

UNIPART

CLUB SPONSOR

ERNST & YOUNG

MATCH BALL SPONSOR

PJT

MATCH DAY SPONSOR



Gloucester

Gloucester RFC official matchday programme 2001-2002

Zurich Premiership fixture



vs Bristol Shoguns

Saturday 10th November 2001 kick-off 12.30pm

[issue] 7

[price] £2.00

gloucesterrugbyclub.com www.gloucesterrugbyclub.com www.gloucesterrugbyclub.com

Coach's Corner

[Phillippe Saint-André]

"Today is also a derby game and it is important for the players and supporters of each team to win these games."



We have all said how disappointed we were with the result of our last league game against London Irish, but I think that if we had not missed seven kicks, two of which went over, we would not be talking about the match in this way.

We did not start the game well and we were nineteen-nil down at half time. It is always difficult to come back from that, but we made it back to nineteen-fifteen. I think though we are still improving week after week.

In between these important league games we have played well in the European Shield. It is sure that the Premiership is a harder competition, but we have used this opportunity to give younger players a game. Also it was the first chance to introduce Henry Paul to the Gloucester game plan. Young players like Jon Goodridge, James Forrester, James Simpson-Daniel and Clive Stuart-Smith have all had the opportunity to play games and this is important. They provide extra competition for places in the team and it is good for the future of Gloucester.

People say we have a lot of foreign players but added to the four I have mentioned already, Josh Frappe has played league rugby and I expect Marcel Garvey and Nick Cox to get opportunities later in the season.

I think it is good to show the supporters that we want results quickly but also that we

are building for the future of this club. I think Henry Paul has made an impressive start to his Gloucester career.

It was a boost to his confidence and that of the squad that he has adapted to the Union game so well after only ten days. He kicked well and scored a good try against Caerphilly and he gelled quickly with the other players. We must not forget though, that he is here for four years so, he is here for a long time.

It is normal that Clive Woodward brought Henry into the England squad to meet him and the other players, but I have said that I thought it would be too soon for Henry to play a test match for England after only two games.

It is good for Henry that Clive has shown the interest in him but it is also important that he is allowed to train with us and learn all the time. If he is playing well for us, he will get his chance I am sure.

The game today against Bristol is important for so many reasons; for a start all league games will be tough, but we have set ourselves a simple

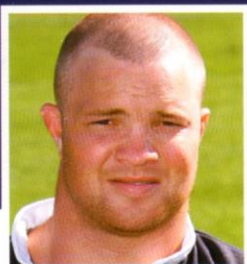
target. We have lost one league game at home to Leicester and that must be the last one.

Today is also a derby game and it is important for the players and supporters of each team to win these games. Also Bristol are fifth and we are sixth, one point below them. If we can win today we will push back up the table.

Bristol are a very good team and we must have a lot of respect for them. They keep the ball well and are strong defensively. But I think we have enough quality in the squad to beat them today.

Today it is very important that we start well. In the two league games we have lost away from home, we have been down by nineteen points at half time. We know we can play well in the second half but we must focus on our start. We cannot afford to let teams get that far ahead of us.

We have seen the support for this team grow week after week. It was good away at London Irish and was fantastic in both Shield games. I think today the crowd can be the extra player on our side.



Match Captain [Jake Boer]

D.O.B: 01/11/75

Position: Flanker

Height: 1.87m

Weight: 103.4kg

Former Club: London Irish

"Bristol are a good team that are playing well at the moment and they are a team we must respect. They will not come to us and lie down, they will come to play and we know we must be ready for a big game today."

As always, it is an honour to be leading the team again today. It's always good to be asked to do the skippering thing.

We have a period now where we have got seven big games coming up and it's a very challenging time for us until just before the New Year.

I think it is important now that all the squad is used and so everyone has to work really hard for the next fifty-or-so days. We have set ourselves some targets leading up to Christmas, and for anyone who knows Philippe and the squad, I'm sure it won't be too difficult to guess what they are.

As a squad the key will be for everyone to focus hard on the job at hand and then we will be able to enjoy some time with our families over the New Year.

Games like the ones we have just played against Caerphilly

are always good for some of the guys to get some confidence. For the coaches and the team they are also a good opportunity to run through a few moves and express some ideas. I think we would be kidding ourselves though, if we tried to take too much from them. There are always good things that come out of those types of games, but there are also some bad things. The trick is to learn from them.

As I mentioned earlier, the whole squad will need to be on top form over the coming weeks. I think it is a credit to everyone involved with Gloucester for the way some of our younger players have been given, and taken, their chance in the first team over the last month. These young players are the future of the club and everyone at Gloucester should be proud of the way they performed and the way we are developing players.

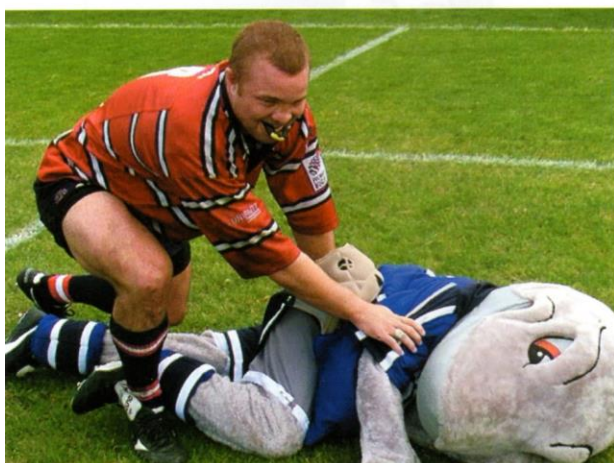
For me, the games against Bath and Bristol are two of the biggest fixtures we have each season. Bristol are a good team that are playing well at the moment and they are a team we must respect. They will not come to us and lie down, they will come to play

and we know we must be ready for a big game today. At this stage of the season with six league games behind us, we are in a good position in the league, but we know that if we don't keep winning over the next couple of games, then we will find ourselves in trouble. With the way that points are scored in this league, league positions can change very quickly.

Today could certainly be called a crunch game. It is one we will look to win to get ourselves on a roll and look forward into the New Year. I personally want to get a few games under my belt and get myself on a roll as well. I am looking forward to today's game and as captain, I want everyone around me to perform as best they can.

I am also looking forward to the atmosphere today at Kingsholm. Sometimes you come out of the tunnel 90% ready and the crowd noise lifts you that extra 10%. I think from 1 to 36, the guys in the squad all appreciate it and I hope you all know that.

Today I hope we all give one hundred percent and we all have something to cheer at the end of the game.



"The home game Parma should boost the tally, but it now looks likely that the match in France with La Rochelle will determine where we go in the last eight."

I was surprised to read Ernie Elver's recent column in the Citizen where he said he didn't learn much from the inaugural meeting of the Season Ticket Holders Association.

True, there were no banana skin questions for the top table, or Ken Nottage in his position as MC, but I felt Tom Walkinshaw's comments on the Heineken Cup and the Premiership were a clear warning to anyone connected with the playing staff. Deliver, or face the consequences.

To win the Premiership AND reach the Heineken Final in 3 years is a tall order. We're not even in the Heineken Cup this season, so that leaves just 2 chances at best, and more than 2 defeats this side of Christmas could leave the

European Shield as the best way to qualify. All a bit uncertain when you consider what can happen in knockout rugby - although I think I'm on fairly safe ground to assume quarter final qualification.

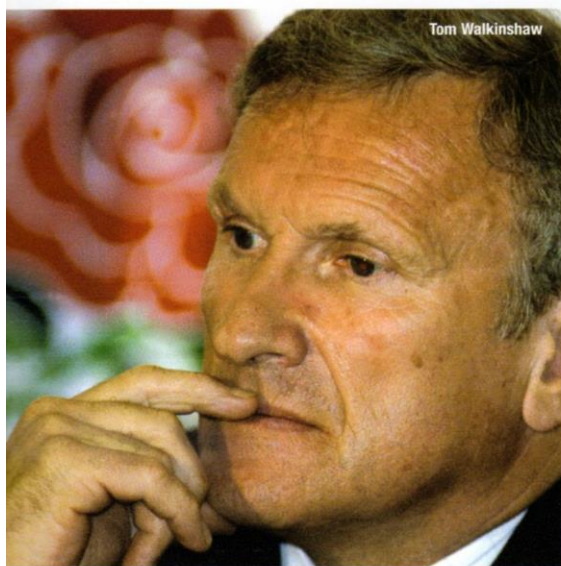
With regard to the Premiership, Walkinshaw was clear on who was the team to beat. "Leicester are top of the heap at the moment, and some of that is down to the amount of work done by former players" he said. "They go out at weekends looking at youngsters playing in College games, and bring back details of ones to keep an eye on. That's how they keep feeding the pipeline of talent into the club. It's an integrated system with old players still making a contribution and we've got to learn from that".

Leicester apart, few would argue that a successful Gloucester would have the biggest supporter base in the Premiership, and that's something Walkinshaw is keen to nurture through the GRSA and the Season Ticket Holders Association. "We want to have an interactive dialogue with the supporters, and that way we can try and do what the people

want. They want the team to win - as we all do - but they also want the right facilities and the right ambience to watch their rugby. People can start to see the vision we've got for the club - and they're buying into it. You only have to look at the numbers who travel to watch the team at away games".

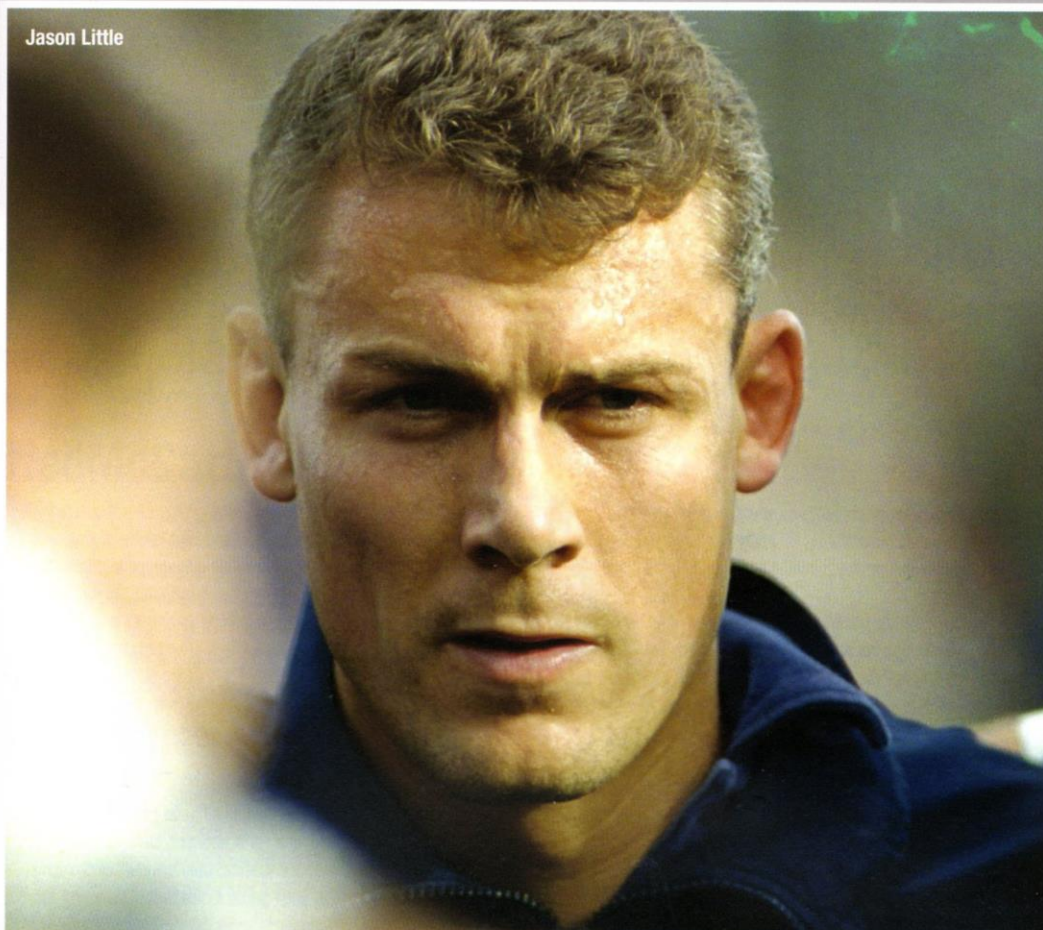
Never mind away games Tom, what about home ones? How long will we keep the Shed for? Walkinshaw admitted it may not be there for ever. "If we have more than 9,000 at Kingsholm some people can't see what's going on. We have a licence for more but that almost doesn't matter. If we had a stadium that would hold 12-14,000 in comfort I think we'd be getting crowds at that level, and Kingsholm may not be the right site to achieve that. We're exploring all the opportunities we can, and when we find the right one we'll bring it back to the fans and ask them if they support it. I promised a complete club decision in the beginning and that's what it'll be".

And so to playing matters. "The coaching staff have a job to do to get the players spot-on for matches.



Tom Walkinshaw

Jason Little



To me, they've been a bit under-wound for some games and over-wound for others" said Walkinshaw. "The talent is there. It's about realising the potential".

Like I said earlier...a firm message from a man who expects results.

Last Saturday's win at Caerphilly was very much as expected, but with all the groups now having 2 rounds of matches left, a home quarter final is NOT absolutely certain.

Six teams - Pau, Sale, Bristol, London Irish, Saracens and ourselves - all have 100% records, but in terms of tries,

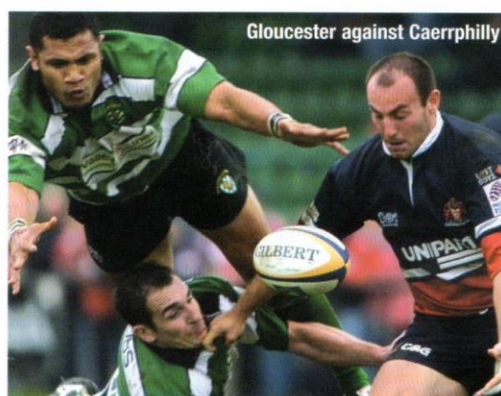
Gloucester are only 4th. The home game Parma should boost the tally, but it now looks likely that the match in France with La Rochelle will determine where we go in the last eight.

This afternoon, the main focus of attention is likely to be the returning Jason Little.

The Australian never really produced his best here, but now seems to be the fulcrum of the Bristol back division.

With over 200 previous meetings this is a fixture with a rich and colourful history. Gloucester need to add to it with their fourth Premiership win of the season today.

"With regard to the Premiership, Walkinshaw was clear on who was the team to beat."



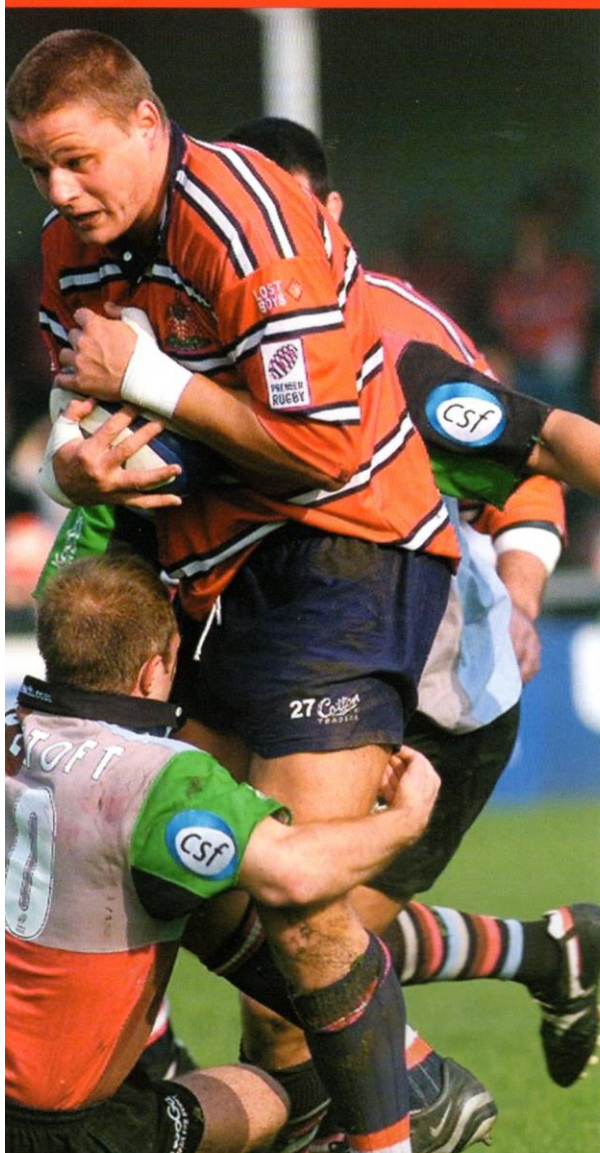
Ticket and Information Hotline - Tel: 0871 871 8781

[from the commentary box]

19

Ed Pearce

[player focus]



Today's player spotlight focuses on a player who, by his own admission, was the forgotten man of the Gloucester squad last season.

After a summer of hard work and a change of position, Ed Pearce is back in the team and as eager as ever to prove he deserves his place on the field.

He spent last season as an outsider getting but a glimpse of first team action. This season he has already started eight games and made four more appearances as a substitute.

He is far more relaxed and enjoying his rugby again. "This season for me personally has started so much better than last season. Also, from a teams point of view, we are playing well".

Last season Pearce stagnated as he found himself between positions. He was too inexperienced to challenge at lock but with the exceptional form of the back row he found himself out in the cold.

"I found myself as a bit of a spare part waiting for an opportunity and that just didn't happen. The hardest thing about last year was the feeling that I was standing still as a player. I was doing a lot of gym work but unless you are on the pitch you will never improve as a player. You can't learn from your mistakes if you don't get the chance to make any".

Laurent Seigne's holistic views about the pack led him to believe that it is just too difficult to leave a player like Ed Pearce out of the squad. What he lacks in jumping ability, he makes up for in lifting and protection of the jumpers. Using his experience of the back row he is also another useful ball carrier in the pack and his size make him a fierce opponent in the loose and tight situations.

"With a change of position and a change of coaching staff with new ideas, I am getting more

[Ed Pearce] second row

"This season for me personally has started so much better than last season. Also, from a teams point of view, we are playing well"

"Two seasons ago I was involved in most games and to be honest, when you have done that for Gloucester, it is difficult trying to imagine doing it anywhere else"

opportunities and fit into the structure a bit better because of it", explains Pearce.

Pearce's up turn in fortunes have been linked to the change in thinking surrounding Adam Eustace. Eustace has been used a lot in the back row with Pearce at lock. Whilst Pearce's size provides power for scrummaging, the lighter Eustace has proven to be a more than able jumper in the lineout.

"They way they look at it is that my size in the scrum helps the props to get the wheels we want and Adam is a lot lighter so my lifting ability then comes into play".

The philosophy Gloucester have adopted this season is all about balance. There are many facets needed in a strong pack. Not every player has all the skills all the time. Pearce could jump at two but Rob Fidler has had that position sewn up forever it would seem. So, rather than ignore his talent the coaching staff have chosen to use his obvious assets to the teams advantage and found other players to compensate for his weaknesses.

Pearce admits that last season was a very demoralising experience for him and his

confidence as a player suffered accordingly. He reserves a special thanks for his team mates who stuck by him and his family who supported him throughout.

"My intention when I came here was to secure a first team place", says Ed. "Two seasons ago I was involved in most games and to be honest, when you have done that for Gloucester, it is difficult trying to imagine doing it anywhere else".

Back in the squad this season, Pearce is being used in a variety of roles. His scrummaging is key and is improving, although he admits it is still very new to him. He is being used as a strike runner in second phase play and has key roles at the breakdowns.

In his first game back though, Pearce admits that it was difficult to control his exuberance. Like a young colt on the paddock for the first time, he admits to trying to run to every ruck, every break down and every tackle.

"It's a big thing that I have struggled with this year in trying to hit every ruck and do everything. You have to conserve energy or you will be chasing shadows and will not achieve anything. Having not played for a year the game has progressed so

much and I am having to adapt". Pearce feels his breakthrough came in the Sale game earlier this season. Ed saw it as a huge opportunity and duly took his chance. Mark Cornwell was due to start the game and Pearce was to occupy the bench.

Cornwell pulled out moments before the match through injury and Pearce stepped in, with his parent's words of support still ringing in his ear.

"They told me to be ready to take any opportunity that might come my way. That day, the whole pack was on a different level. Sale were shaking from the pressure the whole pack was exerting on them. To go away and win especially when we were given little chance was great. It was a great step forward for us as a team and for me personally after not playing for so long, a huge step back to prove I could live in the first team".

The Sale game has proved a launch pad for Pearce propelling him into the first team regularly. He is playing more games and increasing his work-rate and intensity once again.

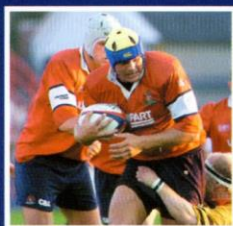
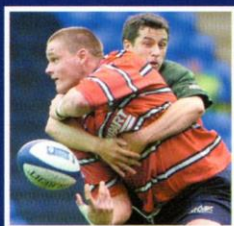
Rather than rest on his laurels however, Pearce knows that there is still a very long way to go

before he becomes the finished article. Much like Henry Paul is having to learn the Union code, Pearce is learning a new position, and admits there is still much he needs to know.

"I have a few strengths but also a lot of weaknesses in my game, which I have to work on constantly to cut them out and cut down the errors I make. I am working a lot with Dave Ellis on defence and trying not to rush up too quickly. I've only been scrummaging for a year and I still need to learn a lot about that but it's going ok at the moment. I'm learning when to hit rucks and when to offer myself as an option to the fly-half".

Confidence is also a big part of Pearce's game. He was chastised for giving a pass inside to Terry Fanolua against London Irish when an overlap appeared on. Pearce is philosophical about the incident though, claiming that in the past he wouldn't have given a second thought to a pass outside.

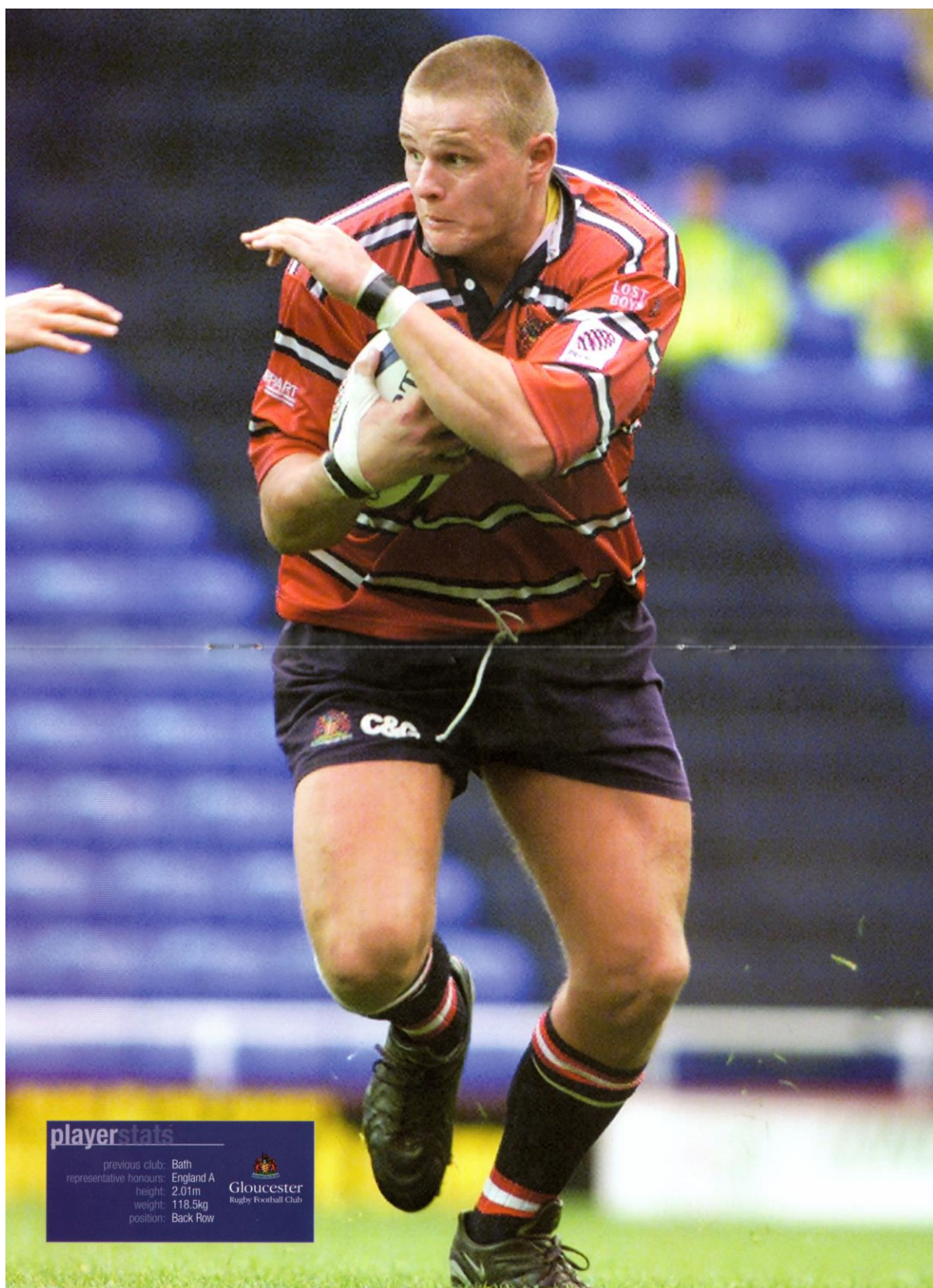
Philippe Saint-Andre sought him out after the game and rather than berate him for his mistake, he pointed out that the point now is that Pearce is in those positions in the first place and that is something to be positive about.



Ticket and Information Hotline - Tel: 0871 871 8781

[player focus]

27



playerstats

previous club: Bath
representative honours: England A
height: 2.01m
weight: 118.5kg
position: Back Row



Gloucester
Rugby Football Club

Match Action vs Caerphilly

[home]

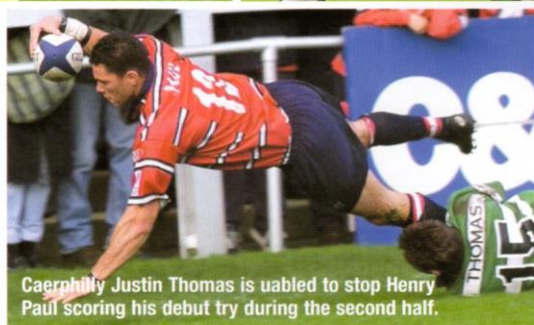
Parker Pen Shield
27-10-01



Henry Paul converts.



Henry Paul (left) moves in to support Jake Boer



Caerphilly Justin Thomas is unable to stop Henry Paul scoring his debut try during the second half.

Photography Supplied by Brue Seabrook GPA

matchstats



98

Gloucester: **98 points**
Tries: Fanolua, Simpson-Daniel (3), Goodridge, O'Leary, Boer (2), Forrester (3), Sewabu, Paul, Cornwell, Pucciariello

Conversions: Paul (10)

Penalties: Paul



14

Caerphilly: **14 points**
Tries: Taufahema, Jacobs

Conversions: Richards (2)

Penalties:



Henry Paul is tackled from behind by Caerphilly's Holo Taufahema during his debut.

Parker Pen Shield

32

[match action]

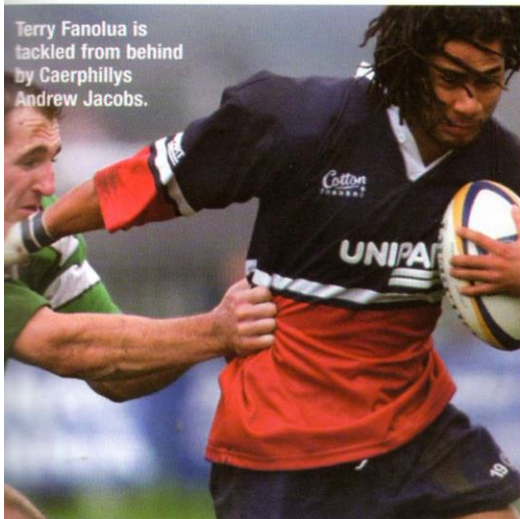
www.gloucester rugby club.com

Match Action vs Caerphilly

[away]

Parker Pen Shield
03-11-01

Terry Fanolua is tackled from behind by Caerphillys Andrew Jacobs.



Joe Ewens on his way to score a try during the second half.



Phil Vickery and Philippe Saint-Andre watch the match from the sidelines.

Photography Supplied by Brue Seabrook GPA

matchstats



16

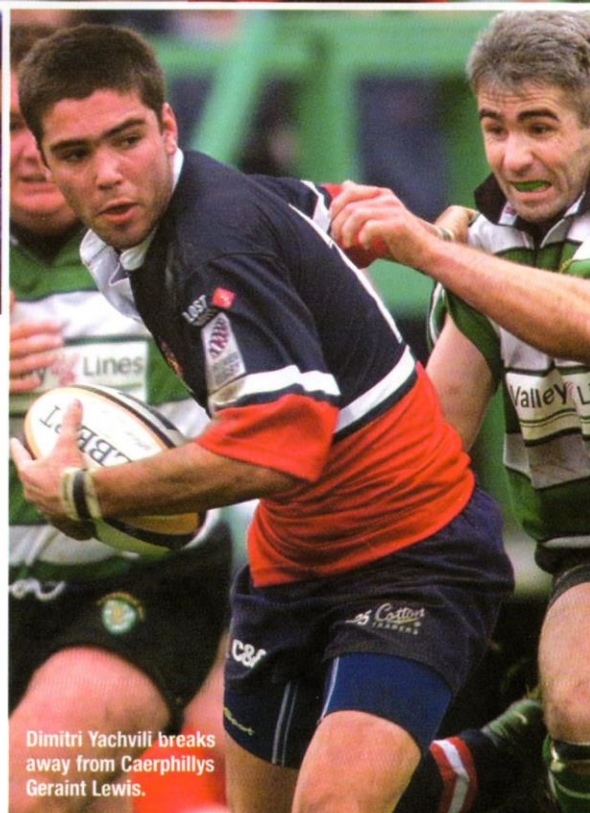
Caerphilly: **16 points**
Tries: Jacobs, Thomas
Conversions: -
Penalties: Richards (2)



47

Gloucester: **47 points**
Tries: Fortey, Todd, Paramore, Ewens, Yachvili
Conversions: Mercier (5)
Penalties: Mercier (4)

Parker Pen Shield



Dimitri Yachvili breaks away from Caerphillys Geraint Lewis.

Ticket and Information Hotline - Tel: 0871 871 8781

[match action]

33

'ASHES TO ASHES, AND DUST TO DUST' IF LUDO DON'T GET YOU, HENRY MUST'

Not exactly Shakespeare, perhaps, simply a rather pretentious way of pointing out that we now have, not one, but two of the world's best points-scoring kickers playing for Gloucester.

"...Both players have ball skills of a very high order, and there's surely room to play both of them in the same back division..."

Bit like buses, really. We go years lamenting the lack of a truly top-flight goal kicker, then two come along at once.

It's also ironic that neither of them were exactly household names in Rugby Union at the start of the season. Virtually nobody in the home countries had heard of Ludovic Mercier before he decided to cross the Channel, and Henry Paul only made the switch from League to Union on October 27th.

'Ludo', of course, made a tremendous impression as soon as he arrived, and will be remembered, if nothing else, as the man who forced the

authorities to extend the height of the goalposts by an extra five metres. Such was the reputation he earned in an astonishingly short time, that when he missed a few kicks at London Irish, it was as astonishing as if someone had come along and painted the cathedral tower bright blue.

As for Henry Paul - well, Caerphilly may not actually be a side to make the Australian tourists break out into a cold sweat, but consider the circumstances. When you run out on a field on which you have never played, using an unfamiliar ball, in front of one of the most demanding crowds

in the business, and are asked to kick a halfway-line penalty before you've had time to get your studs dirty, then the quality of the opposition is hardly relevant.

Luckily, we're not in an 'either-or' situation. Both players have ball skills of a very high order, and there's surely room to play both of them in the same back division, even if one of them doesn't get to have a pot at goal.

And isn't it nice to see that Simon Mannix has returned to full training after an operation and a lengthy rehabilitation period? Now there's a thought which could complicate matters!



JOLLY GOOD FELLOW

Did you happen to catch that lovely picture of Gloucestershire cricket captain, Mark Alleyne in the 'Citizen' a few days ago ?

There he was, complete with mortarboard and the broadest, happiest, grin you've ever seen, celebrating his appointment as one of the first Fellows of our spiffing new University of Gloucestershire.

Fine. No one with any feeling for the sporting life of the County would have any reservations at all about the well-deserved and prestigious honour. Mark is, of course, one of the most popular and respected figures in West Country sport, and indeed, in English cricket as a whole. No one has done more to promote the cause of sport in this part of the world, which can't be anything but good for the

health and wellbeing of our young people. Congratulations, 'Boo-Boo'. You deserve it.

So far, so good. Gloucestershire CCC is obviously one of the premier sporting organisations in the County. However, Gloucester RFC can claim to be right up there with our summer sport friends in that regard. Shouldn't some similar recognition be awarded in this direction ?

This is especially pertinent when you recall that sporting courses represent one of the major preoccupations of the new University, and that many such courses will be centred on our new Oxstalls Campus

when it is completed. If you agree with this proposition (and why wouldn't you ?), who would you suggest as GRFC's first Fellow of the University of Gloucestershire ?

The first name to spring to mind is, of course, that of Mike Teague; not just an International player, but widely regarded as one of the best back row forwards in the history of the game, a view readily endorsed by our friends from the Southern Hemisphere. You'll think of other such names. Philip Blakeway, for example.

Of course, the honour wouldn't have to be conferred on a

player. Arguably, Tom Walkinshaw has done as much to promote top-class rugby as anyone, not just here in Gloucester, but in the administration of the professional English game generally. If you wanted to be a bit radical, and appoint a Frenchman, Philippe St. André would have a case.

Or what about John Fiddler, not just an International player, but a hard-working and loyal administrator for years after he hung up his capacious boots.

Give the matter some thought. Perhaps we could concentrate the minds of the University authorities a little.

HAPPY HENRY AND THE LIMPING BULL

It's some time since we've been able to celebrate the elevation of two Gloucester players into the England squad for a home International, and I hope that Phil Vickery and Henry Paul will forgive me for suggesting that their selections are both a tad surprising.

Of course, everyone has been telling us for months that Henry would be 'fast tracked' (horrible phrase) into the England side, but the speed of his elevation has been positively hypersonic. One takes the point that it's all a part of the same indoctrination process which Jason Robinson had to undergo, but just the same, the whole thing leaves

one slightly breathless. As for the 'Raging Bull', poor old Phil has had a fairly miserable time of it since he returned from the Lions tour, being subjected to a few niggly sort of injuries, not serious in themselves, but enough to disrupt his season's game plan. I'm sure he would have liked a few more games under his belt before being dunked

once more in the England cauldron. Not, I suspect, that he will be too unhappy about having missed the Dublin debacle.

When, and for how long, either of them gets on the field remains to be seen. As I've said before, the ways of selectors and coaches are sometimes like the Peace of

God. They passeth all understanding.

And while we're on the subject of representative honours, wasn't it nice to see Dave Simms skippering the National Divisions side which did so well against the Australians. Of course, the tourists were obviously rusty, but it was a highly creditable performance, nonetheless.



Line-ups



Gloucester VS Bristol Shoguns

<input type="checkbox"/>	Chris Catling	<input type="checkbox"/>	15	Lee Best	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Daren O'Leary	<input type="checkbox"/>	14	David Rees	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Terry Fanolua	<input type="checkbox"/>	13	Phil Christophers	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Henry Paul	<input type="checkbox"/>	12	Jason Little (C)	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Joe Ewens	<input type="checkbox"/>	11	Spencer Brown	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ludovic Mercier	<input type="checkbox"/>	10	Matt Carrington	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Dimitri Yachvili	<input type="checkbox"/>	9	Dan van Zyl	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Trevor Woodman	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	Paul Johnstone	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Chris Fortey	<input type="checkbox"/>	2	Neil McCarthy	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Federico Pucciariello	<input type="checkbox"/>	3	Julian White	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Rob Fidler	<input type="checkbox"/>	4	Garath Archer	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mark Cornwell	<input type="checkbox"/>	5	Alex Brown	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Jake Boer (C)	<input type="checkbox"/>	6	Craig Short	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Andy Hazell	<input type="checkbox"/>	7	Adam Vander	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Junior Paramore	<input type="checkbox"/>	8	Matt Salter	<input type="checkbox"/>

[replacements]

<input type="checkbox"/>	T.B.A	<input type="checkbox"/>	16	Saul Nelson	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	T.B.A	<input type="checkbox"/>	17	Darren Crompton	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	T.B.A	<input type="checkbox"/>	18	Andrew Sheridan	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	T.B.A	<input type="checkbox"/>	19	Ben Sturnham	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	T.B.A	<input type="checkbox"/>	20	Ross Blake	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	T.B.A	<input type="checkbox"/>	21	Andrew Higgins	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	T.B.A	<input type="checkbox"/>	22	Luke Nabaro	<input type="checkbox"/>

[teams correct at 07/11/01]

i [denotes international]
c [denotes captain]

[today's officials]

[referee] Nigel Williams WRU
[touch judges] Ashley Rowden RFU, Fred Spong RFU