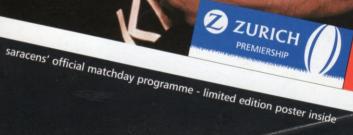


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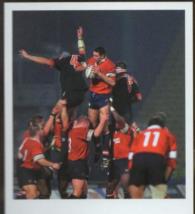
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gloucester in the groove



Gloucester's new captain lan Jones – the legendary All Black lock with 79 international caps to his credit – is determined to be a relatively 'low key' captain.

'The decision-makers out on the field will be the eight, nine and ten,' he said. They pretty much run the game. 'My role will be more of a motivator – to encourage the rest of the team.' He sees his main job as being off the field. 'It's very much about talking through experiences and using my knowledge,' he said.

The towering former All Black – he stands at 6' 6' – is the first to pay tribute to the leadership last season of **Kingsley Jones**. 'Kingsley did a fantastic job for us last year,' commented Jones 'the taller', as he is often called around **Kingsholm** when separating the two Jones boys.

'He really motivated the team and I am sure he will still have a great input – he is a very vocal player!' Ian Jones said that he never came to **Gloucester** with the intention of becoming captain. 'I am here as a player, and that will be my first priority,' he insisted.

'Obviously I am thrilled at being appointed – it is definitely an honour to captain Gloucester. 'I will be working closely with **John Brain** (Gloucester's forwards coach) and will be taking some of the forwards training at times.

'But at the end of the day, I am just one of the players.' Jones is the first to admit that Gloucester face a great challenge this coming season – their first top-level European campaign in the **Heineken Cup**.

'We have got to work hard. We cannot rest on our laurels — we had success last season, but that is in the past now. Right now, we start from scratch,' he insisted. 'And there are exciting times ahead.' Part of the excitement that Gloucester fans will experience will be the arrival next month of Wallaby **Jason Little**, Jones predicts. 'He is a class player. It is fantastic for Gloucester to get someone of his calibre. He will bring us so much experience and enthusiasm for the game — and he's at the top of his game right now.'

Saracens take no team in the Premiership lightly, and Gloucester is a club bristling with ambition and talent. It is no secret that Saracens underachieved last season, but are ready to put this right in this 2000/01 season. In the first meeting last season Saracens went down 19 points to 22 in front of The Shed. The Men in Black have not won at Kingsholm in 17 visits. The return game was a better display with Sarries coming away with a win.

The Cherry and Whites are very much looking forward to the season and know that it's time to bring in the silverware. Today Saracens are set on cutting down the cherry tree.

"We have got to work hard. We cannot rest on our laurels — we had success last season, but that is in the past now."

the **teams**

PLAYER LISTINGS



Saracens

SARACENS

- 15 THOMAS CASTAIGNEDE*
 - Full Back
- 14 DARRAGH O'MAHONY*
- Right Wing
- Centre
- 12 KEVIN SORRELL
- 11 DAN LUGER*
- Left Wing
- DUNCAN McRAE
- Fly Half
- KYRAN BRACKEN* CAPT
- Scrum Half
- PAUL WALLACE*
- Prop
- MATT CAIRNS
- Hooker
- JULIAN WHITE*
- Prop
- BILL DAVISON
- Lock
- KRIS CHESNEY

SCOTT MURRAY*

- Lock
- RICHARD HILL*
- Flanker
- Flanker
- TONY DIPROSE*
- No.8
- 16 NICK WALSHE
- 17 BRETT SPARG
- 18 TOM SHANKLIN
- 19 DAVID FLATMAN*
- 20 MAREK KWISIUK
- 21 KIERAN ROCHE
- 22 STEVE CHEESEBROUGH

Replacements

the officials

REFEREE Steve Lander

Gloucester

- TERRY FANOLUA*
 - CHRIS CATLING

- BEN JOHNSTON
- JO EWENS

- Centre
- FRANK SCHIZANO

- SIMON MANNIX*
 - **ELTON MONTCRIEF***
- - ADRIAN POWLES
- OLIVIER AZAM
- ANDY **DEACON**
- **ROB FIDLER***
- IAN JONES* CAPT
- STEVE OJOMO*
- JUNIOR PARAMORE*
- JAKE BOER
- TO BE ANNOUNCED
- 17

- 21
- * Denotes international



SENIOR TOUCH JUDGE 5. Leyson JUNIOR TOUCH JUDGE A. Reay