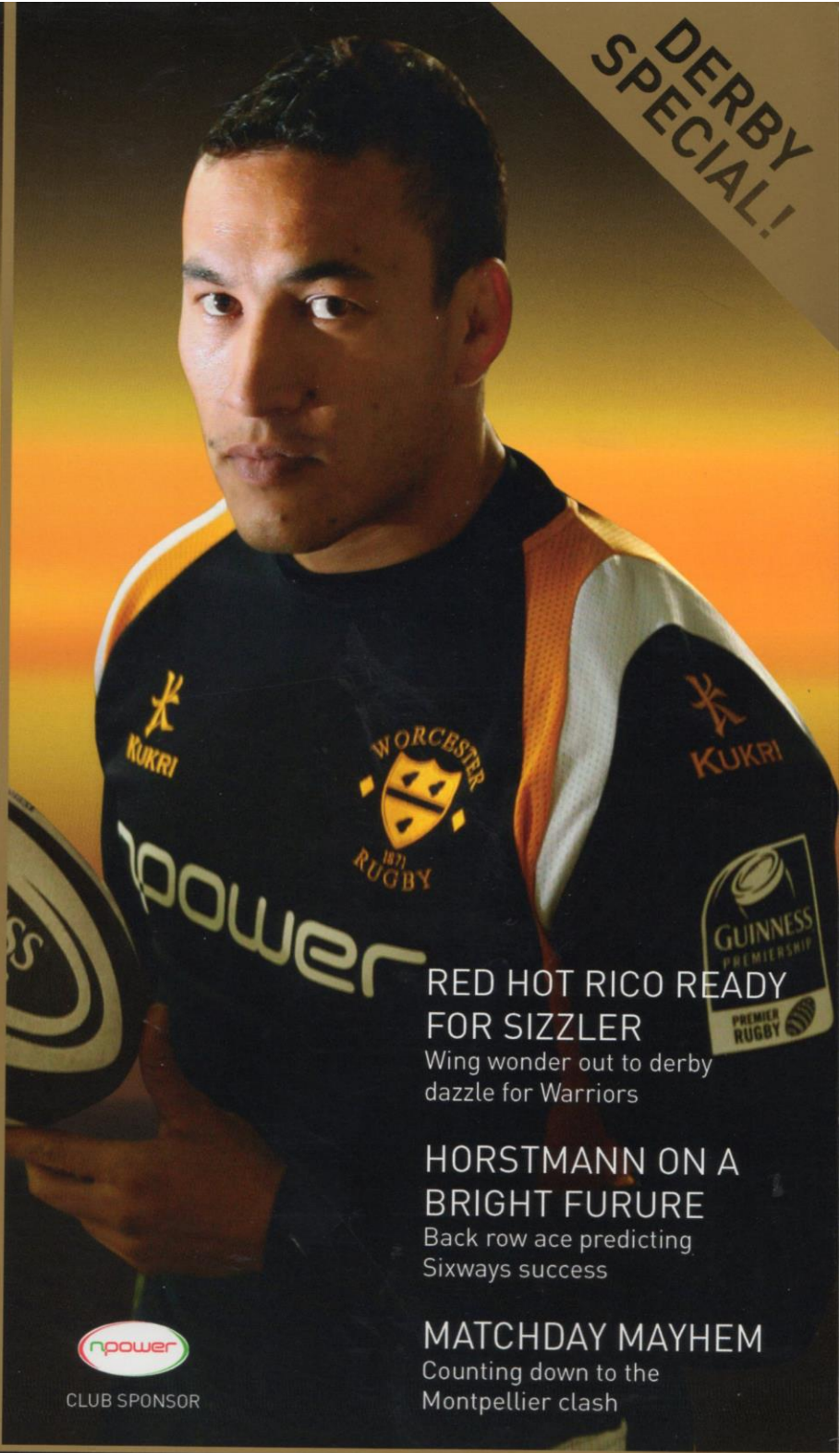


THE WARRIOR

VS GLOUCESTER

SATURDAY 29TH MARCH 2008 • KICK-OFF 3PM

Official matchday programme 2007-2008
Issue 13 • £3.00



DERBY SPECIAL!

RED HOT RICO READY FOR SIZZLER

Wing wonder out to derby dazzle for Warriors

HORSTMANN ON A BRIGHT FUTURE

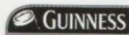
Back row ace predicting Sixways success

MATCHDAY MAYHEM

Counting down to the Montpellier clash



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GLOUCESTER RUGBY

IN OPPOS



It has been a strange start to 2008 for the Guinness Premiership pace-setters – but as they turn for home in the title race they still occupy a play-off place. Recent defeats to Bristol and Harlequins undermined their early season momentum but six points in the last two games, including a maximum five against London Irish and a point in Stockport against Sale, has kept them in the hunt.

But rewind still further and it is easy to appreciate that Gloucester's form has been patchy. Losing away to the Ospreys in the Heineken Cup could hardly be described as a surprise and they were then on the soggy end of a 10-5 defeat in the mud against Bath and a thriller against Leicester during the international period.

The one defeat to really set the fires raging at Castle Grim was at Bristol – when head coach Dean Ryan described the performance as 'appalling' and 'unacceptable'. But amid the defeats, lack of form, injuries and a raft of players unavailable on international duty, Ryan's side actually kept themselves in the top two.

The head coach will have his international players available again this afternoon Gloucester look to consolidate their position before zeroing in on Munster in the Heineken Cup quarter-finals against Munster next Saturday.

Last season's losing Guinness Premiership finalists

moved heaven and earth to strengthen what was already a tremendously gifted squad.

While the likes of the brilliantly precocious Ryan Lamb, the rapidly emerging Anthony Allen and full-back Olly Morgan had another season under their belts, heavy weights arrived in numbers.

Lesley Vainikolo, the try-hunting giant from Bradford was the most high profile arrival and has scored nine times already in Premiership. He now has five England caps following his debut against Wales last month and is a key man in the squad.

Scotland's Chris Paterson and Fiji's Akapusi Qera have all both to the mix and strength in depth. There have been other additions too: Alasdair Strokosch is a tackle-hungry, workaholic back row forward who was Scotland's stand-out player in the Six Nations Championship, Leon Lloyd made the switch from Leicester and Andy Titterrell has added versatility and dynamism to the hooking options and has come into his own in the last few games.

Vainikolo announced himself on the Premiership with a debut record five tries at Headingley as Gloucester ran riot in the second half to claim a 49-24 victory with eight tries in all on the opening day of the season.

Gloucester followed that up with a hard-earned victory away to Saracens that put them under greater scrutiny. Although Vainikolo suffered a neck injury, Gloucester plundered tries from Anthony Allen, Ryan Lamb, Luke Narryway and Olly Morgan to record a 38-31 victory.

It gave them maximum points after two rounds and last week they opened up at Kingsholm with a 29-7 success over neighbours Worcester Warriors.

However, it was tougher than the scoreline suggested but thanks to a brilliant individual try from James Simpson-Daniel, a punishing drive and score from hooker Olivier Azam and a returning try from Mike Tindall eased Gloucester to victory in front of almost 16,000 supporters.

Since then, they have won 11 of their 17 games and with the likes of Simpson-Daniel in red-hot form, they have their big guns back just at the right time.

Although the EDF Energy Cup passed them by again for another season, Gloucester qualified top of their Heineken Pool following four bonus point victories in six attempts and Ryan has already re-signed a number of key individuals ahead of next season. Although 2008 has yet to see them re-produce the rugby that saw them make such a great start to the season, there is enough in Ryan's squad to suggest they can continue challenging on two fronts.



POSITION

PETER BUXTON THE CAPTAIN

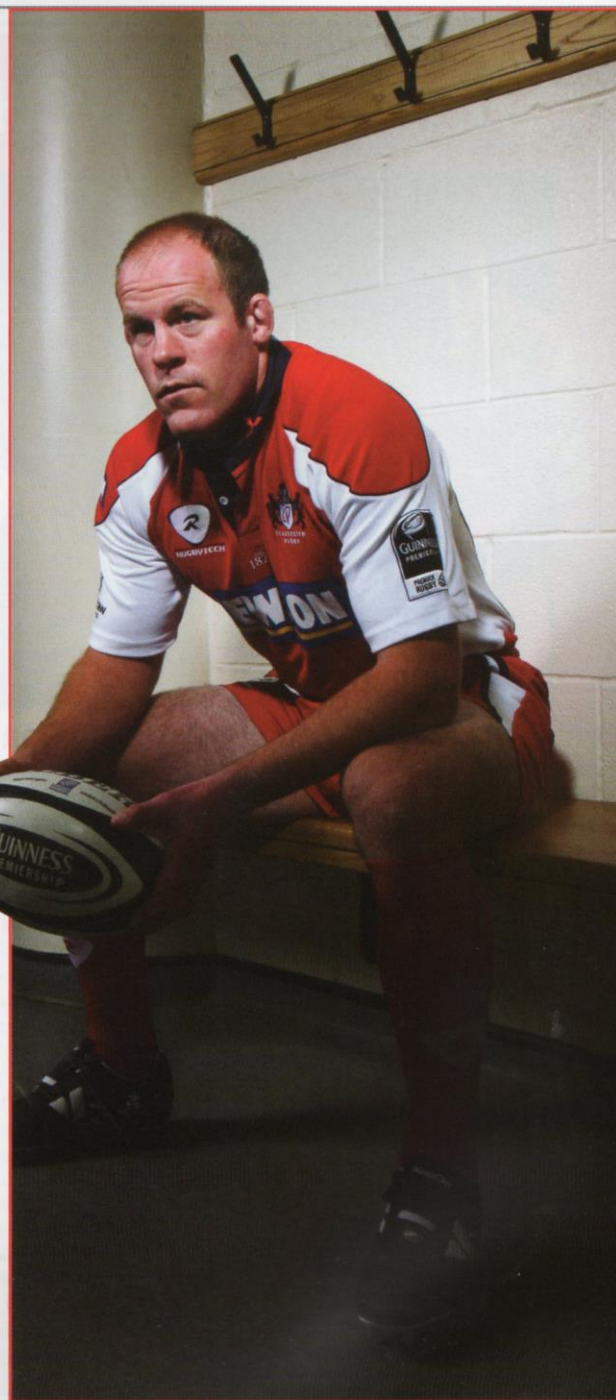
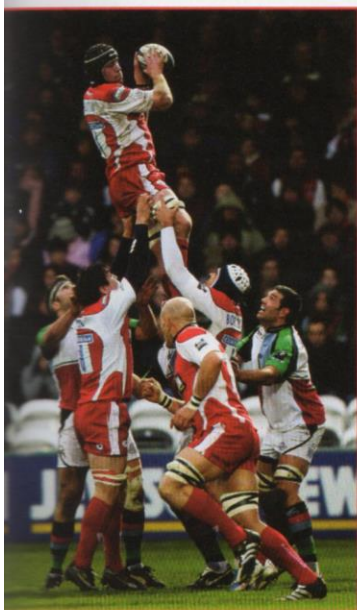
Peter Buxton, the captain of Gloucester, will be out to keep his side at the top end of the table with another victory today at the home of the Warriors. After disappointing losses to the likes of Harlequins and London Irish, Buxton will be hoping to get rid of any demons that may be lying within the side.

Flanker Buxton has a gruesome reputation of getting the grim and gritty work done and through this has become a key and crucial member of the Gloucester squad.

He signed for the club in 2002 and in the 2003/04 season the powerful back-rower came in to his own with plenty of match winning performances. This good form saw him named on the bench for England when they faced the Barbarians in May 2004.

His physicality and consistency have not only made him one of the most hard-working players in the squad but also in the Guinness Premiership and therefore the ideal choice as captain.

"Pete Buxton is the benchmark of consistency we are always looking for," said Head Coach Dean Ryan. "He is a fantastic player, and he has shown his versatility and ability to take on extra responsibility by moving into the second row and also as captain."





GLOUCESTER RUGBY

IN OPPOS

THREE TO WATCH

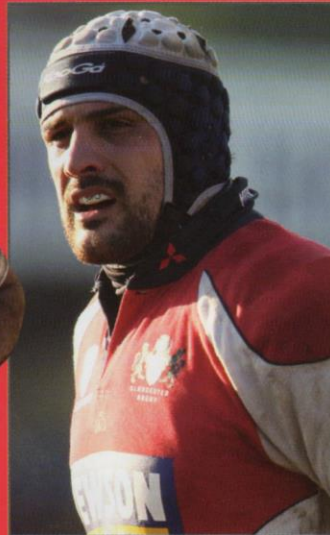


LESLEY VAINIKOLO

This hard-hitting Tongan has been introduced to the Guinness Premiership this year after joining from the Rugby League circuit where he served as a prolific try scorer for the Bradford Bulls.

'The Volcano' has so far for Gloucester scored 11 tries in 13 games and will be hoping to enjoy the same try ratio for England now that he has gained residency. He featured in this year's Six Nations but has yet to open his try account.

Vainikolo will be able to handle any pressure situation effectively after playing Rugby League at the highest level with New Zealand and his strong defence will surely be a crucial factor if Gloucester want to hold off the Warriors.

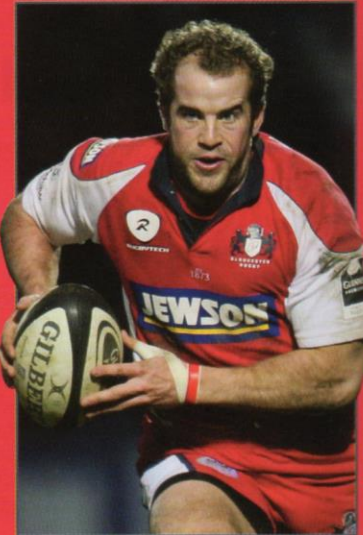


MARCO BORTOLAMI

Bortolami was made captain first season with the West Country outfit and has continued to impress and lead the team. His natural leadership qualities made him natural choice to take charge of Italy in 2003, this made him the youngest ever captain of the Azzurri at just 20-years-old.

He now has 45 international appearances to his name and his leadership and tactical skills marked him down as one of the outstanding players last season and his partnership with Alex Brown has proved formidable.

Bortolami is also a firm favourite with the Gloucester faithful after first taking charge last season against Llanelli and will be keen to impress in the local derby atmosphere.



JAMES SIMPSON-DANIEL

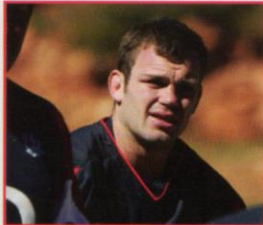
'Sinbad', as he is known to many, is one of the most electric finishers in the Guinness Premiership and on his entrance to the game scored a hat-trick against Bath.

With his lightning pace and dangerous game breaking qualities, Simpson-Daniel can play in either the centre or on the wing, which make him the ideal ball carrier. He has been unlucky on the international scene with a host of injuries throughout his career which have prevented him from taking an extended part in the set-up.

Simpson-Daniel has already scored a scintillating try against the Warriors this year so the home side will have to be on full guard if they are to cut down the little space that this magician needs.

ITION

COMPETITIVE HAZELL EAGER FOR WARRIORS TEST



When you come up against those traditional ruckers and maulers from Sixways – the usual collection of no-nonsense hard heads expertly schooled in making life notoriously

difficult – a man with the ferocious competitive instincts of Andy Hazell come in very handy.

During a period when clubs have been disrupted by injuries and international call-ups, Hazell's return from a knee injury more than a month ago for Gloucester has been very timely to Dean Ryan's squad.

Considering he had been out of action since the end of November after limping off against the Dragons in the EDF Energy Cup, he has done remarkably well to last the course so well and against Sale a fortnight ago he was at his vigorous best – hunting down Charlie Hodgson, breaking play and generally making himself a right old pain in the rear end.

In short, Hazell is one of the most significant players in the Gloucester squad. Like Peter Buxton and the hugely impressive Alasdair Strokosch, his fellow flankers, he is the heart-beat by which the team operates.

so much we want to achieve as a group.

"There seems to be a special feel about the place at the moment and I want to play my part in that."

Hazell is now Gloucester's longest serving player. He has already seen a decade of service in the number seven shirt and in all competitions made 179 appearances with 19 tries.

But it his energy, enthusiasm and work-rate that is most captivating. It is a testament to Gloucester's achievements that they have managed so well without such a competitive tyro and they will need him this afternoon against the Warriors and Pat Sanderson.

Today, Gloucester face a derby duel of huge significance at both ends of the table and next week the small matter of Munster in the Heineken Cup – an occasion for which Hazell was made.

"There has been no let-up in the intensity since the new year – massive games against some of the best teams in Europe have come one after the other and there will be no dropping in the demands today," he said.

"We know all about Worcester – their strengths and their competitiveness – and we will have to match them today. Games between the two teams are always some of the biggest of the season – it's a huge occasion for us."

" We know all about Worcester – their strengths and their competitiveness – and we will have to match them today. Games between the two teams are always some of the biggest of the season "

"It is tough being on the sidelines but I have been there before – injuries are part and parcel of the game and although difficult, I just had to get on with it," he said.

"We have created a squad that can cope with guys being out injured. I obviously want to play all the time but it gave me the chance to get absolutely right and have come back into a team at the top of the Premiership and into the last eight in the Heineken Cup.

"In some ways my return couldn't have been more timely given the schedule we have coming up – we have made a great start in these competitions and now we must try and kick on and take it further – there is





GLOUCESTER RUGBY

IN OPPOS

LOOKING BACK WITH PAUL WESTMACOTT



This afternoon Gloucester Rugby make only their fourth visit to Sixways Stadium for a local derby that has the potential to be compelling and create a very special atmosphere with two sets of vocal supporters getting behind their teams.

The first game was on October 16, 2004 with Warriors going down 18-13 in a pulsating clash. In similar surroundings to today, the sold out notice went up weeks before and a 8,400 capacity crowd saw Gloucester fly-half Duncan McRae open the scoring with a drop goal after two minutes. Referee Roy Maybank sent Warriors lock Tim Collier to the sin bin, however, in a cauldron of noise the home side came roaring back when prop Tony Windo picked up a loose ball sixteen metres from the line and unopposed dived over. The look on the former Gloucester players face said it all - if you buy him a pint he will tell you all about it! James Brown added the extra points and Henry Paul kicked a penalty for Gloucester as the Warriors lead at half-time. Two quick tries from Paul and Jon Goodridge put the visitors in the driving seat and although

Warriors camped in the visitors 22 for long periods they just could not find the line. Brown added two more penalties.

It was the opening game of the 2005/06 season when Gloucester next came to Sixways and in front of a partisan full house of 9,728 it ended in a 15-15 draw. With both packs of forwards dominating the game it became a shootout from both fly-halves. James Brown kicked five from five and Ludovic Mercier kicked four and a long range drop goal. Gloucester head coach Dean Ryan admitted after the game that 'at times in the second-half we were lucky to get away with the draw'.

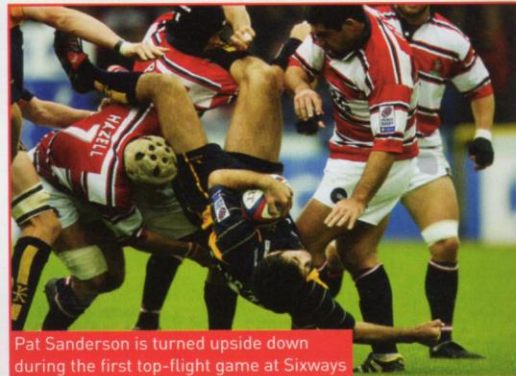
Last season Gloucester went back down the M5 with a 33-24 win. Shane Drahm brought a record crowd of 10,197 to its feet as he jinked his way over the line within a minute of the start. Jack Adams touched down for the visitors before Dale Rasmussen restored the Warriors lead with a well worked team try. Ryan Lamb then added four penalties and an Anthony Allen try rocked the Warriors. A fast and furious last quarter saw Thomas Lombard dive over to get the home side back within two points but a poor pass let in the Gloucester full-back Ian Balshaw to score the vital try. In the end it was the penalty count conceded by the Warriors that separated the team from a deserved win.



Ben Hinshelwood evades Mike Tindall on the opening day of the 2005/06 season



Shane Drahm makes his thoughts known in the big derby clash last season



Pat Sanderson is turned upside down during the first top-flight game at Sixways

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

25 MARCH 2004

EXETER 14 WORCESTER 25

TRIES: GARRARD, DALY

POSITION

GLOUCESTER SQUAD

Surname	Christian	Position	Height	Weight
Adams	Jack	Centre	6ft	15st
Allen	Anthony	Centre	5ft 11in	14st 7lb
Azam	James	Wing	5ft 11in	14st 1lb
Bailey	Iain	Wing/Full Back	6ft 1in	14st 2lb
Balding	Adam	Back row	6ft 2in	17st 4lb
Balshaw	Marco	Lock	6ft 5in	17st 5lb
Bortolami	Alex	Lock	6ft 7in	18st 1lb
Brown	Peter	Back row	6ft 4in	18st 1lb
Buxton	Christian	Prop	5ft 11in	17st 5lb
Califano	Patrice	Prop	6ft 1in	17st 11lb
Collazo	Gareth	Scrum half	5ft 7in	13st
Cooper	Mark	Fly half	5ft 10in	12st 8lb
Davies	Gareth	Number 8	6ft 3in	18st 1lb
Delve	Alasdair	Prop	6ft	17st 5lb
Dickinson	James	Number 8	6ft 5in	17st 4lb
Forrester	Jack	Prop	6ft 1in	18st 11lb
Forster	Mark	Wing	6ft	15st
Foster	Andrew	Back row	6ft	14st 13lb
Hazell	Ali	Centre	6ft	14st 13lb
James	Will	Lock	6ft 6in	18st 11lb
James	Ryan	Fly half	5ft 9in	13st 5lb
Lamb	Rory	Scrum half	5ft 8in	13st 5lb
Lawson	Dave	Scrum half	5ft 7in	12st 8lb
Lewis	Leon	Wing/Centre	6ft 4in	15st 3lb
Lloyd	Ross	Hooker	6ft 1in	16st 7lb
McMillan	Ludovic	Fly half	5ft 11in	14st 2lb
Mercier	Otly	Full back	6ft 2in	14st 2lb
Morgan	Luke	Back row	6ft 3in	15st 13lb
Narraway	Carlos	Prop	6ft 1in	17st 4lb
Nieto	Dan	Wing	5ft 10in	12st 8lb
Norton	Chris	Fly half/Full back	6ft	12st 6lb
Paterson	Jeremy	Hooker	6ft	16st 4lb
Paul	Jonathan	Lock	6ft 4in	17st 4lb
Pendlebury	Mike	Scrum half	5ft 11in	13st 3lb
Prendergast	Karl	Wing	6ft 6in	18st 11lb
Pryce	Akapusi	Back row	6ft 4in	16st
Qera	Charlie	Wing	6ft	14st 9lb
Sharples	James	Wing	6ft	14st 6lb
Simpson-Daniel	Alasdair	Back row	6ft 3in	15st 5lb
Strokosch	Andy	Hooker	5ft 10in	14st 2lb
Titterell	Mike	Centre	6ft 2in	15st 12lb
Tindall	Henry	Centre	6ft	13st 5lb
Trinder	Dan	Lock	6ft 5in	17st 8lb
Tuhoy	Lesley	Wing	6ft 2in	17st 8lb
Vainikolo	Willie	Fly half	6ft	13st 12lb
Walker	Dan	Back row	6ft 5in	16st 7lb
Williams	Nick	Prop	6ft 1in	17st 5lb





WARRIORS V GLOUCESTER



TODAY'S SQUADS

	THINUS DELPORT	15	FULL BACK	15	IAIN BALSHAW	
	MARCEL GARVEY	14	RIGHT WING	14	JAMES SIMPSON-DANIEL	
	DALE RASMUSSEN	13	CENTRE	13	JACK ADAMS	
	SAM TUITUPOU	12	CENTRE	12	ANTHONY ALLEN	
	MILES BENJAMIN	11	LEFT WING	11	LESLEY VAINIKOLO	
	SHANE DRAHM	10	FLY HALF	10	RYAN LAMB	
	MATT POWELL	9	SCRUM HALF	9	RORY LAWSON	
	TONY WINDO	1	PROP	1	NICK WOOD	
	ALEKI LUTUI	2	HOKKER	2	ANDY TITTERRELL	
	TEVITA TAUMOEPEAU	3	PROP	3	CARLOS NIETO	
	GREG RAWLINSON	4	LOCK	4	WILL JAMES	
	CRAIG GILLIES	5	LOCK	5	ALEX BROWN	
	TOM WOOD	6	BLINDSIDE	6	PETER BUXTON (C)	
	PAT SANDERSON (C)	7	OPENSIDE	7	ANDY HAZELL	
	KAI HORSTMANN	8	NO.8	8	GARETH DELVE	
	DARREN MORRIS	16	REPLACEMENT	16	JEREMY PAUL	
	MATT MULLAN	17	REPLACEMENT	17	CHRISTIAN CALIFANO	
	WILL BOWLEY	18	REPLACEMENT	18	ALASDAIR STROKOSCH	
	DREW HICKEY	19	REPLACEMENT	19	LUKE NARRAWAY	
	JONNY ARR	20	REPLACEMENT	20	GARETH COOPER	
	JOE CARLISLE	21	REPLACEMENT	21	CHRIS PATERSON	
	RICO GEAR	22	REPLACEMENT	22	JAMES BAILEY	

DIRECTOR OF RUGBY
Mike Ruddock

home n power
team

Final Score **17-14**

TODAY'S OFFICIALS

REFEREE Sean Davey
TOUCH JUDGES Paul Dix and Martin Buck
FOURTH OFFICIAL Ashley Rowden

DIRECTOR OF RUGBY
Dean Ryan

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