



GLOUCESTER

V

**LEICESTER
TIGERS**



**Friday 1
October 1999
Kick-off 7.30pm**



Match Action

A look back at the
Newcastle & London
Wasps Fixtures...

World Cup Planner

Follow the progress of the
World Cup....

Player Poster

Chris Yates...



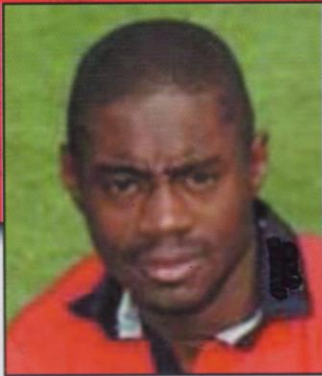
Gloucester

Issue 2 - £2.00

Gloucester Rugby Club Official Programme 1999-2000 Season

Coach's Viewpoint

Audley Lumsden



I was disappointed with the Wasps result, we all were, but we came away from the game with some positives, in fact a lot of positives.

At 30-11 down most people would have thought we were dead and buried. Certainly last season we might well have caved in and lost by 40 points or more, but at the end of the game we looked like the team most likely to win. We were creating chance after chance and we came very close to winning. We must learn to make the most of these chances and win close games like those.

All the coaches have made it very clear to the players that they must learn to adapt and play to the referee. Some referees interpret the laws in different ways and we need the players to be thinking when they are on the field. In too many games we think that maybe we are unlucky when we lose but luck should never come into it. Of course there will be borderline games but you make your own luck.

That Tuesday evening game with

Leicester three seasons ago was a typical Gloucester game - full of passion and fire. We were considered by everyone to be the underdogs but I think we should have had the game won a lot sooner, and we definitely should have won it more easily. I hope we can generate that sort of passion and fire tonight.

I think we have a much better side now. The Leicester results so far have been quite poor and Dean Richards has been playing down his squad. A lot of outsiders though may quite fancy Leicester against us. But as a team we won't be looking at it that way.

Quite a few of you may have seen Philippe and myself playing for the United against Exeter last Saturday. We are both missing playing and when you work hard to keep fit it's nice to have a target to aim for at the end of the week - to play a game. The decision to play was made quite

late. For the youngsters it's always going to give them a lift when they are playing with someone as experienced as Philippe, even if it was his first ever game at fly-half - he certainly enjoyed it!

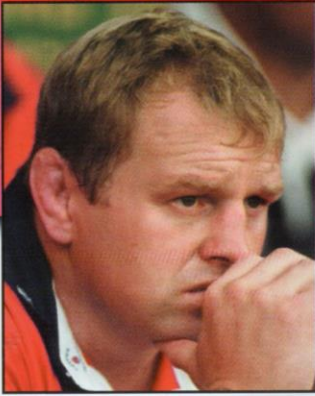
In certain ways it helps to bring on the younger players but, as a coach, it's a lot easier to see what's going on from the sidelines than when you're playing. With experienced players next to them in the thick of action, younger players are more likely to listen to you.

Initially I was intending to work with just the backs but now we train the players all together in skills and contact sessions. It's important for the backs to be able to play like forwards and for the forwards to handle the ball as well as the backs - it's a 15 man game after all!

Audley Lumsden was talking to Steve Hawker.



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www.kingsholm-chronicle.org.uk



The "Battle" of Kingsholm

Dean Richards

I vividly remember one occasion, a "business as usual", tough, uncompromising, physical battle at Kingsholm in the league a few years ago which the Tigers lost.

The match happened to coincide with a trip to an England training session at Twickenham after the match. So, following the game, Leicester's England boys all jumped in my Land Rover and we headed off down the M4 to London.

Everyone was understandably quite upset about having lost, so I decided we should pull off the motorway and find a pub for the lads to have a few beers, unwind and generally relax.

One thing led to another and we eventually realised that we were going to be very late. We all picked on Graham Rowntree and forced him to ring up England's coach at the time, Jack Rowell, and tell him that our car had broken down and we were waiting for the AA on a pub car park on the outskirts of Gloucester.

As is usual, when Tigers have a few drinks after a game, we invariably end up with some good-natured

fighting in the back of the car. The upshot was I ended up with a bloody nose and blood all down the front of my shirt, Richard Cockerill had black eyes and Darren Garforth was carrying bruised knuckles.

We looked an absolute state when we eventually arrived at the Petersham Hotel at about 10.30 and at exactly the same time that an England team meeting was winding up. We bumped straight into Jason Leonard, Jerry Guscott and all the lads, who said "boy that must have been one helluva battle at Kingsholm this afternoon. You'd better come out with us for a drink!" So we all piled up to the Sun in Richmond.

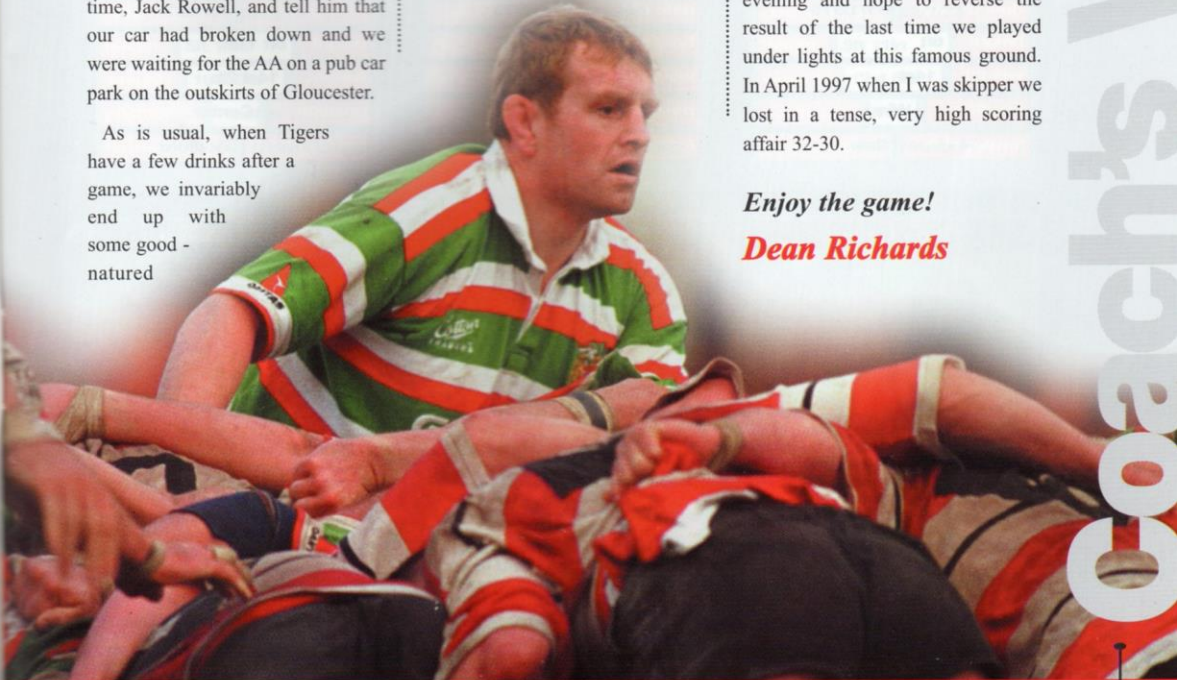
That was the night when I first met someone who has since become a very good friend of mine, Ross Kemp from Eastenders. In the pub we all didn't believe he was a real actor so we got him to recite some Shakespeare.

When we started laughing and joking and generally taking the Mickey, he realised we were winding him up and got a bit upset. I jokingly slapped him around the face a couple of times and said "You're not as big without your brother are you?"

As always, we are expecting a very tough game at Kingsholm this evening and hope to reverse the result of the last time we played under lights at this famous ground. In April 1997 when I was skipper we lost in a tense, very high scoring affair 32-30.

Enjoy the game!

Dean Richards

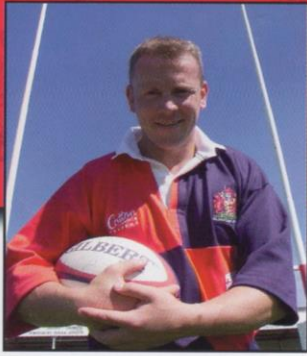


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Coach's Viewpoint

Captain's Comment

Kingsley Jones



It was a sobering trip back from Wasps on Sunday evening. We were all bitterly disappointed at the result - a game we should have won.

We stopped playing either side of the half which, in the end, cost us the game. We all felt especially down simply because there were around 1,000 or more Gloucester supporters at Loftus Road giving us total support and urging us on. A lot has been said about our away support and I can tell you that it is one of the special things about playing for Gloucester - all the players in the squad really do appreciate the support at away games.

The pack did not function as well as we have done and we found ourselves on the back foot for long periods in the game. There were far too many individual mistakes, and I include myself here!

At certain times in the game, it was as though we lost the sense of who was around us and who was supposed to be tackling who in certain areas. This was something that had been good in pre-season and in our opening match.

We did not hit too many rucks in the first half, but this area improved during the game and we started to become effective. By then, of course, it was too late.

To be fair, the backs played very well, when we up front gave them some ball.

Of course, it takes two teams to play a game of rugby, and I have to say that Alex King controlled the game well for the Wasps.

His kicking out of hand was better than ours, and it's small things like that which have a telling effect in a close game.

The Wasps' first try came after they held the ball close to our line for a couple of minutes - and that is always hard to defend. But Gloucester can defend well in this situation. So that first try I will call a "soft one"! As for the second try, well that was even softer - and the 15 of us on the field know this.

Finally on last weekend, I think that I should mention that despite all the

mistakes, we still believed in ourselves and were able to claw our way back into the game with score from Deacs and Jinkin' (Joe Ewens) who, I thought, had a very good game.

Reflecting does not change anything. It's past! So what about tonight? After a day off on Monday, we have all been trying to put things right. And we have all been somewhat 'touchy'. All I can hope is that we can take some of this "aggression" on to the field tonight against Leicester who are always a difficult team to beat.

We need a bit of a backlash from last weekend. And I am sure we are going to get it. I have not mentioned this before to anyone, but last weekend was my first loss as Captain of a Gloucester side.

And I can tell you straight ... I don't want to do that too often!



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Chris Yates Profile...

Chris Yates

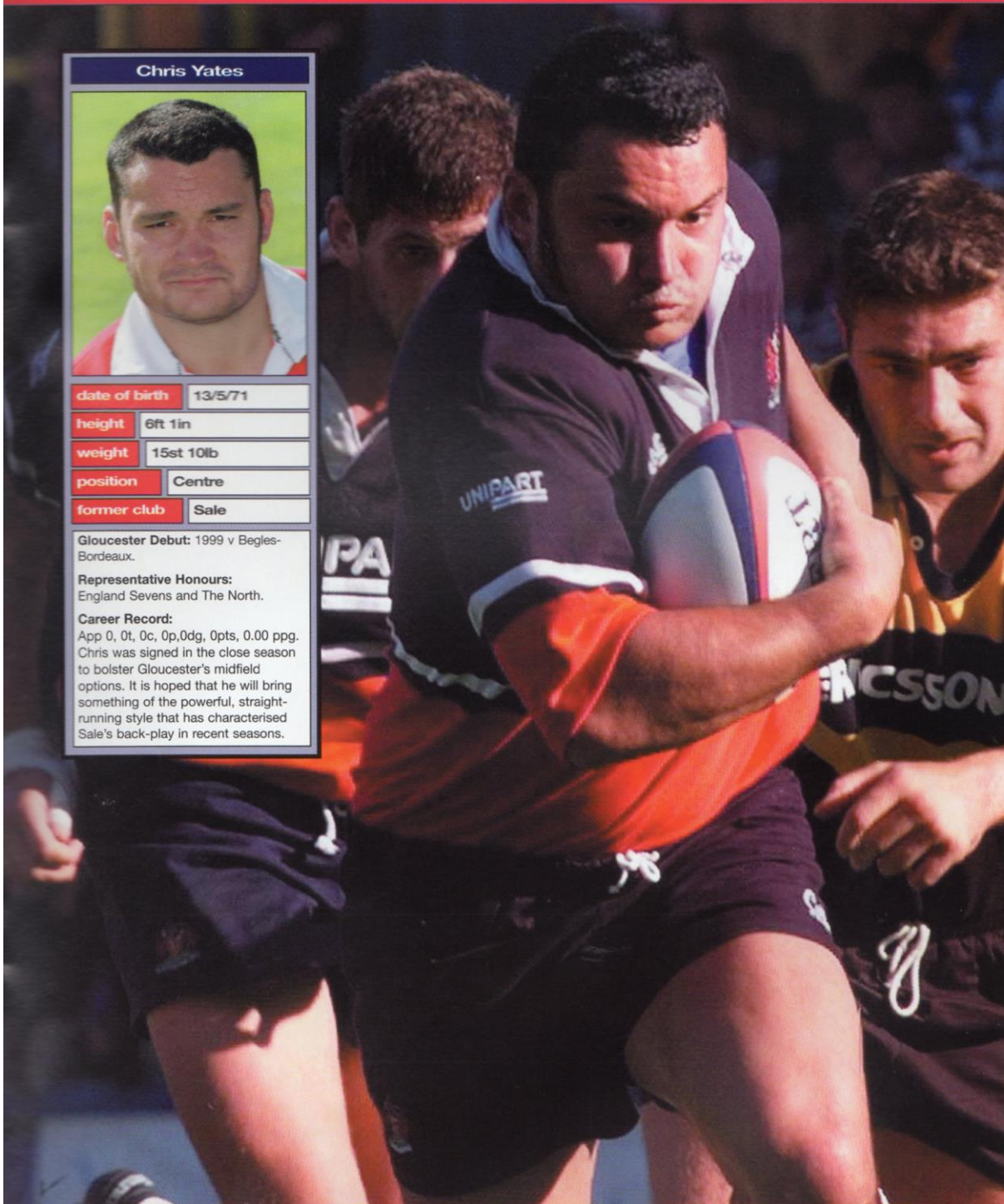


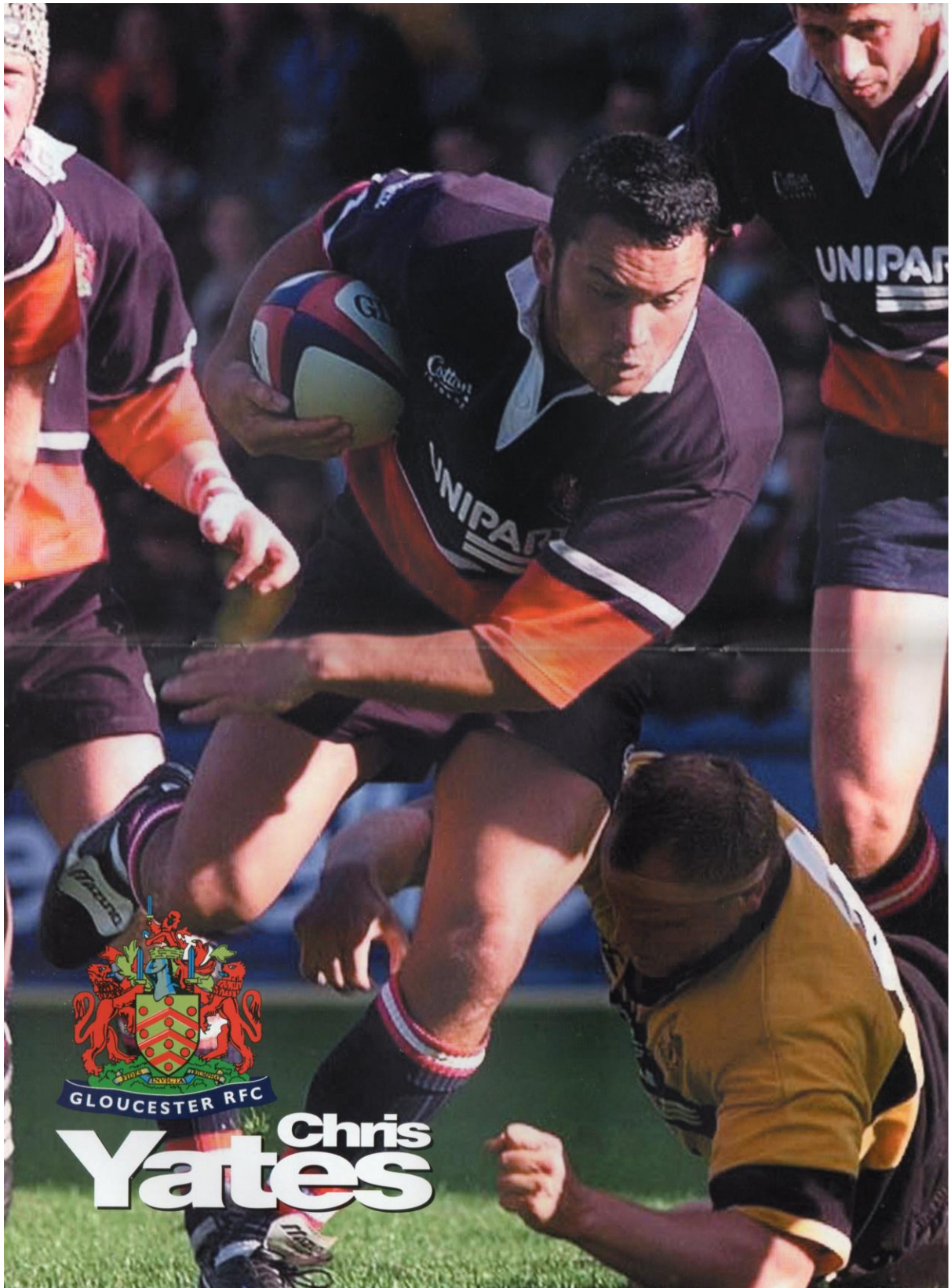
date of birth	13/5/71
height	6ft 1in
weight	15st 10lb
position	Centre
former club	Sale

Gloucester Debut: 1999 v Begles-Bordeaux.

Representative Honours:
England Sevens and The North.

Career Record:
App 0, Dt, 0c, 0p, 0dg, 0pts, 0.00 ppg.
Chris was signed in the close season to bolster Gloucester's midfield options. It is hoped that he will bring something of the powerful, straight-running style that has characterised Sale's back-play in recent seasons.






GLOUCESTER RFC
**Chris
Yates**

Graham Day & Pete Wilson

Matches against the Tigers have been one of the highlights of Gloucester's season since Dusty Hare was both Leicester and England's last line of defence - and some might say even before that.

The red, green and white hoops have been regular visitors to Kingsholm since the old Merit Table days, and very welcome they are too. Our own fervour for the game has earned Gloucester universal respect, but few Cherry and White supporters would deny Leicester are English rugby's biggest club, with a well appointed stadium and huge membership.

With tonight's game being under lights, comparisons are inevitable with April 8, 1997 - a significant night in more ways than one.

In those high speculation days immediately before Tom Walkinshaw's arrival, eagled eyed supporters spotted Philippe Saint-André among a near full-house crowd. Whatever Richard Hill's sales pitch was that night, he didn't need it.

The late pushover try - and Tofty's conversion - clinched a see-saw match rated by BBC Radion Gloucestershire's summariser Peter Butler as one of the top three league games he's seen.

Shedites won't need reminding that it not only put a telling dent in the Tigers' title hopes, but it also exacted revenge for a Cup semi final defeat only ten days before.

Within a month, Walkingshaw and Saint-André were both part of the Kingsholm jigsaw.

This is the third of Gloucester's seven games that carry just two points for a win, the system devised for the duration of the World Cup, which started today.

Dean Richards, Leicester's Director of Rugby, says that the Tigers have been so fiercely hit by World Cup calls that he would be happy with eight points from the opening third of the season.

Richards, now without Joel Stransky as a player too, clearly expects clubs with fewer absentees - like Gloucester - to make the running. So far, both team have two points.

Last Sunday's defeat at Wasps was the seventh in nine Premiership matches with Philippe Saint-André as coach. It is a sobering thought, but we ought to remember last season's squad was not his, and the flurry of players in and out during the summer indicated he was not happy with it.

The team is still settling, but there were some encouraging signs at Loftus Road - even in defeat.

Those two tries in two minutes in the first half

made a big difference, as did Mannix's mixed kicking performance.

The need to concentrate for the full 80 minutes was clearly illustrated.

So to tonight! Mike Burton used to refer to the London clubbs as "the fancy Dans" on their visits to Kingsholm. Not so Leicester.

A major force since the days of Wheeler, Dodge, current England coach Clive Woodward and, of course, "Deano" himself. A side not to be under-estimated tonight!

C'mon Glaws!



Peter Arnold

Mr Peter Arnold

They Shoot Tigers, Don't They?

Well, perhaps not tigers, precisely, but I'm fairly sure that the green welly fraternity do start shooting something on October 1st.

Mind you - they'd have their work cut out this evening. It's never going to be easy to shoot down a Leicester Tigers side, World Cup or no World Cup.

Obviously, we would have preferred to welcome them to Kingsholm at full strength, and will certainly miss Messrs. Johnson, Back and all the rest of their England cadre, but we're under no illusions about the difficulty of the task in hand.

Like Gloucester, Leicester have never been short of one essential ingredient of a good team, and that is good, old fashioned pride. In addition, the Leicester replacements include some very high-class performers; players who would be welcomed as first-choice members of many a Premiership team. Make no mistake. We're going to have to be on top of our game to beat them.

The Tigers didn't have a good start to their Premiership campaign. In fact, they were well beaten by a Northampton side who also had their World Cup absentees, and who, interestingly enough, lost to a young Bath team last Saturday.

However, while that was happening, Leicester were getting back on track. They beat a resilient Sale side by 18 points to 3, all their points coming from six penalties, courtesy of Tim Stimpson. I'm sure that the point will not have been missed by our coaching team here at Kingsholm. Anyone who was here for the equivalent game last season will remember it as a match which Gloucester could, and should, have won were it not for a knack of giving penalties away, well within range of Stimpson's boot.

One way and another we look to be set fair for an intriguing encounter this evening. Furthermore, Leicester, players, officials, and supporters are always among the most welcome visitors to Kingsholm, and that's one thing which hasn't changed.

It's always good to see them, and we hope they have a really great time with us.

DISAPPOINTING, BUT,

Many people, simply reading the results on Teletext or wherever, must have reacted with variations on "Oh no! Here we go again!" when they saw the Wasps score. "Still in the old away-game syndrome, are we?"

They could be given for saying something of the sort. After all, it was precisely one year and two weeks since Gloucester last won a Premiership game on someone else's turf.

But further investigation would have revealed a rather different story. OK - so we lost. But it wasn't the old story of buckling under pressure in the final quarter and letting the game slip out of our grasp. Quite the reverse, in fact. Wasps supporters were getting quite nervous at the quality of the backlash which very nearly snatched the game from them after they had secured a 16-point lead. If a couple more kicks had gone over, we could just have nicked it.

Perhaps the lesson to be learned is that no side can allow the opposition to get that far ahead in the earlier stages of a Premiership One game. Old professional heads are simply too streetwise to let such a position slip.

If you're one for omens, you might like to recall that Gloucester won their first Championship away game last season, and then proceeded to lose all the rest. Possibly the other side of the coin will materialise this time round.

So it's far too early to let our heads droop yet. Don't take my word for it, however. Consider what David Hands, respected correspondent for the 'Times' had to say on Monday morning.

If Gloucester go on playing like this, he summed up, "Someone, somewhere, is going to get a thrashing."

GOOD START

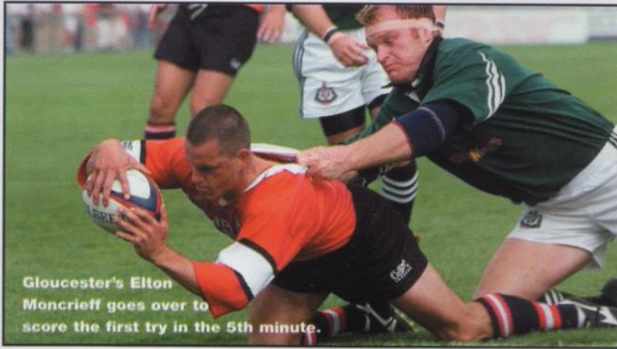
The Tetley Bitter Cup seems an awful long way away at the moment, what with the World Cup, the European competitions, the Premiership and all. Not for the local teams, though. Those splendid outfits, labouring in the boiler house of the game, had their first Tetley engagements a couple of weeks ago.

It was very good, therefore, to see Matson and Cinderford coming through the first round with excellent wins over fancied opposition. They've both got home draws for the next round, and although the 'ask' gets progressively more difficult as the Competition progresses. I for one, wouldn't bet my meagre pocket money against them.

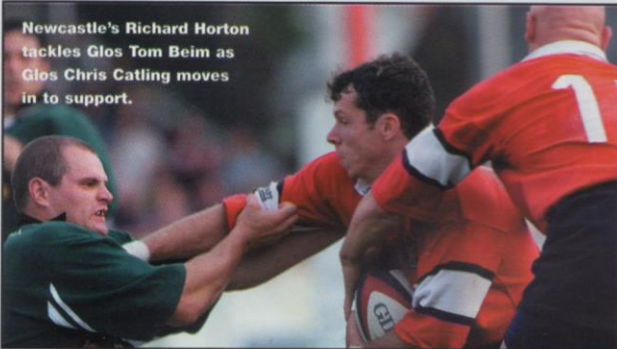
We wish them well, and hope they go a lot further. Matson v. Gloucester at Redwell Road? Now there's a fearsome thought.

Gloucester vs Newcastle
September 11 1999

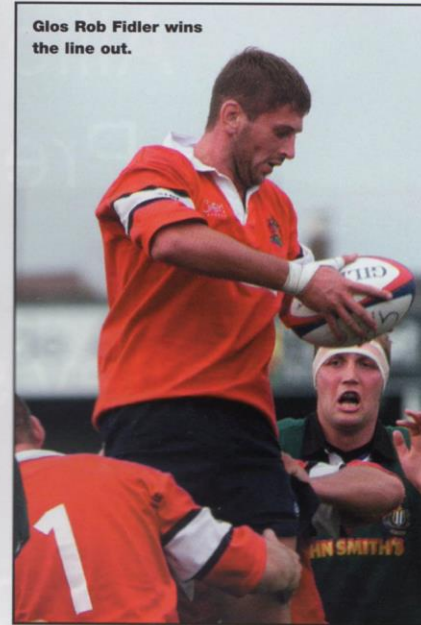
Match Action



Gloucester's Elton Moncrieff goes over to score the first try in the 5th minute.

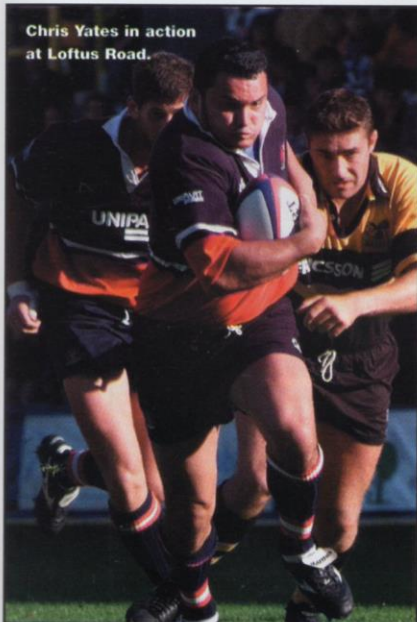


Newcastle's Richard Horton tackles Glos Tom Beim as Glos Chris Catling moves in to support.

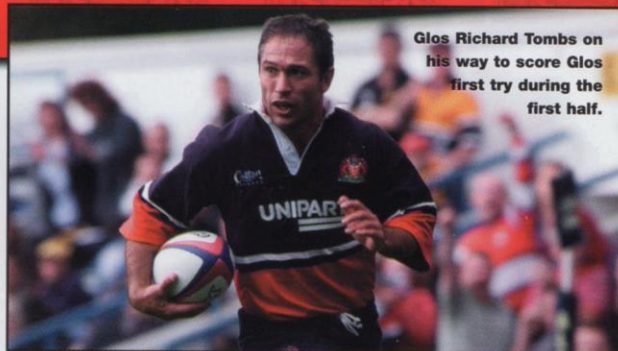


Glos Rob Fidler wins the line out.

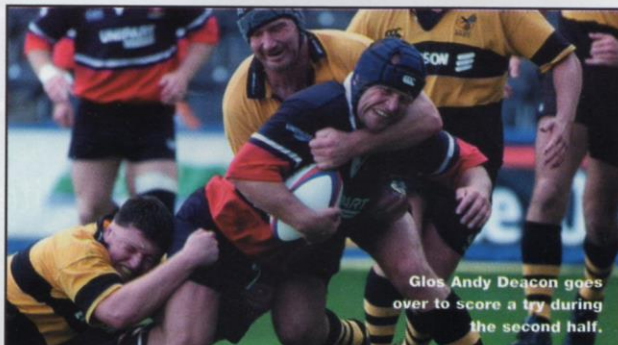
London Wasps vs Gloucester
September 26 1999



Chris Yates in action at Loftus Road.



Glos Richard Tombs on his way to score Glos first try during the first half.



Glos Andy Deacon goes over to score a try during the second half.

Mike Weaver Reviews....

By Mike Weaver

The announcement of the annual outing to Loftus Road does not usually have Gloucester attacking their diaries with thick red pen - and with good reason.

Recent seasons have seen us return after dominating much of the early period of these games, holding on either side of half time and then collapsing in the final quarter - allowing Wasps to apply a flattering gloss to the scoreline.

So, whilst I walked back towards the tube station on Sunday with the now standard sense of disappointment and frustration, by the time the train left I was starting to focus on the positive aspects of the game.

The spirit demonstrated by the team to fight their way back into the game and put the Wasps' fans on the edges of their seats for the closing 10 minutes has to be the most positive thing we can take from the match. In the face of stifling pressure from a tireless home side, the defence held firm and then some powerful breaks by Ojomoh, Ewens, Yates and Tombs began to force Wasps onto the back foot.

As the pack responded to the formidable challenge of a muscular Wasps eight, and the backs began to put real pace on the ball, Gloucester chipped away at the points difference so as to be within striking distance with a good 15 minutes to go. Unfortunately, King was able to pin Gloucester back with some deep kicks to the corners and the cherry-and-white's over-eagerness led to some telling fumbled passes.

So, a defeat, certainly, but we were

by no measure made to look like extras at the Cup Winner's party.

After witnessing 2 performances in ADP 1 so far this season, what can be said about Gloucester's early season form? Well, I think we can safely say that we appear to have considerable strength in depth now. If Yates and Ewens can continue the way they have set off this season, Tombs and Fanolua will have their work cut out to re-establish their midfield partnership. Yates was bursting out of tackles and somehow managing to stay on his feet despite the attentions of a handful of tacklers on more than a couple of occasions on Sunday. Ewens is always looking to break defences and shows a real turn of pace when running at the opposition. Tombs also showed on Sunday that we have genuine options at fullback now, as he dealt comfortably with the endless stream of nasty bouncing kicks that King sent his way. And as for Serge ...

To my mind, if there is a central lesson to be learnt so far this season, it is the fact that having a confident back three which is capable of defending well and launching quick counter-attacks is just as vital to the success of a team as the front or back-

rows. Dealing with deep kicks to the corner by either running the ball back, kicking down the line or being able to give long accurate passes to a team-mate who has a better angle, has become a common feature of the game - and from the evidence of the 2 matches so far this 'game within a game' shows no signs of disappearing this season.

So let's re-awaken the spirit of spring 1997 tonight and see off the challenge of the Tigers! - then comes the small matter of Bath. Again, you may not be quite so enthusiastic to go down there after some of the hidings of recent years. But just think of how close we came last season - and having witnessed the spirit shown at Loftus Road last week - I think we've seen enough so far to dissuade us from throwing the car keys down the drain just yet.



Flashback

Revenge Is Sweet As Gloucester Defy Tigers

Tuesday, 8th April 1997 - Courage Club Championship

Gloucester 32 Leicester 30

In possibly the most exciting finish ever to a Courage League match, Gloucester came from behind to beat the pundits' choice for this year's Championship. Leicester were the overwhelming favourites before the match, with eight internationals (including five British Lions) in the starting line-up with British Lion and England wing Rory Underwood on the replacements bench. With six internationals in the Leicester pack and the recent Pilkington Cup defeat over the Cherry and Whites still firmly in the memories of all concerned, Leicester were definitely starting in pole position.

Joel Stransky opened the scoring with a penalty, minutes after missing his first attempt. Stransky was to miss 2 penalties and 2 conversions in all.

His only drop-goal attempt, late in the second half, never even went close. From the re-start Gloucester won back possession and lay siege to the Leicester line. A penalty was awarded and converted by Mark Mapletoft.

But Leicester showed their true class and scored two tries in fairly quick succession - Craig Joiner and John Liley touching down - with only 2 Mapletoft penalties in reply. Gloucester were now trailing 6-15 and it looked very unpleasant. Although bouncing back from the Cup defeat to triumph over Saracens required a certain degree of mental fortitude, Gloucester were really looking down and out.

A further Mapletoft penalty brought Gloucester closer. Then came the

move that brought the game, and the whole ground, alive. Mapletoft made a huge soaring clearance from the right hand side of the Gloucester 22. Eral Anderson gave chase but a Leicester player was making ground fast. With the ball looking as if to go out of touch it suddenly bounced straight in the air and Anderson ran past it. A Leicester defender tried to collect the ball but only tipped it. Anderson brought it under control with his legs and picked the ball up - yet almost immediately another Leicester player was on him but he passed inside to Audley Lumsden who was steaming up the left flank. Lumsden burst through and raced the whole of the Leicester half to score under the posts. Mapletoft converted - and Gloucester were 19-15 up on the Champions-elect.

That was the catalyst. The Gloucester players seemed renewed and the supporters began to cheer them on as loudly as they had ever done. For quite some time it appeared the Cherry and Whites would hold back the Tigers. Time after time Leicester moved the ball efficiently, only for Gloucester to smother the attack. Gloucester's defence was awesome, against opposition made of less stern stuff Leicester would have gone into triple figures - but Gloucester showed a dogged determination not to roll over and die. This was to be a comeback that would have made Sinatra proud.



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Flashback

Almost inevitably Leicester were awarded a penalty in the Gloucester half and this time Stransky made no mistake. Lumsden made a try-saving recovery following another Stransky punt but he was bundled out of touch at the Gloucester line. Predictably the ball went to Johnson and although Gloucester denied the Tigers initial attempts to roll the maul, eventually Aadel Kardooni burrowed through to score. We were sickened. For such a long period it seemed that Gloucester were to win a famous victory but now Leicester were back in front.

But Gloucester weren't finished yet. Two more Mapletoft penalties brought Gloucester level - although some sections of the crowd thought that Gloucester should have run at least one of those penalties, Mapletoft was vindicated. Any supporter from either club who thought that the game was done hadn't accounted for Rory Underwood. Underwood had come on to replace the unfortunate Leon Lloyd who was stretchered off after

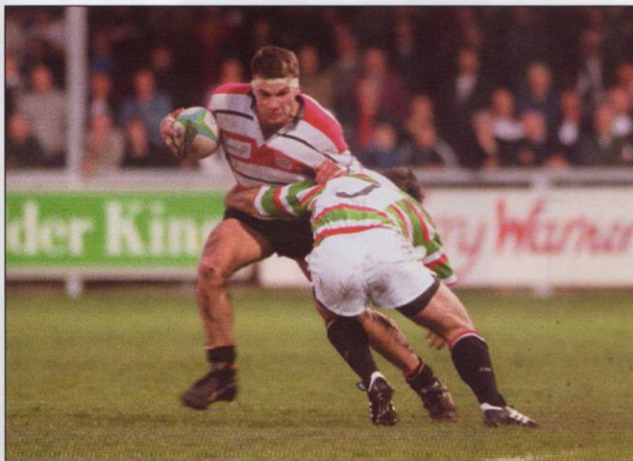
Lumsden had made yet another vital save just yards from the Gloucester line. Stransky fed the line and as soon as Underwood took the ball it was clear he was going to score. All Gloucester hearts sank as referee Graham Hughes indicated the try, right in the corner. Stransky was unable to convert but Leicester were still 30-25 up with no time left on the clock.

A series of penalties took Gloucester steadily up the field as Mapletoft calmly kicked for position. It seemed impossible that Gloucester could score and everyone fully expected the referee to end the game at any time. But before he could award the game to Leicester, Phil Greening wanted to have a say in the proceedings. A Gloucester line-out deep in Leicester territory was won and Greening took the ball and pierced the Tigers' defence in the corner. The whole of Kingsholm erupted, except for the Leicester contingent, who couldn't believe their eyes. But could Mapletoft convert from the touchline?

Mapletoft lined up the kick and, in his own sweet time, belted the ball good and true through the posts. As the touch judges raised their flags, Kingsholm cheered loud enough for Bristol to know that Gloucester had won. However referee Hughes wanted to play on - but Leicester contrived to give the game away as they conceded penalty after penalty. Eventually, after Mapletoft booted the ball deep into the grandstand, Hughes decided that 51 minutes and 40 seconds was ample enough injury time - and blew for the end of the game.

Scenes reminiscent of last season's victory over Bath followed as almost all 8,000 supporters took to the field to cheer the Gloucester heroes into the dressing room. Less than 30 seconds after disappearing, Dave Sims led the side back out to a rapturous reception. Once again, all 15 players were cheered out, handshakes and back-slaps to one and all. The biggest cheer was for Richard Hill as the massed supporters chanted, "Richard Hill, Richard Hill, Richard Hill". Hill appeared with the most enormous grin and came out to receive the accolade. He almost disappeared under the weight of supporters wanting to congratulate him but he acknowledged them all before going back to the dressing room. The Gloucester players were cheered back into the clubhouse and, as the jubilant supporters left the ground, a disappointed Bob Dwyer was giving his verdict to the pack of journalists up in the grandstand.

*Final score:
Gloucester 32 Leicester 30*



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Today's Officials

Referee:
Nigel Yates

Touch Judges:
Stuart Terhegge
Fred Spong

Today's Mascot:

JOHANNA MARIE KNIGHT

Johanna was eight on September 5, and she has a younger brother Alexander who is five. Both had an enjoyable visit to Kingsholm in August for our Open Day.

She has been a keen fan of Gloucester RFC for a long time, but not for as long as her 'Gramp' who she says shouts at all the rugby games on television! Johanna, a devoted 'Sheehhead', attends as many games as she can and even ended up last season in the Citizen supporting the Gloucester team!

Her favourite player is Chris Fortey, but she also likes Philippe Saint-Andre.



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Friday October 1st 1999

Today's Line-Ups

Gloucester

15	Richard Tombs (I)	Full Back
14	Chris Catling	Wing
13	Joe Ewens	Centre
12	Chris Yates	Centre
11	Tom Beim (I)	Wing
10	Simon Mannix (I)	Fly Half
9	Ian Sanders	Scrum Half
1	Trevor Woodman (I)	Prop
2	Chris Fortey	Hooker
3	Andy Deacon	Prop
4	Rob Fidler (I)	Lock
5	Mark Cornwell	Lock
6	Adam Eustace	Flanker
7	Kingsley Jones (I) (C)	Flanker
8	Steve Ojomoh (I)	No. 8

Leicester

15	Tim Stimpson (I)
14	Geordan Murphy
13	Craig Joiner (I)
12	Stuart Abbott
11	Nnamdi Ezulike
10	Pat Howard (I)
9	Jamie Hamilton
1	Derek Jelley
2	Dorian West (I)
3	Ken Fourie
4	Neil Fletcher
5	John Welbourn (I)
6	Paul Gustard
7	Will Johnson
8	Lewis Moody

Replacements

16	Laurie Beck	Garry Beconsall	16
17	Rob Jewell	Andy Goode	17
18	Brian Johnson	Stuart Potter (I)	18
19	Jawad Djoudi (I)	Adam Balding	19
20	Adey Powles	Danny Zaltzman	20
21	Richard Ward	Perry Freshwater	21
22	Andrew Hazell	Phil Greenbury	22

(I) Denotes International