



BRISTOL RUGBY

# BRISTOL RUGBY



OFFICIAL  
MAIN SPONSOR

VS GLOUCESTER SUNDAY 18 SEPTEMBER 2005 • KICK OFF 3<sup>PM</sup> £3.00

MATCH DAY SPONSOR

**AlderKing**

MATCH BALL SPONSOR

**Sportwise**.co.uk



THE TIMES



[www.guinnesspremiership.com](http://www.guinnesspremiership.com)

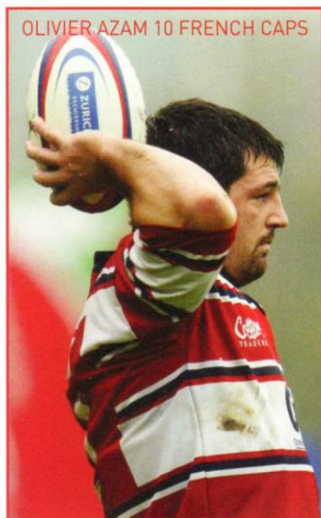
# Gloucester Spotlight

**IF GLOUCESTER HAD BEEN OFFERED SIX POINTS FROM THEIR FIRST TWO GAMES OF THE SEASON, THE CHANCES ARE THEY WOULD HAVE REASONABLY EXPECTED TO SIT ABOVE BRISTOL IN THE GUINNESS PREMIERSHIP.**

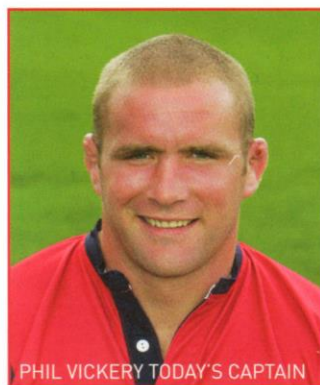
A seriously tough two points on the opening weekend of hostilities against Worcester, when they lost skipper Adam Balding to a fractured cheek bone, was followed by four more in a nail-ruining finale against Sale last Saturday.

But Bristol have gone even better. A victory over Bath - the neighbours both of today's opponents love to hate - and another win over Newcastle last Sunday has established them at the top end of the Premiership and defied the doom-mongers who predicted a season of struggle.

Today's encounter throws up plenty of intrigue and pits two of the grandest clubs in the country together once more. Dean Ryan,



once the fearsomely tribal Bristol number eight is in charge of Gloucester these days, while Richard Hill, the former Kingsholm coach, is working wonders at the Memorial Stadium to generate even



more interest in today's encounter.

Ryan replaced Nigel Melville as the top man at Castle Grim at the end of last season and has been busy this summer remoulding the side to his specifications.

One of the most forceful number eights to have been produced in the last decade, Ryan has made no secret of his desire to re-establish a more effective set-piece and has signed Patrice Collazo, the scrummaging expert who has spent the last two years at Toulouse and lock Quinton Davids, who will arrive from South Africa in November, to add experience and power to his forwards.

Ludovic Mercier has also resigned from Pau and he will add power and direction to Gloucester's kicking game. He made an astonishing impact during his first spell in the Premiership and is a darling of the Gloucester

supporters.

Mercier is already in superb form - landing all the points against Worcester and then drilling Sale deep into their own half to create the field position that ended with the penalty try against Sale.

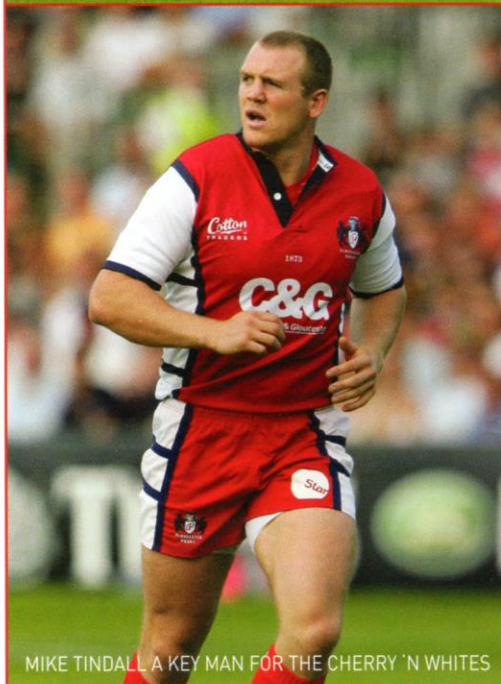
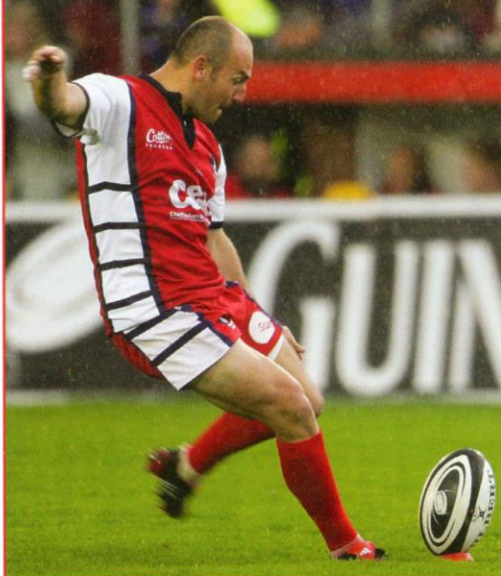
There have been other new recruits - Peter Richards and Haydn Thomas - the scrum-halves who will battle it out to replace Andy Gomarsall and Rob Thirlby, the former Bath and Saracens full-back who signed on a two-year deal from Penzance.

But of the most significance has been the arrival of England centre Mike Tindall from Bath. He should provide the ideal foil for Henry Paul to display his own game-shaping qualities in midfield. Tindall has recovered from shoulder and ankle injuries during the summer and is expected to make his competitive debut this afternoon.

However, Ryan has already made it clear it is not solely about the new signings this season. Winger Mark Foster impressed greatly during their pre-season Issoire Tournament in France, Olly Morgan has looked assured and cool at full-back, while youngsters Anthony Allen and Jack Adams have caused a considerable stir already with their mature approach in the midfield.

Ryan will not be shouting about Gloucester's chances from the rooftops. He will ensure they go quietly but professionally about their business this season as they hunt down a place back in the Heineken Cup. They will combine experience and youthful promise as they face one of the biggest derbies in English rugby.

LUDOVIC MERCIER 26 POINTS SO FAR THIS SEASON



MIKE TINDALL A KEY MAN FOR THE CHERRY 'N WHITES

## OVERALL PLAYING RECORD AGAINST GLOUCESTER

|             | P   | W  | D  | L   | F    | A    |
|-------------|-----|----|----|-----|------|------|
|             | 210 | 80 | 18 | 112 | 1806 | 2209 |
| <b>HOME</b> | 104 | 54 | 7  | 43  | 1005 | 881  |
| <b>AWAY</b> | 105 | 26 | 11 | 68  | 778  | 1300 |

### TWICKENHAM

Played 1 lost 1 pts for 23 pts agt 28

**FIRST MATCH** 24.09.1882 at Gloucester - lost 0-14

**FIRST HOME MATCH** 11.03.1883 - drew 2-2

### RECORDS IN HOME MATCHES:

|                   |      |            |
|-------------------|------|------------|
| Most points for - | 40   | 21.04.2002 |
| Most points agt - | 41   | 21.04.2002 |
| Biggest win -     | 23-0 | 03.02.1962 |
| Biggest loss -    | 9-34 | 27.04.1975 |

### LEAGUE MATCHES:

|              | P  | W | D | L  | F   | A   |
|--------------|----|---|---|----|-----|-----|
| <b>HOME</b>  | 13 | 6 | 0 | 7  | 240 | 266 |
| <b>AWAY</b>  | 11 | 2 | 1 | 8  | 188 | 300 |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | 24 | 8 | 1 | 15 | 428 | 566 |

**MOST POINTS:** Mark Tainton 63, Ludovic Mercier 69

**MOST TRIES:** Jon Webb, Phil Christophers, Dave John, Rob Kitchin, Barry Williams (2); Marcel Garvey, Junior Paramore (4)

**MOST CONS:** Mark Tainton, Felipe Contepomi (6); Ludovic Mercier (14)

**MOST PENS:** Mark Tainton (15); Ludovic Mercier, Simon Mannix (15)

**DROP GOALS:** Mark Tainton (2); Ludovic Mercier (2)

**APPEARANCES:** Paul Hull (11); Rob Fidler (13)

Stats supplied by Neil Williams

# The Teams

Bristol Rugby v Gloucester Rugby



BRISTOL RUGBY

## TODAY'S OFFICIALS

Referee - David Rose  
 Senior Touch Judge - Paul Emerson  
 Junior Touch Judge - Bob Mullis  
 4th Official - Mark Doran



GLOUCESTER RUGBY

|    |                    |             |                  |    |
|----|--------------------|-------------|------------------|----|
| 1  | DAVE HILTON        | PROP        | PATRICE COLLAZO  | 1  |
| 2  | SAUL NELSON        | HOOKER      | OLIVIER AZAM     | 2  |
| 3  | DARREN CROMPTON    | PROP        | PHIL VICKERY (C) | 3  |
| 4  | MARIANO SAMBUCETTI | LOCK        | ADAM EUSTACE     | 4  |
| 5  | ROY WINTERS        | LOCK        | ALEX BROWN       | 5  |
| 6  | MATT SALTER (C)    | BLINDSIDE   | JAKE BOER        | 6  |
| 7  | CRAIG SHORT        | OPENSIDE    | ANDY HAZELL      | 7  |
| 8  | GERAINT LEWIS      | NO. 8       | JAMES FORRESTER  | 8  |
| 9  | SHAUN PERRY        | SCRUM HALF  | HAYDN THOMAS     | 9  |
| 10 | JASON STRANGE      | FLY HALF    | LUDOVIC MERCIER  | 10 |
| 11 | VAUGHAN GOING      | LEFT WING   | ROB THIRLBY      | 11 |
| 12 | MANU CONTEPOMI     | CENTRE      | HENRY PAUL       | 12 |
| 13 | ROB HIGGITT        | CENTRE      | MIKE TINDALL     | 13 |
| 14 | BRIAN LIMA         | RIGHT WING  | MARK FOSTER      | 14 |
| 15 | BERNARDO STORTONI  | FULLBACK    | JON GOODRIDGE    | 15 |
| 16 | MARK IRISH         | REPLACEMENT | PETER BUXTON     | 16 |
| 17 | NEIL CLARK         | REPLACEMENT | GARY POWELL      | 17 |
| 18 | OLLIE HODGE        | REPLACEMENT | MEFIN DAVIES     | 18 |
| 19 | DAN WARD-SMITH     | REPLACEMENT | PETER RICHARDS   | 19 |
| 20 | GREG NICHOLLS      | REPLACEMENT | DUNCAN MCRAE     | 20 |
| 21 | DANNY GRAY         | REPLACEMENT | MARK CORNWELL    | 21 |
| 22 | MARK DENNEY        | REPLACEMENT | JACK ADAMS       | 22 |

FINAL SCORE