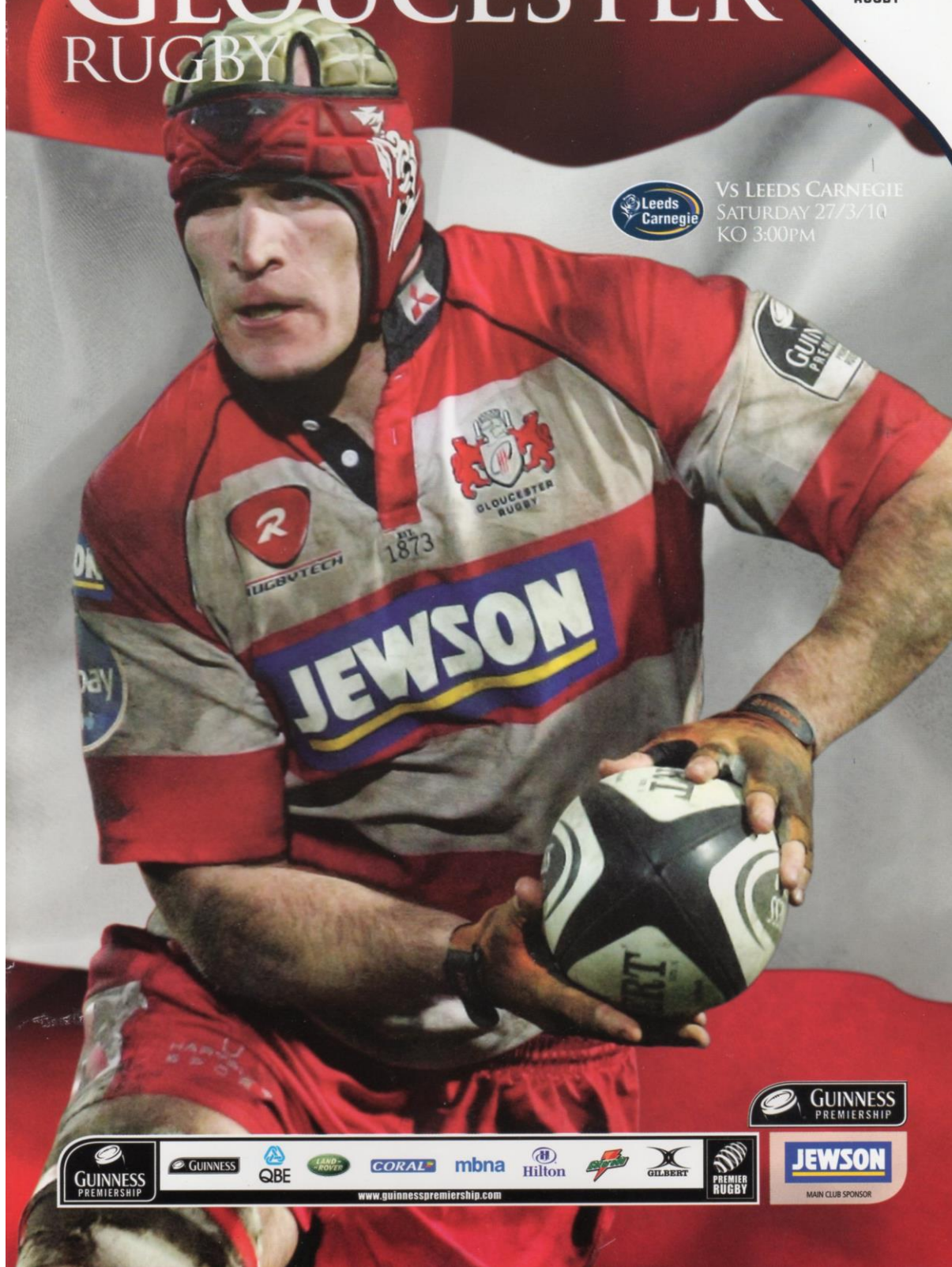


OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME // £3

GLOUCESTER RUGBY



VS LEEDS CARNEGIE
SATURDAY 27/3/10
KO 3:00PM



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GARETH DELVE CAPTAIN'S CORNER

WOW, what a few weeks it's been since I last penned these programme notes!

It's actually been a calendar month since we last played here at Kingsholm, a month that has flown by for a number of reasons.

Today we face Leeds Carnegie in the Guinness Premiership but I think it's an understatement to say that the last couple of weeks have been dominated by the team's efforts in the LV= Cup.

It's been a funny couple of weeks for me personally. My last Gloucester appearance was at Adams Park against Wasps after which I linked up with the Wales squad for the RBS Six Nations game against Ireland.

At that point, I had no idea what my role would be. I was cover for Ryan Jones and wasn't sure if I'd start or even be involved at all.

the semi final with a performance that would probably have laid a few demons to rest after recent results against the Blues and that, of course, set up last week's final against Northampton.

What a game that turned out to be! I was sat in the crowd at Sixways with the rest of the Gloucester players and staff and I was incredibly proud of the pride and effort that the boys put in on the day.

Northampton have been excellent this season. But for long periods of the game, we made them look second best on the day.

We were without so many players and lost a couple more – Browner and Tim – during the game itself and still we took it to the Saints.

Had a couple of key things gone our way, it could all have ended differently and we were all desperately disappointed afterward.

Any side coached by Neil Back will fight to the bitter end and that's what we're expecting this afternoon.

But we have our own reasons for wanting to win and will be looking to boost our Guinness Premiership claims.

Enjoy the game!

I WAS INCREDIBLY PROUD OF THE PRIDE AND EFFORT THAT THE BOYS PUT IN ON THE DAY.

As it turned out, I started at Croke Park against Ireland. It was obviously a very proud moment for me to represent my country again after quite some time away from the international scene but it was an odd feeling not being involved in the Gloucester build up to the big game against Cardiff.

However, the boys certainly did the business against Cardiff in

However, we need to bounce back as there is still an awful lot more rugby to play this season starting this afternoon against Leeds.

We won at Headingley earlier in the season but Leeds look a vastly different side at the moment and are chalking up some impressive results in their battle against relegation.



GARETH BUTLER VIEW FROM THE CITIZEN

If the Gloucester players are daunted by the prospect of playing three games over the next seven days, they should have a chat with Apo Satala.

The Fijian flanker-come-centre was back playing for the Army on Wednesday after playing a full and potent role for the Cherry and Whites in the LV= Cup final.

Last season, head coach Bryan Redpath was able to the point to the fact that he did exactly that 12 times while needed by his club in times of chronic injuries and international call-ups.

Satala played a total of 30 games in 18 weeks – 12 for the Army – and was one of the stand-out players in the final throes of Dean Ryan's tenure at Kingsholm.

Redpath is clearly a fan of Satala the player and Satala the man, and would love to see him stay at Kingsholm beyond the end of this season.

"Apo plays most Wednesdays for the Army," Redpath said. "He played for them in the week.

"They are very kind in letting him train with us and be available if we need him. We get preference over the Army matches."

Redpath knows very well the high-risk nature of the way the Pacific Islanders play the game – he need look no further than Eliota Fuimaono-Sapolu.

And Satala showed against Northampton he is well capable of producing something from nothing.

"He's a hell of a talent in the way

he plays the game," Redpath said. "He created one opportunity against Northampton when he probably should have passed – if he had done we had a two on one with Voycey and Charlie against Reihana.

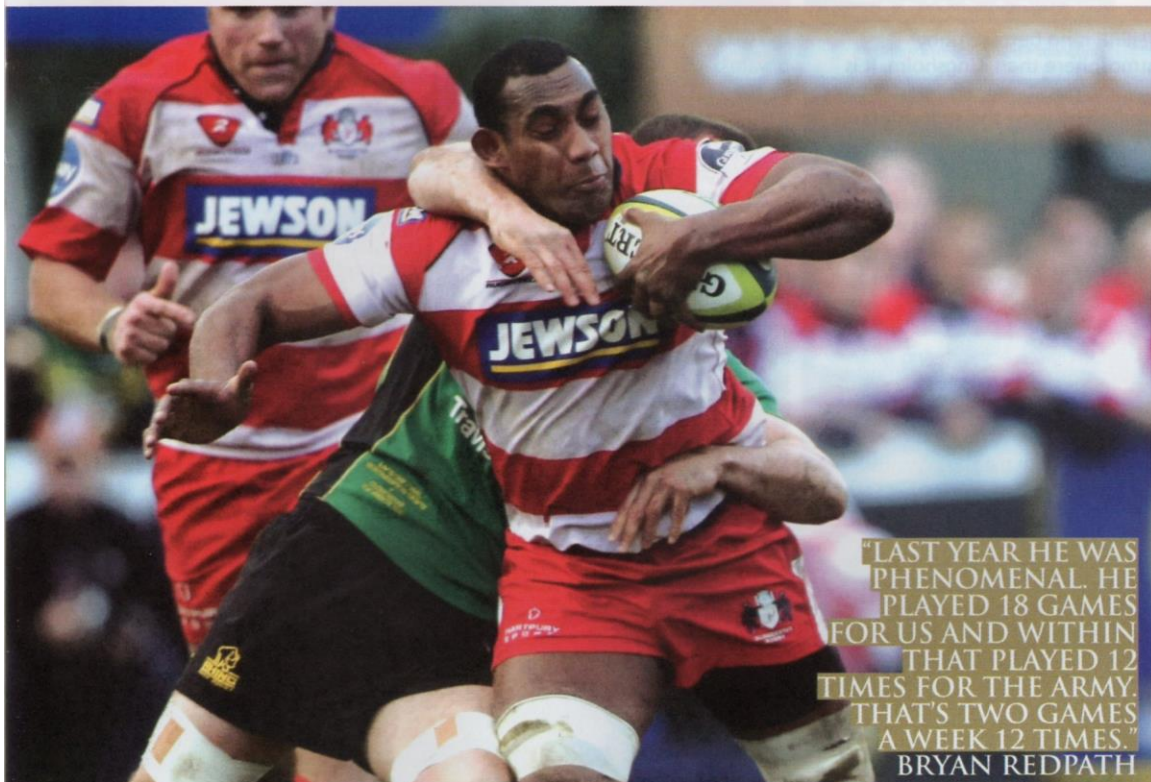
"Sometimes you get the great things they do, the Islander boys, but sometimes you just want them to catch and pass."

When Satala signed with Gloucester last season after he was picked up playing for Fiji in the Middlesex Sevens, he was clearly thrilled by the chance to play in the Guinness Premiership.

That sort of humility sits well with Redpath, a preacher of playing for pride in the shirt you are wearing.

"What you see is what you get with





"LAST YEAR HE WAS PHENOMENAL. HE PLAYED 18 GAMES FOR US AND WITHIN THAT PLAYED 12 TIMES FOR THE ARMY. THAT'S TWO GAMES A WEEK 12 TIMES."
BRYAN REDPATH

Apo," Redpath said. "He's a lovely man. He still does his Army training and there's always the potential he will have to go back and fight.

"What he is, is a very nice man and a very honest man.

"He works very hard for the team, enjoys Gloucester. That's a nice thing to have, whether playing at centre, six, seven or eight.

"Last year he was phenomenal. He played 18 games for us and within that played 12 times for the Army. That's two games a week 12 times."

Satala's future is yet to be secured at Kingsholm, but with his unique situation Redpath is hopeful it can be sorted out, despite offers

coming in from other clubs.

"It's something we'll look at because he's not full time and it's a totally different commitment and contractual terms," Redpath said.

"There are people chasing him, he played for Fiji in November.

"But he's the type of person we would like to keep around. He's an asset and you know that if you need him he will be there."

Buying him out of the Army is an option available to Gloucester, but Redpath is very aware of ending Satala's career for what could only be one or two seasons of professional rugby.

"You have to be careful of taking away people's livelihoods," Redpath said. "There are a lot of Islander boys who have been in the Army for a long time and they see that as their main bread and butter.

"You have to go along with that.

"It may be something we look at but his family still live in Stoke and his regiment is in Edinburgh so he's a Fijian-Scotsman. He has a great Scottish accent!

"It's about doing the right thing by him. Professional rugby is wonderful but life goes on. We're not all going to be involved with the game all our lives so it's important to keep other things there."

BRYAN REDPATH HEAD COACH

ON BEHALF of everyone at Gloucester Rugby, I'd like to wish the players, staff and supporters of Leeds Carnegie a very warm welcome to Kingsholm this afternoon.

It's been a while since we last played here in front of our home supporters and it's good to be home again after a few weeks on the road.

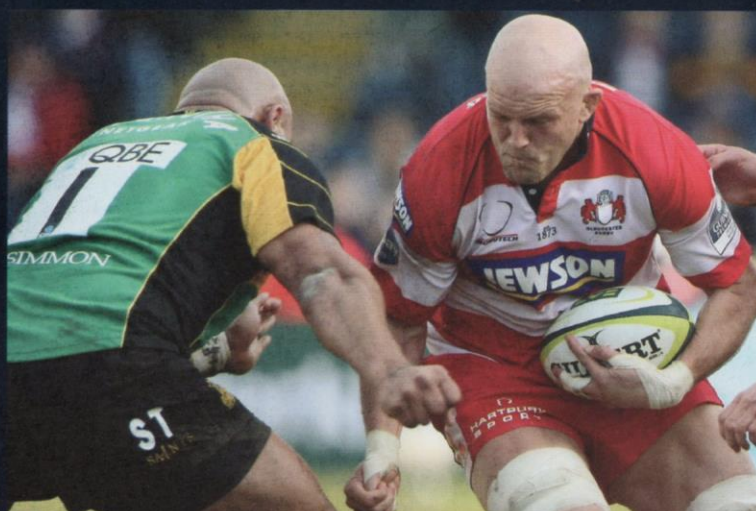
It's a huge understatement when I say that the rugby union season is a tough one. There are no easy games and very few gaps in the calendar.

However, the past couple of weeks have been a roller coaster for us and everyone at the club, from players to admin staff, has had to dig deep and pull together as playing three games in a row on the road is a big ask.

I'm stating the obvious but our challenge today is to bounce back after the disappointment of losing last week's LV= Cup Final to the Northampton Saints.

Losing last weekend was a bitter blow, there's no doubt about it. If nothing else, it would have been great to have sewn up a Heineken Cup spot for next season with several weeks of this campaign still to go.

No-one likes losing finals. It hurts to stand around and applaud while another team goes up to collect their winners' medals and the trophy itself.



It was a different sort of disappointment to the one we experienced last year against the Cardiff Blues at Twickenham.

On that occasion, we were very much second best. However,

we had our chances against Northampton but we simply made too many errors against a side of that calibre. Our ball retention, for example, wasn't good enough at key moments and allowed them to regroup in defence.



Credit to Northampton who have probably been the form side in the Premiership. They absorbed what we threw at them and took their chances when they presented themselves.

I've a lot of friends at that club and don't begrudge them the win at all. It does show, however, where we need to be and tells us that we're not that far away.

But it's all academic now. The final is been and gone and how we respond this afternoon is key. We still have plenty to play for in the Guinness Premiership, not to mention an Amlin Challenge Cup quarter final, and there's no time to sit around and ponder on what have been.

We'll be welcoming back the boys who were on international duty last weekend and will hopefully have a couple available again after injury. That's very important for us as today marks the first of three games in seven days which will test us.

Following today, we have the long trip to the north east to play the rearranged fixture against the Newcastle Falcons before returning here to Kingsholm to take on Saracens in seven days time. It'll be tough and it will stretch the squad but it's a challenge that we'll face head on.

For today, though, we're looking no further ahead than today's game against Leeds Carnegie and we certainly won't be underestimating them.

Many people wrote Leeds off at the beginning of the season but, under Neil Back, they've built a side that is very difficult to beat and they've won some significant games recently. Any

side that can beat Wasps, home and away, has to be respected. They've taken a major step forward in clawing themselves off the bottom of the table and they'll be in no mood to undo the hard work that has seen them climb the table recently.

We know ourselves from the game that we played up at Headingley earlier this season that they're no pushovers. We trailed at half time and they took some breaking down in the second half before we eventually won 26-10.

They'll come here in good spirits. They've won their past three games and only lost the previous two by a combined total of nine points. So, they're very competitive of late and will have had the benefit of a couple of weeks off.

As a result, there will be no excuses this afternoon. We know the challenge that lies ahead of us, we know what we have to do and we know how important it is to us in terms of the rest of the season.

Finally, just a word on our supporters over the past couple of weeks. We've had a few games on the road and making semi finals and finals means that our fans have to dip into their pockets and buy tickets to follow us.

So, it does mean a lot when we run out at places like the Cardiff City Stadium and Sixways to see huge areas of the stadium decked out in Cherry and White.

It gives the whole team a lift and we're very grateful for the support – thank you.

...IT DOES MEAN A LOT WHEN WE RUN OUT AT PLACES LIKE THE CARDIFF CITY STADIUM AND SIXWAYS TO SEE HUGE AREAS OF THE STADIUM DECKED OUT IN CHERRY AND WHITE.



ALASDAIR STROKOSCH



PLAYER PROFILE: ALASDAIR STROKOSCH

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

WHAT'S THE FIRST GAME YOU REMEMBER WATCHING?

I can't remember the first game really but I expect it was a Scotland game, possibly the 1990 Grand Slam game against England at Murrayfield.

WHO IS YOUR SPORT'S BEST PUNDIT?

Bill McLaren, it has to be. He's a legend, legend of the game and he'll be sadly missed.

WHO'S GOT THE FLASHIEST MOTOR AT THE CLUB?

It used to be our old Strength and Conditioning Coach, Mark Bitcon, he used to drive a Porsche. Carlos had about five flashy motors but I'd say it's probably between Les and Barny at the moment.



WHO'S THE BEST DRESSER IN THE PLAYING DEPARTMENT?

Pete Buxton, he's got a personal shopper so he's got a stylist.

IF MONEY WAS NO OBJECT WHAT WOULD YOU BUY?

Aston Martin DBS.

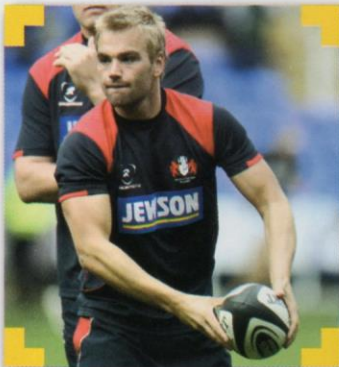
SCORED?

I don't score many so it would be against Quins last year. I ran in from about 50 yards, that's the furthest I've ever run in a game as well.

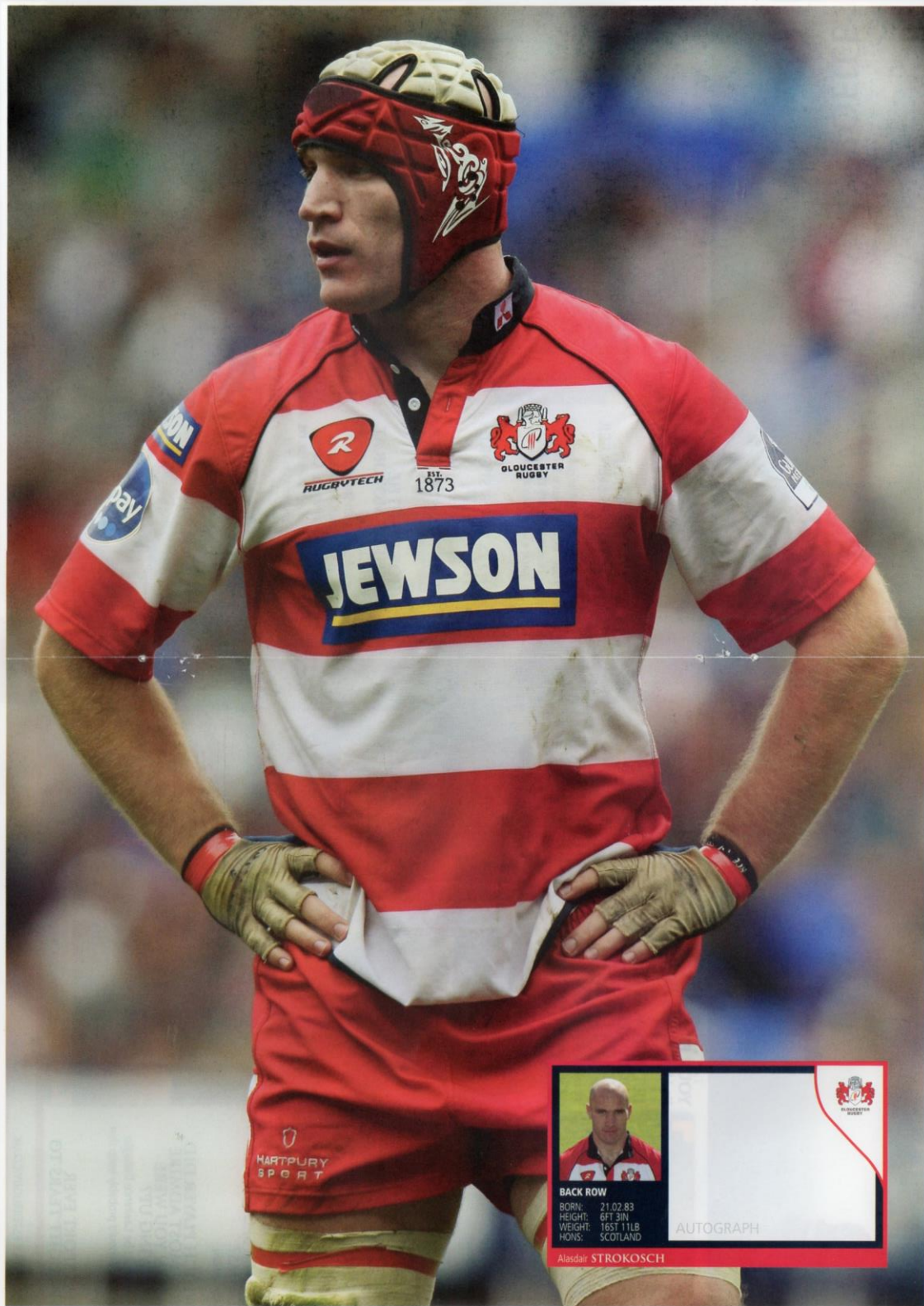
WHO'S IMPRESSED YOU DURING THE SIX NATIONS?



Well from Scotland John Barclay's been playing really well for us. I haven't really watched the other games but he's been outstanding.

BEST TRY YOU'VE EVER



John Barclay of Scotland



	
BACK ROW BORN: 21.02.83 HEIGHT: 6FT 3IN WEIGHT: 16ST 11LB HONS: SCOTLAND	AUTOGRAPH
Alasdair STROKOSCH	



PLAYER PROFILE: ALASDAIR STROKOSCH



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

Guns N' Roses.

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

Well pretty basic, it's Strokes or Stroker. It's German, Nazi things like that. They all seem to come out.

**WHO IS YOUR BEST
FRIEND IN RUGBY?**

Alasdair Dickinson.

**DO YOU SUPPORT ANY
OTHER SPORTING
TEAMS?**

Man United.

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

That would be Lawrence Dallaglio actually. I should probably keep that quiet!

**HAS SPORT EVER
BROUGHT TEARS TO**

YOUR EYES?

No, I tend not to get that emotional.

**IF THERE WAS ONE
RUGBY RELATED
RULE OR LAW THAT
YOU COULD CHANGE,
WHAT WOULD IT BE?**

Well, I think they're going the right way about changing the

breakdown, you know not letting negative players spoil it any more. The way they're refereeing Super 14 right now is probably the way forward.

**WHERE IN THE
WORLD IS THE BEST
NIGHT OUT?**

Tough one really. Las Vegas.



Stroks breaks through against Quins to score his favourite try

BOB FENTON'S KINGSHOLM NEWS



CLOSE, but no cigar.

Not for us the odd shaped trophy that was the LV= 'Cup', but we gave it a heck of a go. And so close too... Nicky Robinson must have been millimetres from the line but such are the margins of victory and defeat.

For the second season running we made the final of the Anglo-Welsh competition and, for the second year running, in true 'Weakest Link' tradition, we left with nothing. But the manner of defeat was so very different. Last year we were destroyed by Cardiff. This year it was a very different story.

Sixways may not have been an ideal venue – it took me over 45 minutes to get out of the industrial estate car park – but excellent weather and a good pitch helped

produce some really exciting rugby, helped by the contribution of both sets of fans.

We went into the match as underdogs but did ourselves proud. We lost to a very good Northampton side - coached by the excellent Jim Mallinder, probably playing the best rugby in the country at the moment and who have won more games than anyone else in the Premiership. But we ran them mighty close, and that's a mark of how far we have come this season.

And while both teams lost a few players to internationals (Northampton two or three to our five) don't forget we did that without five or six injured players who would probably have made - or been very close to making - the starting line up

There is a new attitude around the club, even in the dark times of September and October we were told the team spirit was good, you can see now just how strong it is.

Two good examples of this from yesterday: the way Mike Tindall hopped off the plane from France a few hours earlier and scurried up the road to the match. It was seeing him involved as 'waterboy' and general messenger geeing up the players every time he came onto the pitch, and the way Gareth Delve walked round each player in turn as they waited for the presentation ceremony to begin.

Visible commitment to each other in the group – something that was sadly lacking at the end of last season as we slumped our way down the table.

So where does that defeat leave us? Realistically we are going to need other teams to do us big favours if we are to achieve the holy grail of the Heineken Cup next year.

I do believe, though, that we have a team that is more than capable of getting a result against almost anyone – if only we could cut out the few silly errors that creep in from time to time.

Let's not forget also that some silverware is still within our grasp. In a few weeks time we compete in the quarterfinals of the Amlin Challenge at Wasps. We were there a couple of weeks ago and we really should have smashed them, and I reckon if we have anything like a full squad to those from we should turn them over.

It would be great if we could take a good sized crowd up there with us. Last time we were there a smallish bunch of Gloucester fans created far too much noise for them. So they resorted to turning on the electronic cheering and clapping to try to raise their somnolent crowd.

Talking to Tim Molenaar the other day he stressed how much of a lift the crowd can help the team, especially away from home. Remember the match there a few seasons back – the one where we drowned out their opera singer? Let's go for that again and turn another industrial park stadium into a sea of cherry and white.

But that's for the future. We've got a couple of tough games here at Castle Grim first. Anyone who thinks Leeds would have just rolled over and accepted relegation after their poor start to the season obviously never saw their coach during his playing days.

Neil Back has to be one of the most dogged players to have ever picked up a ball. Stretching himself up to his full height of about four foot eight (I might be a bit out here) he regularly levelled far bigger opponents, and his courage knew no bounds.

And he was responsible for the best bit of cheating – sorry gamesmanship – seen in recent years when he blatantly flicked the ball out of the Munster scrum half's hands to deny them a chance of scoring at the death in the 2002 Heineken Cup final.

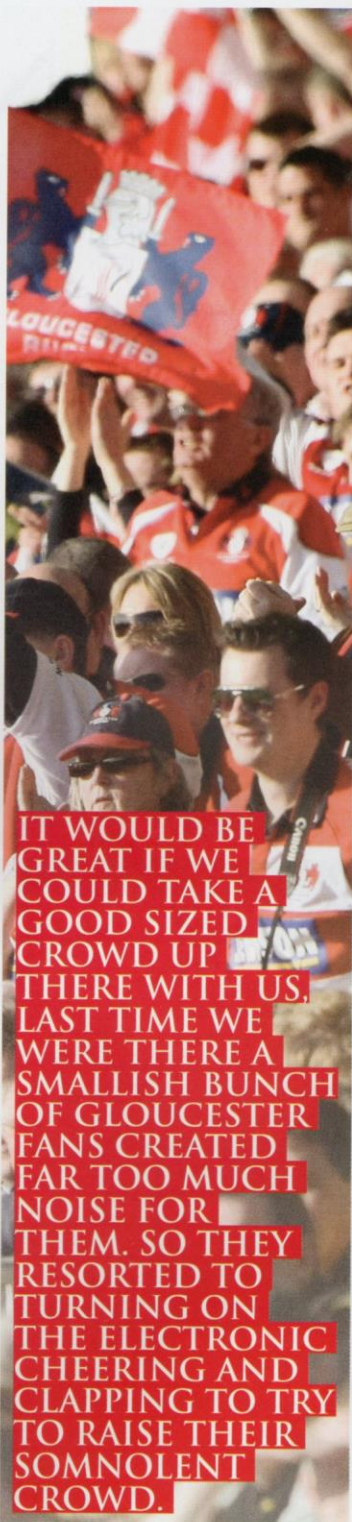
His Leeds side has started to show the same cussedness that he did in his playing days and they have shown that they are more than capable of getting a result pretty much anywhere.

As a result the scrap taking place in the bottom three of the league is closer than a very close thing and I wouldn't like to guess at who will be looking up at 11 other teams come the end of the season.

Finally it's a little over four weeks until Team Shedweb – now renamed the Shedweb Lions – take on the Gloucester RFC veterans' side, the Cherrypickers, in the Help 4 Heroes charity match at Widden Old Boys RFC.

If you look around you now you will probably see about 30 blokes looking slightly nervous as they have just realised that it is not that far off and perhaps they should have made it to a few more training sessions.

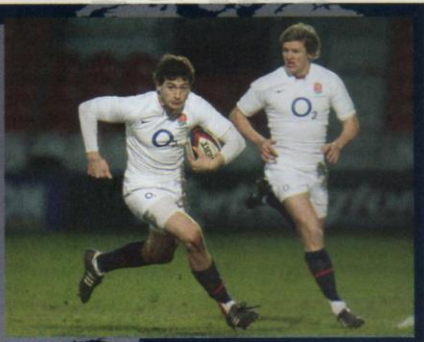
It takes place on the afternoon of Sunday 18 April and it would be great if as many people as possible could get along. It promises to be a great day, and hopefully we will raise a huge amount of money for such a good cause.



DAVE KING'S WORLD OF RUGBY

IT'S ONLY a game was never more emphasised than with the death of Cornish Pirates; Darren Hicks, a lance corporal with the 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards, who was killed in an explosion recently in Afghanistan. Darren had been a product of the Pirates mini-juniors.

COULD you name the game where the only point scorers for England were Gloucester Rugby players? Well, it happened recently when Jonny May, with a try, and Freddie Burns with three penalties and a conversion did so. It was in England's Under 20 triumph against Italy Under 20's in San Donci di Piave on Friday 12th February.



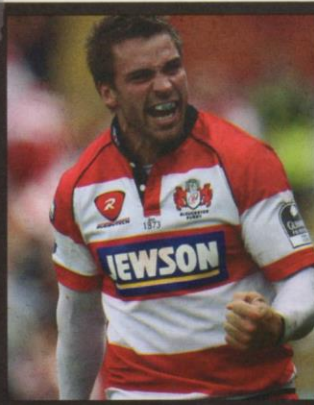
CANADA'S record points scorer Gareth Rees has claimed that carrying the Olympic torch in Vancouver recently was just as emotional as his four World Cup appearances. The former Harlequins and Wasps full back hoisted the flame on the final day of its 100-day long journey to the opening ceremony of the Winter Olympics. Gareth Rees scored 487 points in 55 appearances for Canada.

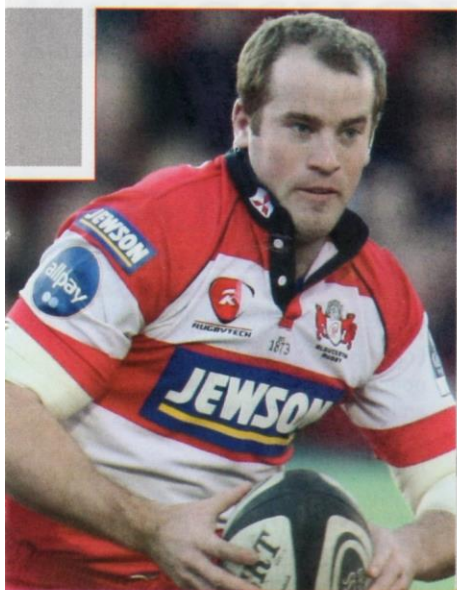
WHEN Greg Rawlinson the Worcester lock and former All Black was asked to name the best XV he had played with or against he named our former prop forward Tony Windo in the team. He described him thus:

"He had the longest arms I've ever seen and could disrupt the opposition feed at the scrum by reaching through and pestering the opposition's 9. Referees never worked him out and we made it a mockery at scrum time"

IN OUR eight seasons of qualifying for the Heineken Cup we have used no fewer than 107 players in this competition.

AS A guide to the number of points required to finish in sixth position in the Premiership which is usually regarded a requirement for Heineken Cup qualification, these are the points recorded by the sixth placed club since 2002-2003 season: 2003 – Leicester 55, 2004 – Harlequins 54, 2005 – Gloucester 47, 2006 – London Irish 53, 2008 – Harlequins 63, 2009 – Gloucester 57. Therefore 55 points has been the average over the last six seasons to secure that vital sixth position.



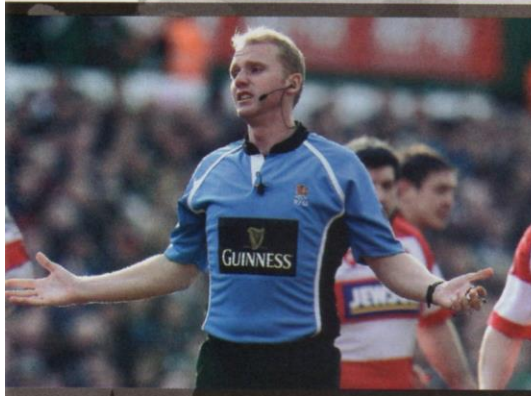


JAMES SIMPSON-DANIEL has now made more appearances in the Heineken Cup than any other Gloucester player since we first entered the competition. At the completion of this season's participation he had made 34 full appearances with 2 as a replacement. Peter Buxton is next in line with 30 full appearances and 7 as a replacement. Alex Brown has made 29 full appearances with 1 as a replacement.

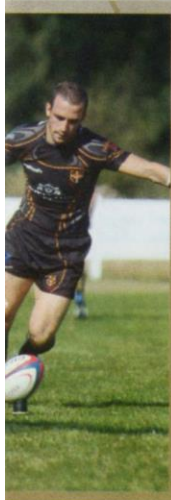
No fewer than ten Gloucester players have recorded a hat-trick of tries in league encounters. They have been James Simpson-Daniel (2), Mike Lloyd, Chris Catling, Elton Moncreiff, Frank Schisano, Marcel Garvey, James Forrester, Leslie Vainikolo, Akapusi Quera and Iain Balshaw.

In European competitions we have had seven players who have recorded a hat-trick of tries, once again James Simpson-Daniel leads the way with two, followed by Mark Mapletoft, Peter Glanville, Tom Beim, James Forrester, Daren O'Leary and Terry Fanolua.

While James Forrester recorded a hat-trick of tries versus Bristol in a domestic cup match. James Simpson-Daniel did likewise versus Cardiff Blues in our LV Cup triumph. These records relate to records since the game went professional.



WHY is there such an imbalance in where referees officiate? Wayne Barnes has covered four matches at Kingsholm and yet he appears regularly in our away fixtures. The Forest of Dean born official officiated in 12 of our away fixtures. Incidentally, we have lost nine of those twelve.



SAM ULPH, the Esher full back landed 36 consecutive kicks at goal between 5th December and 31st January and a world record 51 points haul against lowly Manchester. The former London Welsh player, who is 27, has landed 132 kicks from 138 attempts midway through February. The former Loughborough College student was at one time with London Wasps



OH DEAR! Redruth head coach Nigel Hambley has been suspended by the R.F.U. for swearing at officials. He swore at match official Luke Pearce in the first half and at assistant referee Simon Adams in the second half of their National One match with Wharfedale.



OUR former No 8 Adam Balding has signed a two year deal with Worcester Warriors. The 30-year-old England Saxons and Sevens player will join the Sixways club next season.

PETER ARNOLD'S GLOUCESTER TALK

SO NEAR AND YET...

All right, so we lost another final. Disappointing, but at least, this time round, no one can accuse Gloucester of choking on the big occasion. The lads had the Saints badly worried at times, and as Bryan Redpath said, the game could have gone either way.

I'm not whingeing when I say that the luck wasn't with us at Sixways. To have lost both Alex Brown and Tim Molenaar to injury just when the game was at its most crucial stage was a severe blow by anyone's standards, disrupting the pack and forcing a re-think in the backs. Who knows what a difference that made?

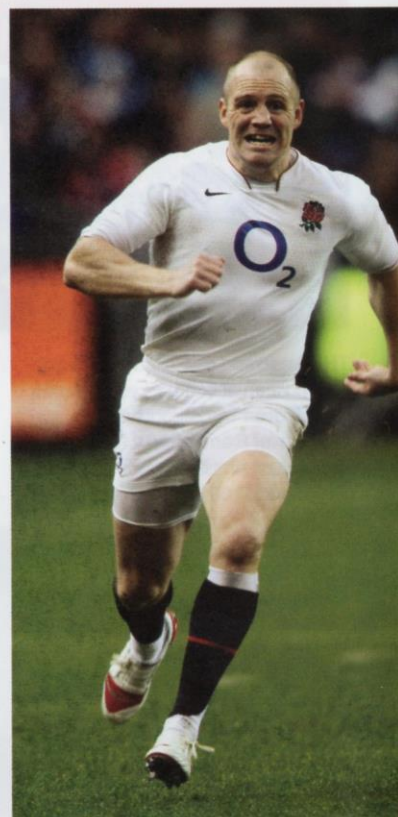
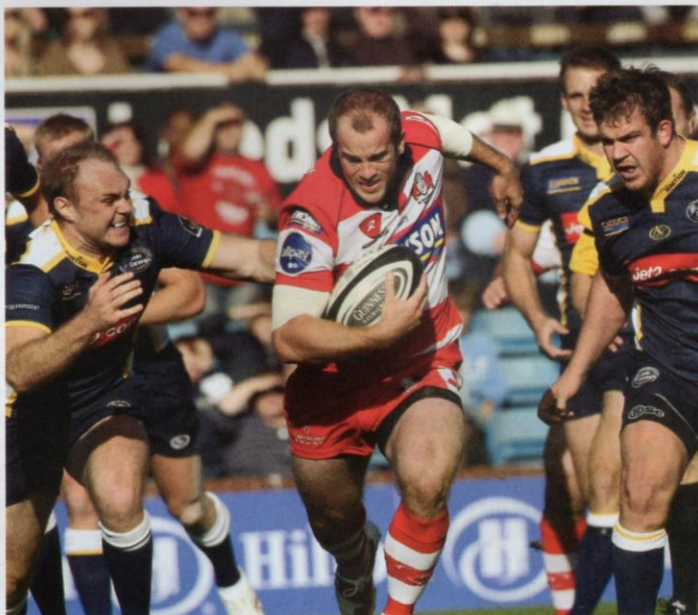
Then there was Nicky Robinson's disallowed try. Reading between the lines, I think even Jim Mallinder was worried by that one. All I can

say is that I studied the photograph of the incident which appeared in the Citizen and it appeared to be a perfectly good score to me.

Apparently Nicky himself was convinced that he had got over the line and grounded the ball legally. I am perfectly aware that the camera can, indeed, lie and the picture may have been misleading, but many refs would have given it.

The team can come back to Kingsholm with their heads held high. Someone described the mood as "bloody but unbowed" which seems thoroughly justified under the circumstances.

Never mind lads! You did your best and didn't let anyone down. And wasn't it nice to see Mike Tindall, having hurried back from Paris, acting as the drinks waiter once again! Now there's a real team man for you.



BACK TO BUSINESS

Cup games are all very well, but the real business of the season is the Premiership campaign. That's where we get to see the Great and Good of the English game, here at Kingsholm, at least once a season.

Having said that, and with all the respect in the world, few people would have described Leeds as 'Great' at the start of the season: in fact most disinterested fans would not have regarded them as 'Good'.

In fact, until around Christmas, today's welcome visitors were

HE IS CERTAINLY ONE OF THE PREMIERSHIP'S MOST NOTABLE PERSONALITIES AND A MIGHTILY FEARED PLAYER. THE CONTRAST BETWEEN LES AND SINBAD ON THE OTHER WING COULD HARDLY BE MORE MARKED

regarded as the whipping boys of the competition, and in our darkest days we were glancing over our shoulders and thinking that at least Leeds were there to cushion our fall from grace, and prevent us suffering the ultimate ignominy of being relegated.

However, as we all know, the rugby season rarely goes according to the script, and alongside our own renaissance, we have been seeing how Leeds have been showing their true colours and administering a few nasty shocks around the country.

Don't make any mistake: Leeds are no pushovers. They have some formidable players, almighty persistence, and a pride and a passion which rivals our own. It's not just a matter of turning up and walking away with five points.

It seems an awfully long time since we had anything to watch at all at Kingsholm, and the last time we were here, the pitch resembled Conan Doyle's Great Grimpen Mire. At least it should have dried up a bit by now. Let's hope the tries haven't.

WELL DONE 'TINS'

You do have to say that England's performance against France was their best in this season's Six Nations. The young guns from Northampton, Messrs Foden and Ashton certainly added some pace and adventure, and with a little more experience, the young winger and League convert might well have scored a couple of tries. Deacon and Palmer looked pretty good in the engine room as well.

However, I don't think I'm being



biased when I say that the best player on the field for England was Mike Tindall. His direct running, eye for the game, and sheer, hard-won know-how very nearly handed England a totally unexpected victory. And didn't he give the mighty Bastareaud a going over! Mike's attentions may well have had something to do with the huge centre's substitution in the second half.

All of which made the decision to take him off highly perplexing. Of course, he hadn't played an awful lot before his return to the England fold, and it could be that it was always intended to replace him after an hour or so. If that was the case, then it showed a great lack of flexibility not to change that decision in the light of events.

Mike, himself, told a BBC pitchside reporter that he wasn't injured and didn't want to come off, so his replacement seems to have been a colossal shot in the foot. I firmly believe that England would have won that game if Mike Tindall had been allowed to say the course.

And I'm not even going to talk about the referee. Brian Moore did all that for me.

WELCOME BIG LES!

On Monday I was feeling a bit grouchy after the Cup disappointment, logged on to the club's web site, and was immediately cheered up by the announcement that Lesley Vainikolo had decided to stay at Gloucester.

You could say that Big Les has had a chequered career since he arrived at Kingsholm, for many reasons, many of them not of his own making. Just at the moment, however he seems to be approaching the formidable form of which we know he is capable.

He is certainly one of the Premiership's most notable personalities and a mightily feared player. The contrast between Les and Sinbad on the other wing could hardly be more marked. All power and strength on one wing, and guile and trickery on the other. The combination makes for enthralling rugby.

And dare I mention it? Les scored five tries on his debut for Gloucester. The opposition? Why, Leeds would you believe.

LV= CUP FINAL



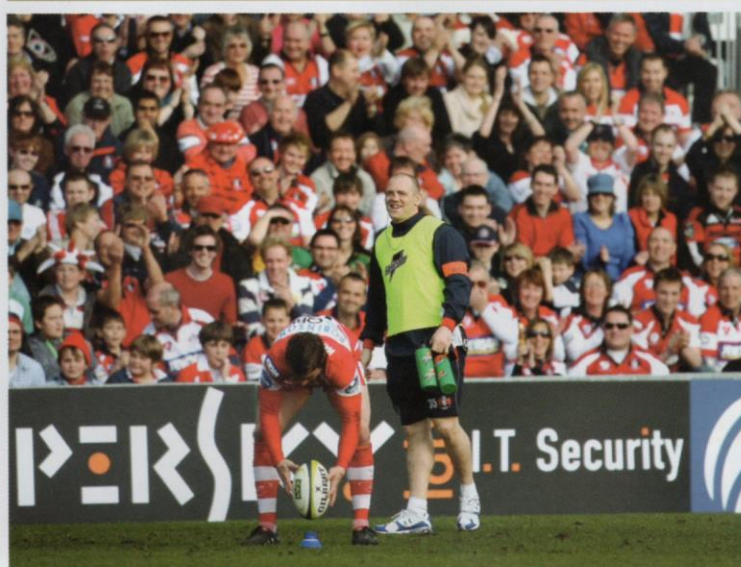
GLoucester RUGBY 24



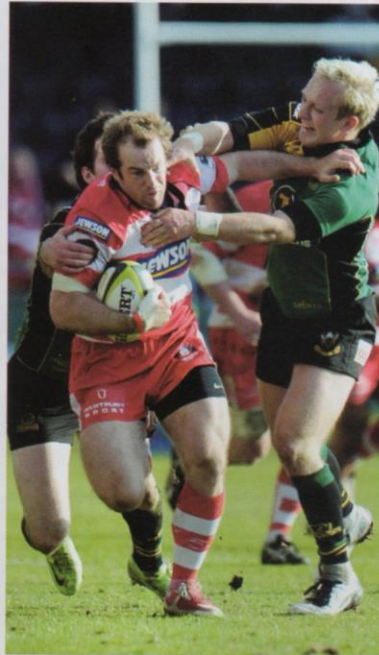
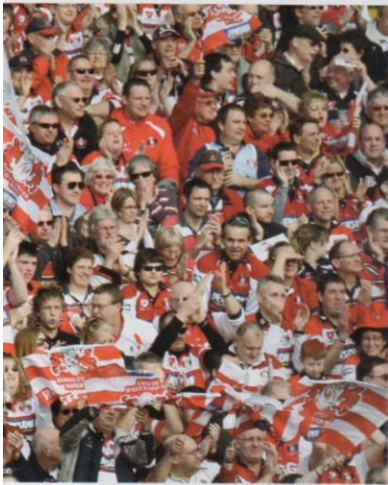
NORTHAMPTON SAINTS 30



GLoucester RUGBY HEAD COACH BRYAN REDPATH:
"IT IS NEVER EASY, LOSING FINALS. IT WAS A GAME THAT
COULD HAVE GONE EITHER WAY.
"NICKY ROBINSON SAID HE'D SCORED IN THE SECOND
HALF (TELEVISION REPLAYS SUGGESTED OTHERWISE), BUT
THAT'S LIFE.
"WE DIDN'T CONTROL POSSESSION WELL ENOUGH AND
THERE WERE ONE OR TWO LITTLE ERRORS, BUT CREDIT TO
NORTHAMPTON."



SUNDAY 21ST MARCH 2010 // 15:30 KO // SIXWAYS STADIUM



NORTHAMPTON SAINTS

DIRECTOR OF RUGBY JIM MALLINDER:

"CUP FINALS ARE ALL ABOUT WINNING, YOU WOULD TAKE 3-0 IN A FINAL."

"BUT IT IS MORE ENCOURAGING WHEN YOU CAN PLAY LIKE THAT. THERE WERE TWO TEAMS WHO WANTED TO PLAY RUGBY. IT WAS A GOOD ADVERT FOR THE GAME."

"IT SHOWS HOW FAR THE SIDE HAS PROGRESSED, AND IT WAS GREAT FOR OUR FANS. IT WAS SPECIAL."



vs LEEDS CARNEGIE //053



SATURDAY 27TH FEBRUARY 2010 / 3:00PM KO

**GLOUCESTER RUGBY 47****SALE SHARKS****3****COACH'S COMMENTS**

"We got the ascendancy in the first 20 minutes at the set-piece scrum which enabled us to get a platform."

"Credit to the players that the skill set in those conditions was great. We did not knock on as many balls as the opposition and we were far more clinical when we had the opportunity."

KEY MOMENT

The first scrum! The Gloucester pack drove their Sale counterparts off their own ball on their very first put in. The seeds of doubt were sown and a penalty try followed shortly afterwards. Sale never looked like matching Gloucester up front from that moment on.



As this game kicked off, few would have predicted that Gloucester were on the point of serving up a seven try thriller.

A pre match deluge meant that the Gloucester ground staff had to perform miracles to make the pitch playable and, despite their sterling efforts, an arm wrestle in the mud looked on the cards.

Although Gloucester did initially play the conditions and take the game to the Sharks through the pack, Bryan Redpath's men delighted the home crowd with some sparkling rugby in the conditions and scored some

sparkling tries on their way to a well deserved win.

It was all over as a contest very early on as Gloucester clinched the fastest try scoring bonus point in the Guinness Premiership this season.

With half an hour on the clock, Sale were miserable and muddy and looking like men who would for rather be back in sunny Manchester.

The Gloucester pack had been supreme. From the very first scrum, they dominated the opposition with the early penalty try a huge moral victory.



A PRE MATCH DELUGE MEANT THAT THE GLOUCESTER GROUND STAFF HAD TO PERFORM MIRACLES TO MAKE THE PITCH PLAYABLE AND, DESPITE THEIR STERLING EFFORTS, AN ARM WRESTLE IN THE MUD LOOKED ON THE CARDS.



With Sale reeling on the ropes, Gloucester then had the perfect man to exploit the situation. Twice the big winger received the ball in space on the left and twice he scored. When Akapusi Qera dived over acrobatically to secure the try scoring bonus point, it was just a question of how many.

Sale did restore a little pride with a Charlie Hodgson penalty shortly before half time with the Shed happily booing the fact that Sale went for the posts when trailing by 26 points!

The excitement tailed off after the half time interval when another spell of rain made handling even more difficult and Gloucester's mood was darkened somewhat by the loss of Greg Somerville with an arm injury.

However, Gloucester delighted their supporters by finishing with a flourish with three excellent tries.

Nicky Robinson's chip over an advancing defence led to a try for the Welsh fly half, Eliota Fuimaono-Sapolu's neat change of direction gave James Simpson-Daniel a chance to show incredible skills in the conditions and Andrew Hazell finished off matters as he cut a great angle onto Tim Taylor's pass.

Not much had separated the two sides in the Guinness Premiership table before the game but, on the evidence of Saturday's match, they are heading in vastly different directions and the Sharks have a nervous few weeks ahead.

THE TEAMS

GLOUCESTER RUGBY

Morgan
Simpson-Daniel
Tindall
Molenaar
Vainikolo
Robinson
R. Lawson
Wood
Azam
Somerville
James
Brown
Buxton
Qera
Delve

REPLACEMENTS:

Fuimaono-Sapolu for Tindall (41), Taylor for Robinson (69), Lewis for R. Lawson (57), Capdevielle for Wood (62), Dawidiuk for Azam (64), Doran-Jones for Somerville (49), Eustace for Buxton (57), Hazell for Qera (64).



SALE SHARKS

Vakacegu
Ripol
James
Bishop
Cohen
Hodgson
Wigglesworth
E. Roberts
Schwalger
Halsall
C. Jones
Cockbain
Ormsby
Seymour
Koyamailbole

REPLACEMENTS:

Davies for Bishop (74), Peel for Wigglesworth (54), Briggs for Schwalger (63), Kerr for Halsall (20), Cox for C. Jones (61), Kench for Cockbain (54).

NOT USED: O'Donnell, Styles.



SUNDAY 7TH MARCH 2010 / 15:00 KO



LONDON WASPS

24



GLOUCESTER RUGBY 19

COACH'S COMMENTS

"I think I was more disappointed with the first-half performance than losing the game late on."

"Our discipline was average, our game poor because we coughed up possession, gifted them penalties and lacked impact."

"When you play away you have to be smart and adapt to the referee, which we failed to do. We gave away penalties in a row for similar offences."

KEY MOMENT

With about ten minutes left on the clock, Gloucester were still well and truly in the game at 19-16. Enter David Lemi, Wasps' Samoan international winger. Lemi had been fairly quiet but suddenly exploded into life, leaving two defenders in his wake to score the latest in a career of memorable tries.



Gloucester's brave second half fightback at Adams Park was undone by a moment of magic from Wasps' David Lemi who conjured a try out of nothing with ten minutes to go for the crucial score in Wasps 24-19 victory.

It was a cruel blow for Bryan Redpath's side who had fought back from a 16-3 deficit at one point in the first half to draw level going into the final quarter.

In truth, Wasps had opened up the 16-3 gap without really having to do that much. A couple of

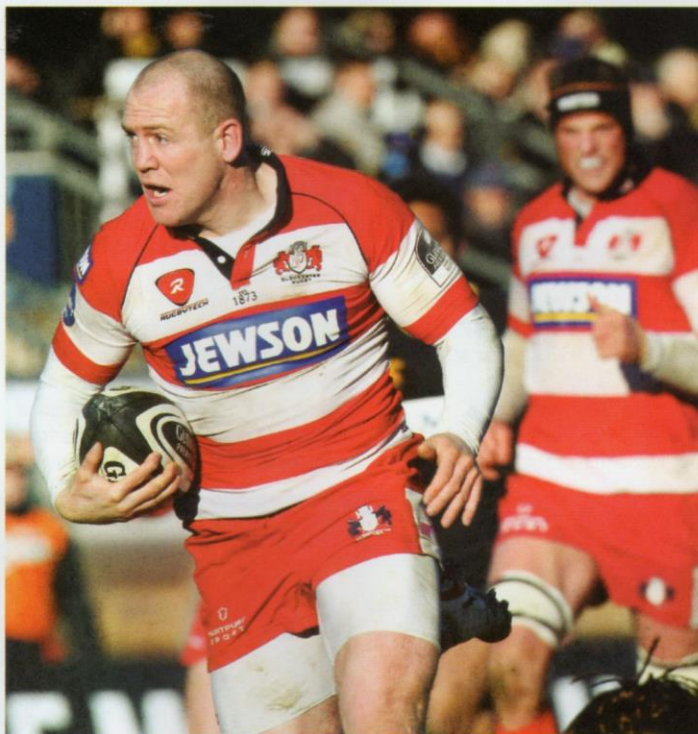
cheap penalties conceded at the breakdown with the home team seemingly going nowhere in attack led to a 6-0 lead.

Even Dave Walder's try was largely the result of his clearance downfield being mishandled gifting Wasps possession and a superb territorial gain.

The half time team talk seemed to do Gloucester some good and they cut back on the basic errors and the discipline improved. Indeed, Wasps started to concede some penalties as they were put under some pressure and Gloucester tip toed



MIKE TINDALL'S TRY ON 52 MINUTES WAS SUPERBLY TAKEN AND A WELCOME ANNOUNCEMENT THAT, AFTER FOUR MONTHS MISSING WITH INJURY, THE WORLD CUP WINNING CENTRE IS GETTING BACK TO HIS BEST.



their way back into the game.

Mike Tindall's try on 52 minutes was superbly taken and a welcome announcement that, after four months missing with injury, the World Cup winning centre is getting back to his best.

Quick lineout ball swiftly transferred into midfield gave Tindall a gap to manoeuvre through and he did so with aplomb, splitting the Wasps' midfield before leaving Paul Sackey for dead with a sublime step off his right foot.

It was all to play for in the final 20 minutes but a touch of ill fortune led to Lemi's decisive contribution.

Gloucester had possession on halfway and were moving forward when Alasdair Dickinson took the ball into contact. The Scottish international prop took a blow to the head in the tackle and was stripped of possession. With Dicko laid out in midfield, the ball was shipped left and Lemi's pace and footwork did the rest.

Redpath's side were far from done and they bravely fought for the win. Nicky Robinson's boot kept them within losing bonus range and James Simpson-Daniel's powerful run hinted at a memorable comeback but it just wasn't meant to be.

THE TEAMS

LONDON WASPS

van Gisbergen
Sackey
Jacobs
Kefu
Lemi
Walder
Honeyben
Taulafo
Webber
Broster
Veale
Leo
Hart
Betsen
Ward-Smith

REPLACEMENTS:

Cipriani for van Gisbergen (59), Waldouck for Jacobs (55), Ellis for Hart (73).

NOT USED: Lindsay, Bocca, Baker, Fury, Varndell



GLoucester RUGBY

Morgan
Simpson-Daniel
Tindall
Fuimaono-Sapolu
Vainikolo
Taylor
A. Williams
Wood
Azam
Capdevielle
James
Brown
Strokosch
Qera
Delve

REPLACEMENTS:

Molenaar for Tindall (66), Robinson for Taylor (45), R. Lawson for A. Williams (47), Dickinson for Wood (66), S. Lawson for Azam (51), Doran-Jones for Capdevielle (66), Eustace for James (66).

NOT USED: Boer



SUNDAY 14TH MARCH 2010 / 12:15PM KO

**CARDIFF BLUES** 18**GLOUCESTER RUGBY** 29**COACH'S COMMENTS**

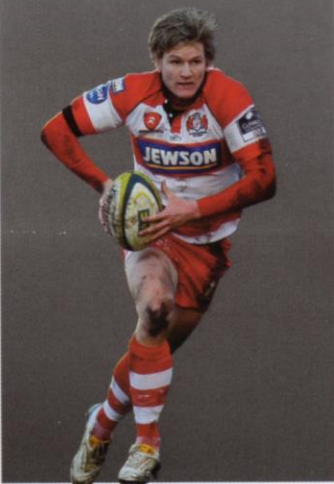
"We had some good territory in the first half and just coughed up possession. We didn't create any real pressure."

"I think the key thing was Nicky's field position in the first 20 minutes of the second half. That was vital and we held onto possession better."

KEY MOMENT

Playing first half injury time, with Gloucester trailing 10-3, Blues' fly half Ceri Sweeney tried ambitiously to move the ball wide from deep in his own half.

Quick as a flash, Freddie Burns anticipated the pass and homed in on the ball, snatching it away from the Cardiff backs and sprinting home untouched to score under the posts and get Gloucester back on level terms.



There were some nervous moments at the Cardiff City Stadium but Gloucester eventually got on top against the Blues to clinch a place in the final of the LV= Cup.

Qualification for the knockout stages of this tournament had looked unlikely when Gloucester kicked off the group stages with two defeats from two matches including a 25-26 reverse at the hands of Cardiff.

However, victories over Worcester and Harlequins took Gloucester into

the semi finals and they've made the most of the opportunity.

Gloucester started strongly and looked as though they wanted to put Cardiff away from the off. However, a Nicky Robinson penalty was the only reward and, when Casey Laulala smashed his way over from deep, the game had a different complexion to it.

Bryan Redpath's side were rocked for a short while and had to put in some hard work in defence as Cardiff sought to press home their advantage but Freddie Burns' interception try on



IT WAS AN IMPRESSIVE WIN FOR GLOUCESTER WHO NEVER LOOKED IN ANY DANGER FOLLOWING SINBAD'S FIRST SCORE.



the stroke of half time changed the game as Gloucester went into the break level at 10 all.

Redpath insisted after the game that the half time team talk had revolved around being patient and respecting possession.

And, it proved to be the key. Gloucester dominated the second half and pounced once Cardiff had been reduced to 14 men courtesy of Tom White's yellow card.

James Simpson-Daniel's first try after prolonged pressure put Gloucester in front and a brief Cardiff fightback

only produced a Sweeney penalty.

Patient, controlled play resulted in two more tries for Simpson-Daniel as Gloucester took a decisive grip on the game and only a Gloucester handling error allowed Sweeney the consolation of a last minute try.

It was an impressive win for Gloucester who never looked in any danger following Sinbad's first score.

The win was also a huge boost to morale following a series of recent defeats at the hands of the Welsh region including last year's final in this competition.

THE TEAMS

GLOUCESTER RUGBY

Freddie Burns
James Simpson-Daniel
Mike Tindall
Eliota Fuimaono-Sapolu
Lesley Vainikolo
Nicky Robinson
Dave Lewis
Nick Wood
Olivier Azam
Paul Doran-Jones
Will James
Alex Brown
Peter Buxton
Akapusi Qera
Jake Boer

REPLACEMENTS:

Darren Dawidiuk
Alasdair Dickinson
Pierre Capdevielle
Adam Eustace
Andrew Hazell
Jordi Pasqualin
Tim Molenaar
Tom Voyce



CARDIFF BLUES

Ben Blair
Tom James
Casey Laulala
Dafydd Hewitt
Chris Czekaj
Ceri Sweeney
Gareth Cooper
Tau Filise
T.Rhys Thomas
Scott Andrews
Scott Morgan
Paul Tito
Andy Powell
Ben White
Xavier Rush

REPLACEMENTS:

Huw Dowden
Ian George
Nathan Trevett
Andreas Pretorius
Ma'ama Molitika
Darren Allinson
Sam Norton-Knight
Gavin Evans

TODAY'S LINE-UPS



VS LEEDS CARNEGIE
SATURDAY 27/3/10
KO 3:00PM

**GLOUCESTER
RUGBY**

VS

**LEEDS
CARNEGIE**

**GUINNESS
PREMIERSHIP**



FREDDIE BURNS	15 FULLBACK	LEIGH HINTON
JAMES SIMPSON-DANIEL	14 WING	HENRY FA'AFILI
MIKE TINDALL	13 CENTRE	SERU RABENI
ELIOTA FUIMAONO-SAPOLU	12 CENTRE	SCOTT BARROW
LESLEY VAINIKOLO	11 WING	LEE BLACKETT
<i>pppTc</i> NICKY ROBINSON	10 FLY-HALF	CEIRON THOMAS
<i>isatons</i> ✓ RORY LAWSON	9 SCRUM-HALF	SCOTT MATHIE
NICK WOOD	1 PROP	MIKE MACDONALD
SCOTT LAWSON	2 HOOKER	ANDY TITTERRELL
PIERRE CAPDEVIELLE	3 PROP	JUAN GOMEZ
WILL JAMES	4 LOCK	ERIK LUND
MARCO BORTOLAMI	5 LOCK	MARCO WENTZEL (C)
PETER BUXTON	6 FLANKER	KEARNAN MYALL
AKAPUSI QERA	7 FLANKER	HENDRE FOURIE
GARETH DELVE (C)	8 NO.8	RHYS OAKLEY

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	BP	PTS
1 Leicester	17	11	1	5	365	226	8	54
2 Northampton	16	12	0	4	328	227	4	52
3 Saracens	16	10	1	5	267	236	4	46
4 Wasps	16	10	0	6	276	268	3	43
5 London Irish	16	8	3	5	346	250	5	43
6 Bath Rugby	16	7	2	7	277	253	6	38
7 GLOUCESTER	16	6	1	9	329	324	6	32
8 Harlequins	16	6	2	8	263	338	4	32
9 Newcastle	16	4	4	8	205	251	4	28
10 Leeds Carnegie	16	5	1	10	227	352	5	27
11 Worcester	16	3	4	9	226	282	5	25
12 Sale Sharks	15	4	1	10	213	315	5	23

TOP POINTS SCORERS: 2009-2010

145	Willie Walker	Worcester Warriors
137	Jimmy Gopperth	Newcastle Falcons
131	Nicky Robinson	Gloucester Rugby

TOP TRY SCORERS: 2009-20010

12	Chris Ashton	Northampton Saints
7	James S-Daniel	Gloucester Rugby
6	Matt Banahan	Bath Rugby

TOP PENALTY KICKERS: 2009-2010

40	Jimmy Gopperth	Newcastle Falcons
36	Willie Walker	Worcester Warriors
35	Jeremy Staunton	Leicester Tigers

MOST APPEARANCES : 2008-2009

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

REPLACEMENTS

16 OLIVIER AZAM	16 VILI MA'ASI
17 ALASDAIR DICKINSON	17 GARETH HARDY
18 RUPERT HARDEN	18 PHIL SWAINSTON
19 ADAM EUSTACE	19. CALUM CLARK
20 ANDREW HAZELL	20 ALFIE TO'OALA
21 ANDY WILLIAMS	21 JOE BEDFORD
22 TOM VOYCE	22 JOE FORD
23 CHARLIE SHARPLES	23 RICHARD WELDING

THE OFFICIALS

REFEREE:

Rob Debney

ASSISTANT REFEREES:

Kevin Stewart and Bob Mullis

4TH OFFICIAL:

Mark Tovey