

Gloucester Rugby

The Official Matchday Programme of Gloucester Rugby

Issue 3 • Price £3.00



Gloucester Rugby
v Bristol Rugby
07.10.06 15.00

Exclusive:

Carlos Nieto on his Gloucester move

Interview:

Richard Hill – the man who turned Bristol around

Phil Blakeway

joins the Hall of Fame

Ryan's Review

all the latest from the Kingsholm coach

Bristol Rugby

up close and personal with the squad, stats and interviews

ALSO INSIDE

Fans Zone, Peter Arnold, ticket news and much more



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Captain's Corner



"Today is a very special and emotive day in the life of a Gloucester rugby player. A West Country derby, whether it be against **Bristol** or **Bath**, is something to behold."

I T SEEMS like a long time ago now I was writing these notes to you on a regular basis, so it's a great privilege to be asked to do the job again while Marco is away on international duty.

Today is a very special and emotive day in the life of a Gloucester rugby player. A west country derby, whether it be against Bristol or Bath, is something to behold and we are all relishing the prospect this afternoon.

I am an individual who relishes the commitment and effort

required to be successful on these occasions and I am pretty sure that goes for everyone else in the team.

Last Friday night we started our EDF Energy Cup campaign and the fantastic Liberty Stadium in Swansea and we were caught by a powerful, direct and highly motivated Swansea backlash following their Magners League defeat to Ulster.

The reason we lost have been well documented all ready but it was not a surprise to me to hear their coach Lyn Jones say

it was a '100% improvement' from the previous week's performance.

We have taken those lessons on board this week and at the time of writing; I hope the majority of the same starting line-up get an opportunity to right some of the wrongs of our display last Friday.

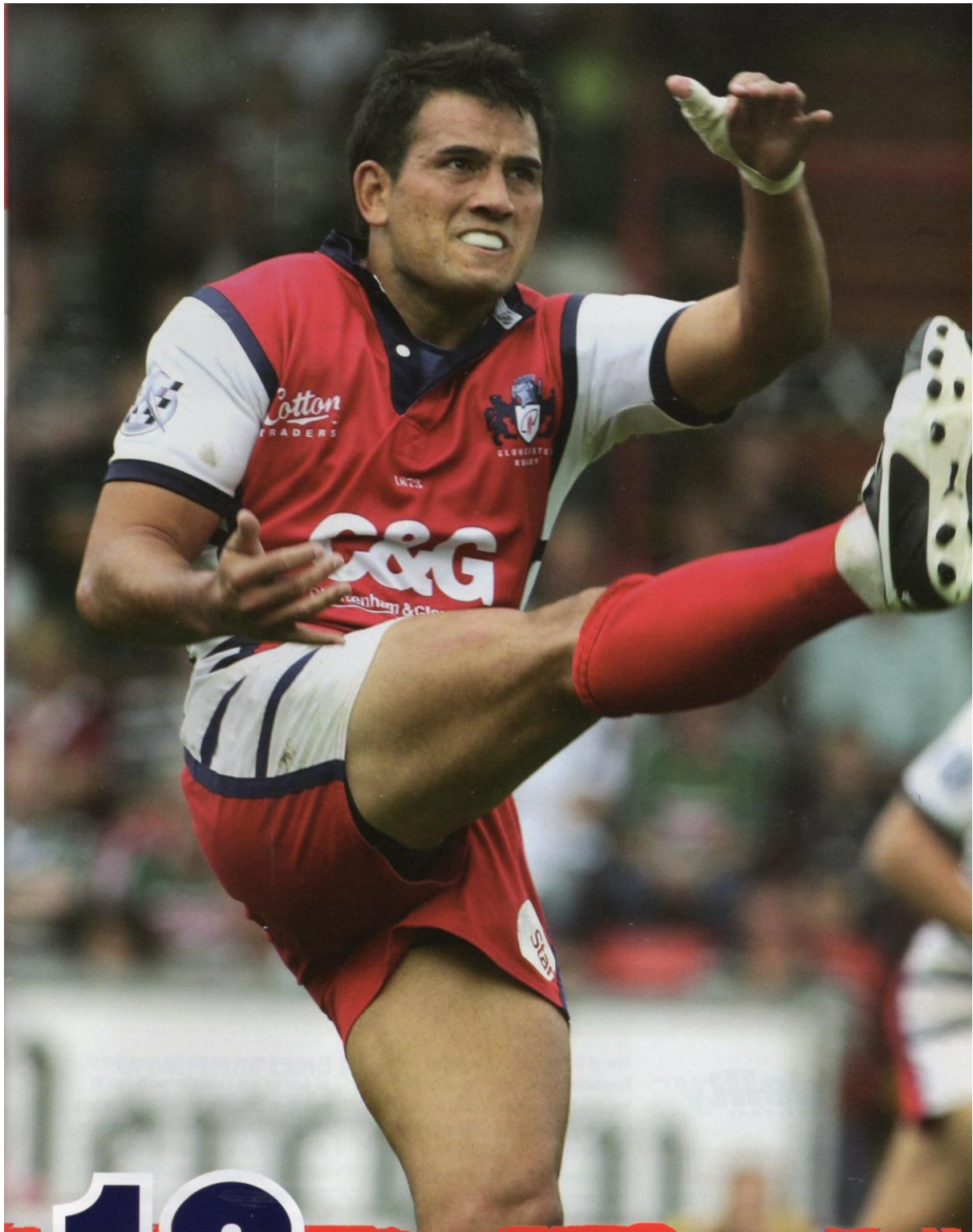
I obviously was not involved last weekend but it has been great to be back in and around the first team squad this week and I am sure it will be a full-on on encounter this afternoon.

Bristol have made a fantastic start to the season and are unbeaten today. They have combined plenty of experience in their forward pack with a couple of excellent half-backs and some powerful midfield runners to take the Guinness Premiership and EDF Energy Cup by storm.

We obviously need a positive result today, so please get behind the boys, give them all the support you can must and cheer us to another vital victory.

Peter Buxton





10

Willie Walker

Stats


Position: Stand-Off • Height: 5'10"
Weight: 14st 0lb • DOB: 19.05.78







2006/7 Squad

Gloucester Rugby


Jack Adams
Centre
 Height: 6' 0"
 Weight: 15st 2lb
 DOB: 17.09.86

Player Sponsor





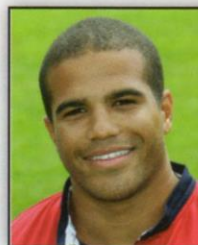
Anthony Allen
Centre
 Height: 5' 10"
 Weight: 14st 3lb
 DOB: 01.09.86

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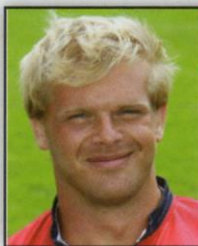
Olivier Azam
Hooker
 Height: 6' 0"
 Weight: 18st 5lb
 DOB: 21.10.74
 INT HON: France

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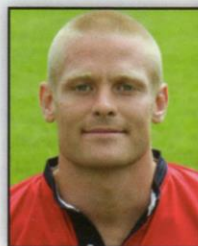
James Bailey
Wing
 Height: 5' 10"
 Weight: 14st 1lb
 DOB: 05.08.83

Player Sponsor





Adam Balding
Number 8
 Height: 6' 2"
 Weight: 17st 7lb
 DOB: 07.12.79


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Iain Balshaw
Wing/Full-Back
 Height: 5' 10"
 Weight: 14st 7lb
 DOB: 14.04.79
 INT HON: England


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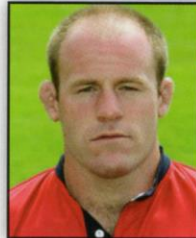
Jake Boer
Flanker
 Height: 6' 1"
 Weight: 16st 8lb
 DOB: 01.11.75
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Marco Bortolami
Lock
 Height: 6' 6"
 Weight: 17st 2lb
 DOB: 12.06.80
 INT HON: Italy
 Player Sponsor
**THE KING'S
 SCHOOL
 GLOUCESTER**





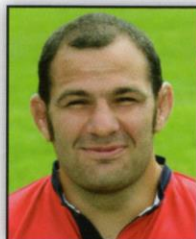
Alex Brown
Lock
 Height: 6' 7"
 Weight: 17st 8lb
 DOB: 17.05.79
 INT HON: England
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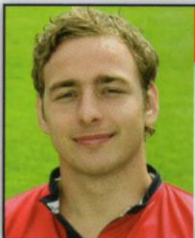
Peter Buxton
Back Row
 Height: 6' 3"
 Weight: 17st 5lb
 DOB: 21.08.78
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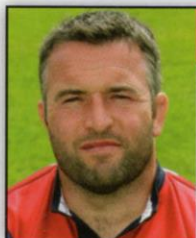
Christian Califano
Prop
 Height: 5' 10"
 Weight: 17st 5lb
 DOB: 16.05.72
 INT HON: France
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Patrice Collazo
Prop
 Height: 6' 0"
 Weight: 17st 2lb
 DOB: 27.04.74
 INT HON: France
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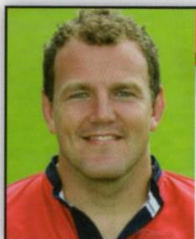
Brad Davies
Outside Half
 Height: 5' 9"
 Weight: 14st 1lb
 DOB: 13.02.83
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Mefin Davies
Hooker
 Height: 5' 10"
 Weight: 16st 5lb
 DOB: 02.09.72
 INT HON: Wales
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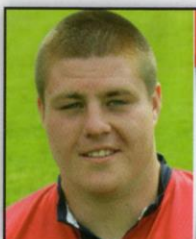
Rob Elloway
Hooker
 Height: 6' 0"
 Weight: 15st 4lb
 DOB: 09.11.83
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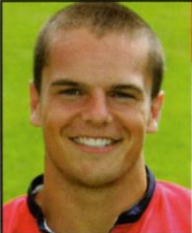
Adam Eustace
Lock
 Height: 6' 4"
 Weight: 17st 2lb
 DOB: 09.01.79
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James Forrester
Number 8
 Height: 6' 5"
 Weight: 16st 8lb
 DOB: 09.02.81
 INT HON: England
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Jack Forster
Prop
 Height: 6' 0"
 Weight: 18st 6lb
 DOB: 19.03.87
 Player Sponsor
**HARTBURY
 RUGBY**




Mark Foster
Wing/Centre
 Height: 6' 1"
 Weight: 14st 3lb
 DOB: 02.09.83

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Jon Goodridge
Full Back
 Height: 6' 1"
 Weight: 14st 1lb
 DOB: 26.02.81

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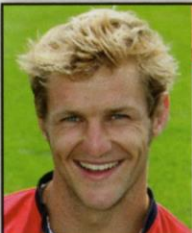
Andy Hazell
Flanker
 Height: 6' 0"
 Weight: 15st 8lb
 DOB: 25.04.78
 INT HON: England

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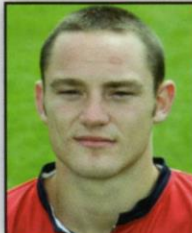
Will James
Lock
 Height: 6' 6"
 Weight: 19st 8lb
 DOB: 22.12.76

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Rudi Keil
Centre
 Height: 6' 1"
 Weight: 14st 1lb
 DOB: 08.12.77

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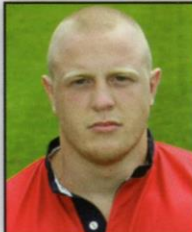
Ryan Lamb
Stand-Off
 Height: 5' 9"
 Weight: 13st 6lb
 DOB: 18.05.86

Player Sponsor





Rory Lawson
Scrum Half
 Height: 5' 9"
 Weight: 12st 8lb
 DOB: 12.03.81

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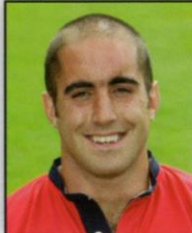
Ross McMillan
Hooker
 Height: 6' 2"
 Weight: 17st 2lb
 DOB: 02.06.87

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Ludovic Mercier
Stand-Off
 Height: 5' 10"
 Weight: 14st 0lb
 DOB: 01.11.76

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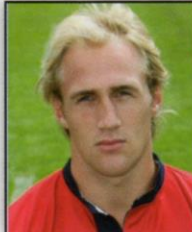
James Merriman
Flanker
 Height: 6' 0"
 Weight: 14st 7lb
 DOB: 17.01.84

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Dean Miller
Flanker
 Height: 6' 3"
 Weight: 15st 3lb
 DOB: 13.09.87


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Olly Morgan
Full-Back
 Height: 6' 3"
 Weight: 14st 6lb
 DOB: 03.11.85

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Luke Narraway

Back Row

Height: 6' 3"
Weight: 15st 4lb
DOB: 07.09.83

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HARTPURY RUGBY





Carlos Nieto

Prop

Height: 6' 1"
Weight: 17st 2lb
DOB: 28.04.76

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Jonathan Pendlebury

Lock

Height: 6' 5"
Weight: 18st 6lb
DOB: 15.01.83

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Peter Richards

Scrum Half

Height: 5' 10"
Weight: 13st 8lb
DOB: 10.03.78

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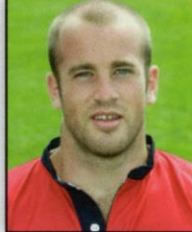



Terry Sigley

Prop

Height: 6' 2"
Weight: 14st 3lb
DOB: 12.10.78

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James Simpson-Daniel

Wing

Height: 5' 11"
Weight: 14st 1lb
DOB: 30.05.82

Player Sponsor
dair





Rob Thirlby

Wing/FB

Height: 6' 2"
Weight: 14st 1lb
DOB: 02.03.79

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Haydn Thomas

Scrum Half

Height: 5' 8"
Weight: 12st 4lb
DOB: 17.09.82

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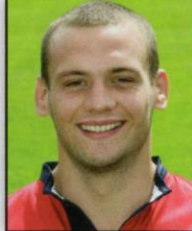


Mike Tindall

Centre

Height: 6' 2"
Weight: 15st 8lb
DOB: 18.10.78
INT HON: England

Player Sponsor
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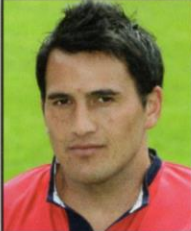



Dan Tuohy

Lock

Height: 6' 6"
Weight: 17st 0lb
DOB: 18.06.85

Player Sponsor
HARTPURY RUGBY




Willie Walker

Stand-Off

Height: 5' 10"
Weight: 14st 0lb
DOB: 19.05.78

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Nick Wood

Prop

Height: 6' 2"
Weight: 17st 2lb
DOB: 09.01.83

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Match Action

Time line

 14 mins	
Mercier - PEN	3-0
 16 mins	
Quinlan - TRY, Kydd - CON	3-7
 23 mins	
Forrester - TRY, Mercier - CON	10-7
 43 mins	
Mercier - PEN	13-7
 62 mins	
Mercier - PEN	16-7
 66 mins	
Hazell - TRY, Mercier - CON	23-7
 80 mins	
Adams - TRY	28-7

Gloucester Line-up

- 15 Olly Morgan
- 14 James Bailey
- 13 Rudi Keil
- 12 Anthony Allen
- 11 Mark Foster
- 10 Ludovic Mercier
- 9 Rory Lawson
- 1 Nick Wood
- 2 Olivier Azam
- 3 Christian Califano
- 4 Adam Eustace
- 5 Marco Bortolami
- 6 Peter Buxton
- 7 Andy Hazell
- 8 James Forrester

REPS

- 16 Mefin Davies (Azam)
- 17 Jack Forster (Califano)
- 18 Will James
- 19 Jake Boer (Wood)
- 20 Peter Richards (Lawson)
- 21 Jack Adams (Keil)
- 22 Brad Davies

Gloucester Rugby 28
Northampton Saints 7



Saints are Sinners

Saturday, September 23
 Ref: Sean Davey Att: 11,159

GLOUCESTER made it three wins out of four in the Guinness Premiership with a commanding second half performance against Northampton.

Their victory was based on a cast-iron defensive effort that deprived one of the most dangerous three-quarter lines in the country meaningful possession for long periods.

It was a contest that burnt slowly but vigorously and in the outstanding

contribution of James Forrester, Gloucester possessed the player of the match. It was the number eight who bagged the first try – winning the line-out 40 metres out before appearing in midfield to step away from Darren Fox and burst to the line.

That try cancelled one for Saints by David Quinlan and thereafter, Gloucester were always on the front foot. The contest was niggly – Northampton lost both Paul Tupai and Luke Myring to the





sinbin as the Saints lost their way.

Ludovic Mercier kept Gloucester ahead with the boot before the hosts scored again with 15 minutes remaining.

The powerful Pete Buxton held a line-out catch and Gloucester drove on and on before Andy

Hazell was smashed over the line for the try.

And the victory was completed in the final minute when Jack Adams chased after his own lovely little chip and pounced on the bouncing ball before Ben

Cohen could react quickly enough to send Gloucester – temporarily at least – back to the top of the table.



Coaches Comment...

Dean Ryan



“People like Andy Hazell and Peter Buxton are the fabric of this side – we are entirely different when they are not around. Defensively, I thought it was a fantastic performance but there is so much more to come from us.”

Man of the Match...

James Forrester



...The number eight continued his explosive start to the season with another breathtaking try.



Ryan's Review

Gloucester's Head Coach Dean Ryan rounds-up all the latest action in his regular Kingsholm column.



Before we get onto today's EDF Energy Cup clash, how satisfying were the opening four games in the Guinness Premiership?

DR: I am not one for looking back because we must always concentrate on the here and now, but to be unbeaten after our first four Premiership games was very pleasing and

testament to our squad's determination and competitiveness.

In that period, we played two back-to-back away games and that is particularly intense scheduling and demands a huge amount of concentration. It would be impossible to say we played well in all those matches but what has impressed me is the desire and attitude to work for each other and that has certainly created momentum.

It has been widely reported that we have been down on a high number of key individuals like Mike Tindall, Ryan Lamb, James Simpson-Daniel and Carlos Nieto and that not only deprives us of great strength but also experience. Other players have stepped forward into that void – guys like Andy Hazell, Peter Buxton and James Forrester – and they are now the essence of what we are aiming to create here.

There is no doubt we are a work in progress – there are players

I have already mentioned we have not even seen yet – but as an encouragement tool, the first four games of the season was a very good start and we must build on that momentum.



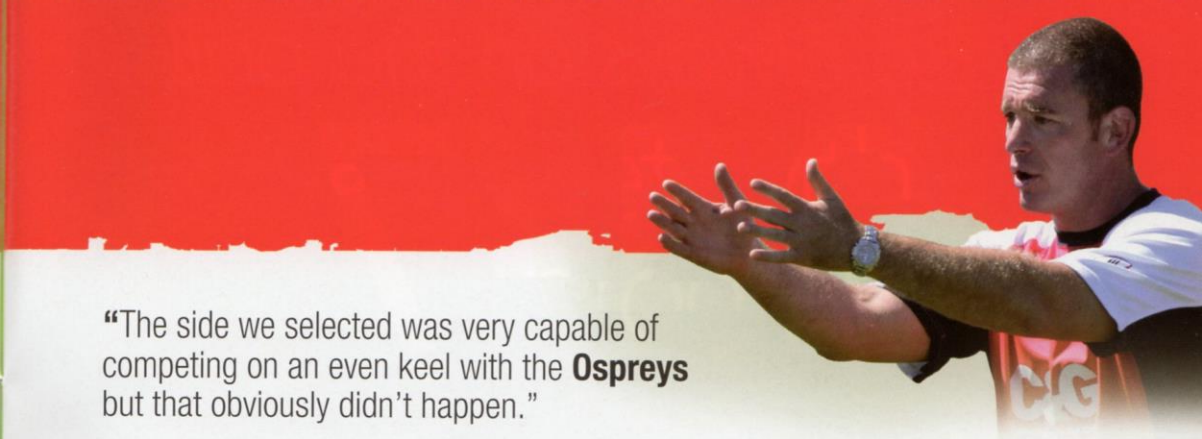
Last week we suffered a six-try defeat at the Ospreys, how did that happen?

DR: The side we selected was very capable of competing on an even keel with the Ospreys, but that obviously didn't happen and we are naturally all extremely disappointed by our performance.

I truly believed we picked a side with the right intensity levels to match them but when you lose those physical collisions, as we did, it makes it very hard to get into the game and I think it was pretty obvious we struggled there.

But those changes needed to be made. It is impossible to navigate your way






“The side we selected was very capable of competing on an even keel with the **Ospreys** but that obviously didn’t happen.”

through a nine or 10 month season with the basic 17 players. We have a squad in place for a reason and that is to ensure every member is attuned to top level rugby and that process was taken a stage further last Friday night.

I would challenge anyone who said we failed to field a strong side last Friday – we will learn from the mistakes and be a better side for it in the future.

I thought the Ospreys played well and Lyn Jones said their performance was ‘100% better’ than the previous week. We caught a team a bit on the rebound and our task now is to react in the right way to that.

 **Today, one of your former clubs – BRISTOL – Come to Kingsholm in the second round of the EDF Energy Cup, they have made a great start haven’t they?**

DR: Bristol are a very solid and traditional club and I am very pleased

they have started off so strongly. I know Richard Hill very well and he is developing a competitive and durable squad.


They possess some very experienced campaigners who have been about in this environment for a long time and it is pretty obvious they have an outstanding team spirit, organisation and determination that is serving them well.

To be unbeaten after five matches this season is an outstanding achievement and they have also managed to gain a bonus point here and there.

I think they showed last week they are able to make a number of personnel changes from their regular Premiership team and still win in a pretty tough derby against Bath. It’s impossible to take them lightly for even a second and it is great for west country rugby to have two teams doing so well.

I am sure they will be confident this

afternoon and we will be well prepared for their threat.

 **Last week the club released a statement concerning rugby league player semi Tadulala, why did you decide to do that?**

R: I want Gloucester Rugby to conduct its business in the right way, whether it be dealing with an injured player on a rehabilitation course or whether it concerns someone who is linked to us in a possible transfer.

We are not in the business of simply fuelling rumours, I don’t want to conduct business that way and will refuse to do it. The statement released by Wakefield was not factually correct so we took steps to issue our own statement.

Any individual needs to maintain his relationship with his current employers because he still has a job to do. At all times, we respect and honour that.



Today's Teams

Gloucester Rugby
v Bristol Rugby
07.10.06 15.00



Today's Officials
 Referee: Ashley Rowden
 Touch Judges: Peter O'Leary & Don Helme
 Replacement: Tim Boshart
 4th: Mark Tovey
 Assessor: Clive Leske
 Time Keeper: Tony Turner

GUINNESS PREMIERSHIP

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	BP	PIS
1 Bristol	4	3	1	0	102	36	2	16
2 Gloucester	4	3	1	0	119	34	0	16
3 Wigan	4	3	0	1	107	85	2	14
4 Sale	4	3	0	1	114	94	0	12
5 Leicester	4	2	1	1	108	108	1	11
6 Bath	4	2	0	2	97	93	2	10
7 London Irish	4	2	0	2	74	86	1	9
8 Northampton	4	2	0	2	85	103	1	9
9 Saracens	4	1	1	2	102	88	2	8
10 Newcastle	4	1	0	3	84	114	2	6
11 Saracens	4	0	0	4	78	114	2	2
12 Worcester	4	0	0	4	54	103	2	2

Gloucester RUGBY		Bristol RUGBY	
Rob THIRLBY	15 Full Back	15 Luke ABSGOTT	
James BAILEY	14 Right Wing	14 Bernardo STORTON	
Jack ADAMS	13 Centre	13 Walter POZZERON	
Rudi KEIL	12 Centre	12 Andy REAY	
Mark FOSTER	11 Left Wing	11 David LEM	
Ludovic MERCIER	10 Fly Half	10 Danny GRAY	
Peter RICHARDS	9 Scrum Half	9 Brian O'BRIEN	
Patrice COLLAZO	1 Prop	1 Mark BRISH	
Melie DAVES	2 Hooker	2 David BLANEY	
Christian CALIFANO	3 Prop	3 James HOSSOR	
WILL JAMES	4 Lock	4 Mariano SAMBUCCETTI	
Adam EUSTACE	5 Lock	5 Nathan BUDGETT	
Peter BURTON	6 Flanker	6 Richard MARTIN-AEDMAN	
Andy HAZELL	7 Flanker	7 Craig SHORT	
Luke NARRAWAY	8 No 8	8 Gerald Lewis	
Replacements			
Oliver AZAM	16 Substitute 1	16 Goad NELSON	
Jack FORSTER	17 Substitute 2	17 Wayne THOMPSON	
John BOER	18 Substitute 3	18 Justin WINGS	
James FORRESTER	19 Substitute 4	19 Dave ATTWOOD	
Ryan LAMB	20 Substitute 5	20 John GRIEVE	
Rory LAWSON	21 Substitute 6	21 Craig NICKILLS	
Jon GOODRIDGE	22 Substitute 7	22 Ashley MASS	

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Spotlight

with Jake Boer



by
Ian Randall



Q How would you describe yourself in three words?

A Complex, enthusiastic, committed.

Q What do you do on your day off?

A I've got three children so I try and spend as much time with them as possible, you feel a bit guilty when you don't. It's important that we get rest, but I'm spending a lot of time on my computer at the moment, running another business.



Q Who is the player in your position you admire most?

A For me it's all about the physical contest, good on the ground and 100% commitment. That's how I see myself. I'm not a complicated or fancy player. The guy who I respected when I came to England and who ticked all those boxes was Neil Back.



Q What was your first hobby?

A I did a bit of everything. I collected stamps for about a week and got bored with that, but the thing I remember most was light electronics. My cousin was into that and I got into it through him.



Q Which phrase or word do you use most?

A Sorry. I used to say it even when I clearly heard what someone said. It became habitual. I've actually become conscious now of not saying the same thing over and over again.

Q What is your greatest extravagance?

A In terms of buying things I shouldn't it would be gadgets. I'm a big fan of "Stuff" magazine so I do buy some bits and pieces from there.

Q Who would your dream date be?

A My wife



Q If you could swap places with another sports star, who would it be?

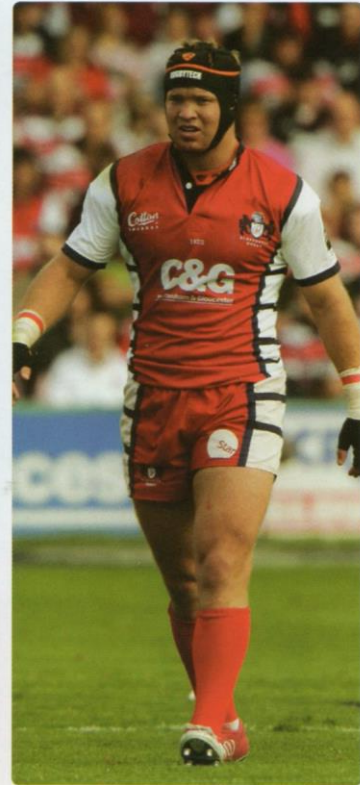
A There would be a couple. The footballer Ronaldinho never looks stressed, and whatever you may think from the outside, it can be stressful sometimes. He makes playing look easy and he never appears to have a worry in the



world. He's also done well on the field and I'm sure commercially too. He's always smiling and he never seems to have any bad press. The other would be the golfer Ernie Els. He's extremely good at what he does and he enjoys it too.

Q What single thing would improve your quality of life?

A A beach and a bit more sun. Coming from South Africa depending on where you live a lot of people will go to the beach after work and you don't appreciate the value of being able to do that and take yourself out of the daily routine on a regular basis.





The Italian job

It has been a frustrating period for CARLOS NIETO, Gloucester's new powerhouse prop. But as he tells the matchday programme, he is very close to a playing return following a shoulder operation and is desperate to make up for lost time.

LET'S BE HONEST, they couldn't be much different. One is a shaven headed Cornishman who delights in a uniquely agricultural use of the vernacular and the other is a shaggy haired Italian, who is still getting to grips with the English weather.

But they share a common bond. If the sages were to be believed, Phil Vickery was expected to return from his long-standing back injury this week for his new employers Wasps, six months after a third major operation.

His replacement at Kingsholm, one Carlos Nieto, has also yet to pull on his new shirt in anger but they are both ridiculously talented tight-head forwards and they are about as common as teeth in hens in this day and age.

Although he has yet to get stuck into opposing scrums in the Guinness Premiership, Nieto is a gem. Pinpointed by head coach Dean Ryan alongside his second row teammate Marco Bortolami as one of the singularly most important additions to the squad, the Italian international developed a cyst in his right shoulder during pre-season that required immediate attention.

It was pressing on a nerve and made any serious attempt at set-piece work almost impossible. But during his recovery, he could be spotted at

Hartpury College regularly, getting into his gym work, lifting weights and generally adapting to his new environment.

So, what has life been like for the Argentinean who has moved to Cheltenham with his wife and young son?

"I am finding it really great," he said. "I have come to Gloucester, it is a great place with wonderful people, great support and a really good team – it is an honour for me to be a part of it.

"Unfortunately, I have not been in a position to play a game and I find that very frustrating because I want to do well in a new environment. I am very frustrated but I will be back soon.

"I am not really sure how the cyst on my shoulder happened but it needed to be removed to stop pressure on the nerve and that was hard.

"But Gloucester is like a family and they have been very good to me."

Gloucester have also recruited Frenchman Christian Califano to compliment their front row options but Nieto is a crucial addition, as Ryan explained: "The capture of both Marco and Carlos did not simply occur because an agent touted them around.

"They were carefully identified as players we wanted to be a part of our



Image: Rugby World

squad. Marco is an athlete waiting to explode and we have already seen glimpses of his ability.

"Carlos, to my mind, was the form prop in the Six Nations last season and someone of his quality does not become available too often. I feel genuinely sorry for him that he has not been able to contribute in a game environment because he is at a new club and wants to succeed.

"But we know what he can produce – he is a vastly experienced individual, a damaging operator at the set-piece, a renowned scrummager and a great guy to have around. He will provide our forward pack with a huge amount of quality."

Nieto spent seven years with Viadana and made his Italian debut in 2002, without establishing himself as immediate first choice.

But he was recalled by Pierre Berbizier for the summer tour in 2005 and the rest, they say, is history.

"I know I have some experience and I think that will be good for the team. I like the scrum and the line-outs – this is where my life is – and I like to think I can be a big help to the team here," Nieto added.

"In England, it is obvious to me that the scrum and line-outs are very important – it is a big part of the game. From the games I have seen every teams wants to win the scrums and it is always a hard fight.

"For me, it was not a hard decision to come to England. I had seven years experience in Italy and that is a long time. The English Championship is one of the best, if not the best, in Europe and I wanted to experience it.

"A year before the World Cup was a good time to extend my experiences and I want to improve as much as I can.

"For me, the rugby here is fantastic, the stadium is always full, the people, supporters and team are fantastic and now I just want to contribute to the team."

All being well, Nieto will be in action soon – from a Gloucester point of view preferably before their European Cup clash in Leinster.

Nieto and Vickery might be from different parts of the world but they are closer than they might think as front row anchormen who will play huge roles in how their teams progress this season.

"This is where my life is – and I like to think
I can be a big help to the team here"



Match Action

Time line

2 mins	Shane Williams - TRY	5-0
10 mins	Mercier - PEN	5-3
14 mins	Bary Williams TRY, Henson CON	12-3
30 mins	Mercier - PEN	12-6
32 mins	Henson - PEN	15-6
39 mins	Foster - YC, Henson - PEN	18-6
40 mins (plus 3)	Henson - PEN	21-6
41 mins	Mercier - PEN	21-9
46 mins	Parker - TRY, Henson - CON	28-9
50 mins	Mercier - PEN	28-12
52 mins	Parker - TRY, Henson - CON	35-12
63 mins	Richards TRY, Mercier CON	35-19
67 mins	Marshall TRY, Henson CON	42-19
70 mins	Henson TRY and CON	49-19

Gloucester Line-up

15	Olly Morgan
14	James Bailey
13	Jack Adams
12	Anthony Allen
11	Mark Foster (yellow card)
10	Ludovic Mercier
9	Rory Lawson
1	Patrice Collazo
2	Mefin Davies
3	Jack Forster
4	Adam Eustace
5	Will James
6	Adam Balding
7	Jake Boer
8	Luke Narraway
REPS	
16	Oliver Azam (M. Davies)
17	Nick Wood (Collazo)
18	Marco Bortolami
19	James Merriman (Balding)
20	Peter Richards (Lawson)
21	Brad Davies (Mercier)
22	Rob Thirby (Morgan)

Neath-Swansea Ospreys 49
Gloucester Rugby 19



Henson leads Ospreys charge

Friday, September 29

Ref: Hugh Watkins Att: 7,557

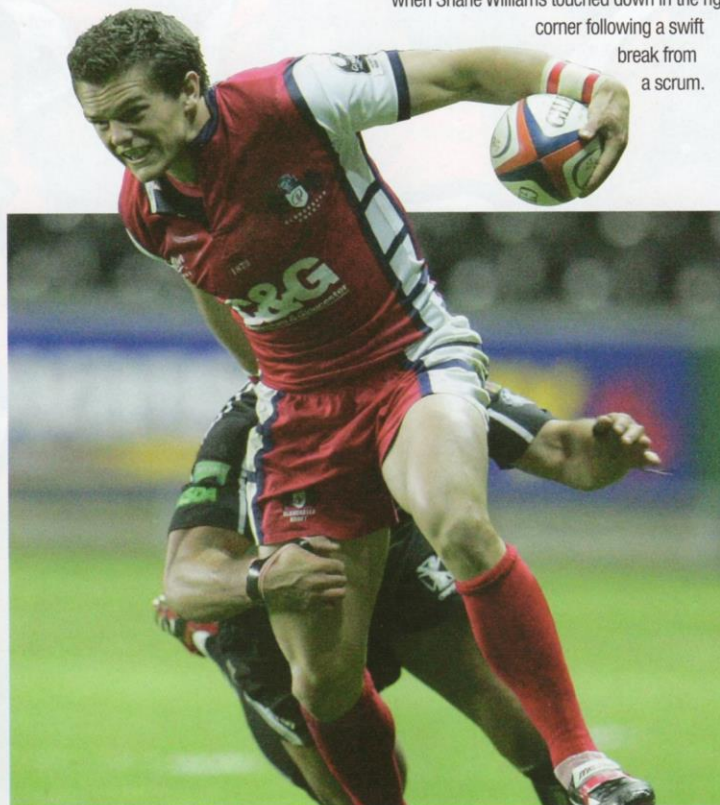
GAVIN HENSON collected 24 untroubled points as Gloucester's vastly changed side were well beaten at the Liberty Stadium.

It was a difficult evening for Gloucester who were second best in the physical confrontation that allowed Henson, the wonderful Justin Marshall and man of the

match Sonny Parker to run the contest.

Although Gloucester, through the unforgiving excellence of Patrice Collazo, gave the Ospreys a torrid time in the scrum, the home side scored six tries to make a perfect start to the competition.

They were ahead as early as the second minute when Shane Williams touched down in the right corner following a swift break from a scrum.





It knocked the wind out of Gloucester immediately. Hooker Barry Williams was then driven over from a line-out drive to make it 12-3 after 14 minutes and Henson kept the scoreboard ticking over with a wonderful display of kicking.

The Ospreys led 21-6 at the break and although Mercier cut the gap immediately after the re-start, Parker's first try after 46 minutes put the contest beyond reach. Parker then scored the fourth try with

a tremendous solo break to take the hosts 35-12 ahead.

Gloucester, who by this time had introduced Peter Richards, Olivier Azam and Nick Wood, hit back when Richards finished off a sustained move close to the sticks.

However, it was the Ospreys who had the final word – Marshall taking Ian Evans' pass to gallop home, before Henson rounded off the performance with a lovely step and finish to complete a very good night for the Ospreys.



Man of the Match...

Patrice Collazo



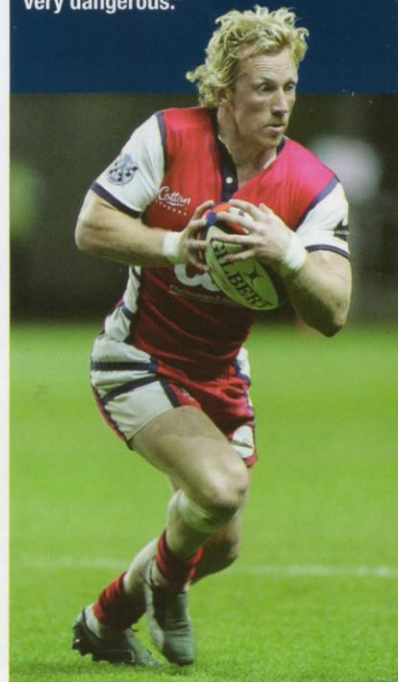
...The Frenchman led the Gloucester forward effort in the first-half, particularly in the scrummage..

Coaches Comment...

Dean Ryan



"We had talked all week about the need to match their physicality and we struggled in that area. It allowed guys like Marshall, Henson and Parker to play off the back of that and they were very dangerous."





Peter Arnold

There have been some titanic struggles between Gloucester and Bristol down the years and **Peter Arnold** is smacking his lips today at another cross border dispute.

BACK TO THE FUTURE

I T'S GREAT to see that both today's protagonists are in the top three of the Premiership after the first set of matches. I suppose most people will have expected us to be there or thereabouts, but the meteoric rise of Bristol has surprised all the pundits, some of whom were predicting them as relegation prospects before hostilities started.

Whether they can keep it up for a whole, long, arduous season is another matter. I hope they can, but meteors do have a habit of coming down to earth with a bump.

Of course, we don't have any God-given

right to expect to stay up there either, but Gloucester do still look like a work in progress, and the disruption of the impending autumn international season isn't going to help at all. When everything settles down again, and all the walking wounded report for duty, we'll have a better idea of what to expect from the rest of the campaign.

All this makes today's encounter even more interesting. Cup matches do concentrate the mind wonderfully, as does any prospect of Bristol visiting Kingsholm on any pretext whatsoever. Glos. v. Bris has been likened in the past to the Celtic v. Rangers football match or cricket's Roses encounters, but in terms of intensity at least, this match compares with either.

Managements will no doubt insist that the teams are treating the game like any other ordinary day at the office, but we can't get away from the history involved completely.

Some of us recall a game of around 20 years ago – before replacements and sinbins anyway - when all 30 players were on the field for just four minutes of the whole game. It was one of those freezing cold nights with a vicious wind sweeping down the field. The sort of conditions where muscles tense up and knocks and bumps really hurt. Injuries were so frequent that at one point it seemed as if GRH was running an ambulance shuttle service up and down Worcester Street.

I know John Fidler will remember it. He got crunched when looking for all the world as if he were about to score a try. They got him on a stretcher which is no mean feat when you're dealing with a chap of John's bulk, especially when he doesn't want to go, which he demonstrated by hopping off and trotting back to the fray. In the end, Gloucester just about won, but there were repercussions.

The press were all over it like a tight jockstrap, but the referee put an effective kybosh on all that by coming out and stating publicly that the game was emphatically not a dirty one. Hard, yes. Rough, yes, but with no incidents of foul play as far as he could see.

We're not expecting anything like that today, but there certainly won't be any quarter asked or given.

So what else is new?

BACK TO REALITY

I T WAS good to see today's welcome visitors putting one over on our mutual



Action v Bristol





Gavin Henson

you're already struggling with a lengthy catalogue of walking wounded, then a few more broken bones or twisted muscles can cause more problems than the severity of said injuries might appear to warrant.

I think Bristol would be unwise to read too much into the Ospreys result, as I'm sure Richard Hill and Paul Hull realise. Of course, I haven't seen the Gloucester side for today at the time of writing, but I'm sure that, even if we trot out the same 22 as we did last week, any opposition would find them a different proposition than Neath-Swansea did. Last week's reality check will have stiffened the

sympathise with Bath's Ollie Barkley who sustained a 'personal injury' the other week (stifled mirth). It appears that a boot 'flicked up into his groin' whereupon he left the field crying, "Woe is me!" and other dolorous expressions.

Of course it is traditional to poke fun at such unfortunate happenstances, in whatever sport they occur, and I'm never one to break with tradition. However, if you have ever suffered such an injury, and I have, then you'll know that all around you will be rolled up with laughter while you're writhing in

"If you have ever suffered such an injury, and I have, then you'll know that all around you will be rolled up with laughter while you're writhing in agony."

bugbear, Bath, last Sunday on a decidedly moist Memorial Ground. The conditions, I'm told, didn't do either side any favours, but the result was some slight consolation for the shocker we endured at Swansea on the previous Friday evening.

Perhaps it's as well to draw a veil over what appears to have been a pretty disappointing performance, other than to say that it might have provided a useful reality check for the squad who have been doing well so far. Unbeaten records can rapidly become a millstone round the neck, and can lead to a mind set more concerned with not losing games rather than winning them. At least that danger is now out of the way.

You do really have to feel for Dean Ryan and the other coaches. Personally, I feel that trying to juggle three major competitions in one season is one too many, and that eventually one will have to be sacrificed.

At the moment coaches have to decide on their priorities, and you really can't argue if they decide to alter the match-day 22 during one competition or another. Even so, injuries are always a danger in any match, and if

sinews a bit, they have now played as a unit, and this week we're at Kingsholm.

agony. Not that you care much about that at the time. Your sole concern is for it to stop hurting.

UNKINDEST CUT OF ALL

TALKING of injuries, and I seem to do little else these days, I'm sure we all

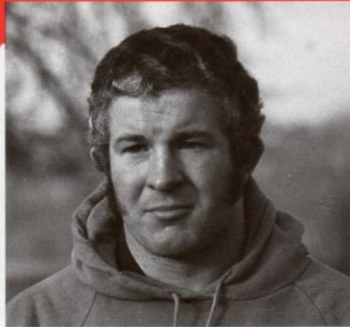
So I do sincerely sympathise with Ollie, and hope that he will be back to his old form as soon as possible.

(Muffled giggle).



Ollie Barkley

Hall of Fame with Dave King



Phil Blakeway

Gloucester is world famous for producing prop forwards but perhaps the most durable of all is **Phil Blakeway**, who joins **Dave King's** Hall of Fame.

IN THE realms of cauliflower-eardom, Phil Blakeway knows the law of the jungle.

In the school of hard knocks, Blakeway graduated with an honours degree – honed in the furnace of Kingsholm and then transplanted into the white of England and the red of the British Lions.

Gloucester have always been responsible for nurturing some of the finest front row warriors the game has ever seen and Blakeway was a true son of that remarkable sporting dynasty that has bred the likes of Roy Fowke, Mike Burton, Malcolm Preedy, Andy Deacon and Phil Vickery.

Blakeway was born on 31st December 1950 and was educated at Wells House School, Malvern and at King's School, Sherborne in Dorset.

Widely regarded as one of the finest prop forwards to represent Gloucester, Blakeway come from a very talented sporting family. Phil was the British Under-21 modern pentathlon champion in 1968, while his sister, Gillian was a member of the Great Britain Show Pony team versus

the United States of America in 1959.

This sporting prowess undoubtedly spread from their mother, Joyce, who was a County Lawn Tennis player who qualified for Junior Wimbledon in 1939.

Phil started his playing career with Cheltenham RFC in 1968 before joining Gloucester in 1971. He soon became a familiar figure in the city where he worked for the family business - Francis Blakeway,

“Phil made his **debut for England** in a victorious team against Ireland at Twickenham.”



wholesale fruit and vegetable merchants in Eastbrooke Road, Eastern Avenue.

He was already forging a name for himself as one of the most technically proficient and durable props in the business when he suffered the first in a number of serious injuries. Playing against South Wales Police, he broke his neck, casting serious doubts about his ability to even play again.

However, nothing deterred his indomitable spirit and he fought his way back to full fitness to not only get back in the Gloucester front row but also become a member of England's 1980 Grand Slam team.

Phil made his debut for England in a victorious team against Ireland at Twickenham on January 19, 1980:

W.H. Hare (Leicester); J. Carleton (Orrell), A.M. Bond (Sale), N.J. Preston (Richmond), M.A.C Slemen (Liverpool); J.P. Horton (Bath), S.J. Smith (Sale); F.E. Cotton (Sale), P.J. Wheeler (Leicester), P.J. Blakeway (Gloucester), W.B. Beaumont (Flyde) Captain, N.E. Horton (Moseley), R.M. Utley (Wasps), J.P. Scott (Cardiff) A. Neary (Broughton Park),

Replacement: C.R. Woodward (Leicester) for A. Bond.



Year	Versus	Date	Venue	Result
1980	Ireland	19th January	Twickenham	Won 24-9
	France	2nd January	Parc de Princes, Paris	Won 17-13
		16th February	Twickenham	Won 9-8
	Scotland	15th March	Murrayfield, Edinburgh	Won 30-18
1981	Wales	17th January	Cardiff Arms Park	Lost 19-21
	Scotland	21st February	Twickenham	Won 23-17
	Ireland	7th March	Lansdowne Road, Dublin	Won 10-6
1982	Ireland	6th February	Twickenham	Lost 15-16
	France	20th February	Parcs de Princes, Paris	Won 27-15

Year	Versus	Date	Venue	Result
1984	Wales	6th March	Twickenham	Won 17-7
	Ireland	18th February	Twickenham	Won 12-9
		3rd March	Parcs de Princes, Paris	Lost 18-32
	Wales	17th March	Twickenham	Lost 15-24
1985	South Africa	2nd June	Port Elizabeth	Lost 15-33
	Romania	5th January	Twickenham	Won 22-15
1985	France	2nd February	Twickenham	Drew 9-9
	Ireland	15th February	Twickenham	Lost 10-13
	Scotland	16th March	Lansdowne Rd, Dublin	Won 10-7

Hall of Fame...

A newspaper report of England's victory over Ireland on Philip's debut read with Roy Clarke of the Sunday Mirror commenting:

'England's long promised rugby revival finally arrived at Twickenham yesterday. Not since Richard Sharpe's side last won the Championship 17 years ago, has an England pack of forwards been so completely in command. Bill Beaumont's eight produced so much power in the scrums that Ireland were humiliated and left in tatters. The green shirts were shunted yards on England's put in at the scrums and wheeled on their own. Three great England tries – all were immaculately converted by Hare – were scant reward for a side so relentlessly in charge.'

Beaumont, the great Fran Cotton and new cap Phil Blakeway were all magnificent in the tight phases and the recalled Nigel Horton, imperiously ruled the line-outs.'

Another newspaper report commented on the same game read: -

'However, it was really the big powerful English pack that destroyed the lighter Irish and new tight head prop Phil Blakeway can be well satisfied with his solid contribution to the front row platform.'

When England defeated the French 17-13, on Phil's second appearance, Clem Thomas wrote in his match report: -

'Again scrummaging was the decisive factor. Although France took the only strike against the head from which they scored, the England front row broke the French morale up front. Blakeway proved a true son of Gloucester.'

However, injury was never far away and in that game he fractured a rib and consequently, he was able to make only one appearance for the British Lions on their South African tour of 1980.

Considering the serious neck injuries that Phil had sustained in his career, it was not wholly surprising that he twice retired from the game. What is more surprising was the fact that he returned to regain his England position.

In a remarkable career, he enjoyed tours to Australia, Canada and the United States of America with England.

Phil also represented the Barbarians and Gloucestershire. He captained the south and south west counties versus Australia at Gloucester in December 1981. The Australians won 16-3 and he



was joined by Gloucester stars Richard Mogg, Malcolm Preedy, Steve Mills and Mike Teague.

C. Ralston (Bath); A. Swift (Swansea), R. Pellow (Wasps), J. Carr (Bristol), R. Mogg (Gloucester); J. Horton (Bath), R. Harding (Bristol); M. Preedy (Gloucester), S. Mills (Gloucester), P. Blakeway (Gloucester), P. Stiff (Bristol), N. Pomphrey (Bristol), M. Teague (Gloucester), R. Hesford (Bristol), M. Rafter (Bristol).

The following season Phil once again led the south and south west Counties versus Fiji at Camborne. With no Cornish men on view the Fijians were cheered throughout the match. It made no difference as Phil led the South West to a 36-6 victory.

Teague scored two of the south and south west tries. Stuart Barnes scored 18 points from a try, five conversions and a penalty. Once again there were five players from Gloucester as there had been one year previous.

In 1983 Phil was captain for the third time when he led the south and south west counties versus the All Blacks at Bristol. The team included eight players from Gloucester as the Blacks won 18-6.

C. Martin (Bath); D. Trick (Bath), S. Barnes (Bath), J. Palmer (Bath), R. Mogg (Gloucester); J. Horton (Bath), R. Harding (Bristol); M. Preedy (Gloucester), S. Mills (Gloucester), P. Blakeway (Gloucester), S. Boyle (Gloucester), J. Orwin (Gloucester), J. Hall (Bath), M. Teague (Gloucester), J. Gadd (Gloucester).

Phil was a member of Gloucester's RFU National Cup Team of 1982, when they shared the trophy with Moseley following a 12-12 draw at Twickenham.

He still retains his links with the City of Gloucester where he is in partnership of a financial consulting company.



Fan Zone with Bob Fenton

The EDF Energy Cup has come around quickly for Shed dweller **Bob Fenton**, but a local derby against undefeated Bristol is enough to get the juices flowing this afternoon.

HAS THIS competition come around a bit earlier than it has done in the past? It seems that the Premiership season has hardly started and it's already being interrupted. Maybe it's just me - perhaps I am getting a bit old...

Like quite a few people I find the way this competition is organised a bit odd. Playing the same teams all the time doesn't present the same degree of excitement and anticipation as some of the draws you used to get. And for the smaller clubs it was a chance of not only turning over one of the big boys, but also securing a lucrative pay day from a visit to a bigger ground.

But those days are gone now - I suppose I have to get used to it. So this year we have one away trip and a couple of home fixtures. This must give us a good chance to get through to the latter stages of the competition and a nice day out at Twickenham or the Millennium Stadium, though much depends on how Dean and the gang want to play this one.

On paper this competition has to be the simplest route into the Heineken Cup. Trouble is we don't play on paper, we play on grass. And on the green, green grass of Swansea the wheels came off in pretty spectacular fashion last Friday night. We

just weren't at the races at all and the Ospreys simply rolled us over.

Fortunately for me, I was watching it all on TV, so I could get up and walk away from it every now and then to bang my head on the wall or kick the cat - not so the hardy souls at the Liberty Stadium who had to sit and watch it all.

With the Premiership representing the real bread and butter for all the clubs there is a temptation to rest a few key players and let some of the other squad players to have a run out. Whether this plan continues today or not is something Dean will have to ponder.



Andy Hazell in action vs Northampton



Jack Adams celebrates victory over Northampton

“They will want some payback today, so not only is there continued interest in the cup at stake, there a bit more than a matter of **West Country pride.**”

The format of the competition is such that one defeat does not consign you to the ‘also ran’s’ pile, though it’s going to take a pretty big effort to turn this one around.

And with Bristol getting the win over Bath last Sunday their tails are going to be up for this one, and what better way for them to progress than with a win double over their nearest rivals.

Hopefully we can do it, though. It would be nice to add another shiny cup to the trophy cabinet. Over the years we have built up a good record in cup competitions, from the old days of the John Player Cup, through to the Worthington Tens, C&G Trophy, Middlesex Sevens, the old version of the Powergen Cup and, last season, the European Challenge Cup.

If we could add the snappily-titled EDF

Energy Cup – and of course the Heineken – this season we’d just about have the set. But I digress slightly, and before we start counting chickens or polishing pots there’s a small matter of a few games to win first.

Bristol have had a great start to the Premiership season, like us undefeated, but unlike us having secured the odd bonus point to put them on top of the table. They had a similar start last season but the wheels came off for them after a defeat at the Memorial Ground by our good selves. They will want some payback today, so not only is there continued interest in the cup at stake, there is a bit more than a matter of West Country pride.

Our old boss Richer Dill has got them purring with delight down Bristol way, though he seems to be taking an unusual approach to the way he is treating this



Peter Richards vs Bristol Rugby last season