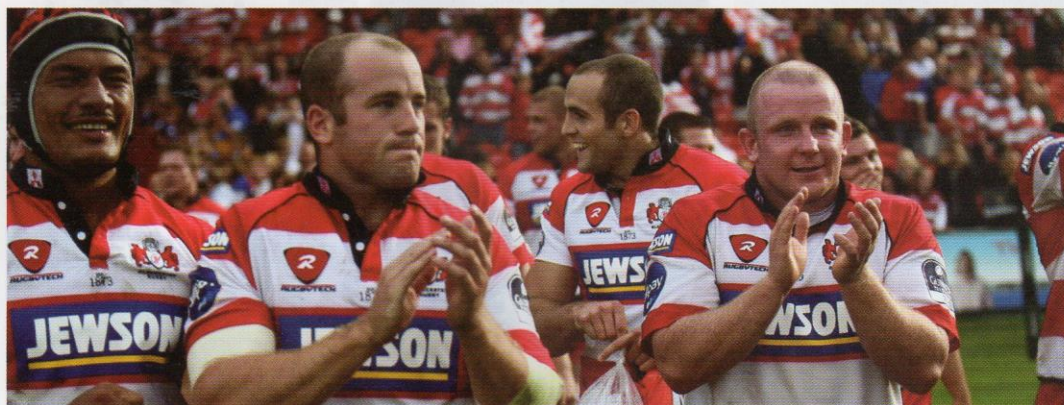
Jack Adams – Bristol,
Anthony Allen – Leicester,
Iain Balshaw – Biarritz,
Olly Barkley – Bath,
Gareth Cooper – Cardiff,
Jack Forster – Sale,
Mark Foster – Exeter,
Ryan Lamb – London Irish,
Ross McMillan – Coventry,
Carlos Nieto – Saracens,
Dan Norton – Bristol,
Willie Walker – Worcester,
David Young – Edinburgh.



FORMER PLAYERS WHO HAVE ALSO MOVED TO OTHER CLUBS ARE:

Mike Guess – Bedford,
Danny Pointon – Cinderford,
James Tideswell – London Irish,
James Merriman – Bristol,
Haydn Thomas – Exeter,
Tom Skelding – Exeter,
Rob Thirlby – Moseley,
Peter Swatkins – Sedgley Park,
Jed Hooper – Newbury,
Rob Fidler & Mark Rimmer – Old Patesians,
Simon Amor – London Scottish,
Karl Rudski – Cambridge,
Oliver Winterbottom & Andy Deacon – Cinderford,
Terry Sigley & Richard Stott – Moseley.

PETER ARNOLD'S GLOUCESTER TALK



STARTING THE WAY WE MEAN TO GO ON

IT'S always good to start the season with a win. When the game is here at Kingsholm a victory is imperative. When the opponents are Bath, any other result is simply unthinkable.

The problem this time round was that we just did not know what sort of a team we had. Everyone put a brave face on things, of course. We knew there was ample talent in the squad, and we were told that pre-season training had gone well.

But Bath management was telling their supporters precisely the same things, and the coach, recognised as one of the shrewdest in the business, was telling their players that they had the best chance in yonks of putting one across Gloucester at Kingsholm.

We took that with a whole sack of Saxa salt, of course, but a nagging doubt still remained. Omens were good, but you can have fifteen of the best players in the world out there, and if for some indefinable reason things don't click, then you're up the proverbial creek with

a conspicuous shortage of paddles. Things can all go swimmingly on the training ground, but it's all very different when you get out there on match day with a whole horde of supporters, from both sides, yelling their heads off at you.

We did have one thing going for us, and that was the shirt. Old players, and some current ones will tell you what a privilege it is to wear the cherry-and-white hoops, and how they felt two inches taller when they pulled it on.

Not many clubs can claim quite that indefinable incentive. I'm sure that Leicester has it, and, no doubt, today's opponents can claim the same. But there aren't many others.

Certainly not Bath. Some of us can remember the decades when they were distinctly inferior opposition against whom we would field a second-string side. They've come a long way since then, of course, but the name doesn't have the mythology behind it that Gloucester does.

This pride and passion stems from the days when virtually all the players were native Gloucester lads. If you were born in the city, it was

simply there, part of everyday life, and you couldn't avoid it even if you wanted to, which you didn't

Nowadays, with players arriving from all over the world, that no longer applies, but the Kingsholm virus is highly contagious, and can infect players, wherever they come from. We never had a more loyal servant than Terry Fanolua, for example, and I'm sure that if you were to cut off one of Olivier Azam's legs, you would find 'GLAWSTER' written all the way through.

How long it will take someone like Mr. Molenaar, who comes from New Zealand, has a Dutch passport, and arrives from Nottingham, to succumb, I don't know, but it will be pretty quickly if Bryan Redpath has his way.

Bryan's huge efforts to instil traditional Kingsholm values and passions into his squad do seem to be bearing fruit. They were certainly evident at the Bath match, and long may they continue. We can put up with losing the occasional match, just so long as there's some fire in the performance. We'll do our best to supply some fuel from the touchline.

YEARS AGO, WE HAD A NOTORIOUSLY STERN REFEREE NAMED WELSBY. HE BECAME KNOWN AS THE 'HANGING JUDGE'. THE POINT ABOUT HIM WAS THAT, AS THE PLAYERS AGREED, HE WAS A DAMNED GOOD REF.

UH-OH!

I CAN'T say that last Sunday's result came as much of a surprise to me, although the size of the beating was something of a shock. After the home comforts and euphoria of the Bath game, an excursion to the echoing vaults of the Madjeski Stadium with the talented London Irish and their fiercely partisan supporters were always likely to bring us down to earth with a bump.

I refuse to get into the 'sprint v. marathon' analogy because it has been done to death, but the fact remains that if you're going to be on the wrong end of a beating like that, then it's as well to get it over with at the start of the season. Now we shall see if Bryan Redpath's 'pride and passion' offensive has borne fruit. If so, someone is going to have to suffer for last Sunday's humiliation.

Let's get one thing straight. There was just one reason why we lost last week. On the day, they were better

than us. Nevertheless, there are one or two features which bear close examination.

Eight yellow cards mean that you have the equivalent of playing the whole game with 14 men, and you can't take on a team of the calibre of London Irish in those circumstances. Furthermore, I don't think you can blame a group of fit, aggressive young sportsmen for becoming niggly and frustrated when a continual stream of yellow cards are being awarded against you.

I wasn't there, I didn't see it, so I would be foolish for me to comment on the justice or otherwise of the sin-binnings, but the fact remains that the referee who awards so many in one direction is creating a pressure cooker. Eventually, the lid is going to blow.

Far be it from me to criticise any referee at any time, theirs is the most difficult job in the game and I'm not casting any stones on this occasion. However, I can't help noting that the official concerned

last Sunday was the same one who sent Harlequins' George Robson off after about a minute of the first game of the season.

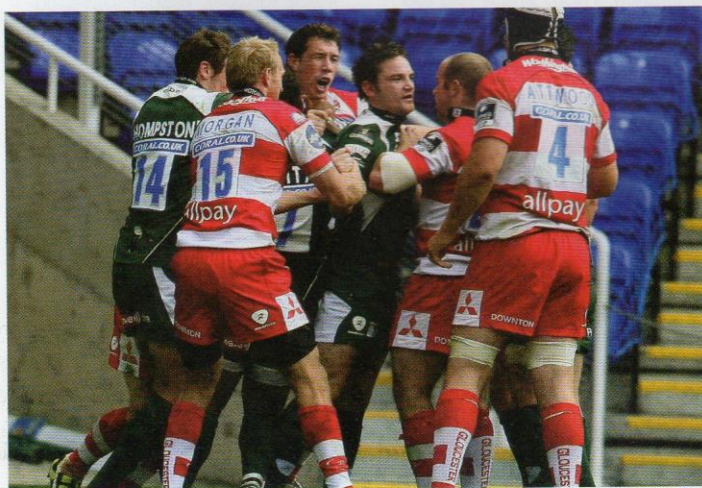
Lightning appears to have struck twice for Mr. Richards, and I can't help feeling a bit sorry for him. It's an old saying that the best referees are the ones you don't notice, but I'm afraid that here's one official who is going to be well and truly under the microscope this season.

Years ago, we had a notoriously stern referee named Welsby. He became known as the 'Hanging Judge'. The point about him was that, as the players agreed, he was a damned good ref.

Perhaps Mr. Dean Richards will also become an outstanding official. I hope so, because the game is notoriously short of up-and-coming refs, with the courage of their convictions. Are we seeing the birth of another?

WELCOME BACK OLLY!

NICE to see that Olivier Azam now has a regular column in the Citizen. Commenting on his return to action, he said, last week, that he wasn't going to cause very much trouble. His italics, not mine.





MONDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER 2009 / 19:30 KO

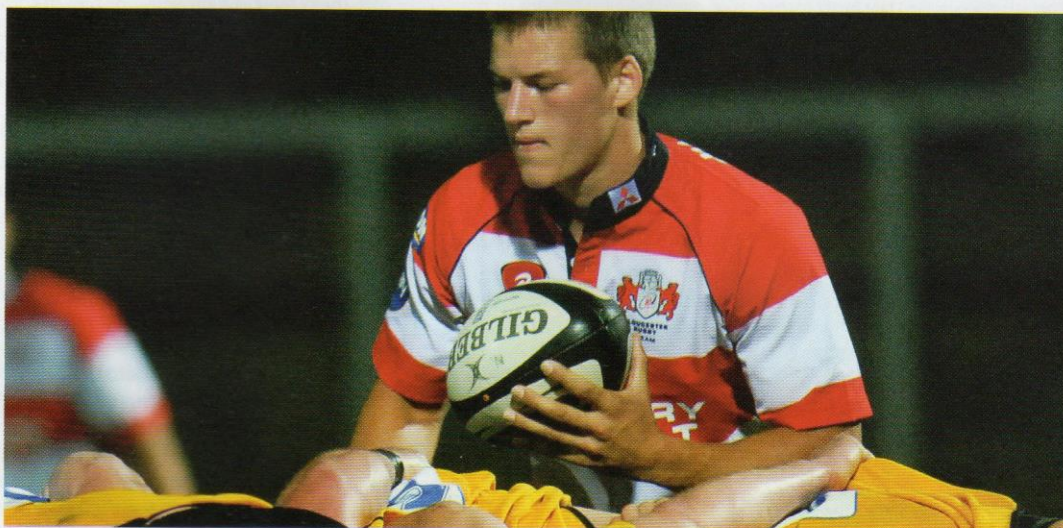


GLOUCESTER RUGBY 16



LONDON WASPS 50

GLOUCESTER SUFFER SECOND 'A LEAGUE' DEFEAT



A young Gloucester side took on a Wasps outfit containing considerable Guinness Premiership experience in the A League at Kingsholm on Monday night and gave a good account of themselves in a losing cause.

The Gloucester team featured many of this year's Academy. Behind the scrum, Jonny May, Reuben Haile, Mike Wilcox and Jordi Pasqualin started and, in the pack, the likes of Yann Thomas, Danny Wright, Richard Jenkins and Marcus Brown all got the nod.

In contrast, Wasps were able to name full internationals in Dave Walder and Daniel Leo and a number of former England U20 internationals

including the skipper in the 2008 Junior World Cup, Hugo Ellis.

Ultimately, Wasps simply had too much firepower, particularly out wide where the wingers had pace to burn and ran out 50-16 winners.

But Gloucester certainly enjoyed parity in the tight. In fact, led by the experienced Adam Eustace, they dominated the scrum at times and the whole team never stopped trying to play decent rugby.

After a scrappy start from both sides, Wasps created the first cohesive move of the game. Making the most of an advantage Wasps moved the ball right, Mark Odejobi shrugged off two tackles to score. Straight from the restart, Dan Leo

made the initial break and left wing Christian Wade showed great speed on the outside before cutting back inside to score. Walder converted for a 12-0 lead.

Gloucester showed good spirit to respond with Reuben Haile coming in off his wing and unleashing a great handoff to power into the Wasps' 22. Wasps transgressed at the ruck and Mike Wilcox landed a confident penalty.

Hugo Ellis burrowed over from close range to extend Wasps' lead before Wilcox kicked his second penalty of the game.

Wasps then showed some great hands in the backs with both wingers contributing before Wade

GLOUCESTER RETAINED THEIR COMPOSURE AND WERE PLAYING SOME NICE RUGBY WITH HALF BACKS PASQUALIN AND WILCOX LINKING UP WELL AND THE SCRUM GIVING THE WASPS PACK PROBLEMS



finished off the move with Walder converting for a 24-6 lead.

Gloucester retained their composure and were playing some nice rugby with half backs Pasqualin and Wilcox linking up well and the scrum giving the Wasps pack problems. Gloucester were only denied a try by good Wasps defence although Wilcox kicked his third penalty to narrow the gap to 9-24.

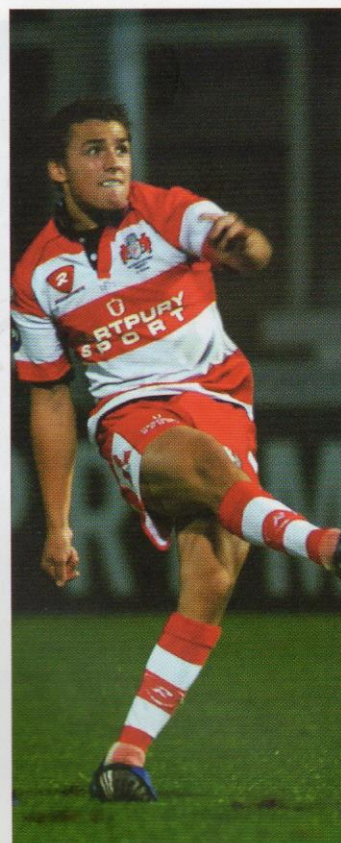
Ellis added his second try with half time approaching after a half break and neat pass inside by centre Will East and Walder's conversion made it 9-31 to end the scoring despite concerted pressure from Gloucester as the half ended.

The Wasps wing duo almost carved

Gloucester open at the start of the second half but it was a charge down that brought about the next try as flanker Tom Lindsay charged down Wilcox's kick and regathered to score under the posts with the conversion a formality.

Honeyben dummied his way over from close range for the seventh try after 50 minutes and it was now a damage limitation exercise for the young Gloucester side but the next try swiftly followed for centre Will East after a break from prop Charlie Beech.

Gloucester dug deep and dominated territory and possession for the next 20 minutes or so with a pushover try for Mike Panaho a deserved outcome and Wilcox added the conversion.



THE TEAM

GLOUCESTER RUGBY

Stefan Hawley
Ryan Cumburs
Jonny May
Robbie Winchle
Reuben Haile
Mike Wilcox
Jordi Pasqualin
Yann Thomas
Darren Dawiduk
Paul Doran-Jones
Danny Wright
Dan Williams
Richard Jenkins
Marcus Brown
Adam Eustace

REPLACEMENTS:

Ben Saville
Shaun Knight
Mike Panaho
Will Foden
Sam Arnott
Danny Pointon
Luke Plummer

vs NORTHAMPTON SAINTS //053

HEAD TO HEAD

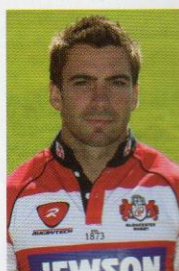
HEAD TO HEAD

GLOUCESTER RUGBY V. NORTHAMPTON SAINTS

opta sportsdata



NICKY ROBINSON



2	MATCHES	2
13	TOTAL TACKLES	10
4	TOTAL MISSES	3
9	TOTAL CARRIES	18
130	TOTAL METRES	53
31	TOTAL PASSES	46
3	CLEAN BREAKS	1
28	TOTAL KICKS IN PLAY	18
3	DEFENDER BEATEN	1
1	TRY SCORED	0

SHANE GERAGHTY



SCOTT LAWSON

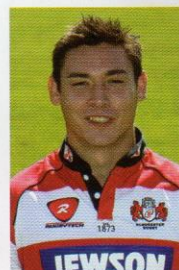


2	MATCHES	2
11	TOTAL TACKLES	5
2	TOTAL MISSES	-
9	TOTAL CARRIES	22
10	TOTAL METRES	52
6	TOTAL PASSES	2
-	DEFENDER BEATEN	-
-	OFF LOAD	-
5	TOTAL PENS	3
3	TURNOVER CONCEDED	4

DYLAN HARTLEY

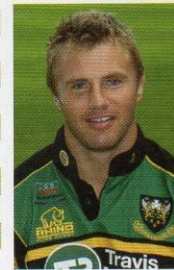


GARETH DELVE



2	MATCHES	2
9	TOTAL TACKLES	8
3	TOTAL MISSES	2
8	TOTAL CARRIES	18
25	TOTAL METRES	41
4	TOTAL PASSES	4
-	DEFENDER BEATEN	2
8	LINEOUTS WON	2
2	TOTAL PENS	2
2	TURNOVER CONCEDED	-

ROGER WILSON





SUNDAY 6 SEPTEMBER 2009 / 15:30 KO

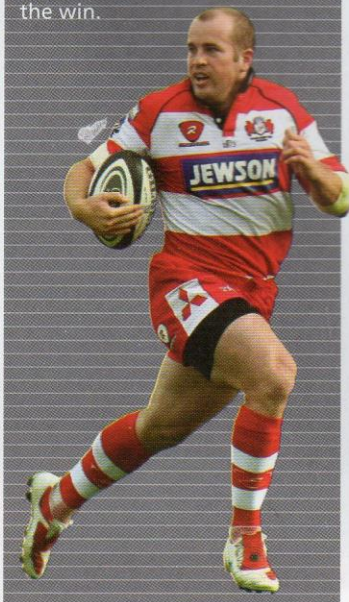
**GLOUCESTER RUGBY** 24**BATH RUGBY** 5**COACH'S COMMENTS**

"We've started with a new group and pledged that we'll work hard. We may not win every time but all I can ask is that they put everything on the line and not hide behind any excuses."

"And, when you play at Kingsholm, with all those people cheering for you, I don't think that's too much to ask."

HIGHLIGHT

As Bath pushed to get back into the game with the scoreline still at 10-0, Michael Claassens' misplaced pass was picked off by James Simpson-Daniel who ran it back from his own 22 to effectively seal the win.



Any victory against our old 'friends' from down the road in Bath is to be savoured and the Gloucester supporters left Kingsholm well satisfied after the Guinness Premiership opener.

To be fair, it didn't quite live up to the classic that the same two teams had delivered at Kingsholm back in February. However, very few matches reach those lofty heights.

What Bryan Redpath had promised the Gloucester supporters was a side who would give everything for the cause. And the team duly delivered.

From the off, they were in the faces of their Bath counterparts. Andy Hazell was all over the place, eyes blazing with an intensity few can

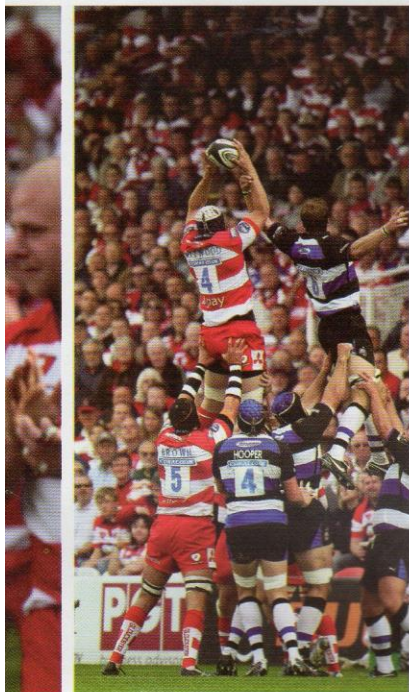
match whilst his back row colleague Alasdair Strokosch made a mockery of the fact that he hadn't played in preseason and marauded with intent for the full 80 minutes.

Meanwhile, behind the scrum, the Kingsholm faithful lauded the arrival of a fly half who will, hopefully, give Gloucester the direction they need in seasons to come.

Nicky Robinson didn't shy from using the boot. The up and under was unleashed several times in the first half and later, with Gloucester on top, a series of well judged touch finders kept Bath on the back foot.

However, it wasn't all kicking from Robinson. His long pass off the right hand gave Eliota Fuimaono-

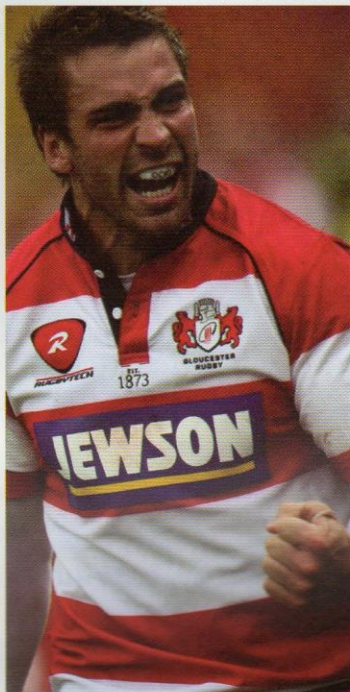
AS A FIRST CHAPTER IN REDPATH'S GUINNESS PREMIERSHIP COACHING CAREER, IT WAS A PROMISING ONE. DESPATCHING A SIDE OF BATH'S CALIBRE ALWAYS TAKES SOME DOING, EVEN WHEN THEY'RE NOT FIRING ON ALL CYLINDERS.



Sapolu the room to put James Simpson-Daniel in for the first score and a neatly executed run around move with the same team mate had the Bath defence in shreds shortly afterwards.

In truth, Gloucester could have won more comfortably. Simpson-Daniel was held up over the line and Tom Voyce couldn't gather a long Robinson pass with Charlie Sharples unmarked outside him. It could have been all over by half time.

This meant that Gloucester did have to work hard in defence to quash an attempted Bath comeback in the early stages of the second half. Once the pressure was soaked up, however, and Bath had run out of ideas in attack, interceptions



from Simpson-Daniel and Robinson applied the coup de grace.

As a first chapter in Redpath's Guinness Premiership coaching career, it was a promising one. Despatching a side of Bath's calibre always takes some doing, even when they're not firing on all cylinders.

And the good news is that there is more to come. Everyone from the playing department will acknowledge that a job was done on Sunday but that the side are capable of more.

With the likes of Peter Buxton, Will James, Olly Morgan, Luke Narraway, Carlos Spencer, Henry Trinder and Lesley Vainikolo yet to feature, who's to disagree?

THE TEAMS

GLoucester RUGBY

Voyce
Simpson-Daniel
Tindall (capt)
Fuimaono-Sapolu
Sharples
Robinson
R Lawson
Wood
S Lawson
Somerville
Attwood
Brown
Strokosch
Hazell
Delve

REPLACEMENTS:

Burns for Voyce (79),
Molenaar for Tindall (8),
Dickinson for Wood (52),
Bortolami for Brown (68),
Qera for Hazell (61),
Dawidiuk for Lawson (77),
Capdevielle for Somerville (77),
Lewis for E Lawson (72).



BATH RUGBY

Abendanon
Maddock
Cheeseman
Hape
Carraro
Davis
Claassens (capt)
Flatman
Dixon
Wilson
Hooper
Grewcock
Beattie
Salvi
Skirving

REPLACEMENTS:

Banahan for Abendanon (56),
Barnes for Claassens (68),
Mears for Dixon (49),
Bell for Wilson (50),
Short for Hooper (50),
Faamatuainu for Skirving (50),
Little for Davis (79),
Bemand for Claassens (79).

vs NORTHAMPTON SAINTS //063



SUNDAY 13 SEPTEMBER 2009 / 15:00 KO



LONDON IRISH

40



GLOUCESTER RUGBY

10

COACH'S COMMENTS

"That's how sport is sometimes. You're great one week and not the next. We trained well all week but didn't perform today."

"We were down to 14 men for the majority of the second half and you're not going to compete like that."

KEY MOMENT

With the scoreline still level in the early stages on the first half, scrum half Rory Lawson made a searing break into the heart of the Irish 22, at one point looking as if he might go all the way.

Unfortunately, his support couldn't reach him in time and the chance was gone. Had the opportunity been taken, who knows what the outcome would have been?



It was a case of "After the Lord Mayor's Show" for Gloucester Rugby at the Madejski Stadium against London Irish.

Only a week after the memorable 24-5 home win over Bath Rugby, Bryan Redpath's side walked into an Irish whirlwind and left Reading on the wrong end of a heavy defeat. If nothing else, the chastening experience will have served as a reminder for Gloucester of one of the harsh realities of playing in the Guinness Premiership – even if you're only 5% below your best, a defeat is likely.

There was no lack of endeavour from Gloucester. Head Coach Bryan Redpath couldn't fault the team's commitment at the post match press conference.

However, Gloucester were imprecise in their execution. When they held on to the ball and worked the phases, they looked like making inroads.

However, too simply too much possession was given to the home side and, with strike runners like Tagicakibau in the side, sooner or later they will take full advantage. More tackles than usual have to be made, bodies tire and gaps appear.

The yellow cards were also a factor. Gloucester saw four players sent to the sin bin throughout the course of the game and defending with only 14 men also takes a toll.

Ironically, it had all started in promising fashion. Gloucester settled quickly and took an early lead through a long range Nicky



THE CHASTENING EXPERIENCE WILL HAVE SERVED AS A REMINDER FOR GLOUCESTER OF ONE OF THE HARSH REALITIES OF PLAYING IN THE GUINNESS PREMIERSHIP – EVEN IF YOU'RE ONLY 5% BELOW YOUR BEST, A DEFEAT IS LIKELY.



Robinson penalty.

With the set piece working well at this point and Robinson looking comfortable in his game management in the first quarter, all seemed to be set fair.

But things started to go wrong shortly afterwards. An awkward bouncing ball eluded the Gloucester defence and Delon Armitage pounced. The home side started to dominate possession with the inevitable result that penalties followed and Ryan Lamb kicked them with glee.



The first yellow card just before half time led to the second Irish try and Gloucester had a mountain to climb.

Redpath made changes at the break and Gloucester dug deep, even reducing the deficit with a well taken try by Sharples.

However, the final ten minutes saw referee Dean Richards take centre stage as he issued four yellow cards (three to Gloucester) and awarded a penalty try to Irish as salt was rubbed into a very painful Cherry and White wound.

THE TEAMS

LONDON IRISH

D. Armitage
Thompson
Seveali'i
Mapusua
Tagicakibau
Lamb
Hodgson
Dermody
Coetzee
Ion
Kennedy
Casey
Danaheer
S. Armitage
Hala'ufia

REPLACEMENTS:

Hewat for D. Armitage (61),
Richards for Seveali'i (53),
Murphy for Dermody (61),
Buckland for Coetzee (61),
Rautenbach for Ion (61),
Perry for Casey (65),
Stowers for Hala'ufia (61),
Lalanne for Hodgson (75).



GLOUCESTER RUGBY

Morgan
Voyce
Molenaar
Fuimaono-Sapolu
Sharples
Robinson
R. Lawson
Dickinson
S. Lawson
Somerville
Attwood
Brown
Strokosch
Hazell
Delve

REPLACEMENTS:

Simpson-Daniel for Voyce (40),
Lewis for R. Lawson (64),
Wood for Dickinson (41),
Capdevielle for Somerville (41),
Bortolami for Brown (57),
Qera for Hazell (45).

NOT USED: Dawidiuk, Burns.

vs NORTHAMPTON SAINTS //065

TODAY'S LINE-UPS

Vs NORTHAMPTON SAINTS
SATURDAY 19/09/09
KO 3:00PM

GLOUCESTER RUGBY

Vs

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS

GUINNESS PREMIERSHIP



OLLY MORGAN

15

BEN FODEN

FULLBACK

T. VOYCE
JAMES SIMPSON-DANIEL

14

PAUL DIGGIN

WING

MIKE TINDALL (C)

13

JON CLARKE *T*

CENTRE

ELIOTA FUIMAONO-SAPOLU

12

JAMES DOWNEY

CENTRE

LESLEY VAINIKOLO

11

BRUCE REIHANA *PP*

WING

PPP NICKY ROBINSON

10

SHANE GERAGHTY *CPPP*

FLY-HALF

DAVE LEWIS

9

LEE DICKSON

SCRUM-HALF

ALASDAIR DICKINSON

1

SOANE TONGA'UIHA *T*

PROP

SCOTT LAWSON

2

DYLAN HARTLEY (C)

HOOKER

GREG SOMERVILLE

3

SANTIAGO BONORINO

PROP

DAVE ATTWOOD

4

I. FERNANDEZ LOBBE

LOCK

MARCO BORTOLAMI

5

JUANDRE KRUGER

LOCK

PETER BUXTON

6

PHIL DOWSON

FLANKER

T AKAPUSI QERA

7

SCOTT GRAY

FLANKER

GARETH DELVE

8

ROGER WILSON

NO.8

REPLACEMENTS

16 OLIVIER AZAM
17 PAUL DORAN-JONES
18 PIERRE CAPDEVIELLE
19 ALEX BROWN
20 ALASDAIR STOKOSCH
21 RORY LAWSON
22 FREDDIE BURNS
23 TOM VOYCE *STARS*

16 BRETT SHARMAN
17 REGARDT DREYER
18 BRIAN MUJATI
19 COURTNEY LAWES
20 NEIL BEST
21 ALAN DICKENS
22 BARRY EVERITT
23 CHRIS MAYOR

THE OFFICIALS

REFEREE:

David Rose

ASSISTANT REFEREES:

Andrew Pearce, Kevin Stewart

4TH OFFICIAL:

Mark Tovey

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	BP	PTS
1 Wasps	2	2	0	0	43	30	0	8
2 Saracens	2	2	0	0	37	30	0	8
3 London Irish	2	1	0	1	54	28	2	6
4 Sale	2	1	1	0	31	28	0	6
5 Worcester	2	1	0	1	44	27	1	5
6 Leicester	2	1	0	1	27	24	1	5
7 Northampton	2	1	0	1	36	36	1	5
8 GLOUCESTER	2	1	0	1	34	45	0	4
9 Newcastle	2	0	2	0	25	25	0	4
10 Leeds Carnegie	2	0	1	1	16	36	0	2
11 Harlequins	2	0	0	2	24	41	1	1
12 Bath	2	0	0	2	20	41	1	1

TOP POINTS SCORERS: 2009-2010

27	Jeremy Staunton	Leicester Tigers
27	Glen Jackson	Saracens
21	Willie Walker	Worcester

TOP TRY SCORERS: 2008-2009

11	Joe Maddock	Bath Rugby
9	Mark Cueto	Sale Sharks
9	Paul Diggin	Northampton Saints

TOP GOAL KICKERS: 2008-2009

80	Glen Jackson	Saracens
79	Butch James	Bath Rugby
58	Charlie Hodgson	Sale Sharks

MOST APPEARANCES : 2008-2009

24	Chris Hala'ufia	London Irish
24	Richard Thorpe	London Irish
23	Steffon Armitage	London Irish