



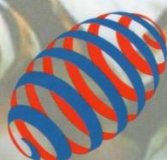
THE ZURICH CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL



**Bristol
Shoguns**



Gloucester



PREMIER RUGBY

8th June 2002 – kick off 3.00pm

preceded at 12.30pm by the U21s Championship Final, Bristol Shoguns v London Wasps

official programme £4.00

WELCOME



Welcome from Sandy Leitch

On behalf of Zurich, I would like to welcome all supporters here today to Twickenham for the Zurich Championship Final 2002.

Though only in its second year, the Zurich Championship has already provided fans of the game with some excellent rugby and I expect that today's Final, between Bristol Shoguns and Gloucester, will be no exception with both sides bidding to outplay each other at the home of rugby and vying for the magnificent Zurich Championship trophy.

One thing we are certainly assured of by the final whistle is a new name on the Trophy for 2002. The holders Leicester Tigers, such worthy winners of the Zurich Premiership once again this year as well as champions of Europe for the second year running, were knocked out of this year's Championship race at the quarter final stage by Bristol Shoguns.

The Tigers were not going down without a fight but the Shoguns – who qualified for the Championship as eighth seed – held on to record a notable victory and, in defeating the 2001 Zurich Championship winners, ended Leicester's proud unbeaten home run in domestic competition dating back to December 1997.

Bristol played Northampton Saints in the first of the semi-finals, and with the pressure on both teams to reach Twickenham and a place in the Championship final it was Bristol Shoguns who came through.

On the other side of the draw Gloucester and Sale Sharks progressed through to the semi final stage of the Zurich Championship by both notching comfortable home victories, over Newcastle Falcons and London Wasps respectively. Their meeting at Heywood Road at the semi-final stage was quite some encounter and Gloucester fully deserve their place in today's Final.

Yet it had been quite a different story over the course of another compulsive Zurich Premiership season where once again the Tigers reigned supreme in taking the title for the fourth straight year. London Irish and Gloucester also performed strongly while special mention must go to Sale Sharks who finished second in the Premiership.

As a genuine partner of the game, we at Zurich see our sponsorship role extending beyond the elite competitions of the Championship and Premiership. Accordingly, we are delighted to have once again been involved with the sport at a grass roots level through the National Under 12's and Under 13's, plus Chwarae Teg.

With the Under 21's Championship Final preceding the main event on the pitch today, there will be plenty to keep you entertained in the build-up to the game. Once again we have the Zurich Village – complete with music, entertainers and representation from all 12 clubs – the perfect place for you and your family to kick off the day!

I hope you have an enjoyable day here at Twickenham and good luck to both teams – may the best side win!

Enjoy the game!

Sandy Leitch,

Chief Executive, Zurich Financial Services UK



PREMIER RUGBY

Welcome from Tom Walkinshaw

Welcome to everyone here at Twickenham today at the second Zurich

Championship Final. I hope that everyone will enjoy what promises to be a celebration of club rugby as well as an exciting finale to the domestic season. And what a finale it has been! Leicester Tigers – most people's first bet for the repeat of their Zurich Championship win last year – beaten at home in the quarter finals by eighth seed Bristol Shoguns. And then a west country derby at the home of England Rugby!.

No-one should belittle the Shogun's achievement in beating the Tigers and reaching today's final as Dean Ryan's team have been in remarkable form the last few months and the club and their fans certainly deserve a trip to Twickenham and a chance at the silverware on offer.

What can I say about Gloucester! I won't even try to be impartial and hide my true feelings as this has been a tremendous season for us. The whole club has been desperate to reach today's final and to win some long overdue silverware. It has been a long while since we travelled to Twickenham – I am hoping it won't be a wasted one! Favouritism aside, I would genuinely like to wish both sides the best of luck.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our main sponsor, Zurich, who continue to be a fantastic supporter of the whole game. Today is intended to be a celebration of club rugby for everyone – whether you are an ardent club supporter or just someone who enjoys watching the occasional match. We may be enjoying the last domestic game of the season but ahead of us lies another exciting, unpredictable and entertaining season. Premier Rugby aims to make the Zurich Premiership the greatest domestic league in the world so thank you for playing your part in the success of professional club rugby in this country.

Enjoy the day!

Tom Walkinshaw,

Chairman, Premier Rugby

REVELATION!

A review of the Zurich Premiership 2001-2

by Mick Cleary (*The Daily Telegraph*)



PREMIER RUGBY

Geoff Appleford,
London Irish

You'll have to excuse those loud rumbling noises that have been coming from the press box these past few weeks. A spot of indigestion. All that humble pie wreaks havoc on a chap's internals.

Sale – no hope. London Irish – no chance. And Gloucester – well, just how the hell was such a hotch-potch gathering of nations supposed to gell as a team. Yep, got them all wrong in the pre-season predictions.



Mark Cueto of Sale Sharks in action during the Zurich 2001/02 Premiership match against London Wasps

The Zurich Premiership was a revelation. Not only did the pundits not rate the prospects of various teams – they didn't rate themselves all that highly. Sale Sharks had ear-marked a top seven finish. Instead, they gave us a feast of brash and vivid rugby at various times in the season. They provided two of the top five Premiership try scorers – wing Mark Cueto with 13 and Jason Robinson with nine. 12 months ago Cueto was an unknown young wing with Altrincham Kersal, a junior club near Manchester. Now he's on the plane to Argentina with England – such is the power of the Premiership

London Irish have deservedly got men on that plane to South America too – flanker Declan Danaher, centre Geoff



Appleford and full-back Michael Horak. All three were consistent operators through the season. The encouraging news for the standard of the Premiership is that Clive

Woodward now relies on league performances as a guide for judging a player's suitability for international rugby. Sure, he has rested a whole host of his top men for the tour, but has done so in a much more up-beat state of mind than four years ago when he sent a below-strength side to the southern hemisphere only to see them get a shellacking.

"Things have moved on so much since then," says Woodward. "I've very confident in these guys. The Premiership keeps throwing new names at me."

Add to the list a duo from Gloucester – wing James Simpson-Daniel and flanker James Forrester. The pair of them left their considerable imprint on the latter stages of the Premiership as they broke through to become regulars for the Cherry and Whites. Their reward was a place in the England side that took on, and handsomely beat, the Barbarians. Simpson-Daniel was also named in the tour party for Argentina with Forrester likely to take part either in the Commonwealth Games Sevens or the Under 21 championships.

Gloucester held together through a difficult season to finish third in the Premiership and qualify for Europe. Kingsholm was not a happy place for much

of the campaign with a severe breakdown in communication between the players and director of rugby, Philippe Saint-André. Somehow, through all the strife, the team prospered.

Alan Dickens, of Sale Sharks, gets the backs moving during the Zurich Championship quarter-final match between Sale Sharks and London Wasps



That tells you two things: one that the idiosyncratic Frenchman had bought well in the transfer market and, secondly, that harmony among the players themselves was never an issue.

Fly-half, Ludovic Mercier, knocked over goals with indecent regularity, ending up just behind London Irish's Barry Everitt as top points scorer in the Premiership, nine points behind the Irishman's total of 343 points. Jake Boer, in the back-row, was

an outstanding purchase so too various elements of the front-row – Patrice Collazo, Olivier Azam and Federico Pucciariello. An honourable mention should be made too for another inhabitant of the front-row – tighthead and club captain Phil Vickery. He more than anyone helped steady the ship when the waters were sloshing over the decks. Eventually owner Tom Walkinshaw did act and Saint-André headed back to France where he hooked up with Bourgoin. Former London Wasps director of rugby, Nigel Melville, took over the reins.



Olivier Azam of Gloucester

So much for the jostling for the runners-up slot, Sale pipping Gloucester by a point to claim second spot with London Irish edging ahead of Northampton Saints, in fourth place. It was a lively contest which is just as well given that the title was all but wrapped up by the New Year.

We can salute the new and promising but the real laurels for the season must go to Leicester Tigers,

Declan Danaher of London Irish hands off Federico Pucciariello of Gloucester



Premiership champions for the fourth year in a row. One way to get the measure of their sustained success is to consider the respective fates of Bath and Saracens. For so long, through the late eighties and early-mid nineties, the league was invariably a two-horse race between Bath and Leicester. Six times Bath won the league between 1989 and '96. This season they were very fortunate not to finish bottom. They came in 11th with Saracens just above them in 10th. The threat of relegation hung over them for so long. In the end all the Premiership strugglers were spared a terrible fate when England Rugby Ltd decided that Rotherham had not met the criteria for promotion. Sighs of relief all round – not

to mention howls of protest. Leeds, a fine addition to the top ranks under the shrewd direction of Phil Davies, were given a chance to build on the good work of their first year.

For Bath the challenge is different. Morale took a battering. Sure, they had a whopping casualty list – Mike Catt, Matt Perry, Iain Balshaw, Kevin Maggs – the back line in particular was decimated. But the problems ran deeper than that. Bath were the lowest scorers in the Premiership – and by some distance. Their tally of 311 points in 22 games was 95 points lower than the next worst, Leeds on 406 points. A head did roll in an attempt to correct the decline, former Wallaby hooker, Michael Foley replacing Jon Callard. You fancy that it won't be a quick fix job.

Can Leicester sustain their supremacy? The pack is ageing by the season but there are no signs of either chronic fatigue or, far worse, complacency. Leicester, who successfully blended the youth of centre Ollie Smith and flanker Lewis Moody with the gnarled wisdom of Martin Johnson, Neil Back and Darren Garforth, are hungry for more honours.

So too, though, are a whole new pack of contenders. That can only be good news for the Premiership.



Darren Garforth of Leicester Tigers

Final eyes

by Brendan Gallagher (Daily Telegraph)



PREMIER RUGBY

Bristol Shoguns celebrate beating Northampton Saints in the Zurich Championship Semi-Final



club behind Leicester. The latter is clearly not fair but that it is hardly Bristol's fault. They have seized the opportunity to transform a mediocre season into a successful one for which you have to applaud Dean Ryan and his squad.

Bristol at their best are a very fine team indeed, they have served notice of that throughout the season, but consistency has been their problem. They need everyone to be firing together for the big results to come – injuries and unavailability through international commitments seemed to hit them unduly hard – but over the last month the team has been

settled and playing good rugby.

Bristol's best efforts normally revolve around their Argentinian half-backs Agustin Pichot and Felipe Contepomi, one of the best and most respected international pairings in the game. Pichot, possibly stunned by some unkind words from Leicester chief executive Peter Wheeler after Bristol's League triumph over Tigers at the Memorial Games, was in outstanding form when Bristol visited Welford Road in the play-off quarter-finals a fortnight later. The result was a memorable Bristol triumph.

And then last week Contepomi took control of their 32-22 semi-final against Northampton, scoring all 32 points with two tries, two conversions and six penalties. He also pulled off a try saving tackle on Nick Beal when Saints were pressing hard. Not a bad afternoon's work.

Not that Bristol are a two man team, that just isn't possible in rugby, you are only as good as the players around you. Others have stepped forward and began to perform at their best. Young Phil

TO be still going strong in late May or early in June after a ten month season is a major achievement, for spectators and reporters let alone the players. So the first thing to do this afternoon is to congratulate the Bristol and Gloucester squads for simply being here. You are a credit to your profession and when that final whistle goes this afternoon you can justifiably head straight for the pub and then the beach.

It's no surprise that Bristol and Gloucester have emerged from the pack during the Zurich Championship as they have been the two sides with most to play for since the regular season ended early in May. Their motivation has been the strongest and it has shown in their approach to the competition.

For Bristol, the Zurich Championships have been a godsend. After a relatively disappointing season, and a humble eighth in the Zurich League, they were suddenly presented with a golden opportunity of winning some silveware and qualifying for next season's Heineken Cup as the second seeded English

Christophers looks every inch an England wing or centre of the future and is one of the most exciting players in the Premiership. To this correspondent, at least, there is more than a hit of the young Clive Woodward in his play, with his elegant yet strong running and sidestepping and a season spent playing alongside double World Cup winner Jason Little will have contributed much to his overall game.

David Rees is buzzing around again after a couple of miserable injury filled seasons, Lee Best is another rediscovering his best form after injury while in the forwards it has been encouraging to see Ben Sturnham remind us why England capped him a few years back and Andrew Sheridan has begun to flex those mighty muscles again. He is still very young and has a bright future ahead of him.



Phil Christophers of Bristol Shoguns is tackled by Budge Pountney of Northampton Saints

Gloucester approached the play-offs from a slightly different angle but have been determined nonetheless. Unlike Bristol, they long ago secured their qualification for the Heineken Cup with a comfortable third place in the League and, with a semi-final appearance in the European Shield against Sale under their belts, the season could hardly be deemed a failure. But like Bristol it's a long time since they have won a trophy of any significance and the added ingredient to their end of season has been the arrival of new director of rugby Nigel Melville, in place of Philippe Saint-André.

History will show that Saint-André did a terrific job at Gloucester, breaking the forward orientated game plan and getting the club to raise its aspirations and take a more cosmopolitan look at life, but it is to Melville that Tom Walkinshaw and the Board have now turned to translate promise and potential into trophies. The season effectively started afresh when he clocked on with players

Gloucester's Andy Gomarsall gets the ball away while under pressure from Bryan Redpath of Sale Sharks



looking to impress and secure their future with the club. There has been everything to play for and their end of season play has crackled with intent and ambition.



They destroyed Bath 68-12 at home, put out a 60 point thrashing to Newcastle in their play-off quarter-final and then won 33-11 at Sale last week. Sale may have been a little demob happy after their European Shield win but were keen to finish the season at Heywood Road on a high note and will not have enjoyed that defeat.

The quality of Gloucester's rugby has been superb in all departments and it will be a shame if injury deprives us of the opportunity of watching young tyros James Simpson-Daniels and Jamie Forrester this afternoon along with a rejuvenated Andy Gomarsall, who has issued a pretty stern warning that Kyran Bracken and Matt Dawson will have to fight for that England scrum-half spot next season and in the build up to next year's World Cup in Australia. The front row has been awesome, the second row highly effective and the back row a major attacking force.

Gloucester have been great value over the last six weeks or so and given their ancient rivalry against Bristol and their positive approach to the game we could be in a for a cracker this afternoon. The third Test may be looming against Sri Lanka but the rugby season isn't quite over yet.



Felipe Contepomi of Bristol Shoguns kicks the final conversion during the Zurich Championship Semi-Final



**BRISTOL
SHOGUNS**



15. LEE BEST	Full Back	HENRY PAUL	15.
14. JAMIE WILLIAMS	Right Wing	DAREN O'LEARY	14.
13. DAVID REES	Centre	TERRY FANOLUA	13.
12. JASON LITTLE (Captain)	Centre	ROBERT TODD	12.
11. PHIL CHRISTOPHERS	Left Wing	TOM BEIM	11.
10. FELIPE CONTEPOMI	Stand-Off	LUDOVIC MERCIER	10.
9. AGUSTIN PICHOT	Scrum-Half	ANDY GOMARSALL	9.
1. DARREN CROMPTON	Prop	PATRICE COLLAZO	1.
2. NEIL MCCARTHY	Hooker	OLIVIER AZAM	2.
3. JULIAN WHITE	Prop	(Captain) PHIL VICKERY	3.
4. GARATH ARCHER	Lock	ROB FIDLER	4.
5. ALEX BROWN	Lock	ED PEARCE	5.
6. CRAIG SHORT	Flanker	JAMES FORRESTER	6.
7. MICHAEL LIPMAN	Flanker	JAKE BOER	7.
8. BEN STURNHAM	No 8	JUNIOR PARAMORE	8.

REPLACEMENTS

16. SAUL NELSON
17. PAUL JOHNSTONE
18. ANDREW SHERIDAN
19. ROSS BEATTIE
20. JIM BROWNRIGG
21. ROSS BLAKE
22. SHANE DRAHM



REPLACEMENTS

16. DIMITRI YACHVILI
17. CHRIS CATLING
18. CHRIS FORTEY
19. ANDY DEACON
20. TREVOR WOODMAN
21. KOLI SEWABU
22. CRAIG GILLIES

GLOUCESTER



REFEREE: Roy Maybank
TOUCH JUDGES:
Robin Goodliffe & Ashley Rowden
VIDEO REFEREE: Brian Campsall

If after 40 minutes each way the scores are level, there will be extra time of ten minutes each way with a one minute interval. If the scores are then still equal, the team who has scored the most tries shall be the winner. If this does not produce a result the team who has produced the most conversions shall be the winner.

WELCOME

**Nigel Melville –
Director of Rugby**



On behalf of myself, the management and coaching staff at the club, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome everyone to Twickenham this afternoon for what promises to be a thrilling and colourful end to a great season for Gloucester Rugby Club. Finals are wonderful occasions. It is always a special day for everyone. Just to go to Twickenham with your team is something special for every body, and we must be proud of the fact that we have achieved that. A final is a great occasion. From personal experience, when you get to Twickenham, then you want to win, then you want to come back and do it again because you enjoy it so much. It's like playing international rugby, all you want is a cap for your country. When you have won that, you want two or three, then you want to be the most capped player, then you want to be captain of the team. That is the nature of the beast with rugby players.

I have been here three times for domestic Cup Competitions in the past few years. The first time we were there we froze on the big stage, the second time we had learnt our lessons and won the game, the third time it wasn't an issue and we won comfortably.

You have to learn to play on the big stage and on big occasions. Finals are life-changing opportunities. If you win a final here it changes your life in terms of what you achieve in your rugby careers. Of course, it gives you a huge boost just to be here. Whether or not we win today, the taste of a Zurich Championship Final will drive these Gloucester players on for next season. It is just one of those things you have within you. If you lose you want to come back and put it right. There was a similar incentive for us to travel to Sale in the Semi Final. We wanted to go to Heywood Road and put it right.

Finals are also a perfect opportunity to thank the fans. I know you will all want to come here and enjoy the day out. Once you are here though, you get swept up in the occasion and will want to win it too; that's perfect because we want to win it for you. Nothing would give this squad more pleasure than to bring a trophy home to Kingsholm.

I expect this West Country Final today to be a wonderfully colourful occasion. Bristol Shoguns have lost to us three times this season and I'm sure that they won't want to make it a fourth. They are a difficult side to play against, they are very well coached, and well balanced and they have some stars in key positions. I know it will mean a lot to all their players to win here today but we must remain confident we have shown that we can break them down and we know how to beat them.

A final can leave you totally desperate or completely euphoric but having experienced both sensations I hope for the latter today.



Biographies by Michael Austin

Gloucester



PREMIER RUGBY

PHIL VICKERY Captain



Position: Prop.
Born: 14.3.76 in Barnstaple.
Ht: 1.92m (6'3½"),
Wt: 121kg (19st 2lb).

Phil Vickery led an England XV to an outstanding win over the Barbarians a fortnight ago, a role he will continue with the full England party on tour in Argentina this summer. Captained Gloucester for the first time this

season, having made his Test debut against Wales four years ago. His forceful scrummaging and power in the loose has been appreciated both at Kingsholm and far beyond. Played in all three Lions Test matches against Australia last summer and appeared 25 times for England.

TOM BEIM



Position: Wing.
Born: 11.12.75 in Frimley.
Ht: 1.82m (6'0"),
Wt: 86kg (13st 8lb).

Tom Beim played two Tests for England against New Zealand on tour four years ago while with Sale Sharks. He left the Cheshire club at his own request and returned to Gloucester, for whom he had played three years earlier. Toured

Australia with Clive Woodward's England Under-21 squad in 1997 and is a former Cheltenham College pupil who played hockey for Wales Under-18s and polo as a professional.

DIEGO ALBANESE



Position: Wing.
Born: 17.9.73 in Mar del Plata, Argentina.
Ht: 1.74m (5'8½"),
Wt: 78kg (12st 4lb).

Diego Albanese has won 43 caps and scored 10 tries for Argentina and signed for Gloucester this season from San Isidro. He had previously played at Grenoble for two seasons and has

toured 11 times with the Pumas since 1995. His most important Test try was against Ireland in the 1999 Rugby World Cup. It earned his country a quarter-final place. Has not only played on the wing – was at full-back when Buenos Aires beat Wales three years ago.

JAKE BOER



Position: Flanker.
Born: 1.11.75 in Cape Town, South Africa.
Ht: 1.87m (6'1½"),
Wt: 103kg (16st 3lb).

Jake Boer, a former London Irish back-row forward, was arguably the Exiles' player of the season in 1998-99. A dynamic flanker, he is always quick to the breakdown as Gloucester's

opponents would testify. His handling skills are renowned and he is qualified to play for the Netherlands. Had two seasons with the Irish, making 33 Zurich Premiership appearances and has also played for Villagers, a South African club.

OLIVIER AZAM



Position: Hooker.
Born: 21.10.74 in Tarbes, France.
Ht: 1.85m (6'1"),
Wt: 115kg (18st 1lb).

Olivier Azam signed for Gloucester last summer, having earlier played for both his hometown club Tarbes and for Montferrand. He made his Test debut in 1995 when appearing against Romania and Argentina in the Latin Cup in

Buenos Aires. Has won eight caps overall and also played for France A, his first game at that level being against Wales in 1996. Had a five-year gap between his second and third Tests and nowadays is playing the best rugby of his career.

CHRIS CATLING



Position: Full-back.
Born: 17.6.76 in Coulsdon.
Ht: 1.87m (6' 1½"),
Wt: 90kg (14st 2lb).

Chris Catling is a counter-attacking full-back who was educated at Whitgift School in Croydon and joined Gloucester from Exeter Chiefs in 1996. Scored eight tries in 1998-99, having been an everpresent in the England

Schools Grand Slam team of 1994. Went to Exeter University, signed for the Exeter club and became a member of England Students' Rugby World Cup squad and toured Australia with England Under-21s. Has also won England A honours, making his debut against South Africa six years ago.



www.gloucesterrugbyclub.com



Gloucester



PREMIER RUGBY

PATRICE COLLAZO



Position: Prop. **Born:** 27.4.74 in La Seyne-sur-Mer, France.
Ht: 1.85m (6'1"),
Wt: 108kg (17st 0lb).

Patrice Collazo made his Gloucester debut this season after appearing for Bègles, Toulon and Brive. Has won a Test cap for France against Romania and been a regular choice at A team level, first playing against England in 1998. Had represented his country at junior and under-21 levels. Was a member of the French squad on the Argentina tour four years ago and rejoined Bègles from Toulon before making the switch to Kingsholm.

ADAM EUSTACE



Position: Lock.
Born: 9.1.79 in Gloucester.
Ht: 1.96m (6'5"),
Wt: 102kg (16st 1lb).

Adam Eustace, a strong and mobile forward, has been converted from back row to lock but still has the versatility to play in either role. He made his Gloucester debut four years ago after switching from Widden Old Boys and has represented England Under-19s and 21s. Was invited to join the England Development set-up last season and has since furthered his career impressively. Has also been a member of the England A squad.

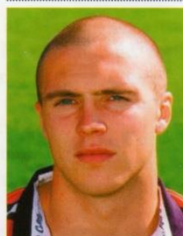
MARK CORNWELL



Position: Lock.
Born: 22.3.73 in Gloucester.
Ht: 2.01m (6'7"),
Wt: 110kg (17st 4lb).

Mark Cornwell has made six of his 11 England A appearances as a replacement – the first being against Ireland four years ago and the most recent against Naples in April when he scored a try. Had played in the side that also lost to Wales at Ashton Gate, Bristol in March. He was previously an England Colt and joined Gloucester in 1994 from Old Richians. He has benefited from playing overseas with the Hamilton's club in South Africa.

JOE EWENS



Position: Centre.
Born: 16.12.77 in Bristol.
Ht: 1.80m (5'11"),
Wt: 89kg (14st 0lb).

Joe Ewens played for Bath and then on loan for Bedford before joining Gloucester. Had an outstanding schools career – playing nine times for England 18-Group and captaining the side in 1996. Was also a prime force in Colston Collegiate winning the Daily Mail Cup in successive seasons. Has represented England Under-21s, being a member of the squad that played in the Six Nations Tournament in South Africa and England A. He also toured North America with the full national squad last summer.

ANDY DEACON



Position: Prop.
Born: 31.7.65 in Gloucester.
Ht: 1.88m (6'2"),
Wt: 108kg (17st 0lb).

Andy Deacon wore Gloucester colours for the first time 11 years ago and has been a front-row stalwart. He is a vastly experienced prop whose qualities were fully recognised by Gloucester when they awarded him a testimonial year and his former club, Longlevens, with whom he has coaching links, honoured him with a special match to mark his contribution. Has represented England A and played for the Barbarians.

TERRY FANOLUA



Position: Centre.
Born: 3.7.74 in Motoutua, Samoa.
Ht: 1.83m (6'0"),
Wt: 87kg (13st 10lb).

Terry Fanolua joined Gloucester five years ago and has been a consistent crowd pleaser. Has won 15 caps for his native Samoa and scored four Test tries. Was a member of the 1999 Rugby World Cup squad and has played for Otahuhu, a club in New Zealand. Also captained Samoa at sevens and has played a major role in the development of Gloucester's now enviable back division. He is strong in the tackle and speedy with ball in hand.

www.gloucesterrugbyclub.com





Gloucester



PREMIER RUGBY

ROB FIDLER



Position: Lock.
Born: 21.9.74 in Cheltenham.
Ht: 1.96m (6'5"),
Wt: 112kg (17st 9lb).

Rob Fidler won two full England caps on tour in the South Hemisphere four years ago and has played 14 times for the A team as well as enjoying a successful career with Gloucester. First appeared at A level against South Africa on his home club ground in 1996 and represented the English Rugby Partnership XV against New Zealand the following year. Previously played for England Schools 18-Group, Colts and Under-21s. His father, John, also a lock, won four England caps from 1981-84.

ANDY GOMARSALL



Position: Scrum-half.
Born: 24.7.74 in Durham.
Ht: 1.77m (5'10"),
Wt: 86kg (13st 8lb).

Andy Gomarsall played most recently at Test level against Italy two seasons ago but was in the England XV for the non-cap match against the Barbarians a fortnight ago. Has also been chosen for the forthcoming tour of Argentina. He is in his second season with Gloucester, having captained Bedford in the previous campaign. He had joined London Wasps in January 1993 and was a member of their Powergen Cup winning side six years later. Led England England Schools 18-Group in 1992 to their first Grand Slam in 11 years.

JAMES FORRESTER

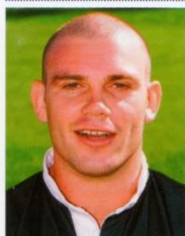


Position: No 8.
Born: 9.2.81 in Oxford.
Ht: 1.95m (6'5"),
Wt: 98kg (15st 6lb).

James Forrester made a stunning debut for an England XV against the Barbarians at Twickenham a fortnight ago when scoring his side's first try after a 65-metre run in which he even beat Jonah Lomu.

First played for England A against Wales at Bristol in March, having joined Gloucester from Bicester and been a member of the Kingsholm Academy last season. Subsequently embarked on a professional career and is now a member of the England Sevens squad.

ANDY HAZELL



Position: Flanker.
Born: 25.4.78 in Gloucester.
Ht: 1.83m (6'0"),
Wt: 92kg (14st 7lb).

Andrew Hazell played in both midweek games on England's tour of North America last summer, scoring a try in the first against British Columbia. Made his only A team appearance against Scotland at Headingley last year but his fine form has continued at club level this season. Was previously a member of the highly successful England Under-21 side and played for Old Richians and Gloucester Old Boys before making his senior Gloucester debut three seasons ago.

CHRIS FORTEY



Position: Hooker.
Born: 25.8.75 in Gloucester.
Ht: 1.83m (6'0"),
Wt: 106kg (16st 10lb).

Chris Fortey signed for Gloucester six years ago after playing for Gordon League, a local club. He toured Canada and the United States with the England squad last summer and won a fifth A cap against France at Limoges last March. Became a Barbarian in 1998, having become understudy at Gloucester to Phil Greening, now with London Wasps. His twin brother, Lee, is a former England Under-21 prop.

LUDOVIC MERCIER



Position: Fly-half.
Born: 1.11.76 in France.
Ht: 1.79m (5'10½"),
Wt: 85kg (13st 3lb).

Ludovic Mercier had one of his many golden afternoons this season when scoring 34 points in the Zurich Championship quarter-final against Newcastle Falcons last month. He landed seven penalty goals, four conversions and scored one of his side's nine tries, in addition to amassing 334 points – only nine behind the leading scorer, Barry Everitt, of London Irish, in the Premiership. Overall Ludovic's goalkicking success rate was 75.68 with 112 successes from 148 attempts.



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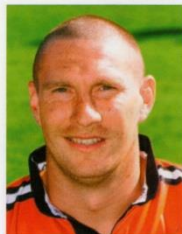


Gloucester



PREMIER RUGBY

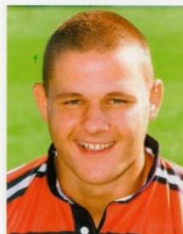
DAREN O'LEARY



Position: Wing.
Born: 27.6.73 in Rush Green, Essex.
Ht: 1.82m (6'0"),
Wt: 91kg (14st 4lb).

Daren O'Leary joined Gloucester this season after making a try-scoring impression for both NEC Harlequins and Saracens. Joined 'Quins in 1993 and was soon called into England's training squad for the championship campaign. Toured Argentina with the full England party in 1997. Was educated at Campion School and West London Institute and has represented England Colts, Students, Under-21s, Emerging England, England Sevens, an England XV and London.

ED PEARCE



Position: Back Row.
Born: 2.9.75 in Bristol.
Ht: 2.01m (6'7"),
Wt: 118kg (18st 8lb).

Ed Pearce was with Bath before switching to Kingsholm and making his Gloucester debut six years ago. Was educated at Clifton College and is the proud possessor of size 16 boots. He was an outstanding age-group international and went on to play twice for England A – his first game being against Wales at Bath two years ago. Then appeared in the 33-27 win over Italy at L'Aquila, along with clubmates Chris Catling, Joe Ewens and Chris Fortey.

JUNIOR PARAMORE



Position: Back Row.
Born: 18.11.68 in Apia, Samoa.
Ht: 1.89m (6'2½"),
Wt: 104kg (16st 5lb).

Junior Paramore has admirable handling skills and is a devastating tackler as England fly-half Jonny Wilkinson would agree after being injured when tangling with the Samoan in the Zurich Championship quarter-final. He has been a member of two Rugby World Cup squads, made 50 appearances for Bedford and was their player of the year before signing for Gloucester three seasons ago. Also had a spell in rugby league with Castleford and Hunter Mariners.

FEDERICO PUCCIARIELLO



Position: Prop.
Born: 24.6.75 in Rosario, Argentina.
Ht: 1.75m (5'9"),
Wt: 108kg (17st 0lb).

Federico Pucciariello switched from Parma to Gloucester this season, having made five Test appearances for Italy beginning three years ago against Spain. Has three Italy A caps and was in the 1999 Rugby World Cup squad. He was born of an Italian father, started playing rugby as a student and appeared at provincial level before moving to Italy. Joined Parma at the age of 24 and can also play as a hooker.

HENRY PAUL



Position: Utility Back.
Born: 10.2.74 in Tokoroa, New Zealand.
Ht: 1.80m (5'11"),
Wt: 94kg (14st 11lb).

Henry Paul, a mercurial talent, who helped Bradford Bulls Rugby League Club beat Wigan Warriors in the Super League Grand Final last autumn, qualifies for England through a grandfather from Liverpool. A prolific goalkicker and gifted player, he won national squad selection after just one game for Gloucester in which he scored 28 points against Caerphilly in the Parker Pen Shield after starting a four-year contract with club. Made his A debut against Scotland, has won a full cap

KOLINIO SEWABU



Position: Back Row.
Born: 15.1.75 in Suva, Fiji.
Ht: 1.96m (6'5"),
Wt: 103kg (16st 3lb).

Kolinio Sewabu joined Gloucester this season after playing for Treviso and Newbridge. He excelled for the Fiji side on a tour to the United Kingdom in 1998 and has now won 15 caps and scored three Test tries. He became his country's undisputed first choice at No 8, having been a former national secondary schools representative. He played through the 1999 Epson Cup, scoring a try against the United States. During the subsequent L'Aquila tournament, he also ran in two tries in a comfortable win over Spain.

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Gloucester



PREMIER RUGBY

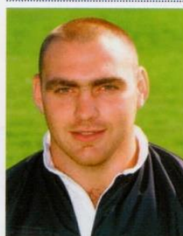
JAMES SIMPSON-DANIEL



Position: Fly-half.
Born: 30.5.82 in Stockton-on-Tees.
Ht: 1.82m (6'0"),
Wt: 78kg (12st 4lb).

James Simpson-Daniel, who was educated at Sedbergh, has burst on to the Gloucester and England scene. He made a magnificent try-scoring debut for an England XV against the Barbarians a fortnight ago, soon after running in a hat-trick of tries against Bath in the Zurich Premiership – a feat that prompted a £2,000 donation to charity from the sponsors. One of his scores was the Premiership Try of the Season. Also shared in England's sevens success in Hong Kong and has been chosen for the summer tour of Argentina.

TREVOR WOODMAN



Position: Prop.
Born: 4.8.76 in Liskeard.
Ht: 1.83m (6'0"),
Wt: 108kg (17st 0lb).

Trevor Woodman first played for Gloucester six years ago and is a prop with not only experience but technical know-how. He has won five full Test caps and played seven times for England A, most recently against Wales at Bristol in March. Has been chosen for the forthcoming full tour of Argentina and was also with England in North America last summer. Has also played for Liskeard, Plymouth Albion and Bath.

CLIVE STUART-SMITH



Position: Scrum-half.
Born: 17.5.83 in Gloucester
Ht: 1.73m (5'8"),
Wt: 80kg (12st 8lb).

Clive Stuart-Smith has graduated to the England A squad in his first season as a professional with Gloucester after being an academy player there. His previous club was Cheltenham, where his father, Clive Snr, is director of youth rugby. Educated at St Thomas Rich's School in Gloucester, he has played for England Under-16s and 19s and captained the Under-18s. His great grandfather led England Schools and played for Leicester.

DIMITRI YACHVILI



Position: Scrum-half.
Born: 19.9.80 in France.
Ht: 1.83m (6'0"),
Wt: 81kg (12st 10lb).

Dimitri Yachvili, another of Gloucester's new signings this season, joined the club from Paris University, having previously appeared for Brive. He represented France Under-21s in Australia where they finished third in their World Cup and adds to the cosmopolitan squad at Kingsholm. His recent appearances include one as a 65th minute replacement for Andy Gomarsall in the Zurich Championship quarter-final win over Newcastle Falcons. Still only 21, he looks a player for the future.

ROBERT TODD



Position: Centre.
Born: 19.4.71 in Auckland.
Ht: 1.80m (5'11"),
Wt: 96kg (15st 2lb).

Robert Todd played for London Scottish, London Irish and ACT Brumbies before signing for Gloucester. He is an explosive runner who can play either centre or wing, his prime ability being a knack of bursting through even the toughest tackles. Picks some excellent angles of running and is defensively secure. Had the distinction of scoring a hat-trick of tries for London Irish in the 47-22 win over Bath in April 1999.

CRAIG GILLIES



Position: Lock.
Born: 6.5.76 in Manchester.
Ht: 2.05m (6'9"),
Wt: 102kg (16st 1lb).

Craig Gillies originally came to prominence with Bath before moving on to Richmond, making 21 appearances in 1997-98 and then to Llanelli. Has represented England A, most recently against France two years ago. Was a member of the same England Colts team as Phil Vickery and also represented England Under-21s. Played for the Brunel University side that beat Loughborough 9-8 in the BUSA Championship final in March 1997.



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Player Profile

James Simpson-Daniel



PREMIER RUGBY

From an early age James Simpson-Daniel was identified as a precocious talent. His displays for the England Schools U18 team attracted attention from a host of Premiership clubs. He spent time looking at all his options but in the end plumped for a place in the Gloucester Rugby Club Academy.



The former Yorkshire School boy immediately impressed John Haines, Gloucester's Academy Manager.

"He was the outstanding player at the U18 level. He always had such great handling ability and we always felt he needed to play in a position where he would get a lot of ball to use these skills. He needs to work on his kicking game but with the ability and pace he has, he just needs to be in a position to use it".

He made his Gloucester 1st XV debut in March 2001 coming on to the wing as a first half replacement against soon to be relegated Rotherham. Simpson-Daniel, in now customary fashion, announced his introduction to senior rugby with a fifty metre individual try scored under the posts in front of the hospitality boxes.

"That was one of my best rugby memories. I remember getting hold of the ball and just sprinting for the line. Once I had put the ball down to score I looked up at the Shed, which was going mental, it was a brilliant feeling", says the Gloucester starlet.

In between these two league fixtures he went to Chile with the England U19 squad to play in the FIRA World Junior Championships. He teamed up

alongside Bath prodigy, Ollie Barkley and played a starring role at outside centre, where it was felt his pace and ball skills would be the most benefit to the team.

"With the number of injuries we had in the squad, I was thrown in a bit. It was the hardest but also the best way to learn the game. You are amongst the first team squad playing first team rugby that's the best way of learning", said the youngster, who only celebrated his twentieth birthday recently.

Ironically, Simpson-Daniel's versatility may have hindered his development. He has played most of his senior rugby on the wing but his undoubted talents must surely push him infield, closer to the action if he is to fulfil his potential. He has started seventeen games this season and scored fourteen tries, including a hat trick against West Country rivals Bath, which has endeared him even more to the Kingsholm faithful.

"I don't think I have played my best rugby for Gloucester yet", says a modest Simpson-Daniel. "As I get older and more confident I hope to get closer to the ball. At this point, any first team exposure I get is still a bonus, so I will play wherever I'm wanted."

The prospect that Simpson-Daniel will only get better is a mouth watering one. His exploits at the start of the season earned him a place in the England sevens squad for Durban just before Christmas. With his pace and sleight of hand good judges felt he was perfectly equipped for the shorter version of the game.

The highlight to date for the Sevens team was a tournament win in Hong Kong. It is a feat matched only once before by a Northern Hemisphere team, the Barbarians in 1981, before Simpson-Daniel was born.

For his part the young Simpson-Daniel scored a match winning hat trick as England blew the final favourites Fiji away.

"That will be another one of my greatest rugby memories", admits Simpson-Daniel. "To go there and win it for the first time is something I will never forget. It didn't sink in straight away. On a personal note it was great to score a hat trick but I was just on the end of the scoring passes, Henry (Paul), had a brilliant tournament and just kept putting me in. The last one was just a walk over really".

In typically modest fashion, the former Sedbergh School boy maintained that while the sevens was a nice distraction his goal was to establish himself as a fully-fledged fifteen-a-side player with Gloucester.

He went a long way to achieving that a fortnight ago as he, along with five of his Gloucester team mates were selected for England in a XV that took on and eventually beat the Barbarians. The headlines before the match were all about more famous international stars but after Gloucester's 19-year-old wing had scored the try of the match, which featured an audacious dummy before he had the confidence to out-sprint a certain Mr Lomu on his way to a touchdown in the corner, the media knew they had a new rugby darling. The Gloucester starlet looked back on his wonder try, but claimed: "To be honest, I don't even know what I did".

"It just suddenly happened and luckily I managed to get around Jonah and just went for the corner.

"It was a bit of a dummy switch, and you have just got to be in the right place at the right time. It was a huge occasion and I am very pleased with the way it went."

Simpson-Daniel's comments reveal perhaps his greatest asset. He makes the game look so easy. He oozes confidence but without a hint of arrogance. He has wonderful natural ability but also the attitude to use it to its full.