



THE WARRIOR

Vs Gloucester Rugby
Saturday 8th May 2010 3pm

Official matchday programme 2009-10
Issue 17 • £3



A TRUE WARRIOR

Rasmussen
reflects on
the season

ACADEMY MATTERS

Making the
Sixways grade



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Eventful season for Gloucester

Gloucester Rugby's 2009-10 Guinness Premiership campaign draws to a close here at Sixways after what can best be described as an eventful campaign.

It's a venue that hasn't been the happiest of hunting grounds in recent times. Gloucester have lost on their two previous matches here in the Premiership and, of course, Sixways was the venue for the LV= Cup Final defeat against Northampton.

However, Gloucester supporters should make the most of this afternoon's visit given Worcester's unfortunate relegation to the Championship next season.

Gloucester currently occupy seventh place in the table and need to get something out of this afternoon's game to guarantee finishing in that position with Harlequins (at home to Sale Sharks today) breathing down their necks.

It's the latest game in a schedule that has been gruelling of late to say the least and, although the team would obviously have preferred to have been in European action last weekend, the time off will have been welcomed by all.

The last competitive outing was the home win over London Irish a fortnight ago when Gloucester signed off in style in front of their home supporters.

It meant that Gloucester remained undefeated at Kingsholm in 2010 although Worcester, of course, came perilously close to winning there back in January.

It's been Gloucester's away form that has been a thorn in the side of their top 6 ambitions this season. Indeed, the only Guinness Premiership win on the road was secured at Headingley against Leeds Carnegie.

In hindsight, though, Bryan Redpath's side have made real progress after a difficult autumn threatened to make 2009-10 a very difficult first season on charge for the former Scotland scrum half.

The optimism generated by the opening day win over local rivals Bath quickly dissipated as a number of suspensions and injuries forced Gloucester into a constant reshuffling of resources. Confidence dipped as a number of close results went the wrong way.

However, the turn of the year heralded a change in fortunes as Redpath was finally able to start selecting from a fairly full squad and the results started to come.

The Heineken Cup was the catalyst for a series of positive results. The Kingsholm ground staff worked miracles to render the pitch playable with Britain gripped by snow and ice and a memorable victory over Biarritz was the result.

LV= Cup wins followed against Worcester and Harlequins and a semi final place was achieved despite having lost the opening two group matches!

On a roll, Gloucester then scored a total of 93 points in their next two home matches in the Guinness Premiership as Harlequins and Sale Sharks were duly despatched, although wins on the road still proved to be more difficult to come by.

A bogey was laid to rest as a run of four successive defeats in various competitions against the Cardiff Blues was reversed as Gloucester celebrated their first ever visit to the Cardiff City Stadium with a 29-18 LV= Cup semi final win.

The final itself saw a great spectacle for the neutral as Gloucester and Northampton served up a feast of end to end, running rugby with the lead swapping hands several times and the result remaining in the balance until the very last whistle.

However, Northampton deserved the trophy and no-one will begrudge them that.

With both teams gunning for the victory this afternoon, for different reasons, and local bragging rights up for grabs, it could be an entertaining one!



Molenaar delight at debut year

Gloucester centre Tim Molenaar looks back on his first season in the Guinness Premiership and admits: 'It couldn't have gone much better'.

A late summer signing from Nottingham, the Kiwi found himself thrust into the top division short of fitness after Gloucester's deal to sign Seru Rabeni fell through.

After a slow start as he grew accustomed to the pace of first class rugby and, around Christmas, Molenaar clicked into gear and has become an integral part of head coach Bryan Redpath's future plans.

"The middle part of the season was a bright spark for me," he said. "The combinations with Ellie (Fuimaono-Sapolu) and Les (Vainikolo) clicked, plus we were winning a few games.

"For myself it probably couldn't have gone much better. I couldn't have asked for more rugby and to play with as good a bunch of guys.

"It's a shame we haven't clocked in on the Heineken Cup qualification but other than that personally it has been an enjoyable experience."

Molenaar's commitment to the cause was laid bare when he played while injured against Saracens last month.

He aggravated the rib problem in the act of setting up a try for Charlie Sharples in that game, meaning he missed the crucial defeat to Wasps in the Amlin Cup quarter-final and the trip to Northampton in the league.

"I'm sure if other people were available they wouldn't have played me but it was a case of who was the fittest out of the injured lot," he said.

"I had a little break and fell on the ball and popped the cartilage so it wasn't the best."

But he was back against Irish and made a big difference to the Gloucester midfield, forming a physical partnership alongside skipper Mike Tindall.

"It was my first 80 minutes in nearly two months," he said. "I came back a little too early

with my rib against Saracens but that had to be done.

"But it was a good game against Irish. It was comfortable, everything went fine injury wise and it was a good win."

Gloucester will be gunning for just their second away league win of the season at Sixways today, and Molenaar knows therein lies the reason why the Cherry and Whites are languishing in seventh.

He said: "I didn't realise until I heard it on the TV last weekend that we'd only won one away, that's unbelievable.

"You're not going to win any competitions doing that, that's for sure. We've focused a lot on Worcester at training. The coaches are not letting us slip away from it.

"We need to win, and it's local derby so you always want to win those.

"It could swing one of two ways. They could lose enthusiasm for it or they could be hurting and want to go out with a bit of a bang.

"We've got our tasks and what we want to do with our game. Whatever they throw at us we should be able to handle it.

Now Molenaar is looking forward to a full pre-season, after missing a chunk of last summer with a back injury.

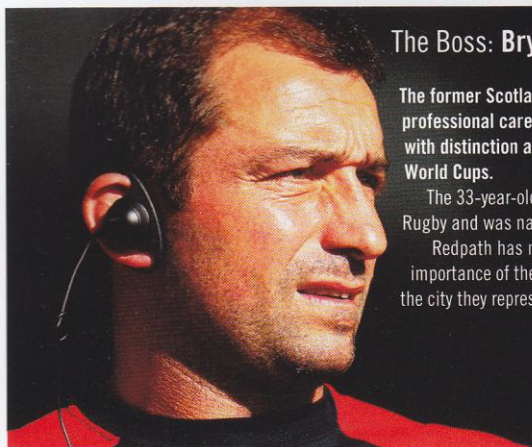
He is wary of continuing his development with players like Tindall and Fuimaono-Sapolu competing for the positions.

"For me now it's trying to maintain my form and keep in there as far as selection is concerned, staying involved every week," he said. "I would hate to drift off and be forgotten about. I just want to keep my nose in the 23.

"I will be looking to hit the beginning of next season in better condition than I was this year, which was unfortunate.

"It was a shame that I wasn't as fit as I should have been. But this year I will hopefully be in a lot better shape."

GLOUCESTER RUGBY



The Boss: Bryan Redpath

The former Scotland scrum-half retired from playing in May 2005 after a successful professional career that saw him represent Sale, Narbonne, Edinburgh and Melrose with distinction and also win 60 international caps including appearing at two Rugby World Cups.

The 33-year-old initially signed a two-year contract as backs coach at Gloucester Rugby and was named Head Coach in June 2009 following the departure of Dean Ryan.

Redpath has made a quick impact at Kingsholm placing a huge emphasis on the importance of the relationship between an individual player, his club, its supporters and the city they represent.

Young Gun: Freddie Burns

Nineteen-year-old fly half Freddie Burns has enjoyed a season in 2009-10 to remember for Gloucester Rugby.

He joined the Gloucester Rugby Academy from local rivals Bath and has burst onto the scene this campaign.

A fly half by preference, he is also more than capable of playing at full back as he has been proving throughout the spring.

An attacking threat with ball in hand as well as a competent goal kicker.

Freddie featured in England U20s

Six Nations campaign in

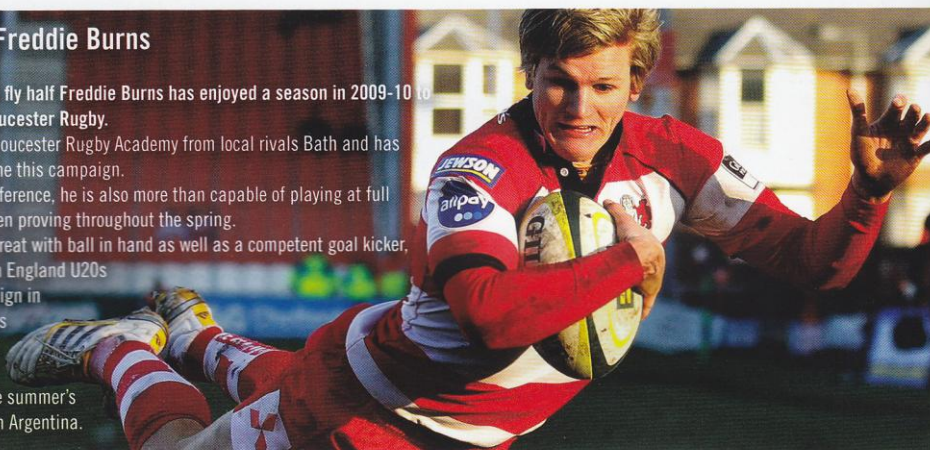
the spring and has

also been selected

for the squad who

will compete in the summer's

Junior World Cup in Argentina.



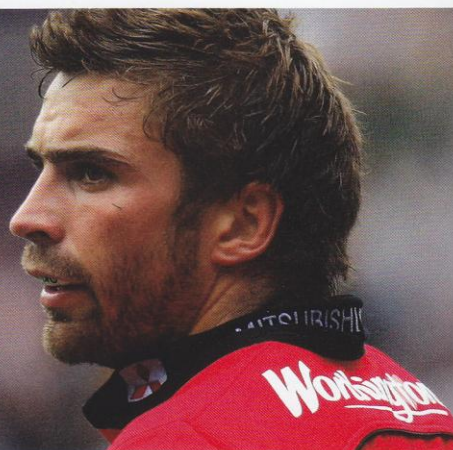
Star Man: Nicky Robinson

The Welsh international made a dream start to his Guinness Premiership career with a Man of the Match performance in the televised victory over Bath on the first weekend of the season.

The fly half joined Gloucester Rugby last summer having spent his entire career to date with the Cardiff Blues.

His performance on the opening weekend against Bath which included 14 points with the boot, went a long way to making Gloucester supporters forget about his performances against them for Cardiff last season!

Is currently the second highest points scorer in the Guinness Premiership with 190 points.





SURNAME	FIRST NAME	POSITION	HEIGHT	WEIGHT	HONOURS
Attwood	Dave	Lock	6ft 7in	18st 1lb	
Azam	Olivier	Hooker	6ft 1in	19st	France
Bortolami	Marco	Lock	6ft 5in	17st 5lb	Italy
Brown	Alex	Lock	6ft 7in	18st 1lb	England
Burns	Freddie	Fly half	6ft 1in	12st 8lb	
Buxton	Peter	Back row	6ft 4in	18st 1lb	
Capdevielle	Pierre	Back row	6ft 1in	19st 5lb	
Dawiduk	Darren	Hooker	5ft 11in	14st 12lb	
Delve	Gareth	Back row	6ft 3in	18st 1lb	Wales
Dickinson	Alasdair	Prop	6ft	17st 5lb	Scotland
Doran-Jones	Paul	Prop	6ft 2in	18st 3lb	
Eustace	Adam	Lock	6ft 5in	16st 12lb	
Fuimaono-Sapolu	Eliota	Centre	6ft 1in	16st 1lb	Samoa
Harden	Rupert	Prop	6ft 3in	18st 8lb	
Hazell	Andrew	Back row	6ft	14st 13lb	England
James	Will	Lock	6ft 6in	18st 11lb	Wales
Lawson	Rory	Scrum half	5ft 8in	13st 5lb	Scotland
Lawson	Scott	Hooker	5ft 8in	15st 2lb	Scotland
Lewis	Dave	Scrum half	5ft 7in	12st 8lb	
Morgan	Olly	Full back	6ft 2in	14st 2lb	England
Narraway	Luke	Back row	6ft 3in	17st	England
Pasqualin	Jordi	Scrum half	6ft	12st 10lb	
Qera	Akapusi	Back row	6ft 4in	16st	Fiji
Rabeni	Seru	Centre	6ft 2in	16st 9lb	Fiji
Roberts	Tristan	Fly half	5ft 7in	12st 2lb	
Robinson	Nicky	Fly half	6ft 1in	14st 9lb	Wales
Sharples	Charlie	Wing	6ft	14st 9lb	
Simpson-Daniel	James	Wing	6ft	14st 6lb	England
Somerville	Greg	Prop	6ft 1in	18st 2lb	New Zealand
Strokosch	Alasdair	Back row	6ft 3in	16st 11lb	Scotland
Thomas	Yann	Prop	6ft 2in	18st 11lb	
Tindall	Mike	Centre	6ft 2in	15st 12lb	England
Trinder	Henry	Centre	6ft	13st 5lb	
Vainikolo	Lesley	Wing	6ft 2in	17st 8lb	England
Voyce	Tom	Wing	6ft 1in	14st 13lb	England
Williams	Dan	Number 8	6ft 5in	16st 7lb	
Wood	Nick	Prop	6ft 1in	17st 5lb	

TODAYS LINE UP

Worcester Warriors v Gloucester Rugby

Saturday 8th May 2010 3pm

Worcester Warriors Lineup:

- 11 Garvey
- 15 Latham
- 12 Hartuppor
- 13 Grove
- 14 Pennell
- 7 Sanderson (C)
- 4 Black
- 8 Taiter
- 9 Ape
- 10 Walker J C
- 6 Hurstmann
- 4 Kitchenier
- 2 Lufai
- 3 Taumoepeau
- 5 Gillies

Gloucester Rugby Lineup:

- 7 Gera
- 11 Vainikola T
- 1 Wood
- 4 Atwood
- 2 Lawson T
- 5 Brown
- 3 Somerville
- 6 Bunton
- 8 Naraway
- 9 Lawson
- 10 Robinsan P
- 12 Tindall (C)
- 13 Molenaar
- 14 Simpson-Daniel
- 15 Morgan

Replacements

16 C Black	20 Collins
17 Fortey	21 Silver
18 Sourgens	22 Jones
19 Wood	23 Rasmussen

Replacements

16 Azam	20 Strokosch
17 Dickinson	21 Pasqualin
18 Doran-Jones	22 Burns
19 Eustace	23 Sharples

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League Table

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	BP	PTS
Leicester	21	15	1	5	518	293	11	73
Northampton	21	15	0	6	441	315	7	67
Saracens	21	14	1	6	440	344	7	65
Bath	21	11	2	8	411	363	8	56
Wasps	21	12	0	9	369	378	5	53
London Irish	21	10	3	8	462	353	6	52
Gloucester	21	9	1	11	447	435	6	44
Harlequins	21	8	2	11	385	464	5	41
Leeds	21	7	1	13	280	454	6	36
Newcastle	21	6	4	11	298	406	4	36
Sale	21	6	1	14	313	460	6	32
Worcester	21	3	4	14	290	397	7	27

League Matches

Saturday 8th May

Bath Rugby v Leeds Carnegie
(Recreation Ground, 3pm)

Live on
SKY SPORTS HD

Harlequins v Sale Sharks (Twickenham Stoop, 3pm)

Leicester Tigers v Saracens (Welford Road, 3pm)

London Irish v Northampton Saints (Madejski Stadium, 3pm)

Newcastle Falcons v London Wasps (Kingston Park, 3pm)

Worcester Warriors v Gloucester Rugby (Sixways, 3pm)

Todays Officials

Referee: JP Doyle

Touch Judges: Andrew Pearce & Ashley Rowden