

LV= CUP FINAL

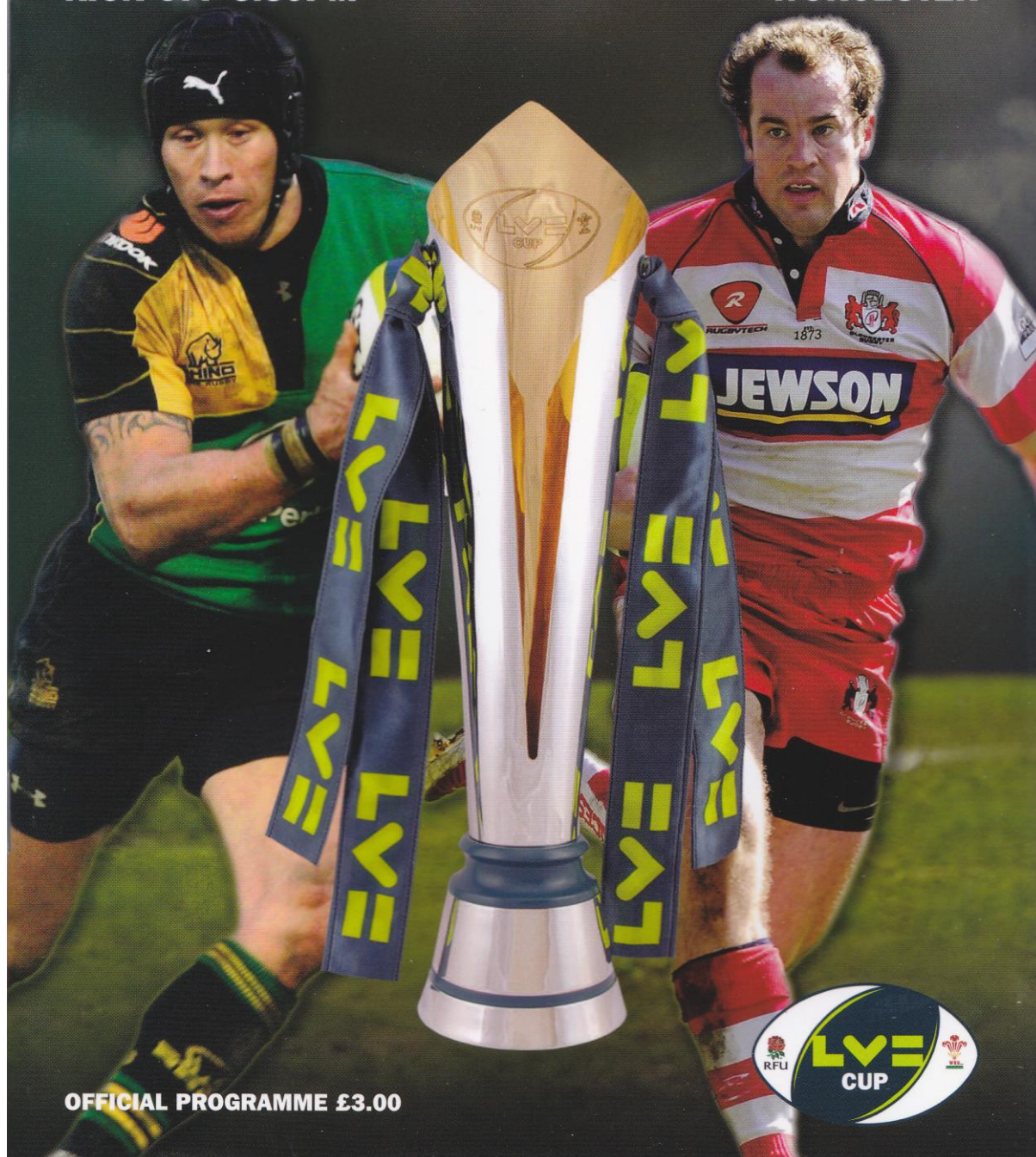


NORTHAMPTON SAINTS v GLOUCESTER RUGBY



**SUNDAY 21 MARCH 2010
KICK OFF 3.30PM**

**SIXWAYS STADIUM
WORCESTER**



OFFICIAL PROGRAMME £3.00





NORTHAMPTON SAINTS

Full back 15 **SHANE GERAGHTY**
 Right Wing 14 **BRUCE REIHANA**
 Centre 13 **JON CLARKE**
 Centre 12 **JAMES DOWNEY**
 Left Wing 11 **PAUL DIGGIN**
 Fly half 10 **STEPHEN MYLER**
 Scrum half 9 **LEE DICKSON**

Prop 1 **SOANE TONGA'UHA**
 Hooker 2 **BRETT SHARMAN**
 Prop 3 **BRIAN MUJATI**
 Lock 4 **COURTNEY LAWS**
 Lock 5 **JUANDRE KRUGER**
 Flanker 6 **PHIL DOWSON (Captain)**
 Flanker 7 **NEIL BEST**
 No.8 8 **ROGER WILSON**

Referee:
Alan Lewis (IRFU)
 Assistant Referees:
Peter Huckle (RFU)
Roger Baillett (RFU)
 Television Match Official:
Ed Morrison (RFU)

REPLACEMENTS
 16 **ANDY LONG**
 17 **REGARDT DREYER**
 18 **JON VICKERS**
 19 **MARK HOPLEY**
 20 **MARK EASTER**
 21 **ALAN DICKENS**
 22 **BARRY EVERITT**
 23 **JOHN BRAKE**

GLOUCESTER RUGBY

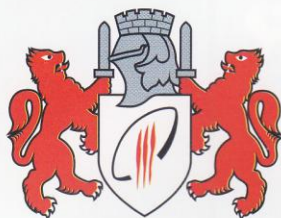


FREDDIE BURNS 15
JAMES SIMPSON-DANIEL 14
TIM MOLENAAR 13
ELIOTA FUIMAONO-SAPOLU 12
LESLEY VAINIKOLO 11
NICKY ROBINSON 10
RORY LAWSON 9

NICK WOOD 1
OLIVIER AZAM 2
PIERRE CAPDEVIELLE 3
WILL JAMES 4
ALEX BROWN 5
(Captain) PETER BUXTON 6
AKAPUSI QERA 7
JAKE BOER 8

REPLACEMENTS
DARREN DAWIDIUK 16
YANN THOMAS 17
RUPERT HARDEN 18
APO SATALA 19
ANDY HAZELL 20
DAVE LEWIS 21
TOM VOYCE 22
CHARLIE SHARPLES 23

These teams were accurate on 18 March 2010



**GLOUCESTER
RUGBY**

THE GLOUCESTER RUGBY MANAGEMENT TEAM

BRYAN REDPATH

HEAD COACH

DENIS BETTS

SKILLS & DEVELOPMENT COACH

CARL HOGG

FORWARDS COACH

MARK CORNWELL

ASSISTANT FORWARDS COACH

ROB BURGESS

HEAD OF RUGBY OPERATIONS

BOB STEWART

HEAD OF MEDICAL OPERATIONS

BARNY ALLEN

HEAD OF STRENGTH & CONDITIONING

ADAM BRETT

ASSISTANT PHYSIO

BEN SERPELL

STRENGTH & CONDITIONING COACH

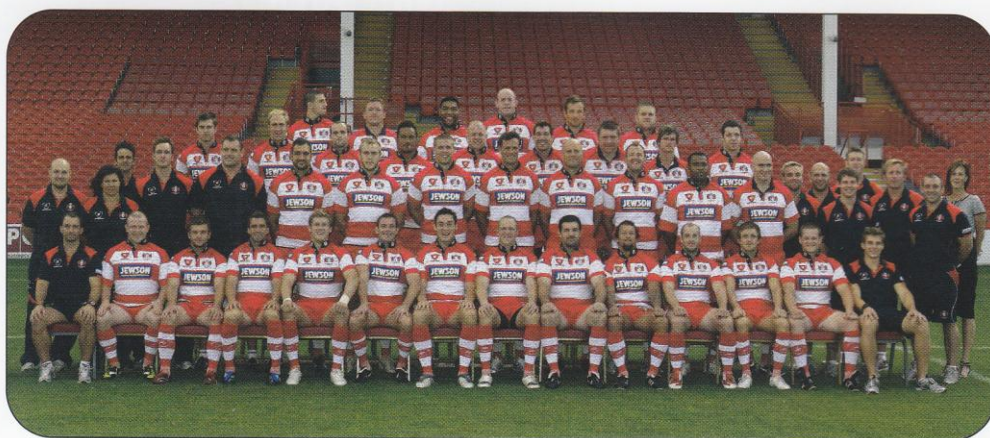
CHALKY MEEK

TEAM LOGISTICS MANAGER

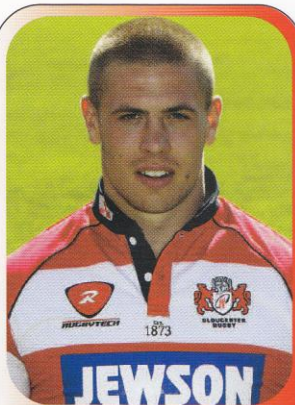
DUNCAN WOOD

MEDIA MANAGER

**GLOUCESTER
RUGBY**



GLOUCESTER RUGBY SQUAD



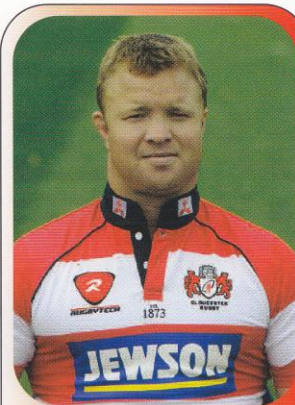
DAVE ATTWOOD

Position: Lock
Born: 05.04.87
Height: 2.01m (6' 7")
Weight: 115kg (18st 11lb)



OLIVIER AZAM

Position: Hooker
Born: 24.10.74
Height: 1.85m (6' 1")
Weight: 120kg (19st)
Honours: France



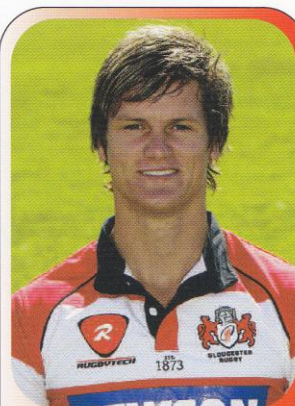
JAKE BOER

Position: Back row
Born: 01.11.75
Height: 1.88m (6' 2")
Weight: 108kg (17st)



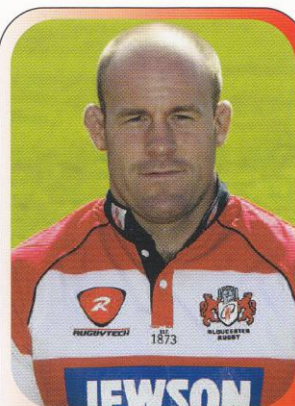
ALEX BROWN

Position: Lock
Born: 17.05.79
Height: 2.01m (6' 7")
Weight: 116kg (18st 11lb)
Honours: England



FREDDIE BURNS

Position: Fly half
Born: 13.05.90
Height: 1.85m (6' 1")
Weight: 80kg (12st 8lb)



PETER BUXTON

Position: Back row
Born: 21.08.78
Height: 1.92m (6' 4")
Weight: 115kg (18st 11lb)

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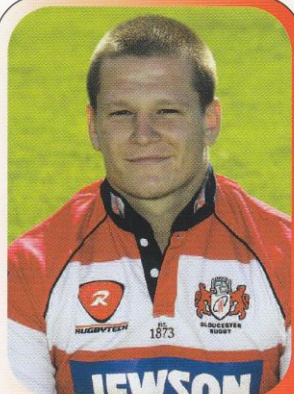
PIERRE CAPDEVIELLE

Position: Prop

Born: 30.03.74

Height: 1.86m (6' 1")

Weight: 123kg (19st 5lb)



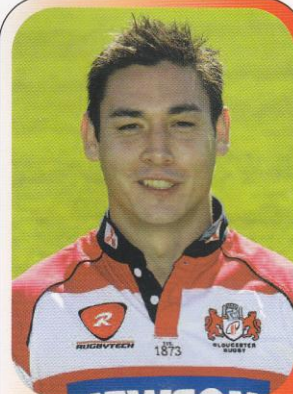
DARREN DAWIDIUK

Position: Hooker

Born: 21.09.87

Height: 1.80m (5' 11")

Weight: 95kg (14st 12lb)



GARETH DELVE

Position: Back row

Born: 30.12.82

Height: 1.91m (6' 3")

Weight: 115kg (18st 1lb)

Honours: Wales



ALASDAIR DICKINSON

Position: Prop

Born: 11.09.83

Height: 1.84m (6' 0")

Weight: 112kg (17st 5lb)

Honours: Scotland



PAUL DORAN-JONES

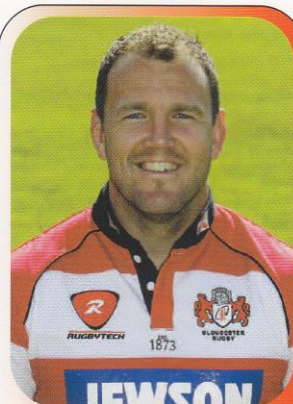
Position: Prop

Born: 02.05.85

Height: 1.88m (6' 2")

Weight: 116kg (18st 3lb)

Honours: England



ADAM EUSTACE

Position: Lock

Born: 09.01.79

Height: 1.95m (6' 5")

Weight: 107kg (16st 12lb)

GLOUCESTER RUGBY SQUAD



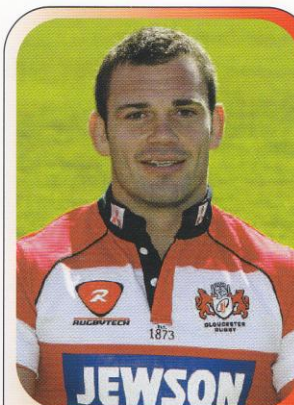
ELIOTA FUIMAONO-SAPOLU

Position: Centre
Born: 31.10.80
Height: 1.85m (6' 1")
Weight: 102kg (16st 1lb)
Honours: Samoa



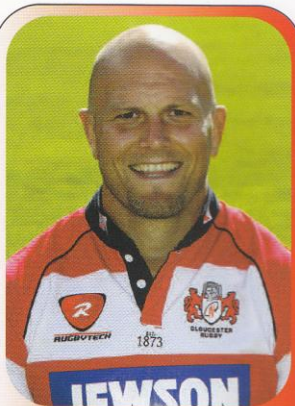
RUPERT HARDEN

Position: Prop
Born: 09.05.71
Height: 1.91m (6' 3")
Weight: 118kg (18st 8lb)



ANDREW HAZELL

Position: Back row
Born: 25.04.78
Height: 1.83m (6' 0")
Weight: 95kg (14st 13lb)
Honours: England



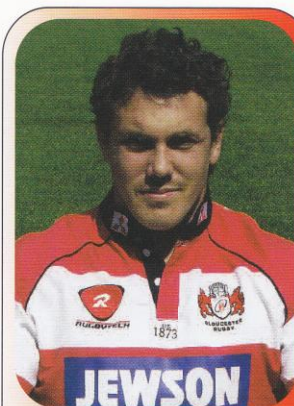
WILL JAMES

Position: Lock
Born: 22.12.76
Height: 1.99m (6' 6")
Weight: 120kg (18st 11lb)
Honours: Wales



DAVE LEWIS

Position: Scrum half
Born: 29.04.89
Height: 1.70m (5' 7")
Weight: 80kg (12st 8lb)



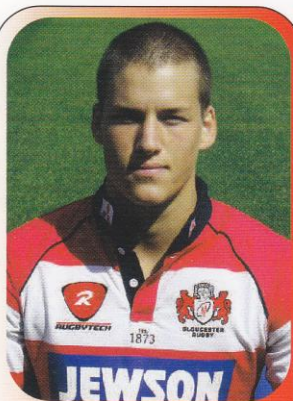
TIM MOLENAAR

Position: Centre
Born: 19.02.81
Height: 1.88m (6' 2")
Weight: 111kg (17st 7lb)



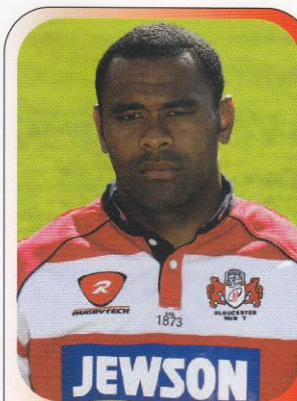
OLLY MORGAN

Position: Full back
Born: 03.11.85
Height: 1.89m (6' 2")
Weight: 94kg (14st 2lb)
Honours: England



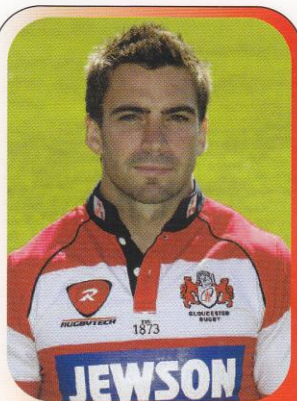
JORDI PASQUALIN

Position: Scrum half
Born: 28.03.90
Height: 1.83m (6' 0")
Weight: 81kg (12st 10lb)



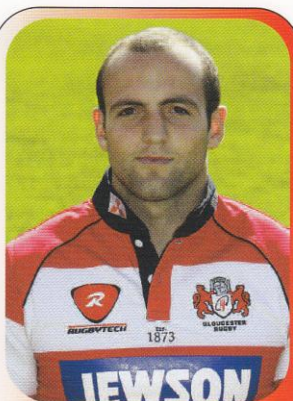
AKAPUSI QERA

Position: Back row
Born: 24.04.84
Height: 1.94m (6' 4")
Weight: 103kg (16st)
Honours: Fiji



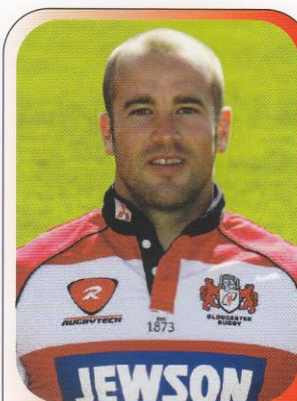
NICKY ROBINSON

Position: Fly half
Born: 03.01.82
Height: 1.85m (6' 1")
Weight: 93kg (14st 9lb)
Honours: Wales



CHARLIE SHARPLES

Position: Wing
Born: 17.08.89
Height: 1.84m (6' 0")
Weight: 93kg (14st 9lb)



JAMES SIMPSON-DANIEL

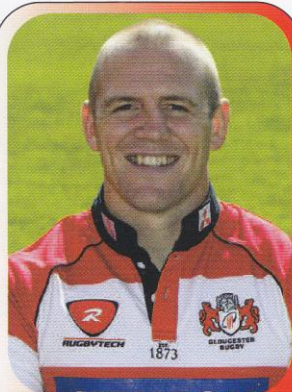
Position: Wing
Born: 30.05.82
Height: 1.82m (6' 0")
Weight: 92kg (14st 6lb)
Honours: England

GLOUCESTER RUGBY SQUAD



TIM TAYLOR

Position: Fly half
Born: 04.10.82
Height: 1.83m (6' 0")
Weight: 88kg (13st 12lb)



MIKE TINDALL

Position: Centre
Born: 18.10.78
Height: 1.88m (6' 2")
Weight: 102kg (15st 12lb)
Honours: England



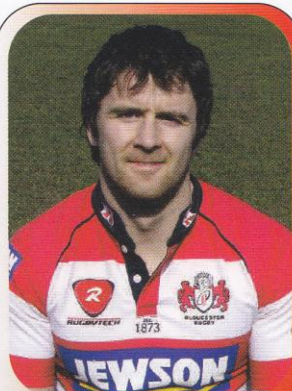
LESLEY VAINIKOLO

Position: Wing
Born: 04.05.79
Height: 1.88m (6' 2")
Weight: 112kg (17st 8lb)
Honours: England



TOM VOICE

Position: Wing
Born: 05.01.81
Height: 1.85m (6' 1")
Weight: 95kg (14st 13lb)
Honours: England



ANDY WILLIAMS

Position: Scrum half
Born: 07.02.81
Height: 1.78m (5' 10")
Weight: 89kg (14st)
Honours: Wales



NICK WOOD

Position: Prop
Born: 09.01.83
Height: 1.86m (6' 1")
Weight: 112kg (17st 5lb)



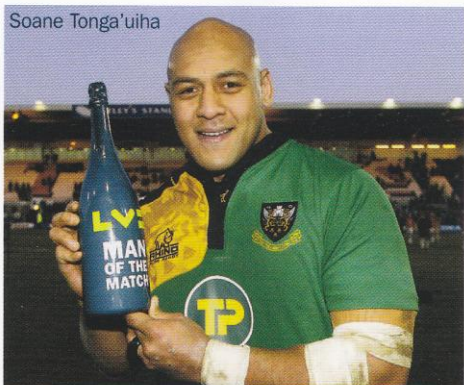
THE FINISHING STRAIGHT

By Michael Austin

Classic semi-finals rarely come in pairs. One last year, maybe, another in a couple of seasons' time but the 2010 vintage, gorged on a week ago at Cardiff and Northampton, was Grand Cru. Events there nurtured great expectations for today's LV= Cup climax that bridges a seven-year gap since the pair last met for silverware in a final.

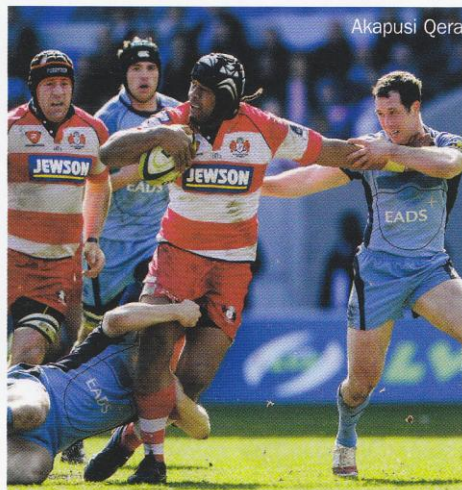
Take last weekend's man of the match winners, Soane Tonga'uiha, the Northampton loose-head prop in the 31-20 win over Saracens and flanker, Akapusi Qera, who galvanised Gloucester in the 29-18 victory over Cardiff Blues. They typified everything that produced stand-out games in a crowded season.

Soane Tonga'uiha



The pair made huge hits, penetrated the gain line and showed off-loading skills with the rider that submission was not in their psyche even when their sides trailed. No surprise that Brendan Venter, the Saracens' director of rugby, said that the game's upside for them was the performance of Tonga'uiha, who is heading Sarries' way next season.

Phil Dowson, the most capped England Saxon and Saints' acting captain, who plays



Akapusi Qera

with gritted teeth behind a smile, had won man of the match plaudits in five of Northampton's previous ten games. Not this time but still a definitive figure once again with a try to his name.

Merge into the equation scrum half Lee Dickson, the ferret at the base of the scrum, the unsung Paul Diggin, the quietly effective Roger Wilson and playmaker Shane Geraghty,

Phil Dowson



Shane Geraghty



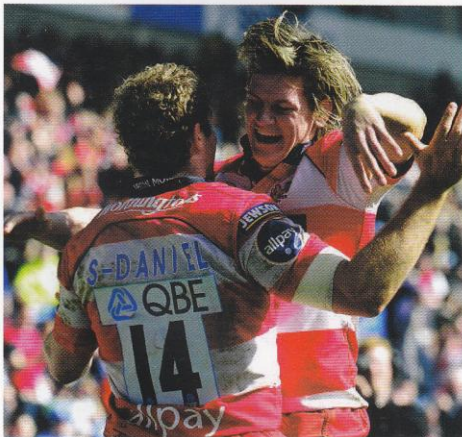
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Chris Ashton



who permanently has try vulture, Chris Ashton, lurking on his shoulder. Ashton has averaged one a match in 71 career appearances for Saints, including 19 in 25 games this season. Bolt on Bruce Reihana running like a stag from the back and there is a potent mixture. These are core Northampton men with LV= Cup, Guinness Premiership and Heineken Cup titles all in their sights this season.

What of Gloucester, who were led by Jake Boer when they beat Northampton 40-22 in Freddie Burns celebrates with James Simpson-Daniel



the Powergen Cup final at Twickenham in 2003? Wing, James Simpson-Daniel, scored a rare hat trick in the competition in the Cardiff semi-final, benefiting from his link with Mike Tindall and later from a perfect rolling kick ahead by Freddie Burns, the England U20 fly half.

Burns, backing himself and his precise hands, had poached the interception try just before half time that enabled Nicky Robinson to level the scores at 10-10 and launch the second half springboard to victory. It made Burns the second highest try-scorer with four in this season's competition, behind Simpson-Daniel with five.

Add the influences of Lesley Vainikolo, with a slick step for a big man, the equally formidable Eliota Fuimaono-Sapolu and of Robinson, a former Blues' fly half, pinning his old teammates back and Gloucester went on their merry way to avenging a 50-12 defeat by Cardiff in last year's final.

Yellow cards also had a strong influence, emphasising the primary need for discipline today. Saracens not only had three players sin-binned to Northampton's two but their depletion came at crucial times as did the ten minutes' absence of Cardiff's Ben White during

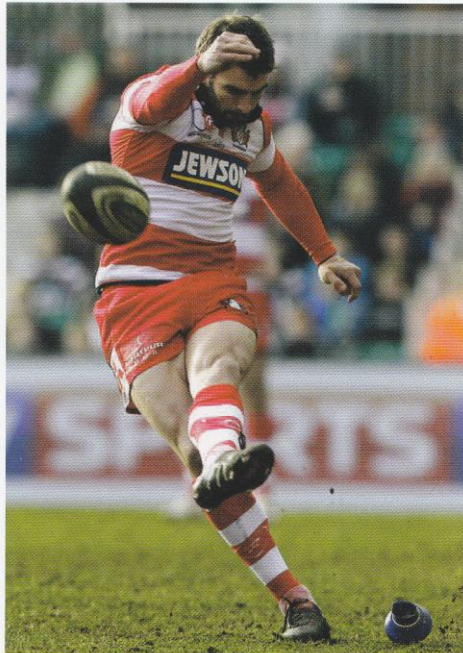
which his team went behind to Gloucester for the second and final time.

Northampton alone had won all their four pool matches with Stephen Myler contributing 43 points to their triumphs over the Ospreys, Saracens, Sale Sharks and Leicester Tigers.

Gloucester had lost 26-25 at Kingsholm to Cardiff, for whom Ceri Sweeney landed the match winning penalty goal in the penultimate minute. A second successive defeat by 21-14 to London Wasps made Gloucester's presence anywhere beyond the pool matches look improbable but victories over Worcester Warriors and Harlequins saw them through to their tantalising return match – and victory – at Cardiff.

The Cherry & Whites need to surmount the psychological hurdle of their struggle in major games over recent years but, for today's winners, automatic entry to next season's Heineken Cup beckons. What an incentive that provides.

Nicky Robinson



Lesley Vainikolo

