



**GLOUCESTER
RUGBY**

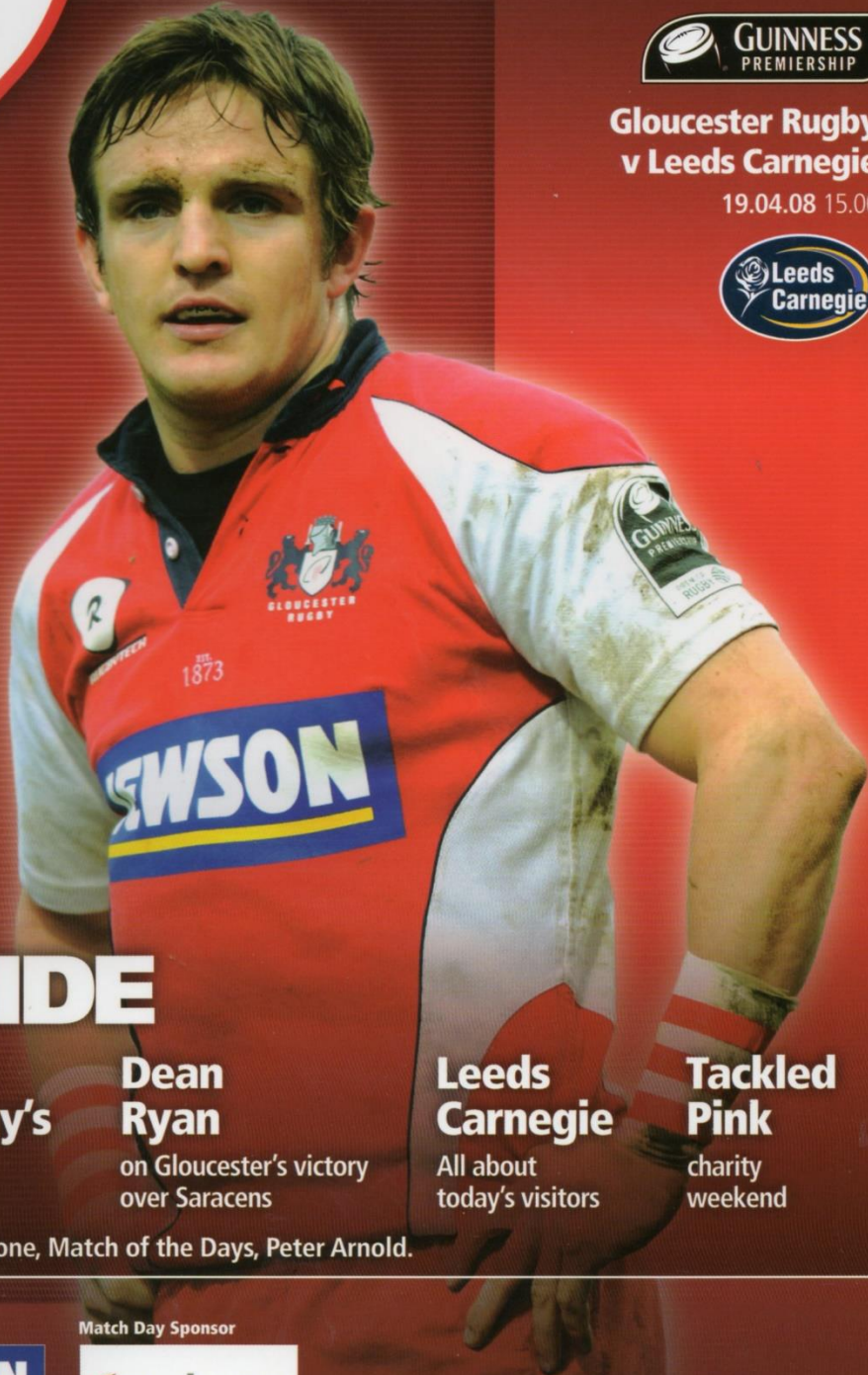
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**Gloucester Rugby
v Leeds Carnegie**

19.04.08 15.00



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Narraway's**

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over Saracens

**Leeds
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**Tackled
Pink**

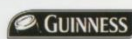
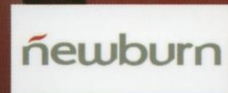
charity
weekend

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CAPTAIN'S CORNER

Skipper Marco Bortolami looks back at the victory over Saracens and is ready for a battle against Leeds today.

▶ LAST Saturday was very important on many different levels.

We produced the sort of performance we did against Munster but more of a dividend from our attacking style and personally I was pleased with my own contribution.

The one thing we managed to do following the Munster defeat was keep our perspective despite the fall-out externally from the club, and that came across in our performance last weekend.

We are all convinced that this group of players is heading in the right direction and that our style of play will ultimately be successful. I was really pleased with how we made more of our attacking options last Saturday and also how we contested the tackle area.

Our focus towards the end of the season is huge. We know we are close to the play-offs and our energy is focused on getting a home draw in the knockout stages of the competition. That means finishing either first or second in the table and although we are not there yet, we are closer than before.

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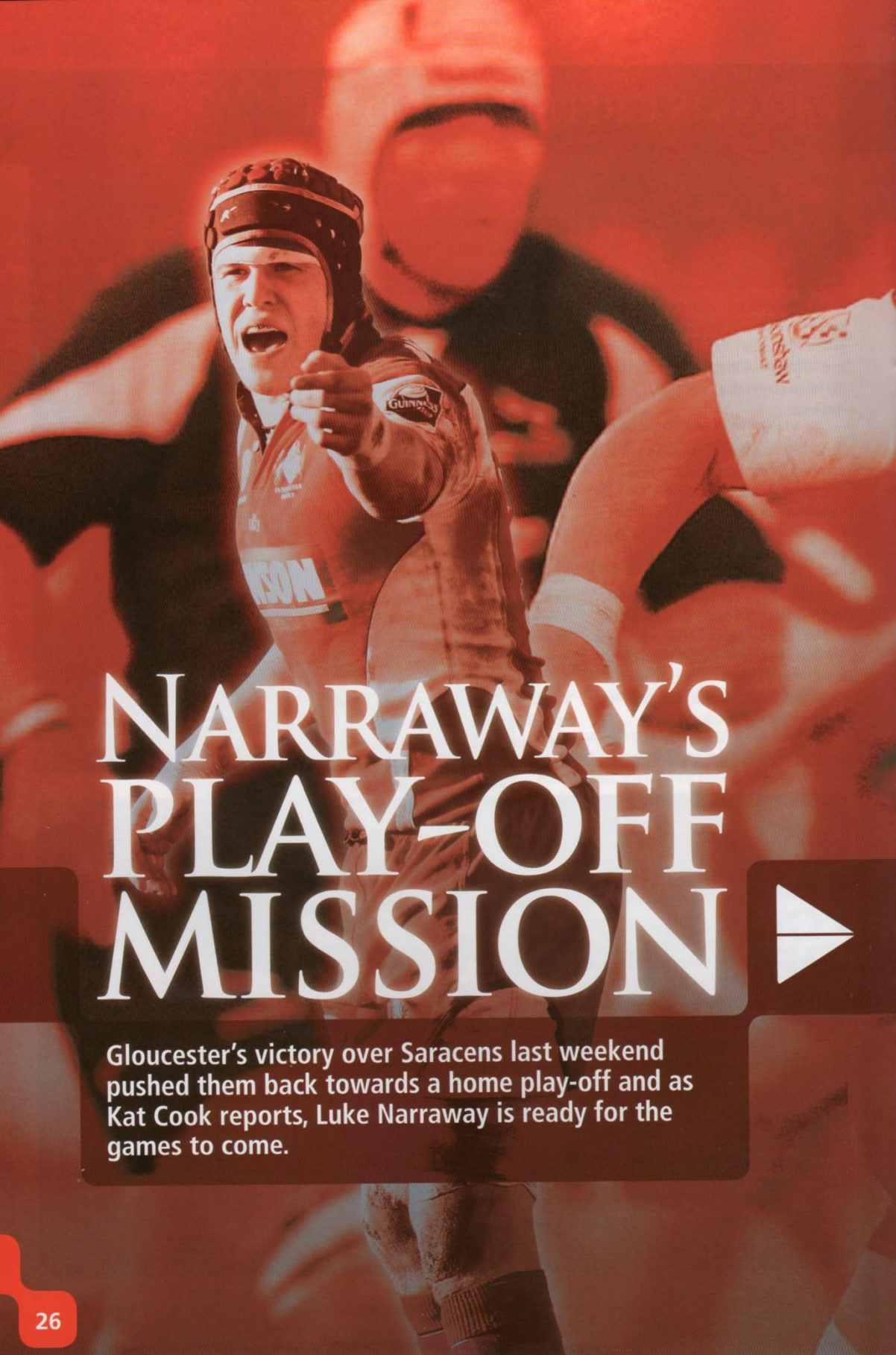
I think that would be a very good starting achievement for this squad because there is no doubt in my mind the Guinness Premiership is getting more competitive each season.

Today, our task is on Leeds and we must be respectful of their challenge because they are fighting for their lives. That naturally makes them exceptionally dangerous but our focus is on getting our game right again and if we can do that I am sure we can be a threat.

We must be clinical and ruthless and take another step on

from last weekend. Please, show your support for the team again this afternoon – we are at the stage of the season when we need it most.

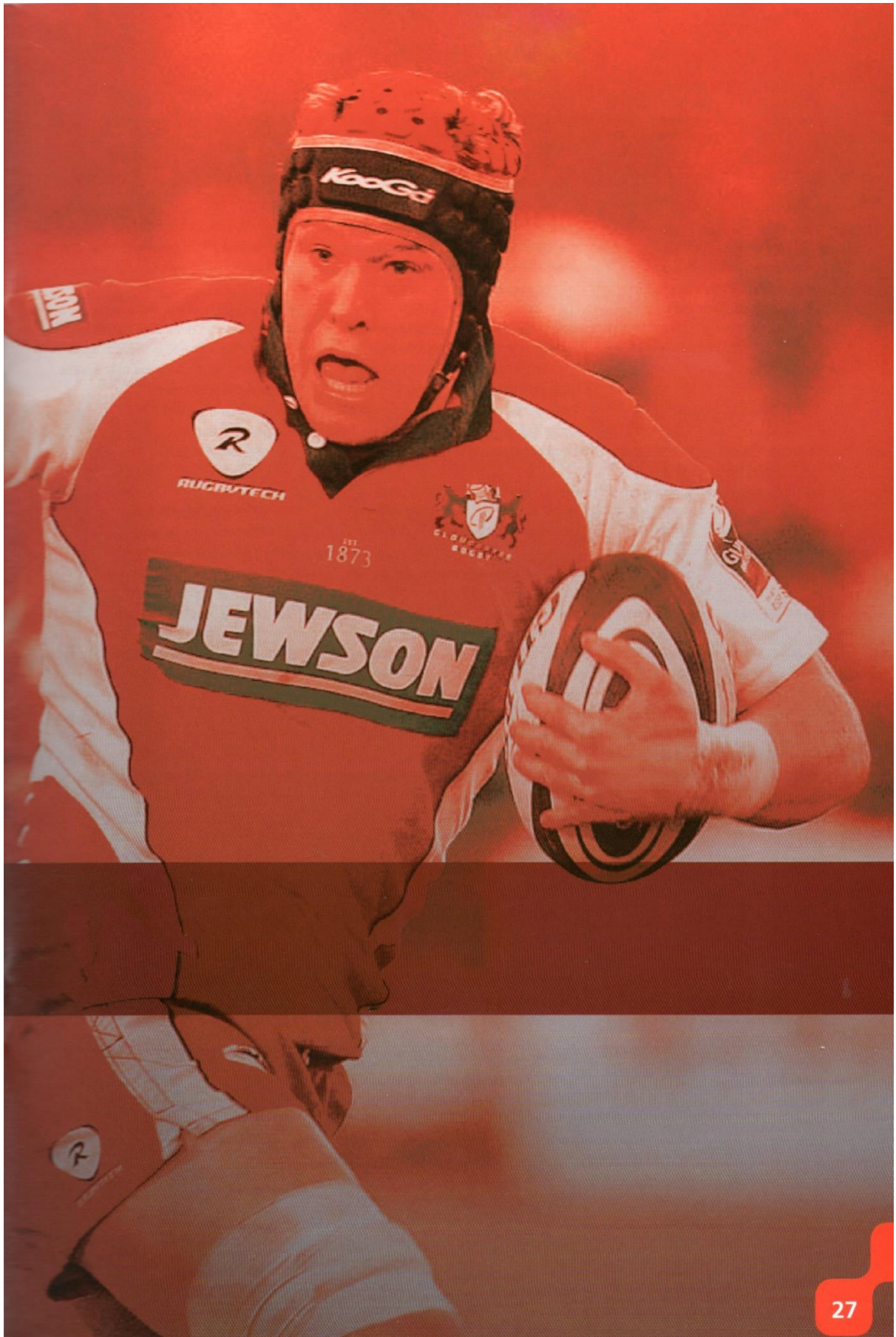




NARRAWAY'S PLAY-OFF MISSION



Gloucester's victory over Saracens last weekend pushed them back towards a home play-off and as Kat Cook reports, Luke Narryway is ready for the games to come.



NARRAWAY'S PLAY-OFF MISSION

▶ GLOUCESTER'S six-try demolition of Saracens last Saturday reaffirmed their Guinness Premiership title credentials and as they hunt a home play-off place against Leeds this afternoon, number eight Luke Narryway looks back at an emotional fortnight for Dean Ryan's side.

The fall-out following Gloucester's European exit at the hands of Munster's 15-man suffocation job a fortnight ago is still fresh in the memory. But Narryway's contribution to the defeat against Saracens and his potential importance to the rest of Gloucester's season will be crucial if they are to dodge the bullets and make it all the way to Twickenham.

Of the defeat against Munster, Narryway said: "They targeted our contact area, they obviously saw it as a bit of a weakness and they slowed us down. Their defence is very strong and they are used to being in those high pressure games more than us, they never once panicked where we probably did a little bit. We played very well, but they were clinical and the two mistakes we gave them they scored from."

Narryway was one of Gloucester's standout performers in the Heineken Cup clash and added: "We're obviously playing good sides in the Guinness Premiership but we're not playing against that standard of opposition every week.

"I've played in a couple of games that have been large occasions, such as against Munster, it makes you realise how clinical the top teams are, and how the margins are so small. We had two mistakes and they won the game, if we could have taken those out then we would have been in it, after we got to 11-0 down we were always chasing them.

"As a team we have seen what it's like to play at that level, it was a massive task but we always knew we had the firepower and belief to win it. But we've learnt that

perhaps our basics aren't good enough at the top end of the spectrum. We can get away with certain things in the premiership but not against teams like Munster."

Despite the defeat, Gloucester regrouped and subjected Saracens to a six-try defeat. The play-offs are now in sight and with if the likes of Narryway – an outstanding footballer who now has England experience under his belt – can continue his form then the sky really could be the limit.

That job starts for Gloucester today when Leeds comes to Kingsholm for their penultimate home game of the season.

"It's good to get out there again, and we showed signs of getting back to the form that we were in at the start of the season," Narryway said. "There's always things to do, our details and basics are something we always look at because we still made a couple of mistakes. We're in the top levels of the Premiership and we won't get away with areas going wrong.

"I think the Saracens performance had been coming, we played a good game against Munster and we knew that all we had to do was tweak a few things then turn up against Saracens and play that rugby.

"There's no doubt that when we're going forward and playing good rugby that we're a good team, and a great team to watch and it makes us hard to beat. We showed that at the weekend, we just needed to build a little bit of confidence and get back to our winning ways."

After today's game, Gloucester face huge showdowns with play-off specialists Wasps – already on the hunt for a play-off place with a series of outstanding victories, and Bath – the west country derby is Gloucester's final home game of the season.

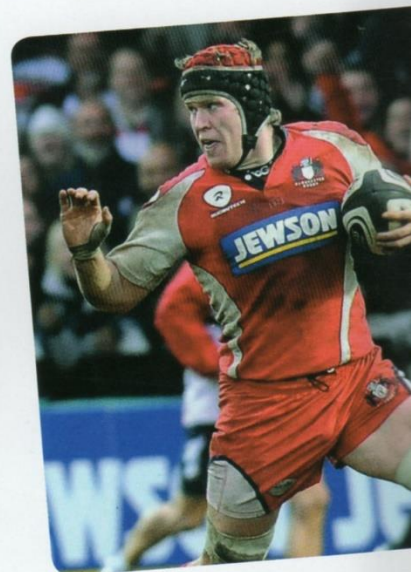
"We've beaten Wasps once this year and they've beaten us in the EDF Energy Cup. It's a hard place to go and win but it'll be

good to go down there and knock Wasps out of the Premiership reckoning and hopefully out of the top four.

"We're building towards those games now and we know that nothing but a win will be good enough. We want to finish top of the Guinness Premiership and gain a home semi-final and we know it's all down to us. If we win our remaining games then we'll finish top, simple as that."

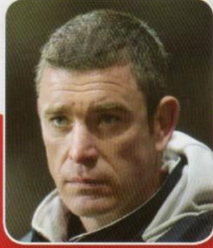
"The games get bigger but our preparation stays the same. We will do a lot of analysis on other teams, where we want to attack them, where we think they're likely to attack us. It'll be the same type of week, nothing much will change but we will just go on as we have done throughout the year."

"It's good to have that win against Saracens and hopefully we will follow it up. Confidence is a lot higher this week and there's a few more smiley faces around. It's up to us to do the business."





There's no doubt that when we're going forward and playing good rugby that we're a good team, and a great team to watch and it makes us hard to beat. We showed that at the weekend, we just needed to build a little bit of confidence and get back to our winning ways.



RYAN'S REVIEW

Head Coach Dean Ryan looks back at the victory over Saracens and is relishing the game against Leeds today.



Was the victory over Saracens a case of learning from the Munster defeat?

DR: "PERHAPS the Saracens game was slightly too soon to say that. I am sure we will recognise those lessons when we are in that situation again but I think we got back to doing what we have done for the majority of the season.

We produced similar areas of threat against Saracens as we did against Munster but we got a lot more out of it. That probably emphasises the difference in the margins at the top end of Europe. It was important to emphasise the good things we did against Munster and look to repeat them but with a better return. It is important from our point of view that we keep creating chances. The more we create the more we will take and that is important. We got a lot out of the Saracens performance over a longer period of time and that meant we could be happy with the display and result.



Essentially, it is knockout rugby until the end of the season, does that suit you?

DR: "WHAT it means is, is that we don't have the luxury of complacency and that is a good thing for us. Some teams have been involved in that scenario for longer than us but we have already said our destiny with regards to the play-offs is in our own hands and controlling that is very important.

I would like to think we would get some credit for being around the top of the table for a long period of time but if the last

fortnight has emphasised anything it is that the small margins in one-off matches are very fine. Some of the things we did against Saracens didn't come off against Munster.

We want a home semi-final and that will ensure we retain our focus, particularly for today's game.

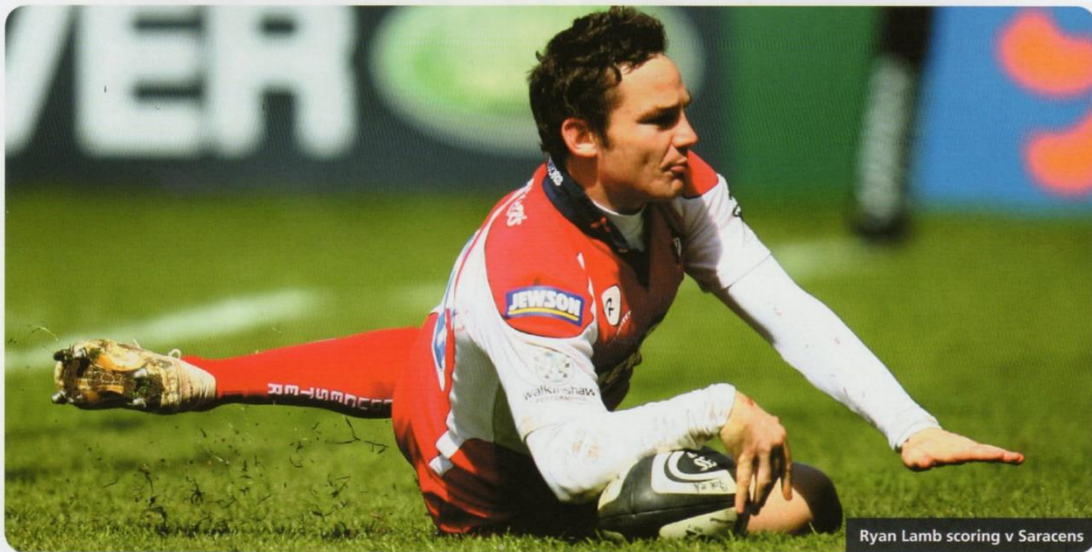


Leeds are the visitors this afternoon, what will be your biggest challenge?

DR: ONE thing we won't be is



ONE thing we won't be is complacent. We will ensure we give Leeds all the respect they deserve because they demand that. But today is more about ourselves and what we have to do as a group to build on last Saturday's result.



Ryan Lamb scoring v Saracens



Action v Saracens

complacent. We will ensure we give Leeds all the respect they deserve because they demand that. But today is more about ourselves and what we have to do as a group to build on last Saturday's result.

We are not a good enough side to simply sit back and let it happen for us. We have to go out and work for a performance that will in-turn produce a result. When we play well and produce our attacking game then we are a good side but underpinning that is the small details we have to get right first.

If we fail to achieve that the rest will not follow. I am sure Leeds will be competitive in everything they try and do because they have been all season. I am just concentrating on getting our job right and

if we can do that then I am sure we can be a threat.



It's been a hugely testing few weeks, will you be glad for a break next week?

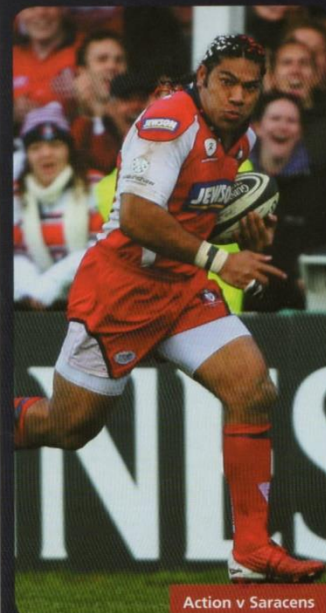
DR: THERE are some bumps and bruises in the squad which is only to be expected at this stage of the season so we could use a couple of days off next week just to assess where we are ahead of the remaining games.

As a squad, we have only been back together for three weeks so in that respect we are operating from a position of strength and that is obviously pretty key moving into the play-offs in the coming weeks.

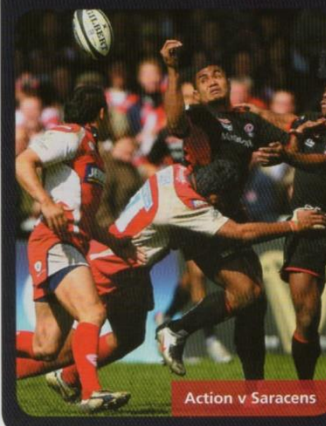
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Action v Saracens



Action v Saracens

TODAY'S TEAMS

Saturday 19th April 2008 3.00pm

Gloucester Rugby
v Leeds Carnegie



**Gloucester
RUGBY**



39



**Leeds
CARNEGIE**

16

<input type="checkbox"/>	Willie WALKER	15	Full Back	15	Leigh HINTON	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Iain BALSHAW	14	Right Wing	14	Richard WELDING	<input type="checkbox"/>
	James SIMPSON-DANIEL	13	Centre	13	Rob VICKERMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Mike TINDALL	12	Centre	12	Andy TUILAGI	
	Lesley VAINIKOLO	11	Left Wing	11	Tom ROCK	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ryan LAMB	10	Fly Half	10	Alberto DI BERNARDO	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Gareth COOPER	9	Scrum Half	9	Joe BEDFORD	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Alasdair DICKINSON	1	Prop	1	Mike MACDONALD	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Olivier AZAM	2	Hooker	2	Vili MA'ASI	
	Carlos NIETO	3	Prop	3	Adam HOPCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Will JAMES	4	Lock	4	Pablo BOUZA	
	© Marco BORTOLAMI	5	Lock	5	Stuart HOOPER ©	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Alasdair STROKOSCH	6	Flanker	6	Rhys OAKLEY	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Akapusi QERA	7	Flanker	7	Hendre FOURIE	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Gareth DELVE	8	No 8	8	Calum CLARK	<input type="checkbox"/>

Replacements

	Andy TITTERRELL	16		16	Fosi PALA'AMO	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Jack FORSTER	17		17	Rob RAWLINSON	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Alex BROWN	18		18	Erik LUND	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Peter BUXTON	19		19	Adam BALDING	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Rory LAWSON	20		20	Darren EDWARDS	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Chris PATERSON	21		21	Luther BURRELL	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Olly MORGAN	22		22	Adam GREENDALE	<input type="checkbox"/>



HEAD COACH
Dean RYAN



HEAD COACH
Stuart LANCASTER



SPOTLIGHT

with **Carl Hogg**

by Ian Randall



WHAT'S THE MOTTO YOU LIVE BY?

I'm not sure. I've always thought of myself as pretty honest and hard working, and that's the way I live my life. I stick in there and work hard at things I do.

WHAT IS YOUR MOST PRIZED POSSESSION?

I have a little boy who is 14 months old. He's the champion around the house.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE BREAKFAST CEREAL?

I have a lot of porridge which is pretty boring, but it's the order of the day at breakfast.



WHICH COMPANY WOULD BE YOUR IDEAL SPONSOR?

A travel company would be nice, someone to take me around the world on holidays to places like New Zealand or Australia. Cheap flights or free holidays would be ideal.



ARE YOU A SPENDER OR A SAVER?

I'm Scottish, so I'm a saver. I'm not

extravagant at all, I'm not into flash cars or anything like that. I'm a stereotypical Scotsman who saves his money.

TELL US SOMETHING YOUR TEAM MATES DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU...

I've got a pretty short temper, and it tends to be a build-up of bits and pieces that frustrate me until I blow my top.

WHO IS YOUR FAVOURITE PERSON ON TV?

My wife, Jill Douglas. I've got to say that!



WHICH TV SHOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE A CONTESTANT ON AND WHY?

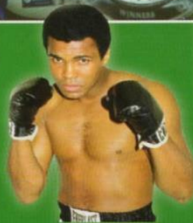
Who Wants to be a Millionaire - although I'm not sure I could answer all the questions to get to a million pounds.



WHO IS THE MOST INTERESTING PERSON YOU'VE EVER MET?

The most interesting person I would like to meet is Muhammad Ali. He reached the top in his sport, but I'm

interested in what he has done in other pathways of his life. He'd be someone I would love to meet.



seem to be the main ones, although I've been lucky not to be on the end of them so far.

IF YOU WENT TO UNIVERSITY, WHICH DEGREE WOULD YOU DO?

I've got a degree in Civil Engineering, and I'm completing a Masters degree in Sports Psychology, so I've got plenty on my plate at the moment. If I was to do another one, I'd like to study a language.



WHAT PART OF TRAINING DO YOU ENJOY MOST?

The conditioning and aerobic work was my favourite as a player. I think it is a battle within your mind as to whether you can stay in that pressure zone for as long as possible, hence the fascination with sport psychology.

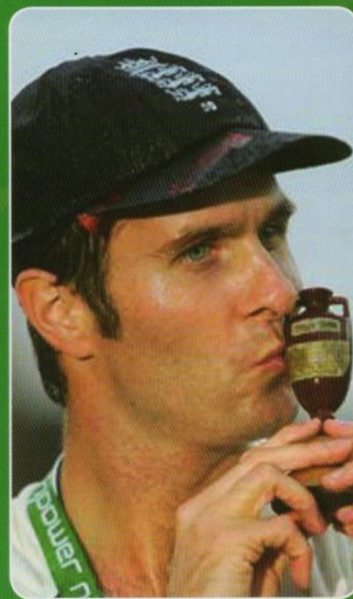
IF THERE IS A PRANK BEING PLAYED, WHO IS USUALLY THE CULPRIT?

Hazell and Califano



WHICH OTHER SPORTING EVENT WOULD YOU LOVE A TICKET FOR?

I like watching cricket, so maybe an Ashes Test series in Australia.



WALK OF LEGENDS

Former prop Mike Burton is the latest player to join Gloucester Rugby's Walk of Legends.

▶ MIKE BURTON, the brilliant former British Lions, England and Gloucester prop, this week became the third former player to have his place immortalised in the 'Walk of Legends' outside the new C&G Grandstand at Kingsholm.

He follows legends Mike Teague and Peter Butler into Gloucester's hall of fame. Burton was born in Maidenhead, Berkshire, although moved to Gloucester as a young boy and was educated locally and was soon to follow a long line of players to have been nurtured by Longlevens RFC.

He became renowned as a ferocious prop

forward making his debut for Gloucester in 1964 against Moseley and went on to make 360 appearances for Gloucester. A member of Gloucester's National Cup team in 1972 and 1978 and was capped on 17 occasions by England and a member of the British Lions touring side to South Africa in 1974.

"When you think of Gloucester and its rugby, the name of Mike Burton is synonymous with its history and tradition," said Gary Little, Gloucester Rugby's community marketing manager. "He was a wonderful player, a great character and an individual who reached the top.

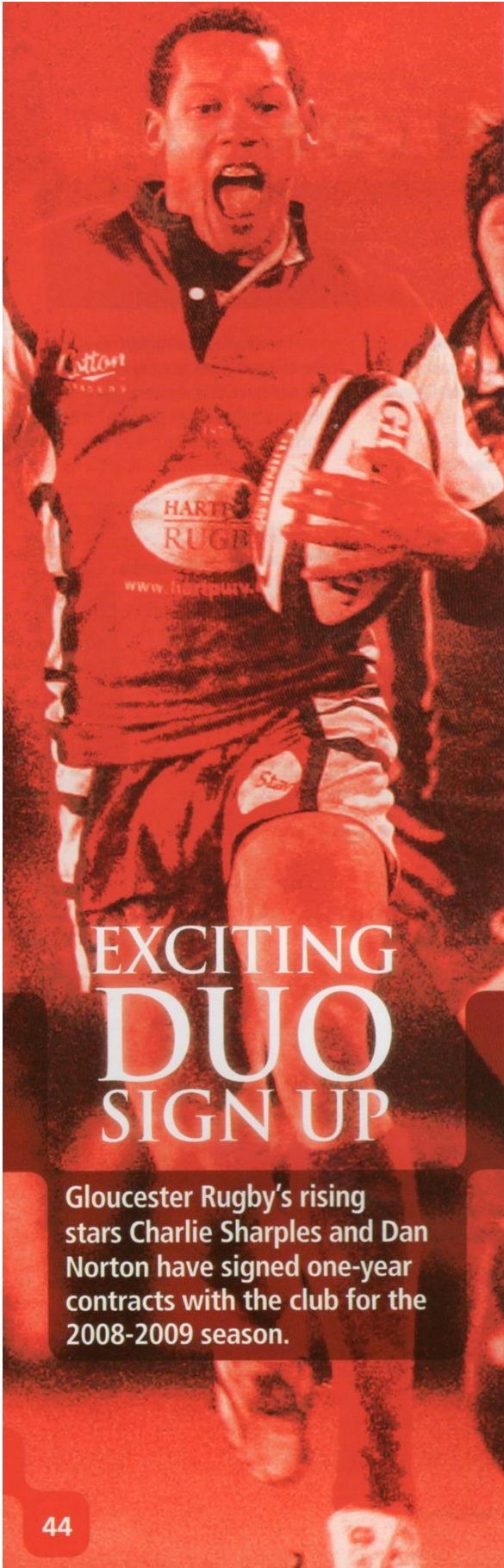
"A Hall of Fame would not be complete

without his inclusion and we are delighted Mike took time out this week to be involved."

There are still plenty of spaces available so don't miss the opportunity to have your name or message inscribed in a brick alongside one Gloucester Greats. You can choose from either single (two lines) or double (four lines) stones, engraved with your name and personal message.

Inscriptions could include you and your partners name, celebration of an anniversary, birthday, remembering a loved one or celebrating a birth. **For more information visit www.gloucesterrugby.co.uk/walkoflegends or call 01452 872286**





EXCITING DUO SIGN UP

Gloucester Rugby's rising stars Charlie Sharples and Dan Norton have signed one-year contracts with the club for the 2008-2009 season.

▶ GLOUCESTER RUGBY'S rising stars Charlie Sharples and Dan Norton have signed one-year contracts with the club for the 2008-2009 season.

The exciting pair have been on loan at Moseley this season and 19-year-old Sharples has already made two Guinness Premiership appearances following his debut against London Irish last month.

"I'm really excited to be joining the club on a full-time basis - this is what I have been working towards since I started playing rugby - and to have the opportunity to play for Gloucester is fantastic," he told www.gloucesterrugby.co.uk.

"We have an amazing group of players and just to be a part of the squad is great. But my job has only just started and I am sure working with the calibre of coaches Gloucester have means I can only get better in the future."

Norton also made his Guinness Premiership debut off the bench against London Irish and is Moseley top try scorer with eight tries in 16 appearances. He represented England Under-18s last season and has been a key member of Gloucester's A League side. He was also a member of England's Grand Slam winning squad this season.

Gloucester Academy manager Mark Cornwell, added: "Our development scheme with the Academy set-up alongside that of Moseley is hugely important in the progression of players we believe can be a success at senior level.

"Our aim is to continue to

identify and improve the best young players and both Charlie and Dan fit into that category. They have all the credentials to become a very good players with Gloucester."

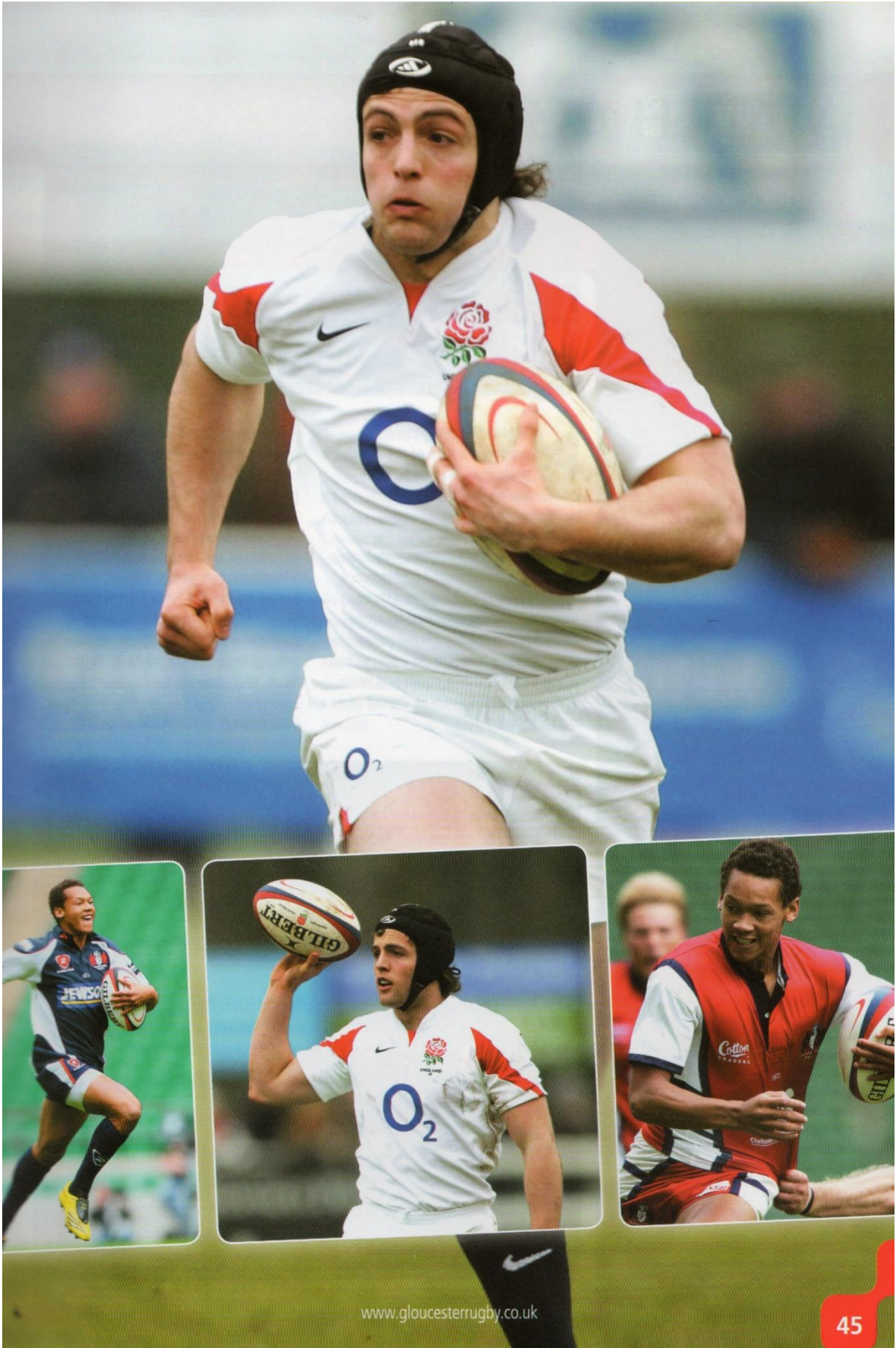
Gloucester's head coach Dean Ryan said: "Charlie and Dan are up and coming players who have the ability to become successful for Gloucester in the future at Guinness Premiership level. They have already experienced top-flight rugby and that is fantastic for them.

"We have made it our business to attract and sign some of the best young players in the country and Charlie and Dan fit into that bracket."

Sharples scored a hat-trick in the Daily Mail final when playing for St Peter's and in 11 appearances for Moseley this season has scored four tries. Norton has also represented England's second string sevens squad.

"We're always looking for young players who we think can develop and this is the next development in that process," Ryan added.





MATCH ACTION

Gloucester Rugby
Saracens

39
15



Time line

12 mins	Simpson-Daniel TRY, Lamb CON	7-0
17 mins	Qera TRY	12-0
27 mins	Jackson PEN	12-3
40 mins	Lamb PEN	15-3
43 mins	Lamb TRY and CON	22-3
46 mins	Lamb TRY and CON	29-3
55 mins	Vainikolo TRY	34-3
61 mins	Lawson TRY	39-3
74 mins	Powell TRY, Ross CON	39-10
78 mins	Skirving TRY	39-15

Gloucester Line-up

15	Willie Walker	
14	Iain Balshaw	
13	James Simpson-Daniel	(1t)
12	Mike Tindall	
11	Lesley Vainikolo	(1t)
10	Ryan Lamb	(2t, 3c, 1p)
9	Rory Lawson	(1t)
1	Nick Wood	
2	Andy Titterrell	
3	Carlos Nieto	
4	Marco Bortolami	(capt)
5	Alex Brown	
6	Alasdair Strokosch	
7	Akapusi Qera	(1t)
8	Luke Narraway	
REPS Replacements		
16	Olivier Azam	(Titterrell)
17	Jack Forster	(Nieto)
18	Will James	(Qera)
19	Gareth Delve	(Narraway)
20	Gareth Cooper	(Lawson)
21	Chris Paterson	(Lamb)
22	Jack Adams	(Simpson-Daniel)

Lamb roasts Sarries

Saturday, April 12th, Attendance: 12, 300
Kingsholm, Referee: Rob Debney

STAND-OFF Ryan Lamb produced a man of the match performance as Gloucester established a six point lead at the top of the Guinness Premiership.

Lamb contributed 19 points – including two tries in three second half minutes – as Gloucester hit back from three successive defeats. The first try came when Akapusi Qera gathered possession after Saracens had initially won the ball against the head at a scrum and Willie Walker put James Simpson-Daniel over with a brilliant pass.

Qera was involved throughout and when Iain Balshaw came into the line, he delivered a lovely long pass for the flanker to score Gloucester's second try.

Saracens simply made too many mistakes at the contact area, where Gloucester dominated. Skipper Marco Bortolami, hooker Andy Titterrell and Alasdair Strokosch all got through plenty of work and Lamb landed a penalty before the break to leave the hosts 15-3 ahead.

Gloucester then killed the game off



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immediately after the re-start and again it was Lamb who led the slaughter. First, he took Gareth Delve's short pass from Neil de Kock's wayward kick to run back and step brilliantly to the line past Richard Haughton. He then picked off de Kock's pass from a line-out to race 75 metres to the line for the bonus point try.

The next score was probably the best of the game. Balshaw and Delve combined from Rory Lawson's high kick, Qera battered forward before Lamb and Simpson-Daniel created space for Lesley Vainikolo, who steamed through Dan

Scarborough to the line.

Saracens were totally on the back foot now and when they failed to hold Gloucester following a surge by Delve, Lawson picked up and scored down the short side from a scrum.

As Gloucester began to ease off in the last quarter, Sarries came back with a 74th minute from Adam Powell and then Ben Skirving then added another five points in the final minute following a cross-field kick by Gordon Ross but it was too little too late.



Man of the Match



Ryan Lamb produced the sort of performance that has typified Gloucester's season.

Coach's Comment



"We are top of the table and sometimes we don't get enough credit for that," head coach Dean Ryan.





PETER ARNOLD

Peter Arnold's pint tasted that little bit sweeter last Saturday following Gloucester's victory over Saracens and following Leeds today everything is set up for the last game of the season against Bath.....

END GAME

BACK last summer, while Gloucester was still under water, I got my first look at the 2007-8 fixture list. One game stood out like the proverbial painful digit. There it was: the last Premiership game of the whole campaign was to be the home fixture against Bath.

That had an element of mythology about it; the sort of thing a script writer might have churned out when seeking a cliffhanging climax to his thrilling effusion. "What's the betting," I said to myself, "that the game turns out to be absolutely crucial to the whole season? It's the sort of thing which happens to us."

The Bath game at Kingsholm is always a great and eagerly awaited occasion, of course, but for it to be the final act in our whole seven-month drama had potential for a truly climactic encounter.

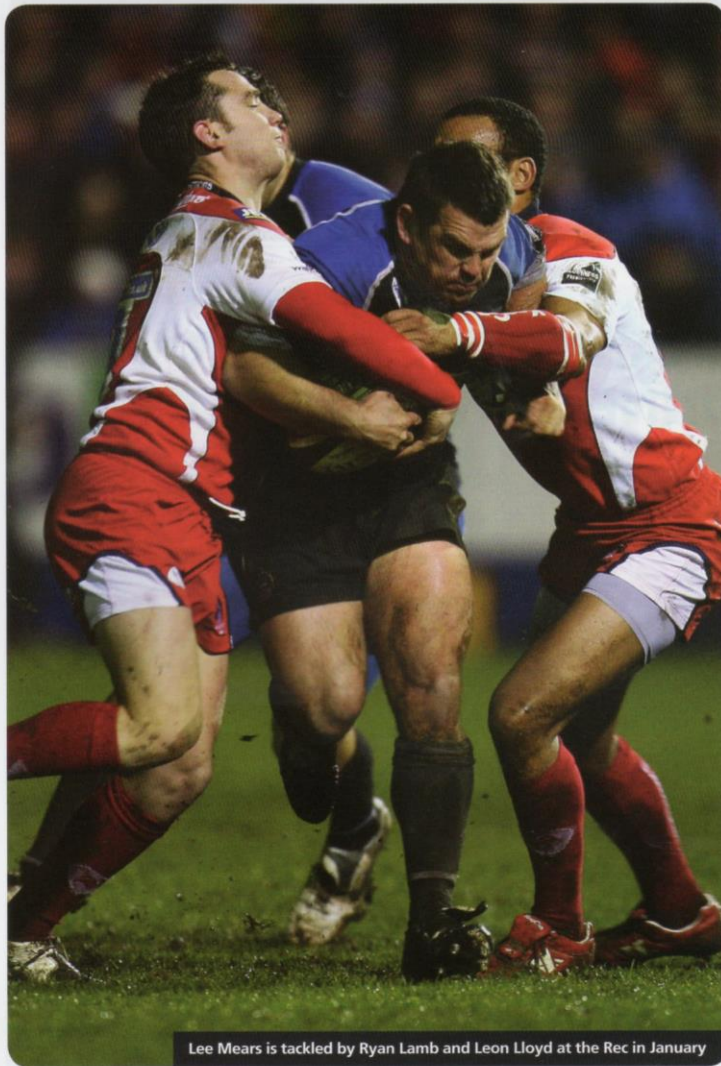
Perhaps, the way things have turned out, the game will not be quite so vital as I had anticipated: last Saturday's bonus-point win over Sarries has taken some of the pressure off, although today's welcome visitors from Leeds, who mustn't be taken lightly in spite of their position in the table, will be doing their best to put it back on again. In addition, by the time you read this, the results of those intriguing mid week games, involving all our close Premiership rivals, will be known, so the position will be clearer. There is also the small matter of a trip to Wasps, who have struck great form lately, to negotiate.

Nevertheless, the Bath game has all the signs of yet another memorable Kingsholm occasion, and is certainly one not to be missed. It could well have a pivotal effect on the play-offs.

SO WHO ARE THE BAA-BAAS ANYWAY?

AS ALL the world, and Ireland, now knows, the Barbarians are to play Ireland, right here at Kingsholm next month, and if anyone thinks this is an odd place to stage an Irish fixture carrying such prestige as one against the most highly-regarded club in the world, then they obviously weren't here for the Munster match.

Thinking about it, I realised that I didn't really know very much about the famous old club other than what everyone knows. I was, of course, well aware that they almost always play a game against a touring international side, and I knew about the traditional Mobbs Memorial



Lee Mears is tackled by Ryan Lamb and Leon Lloyd at the Rec in January



The Baa-baas are coming to Kingsholm



Akapusi Qera scores in Saturday's game v Saracens

game at Northampton and the Boxing Day fixture at Leicester.

Most of us will recall the Easter tours, when the Baa-Baas, for some reason, based themselves at the Esplanade Hotel in, of all places, Penarth. The black-and-white strips are familiar, as is the practise of allowing players to turn out in their club socks, a dispensation which must have saved the grand old club a few quid over the years.

But how did it all start? Where did Barbarian FC, the club's official title, spring from?

Apparently, it was all down to one man, William Percy Carmael. He appears to have been a splendid bloke who simply loved rugby tours, and especially the conviviality and general mayhem which is associated with them. Some of us know about that, and remember the old mantra "nobody sleeps on tour". That saying is accredited to Charlie Hannaford, but perhaps it actually goes back to William Percy Carmael.

In the late 19th Century, almost everyone packed up their boots in early

March, and didn't scrape the mud off until the following September. William Percy thought that a great waste of time, and conceived the idea of regular, short end-of-season tours to provide a fitting finale to the season. If he didn't make the Honours List for that, then he should have.

The next development came in 1890, when he took a party, largely composed of Blackheath players, on a tour of the North, travelling under the alias of 'Southern Nomads'. On that tour the idea of a touring side, drawn from any source he could lay his hands on, to play the country's top clubs was mooted.

The notion was seized upon enthusiastically from all quarters, and on April 9th, in Leuchter's Restaurant at the Alexandra Hotel, Bradford, the new club was formed. They played their first match on December 27th, 1890, where they beat Hartlepool Rovers, 9-4.

The name 'Barbarians' was chosen because the founding fathers considered it reflected the style of rugby they intended to play – fast and attacking, in

contrast to the forward-dominated game of the time.

Nowadays, in these professional times, the status of the Barbarians isn't what it was, and that's a shame. Many older Kingsholm regulars recall with fondness the days when the likes of Digger Morris and Charlie Dunn would work all Saturday morning and show up in their work clothes to try conclusions with the best sides in the land in the afternoon.

The Barbarians still typify that ethos. It would be a tragedy if we lost it.

NICE ONE!

I WAS watching the TV coverage of the London Marathon last Sunday morning, when a familiar face popped up. It was that forthright centre, Rob Henderson, certainly one of the toughest nuts around.

After a little chit-chat, the interviewer asked him, "Which is the toughest, Rob? 80 minutes on a rugby field, or 26 miles along the London Marathon course?"

"Oh!" remarked Rob; "Do we only have to go round once?"

MATCH OF THE DAYS

They were a side full of internationals but ultimately failed to last the course in the Premiership. Dave King recalls the day when Gloucester lost to Richmond.

A DECADE ago, Gloucester made the trip to the Athletic Ground to take on the big spenders of Richmond in the Allied Dunbar Premiership.

Gloucester had no fears of relegation and were sandwiched in a mid-table position on 19 points – 11 behind joint leaders Newcastle and Saracens.

Richmond had created a star studded playing staff backed by the wealthy Ashley Levitt with Tony Hallet, late of the Royal Navy and also the England RFU Secretary as Chief Executive. At the time Gloucester were searching for a winning formula on their travels - a win at Bristol and a draw at Sale was hardly a recipe for hope at the



Mark Mapletoft



Mark Cornwell

Athletic Ground – and the club cut the price of coach travel in the hope of boosting numbers and four coach loads of supporters took up the offer.

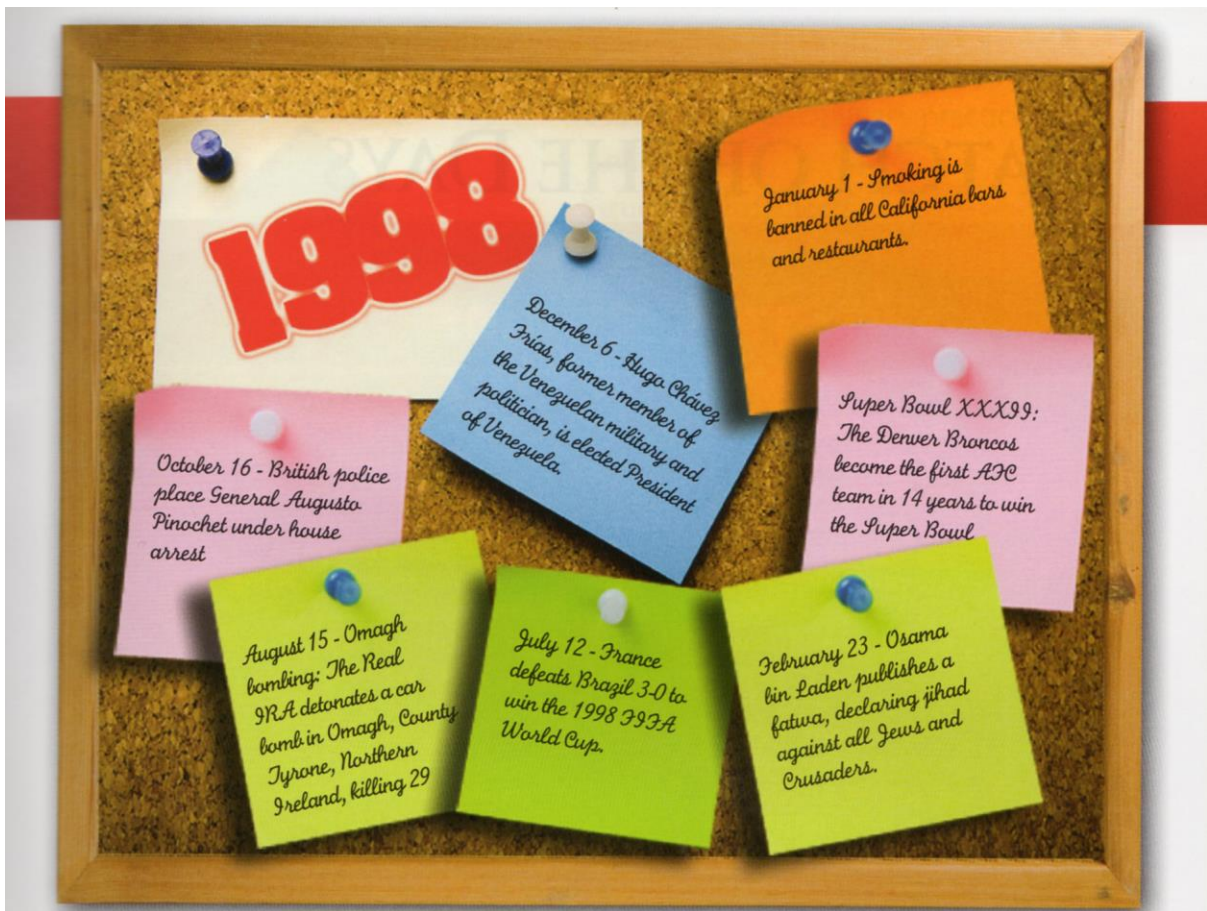
Despite an outstanding start that produced a try for Mark Mapletoft, Richmond turned a five point deficit into a comfortable 28-5 advantage.

Referee Graham Hughes awarded the hosts a penalty try, Scott Quinnett barged over for

try number two, John Wright spotted a gap in the Gloucester defence and sprinted through and the jet heeled Dominic Chapman raced from 40 metres after Allan Bateman had made an interception.

This frenetic activity had wiped out Mapletoft's earlier try conjured from a Phil Greening popped up pass. The deficit was considerable but Steve Ojomoh started the fightback when he crashed over from a tap penalty, Philippe Saint-Andre cut in off his

Position	Club	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Against	Points
1	Newcastle	17	15	0	2	494	306	30
2	Saracens	18	15	0	3	474	319	30
3	Bath	17	11	0	6	445	354	22
4	Leicester	17	10	1	6	447	354	21
5	Gloucester	19	9	1	9	435	454	19
6	Richmond	19	9	0	10	483	420	18



At Kingsholm we have 12,000 baying at us so you keep your concentration levels up. When we travelled the atmosphere wasn't always buzzing. They should have coped with that.



wing to take Richard Tomb's pass for try number three and the recovery was on the cards.

Gloucester continued to press and Mark Cornwell and Phil Greening then had tries disallowed for crossing and a knock on respectively.

Mapletoft's two conversions and a penalty gave the score line a more competitive look but Dominic Chapman's second try gave Gloucester more away day blues. Adrian Davies converted four of the five tries for the soon to be beleaguered London club as Richmond ground out a 33-22 victory.

Richard Hill recalled the failings of that period in the club's history: "We used to go to sleep for a ten minute period. At

Kingsholm we have 12,000 baying at us so you keep your concentration levels up. When we travelled the atmosphere wasn't always buzzing. They should have coped with that."

For Peter Glanville it was his second year as captain. It was not a happy match for the then 26-year-old. His reward was the prospect of a four day stay in a hospital in Havant having his left and right groin repaired.

"He was a wreck from head to toe but he got through the season with two groin injuries so he has done well," Hill said.

Despite having beaten Richmond twice in that season of 1997/98 – both at Kingsholm, there was no respite in the gloom and doom surrounding away matches.

John Kingston, now a coach at Harlequins was the Richmond supremo at that time and there was widespread speculation he was under pressure to retain his position. Newcastle, captained by Dean Ryan, were adding to his problems.

Newcastle had been promoted along with League Two Champions Richmond at the completion of the previous season and were challenging for the title.

Our two victories over Richmond that season came in a 26-20 win at Kingsholm in the Premiership in the December and then we defeated them again 39-27 at the same venue in February in the Cheltenham and Gloucester Cup semi-final.

But that victory at the Athletic Ground allowed Richmond to leap frog Gloucester in the League table. The large and noisy throng of Gloucester fans were offered the consolation of Phil Greening being named as 'man of the match' by Richmond sponsors after an eye catching display as Gloucester had tried to play an expansive game but Richmond with eight internationals in their team were better exponents of the art.

MATCH OF THE DAYS

THE TEAMS

RICHMOND:

15. MATT PINI
14. SPENCER BROWN
13. ALLAN BATEMAN
12. JASON WRIGHT
11. DOMINIC CHAPMAN
10. ADRIAN DAVIES
9. AGUSTIN PICHOT
1. DARREN CROMPTON
2. BARRY WILLIAMS
3. JOHN DAVIES
4. CRAIG QUINNELL
5. CRAIG GILLIES
6. ADAM VANDER
7. BEN CLARKE (C)
8. SCOTT QUINNELL

REPLACEMENTS:

16. DAN MCFARLANED
17. ALEX CODLING
18. CORIN PALMER
19. ANDY CUTHBERT
20. BEN HARVEY
21. EARL VA'A

GLOUCESTER:

15. CHRIS CATLING
14. AUDLEY LUMSDEN
13. TERRY FANOLUA
12. RICHARD TOMBS
11. PHILIPPE ST ANDRE
10. MARK MAPLETOFT
9. LAURIE BECK
1. TONY WINDO
2. PHIL GREENING
3. PHIL VICKERY
4. ROB FIDLER
5. MARK CORNWELL
6. STEVE OJOMOH
7. PETE GLANVILLE C
8. SIMON DEVERAUX

REPLACEMENTS:

16. ANDY DEACON
17. DAVE SIMS
18. NATHAN CARTER
19. SCOTT BENTON
20. CRAIG EMMERSON
21. NEIL MCCARTHY

REFEREE: GRAHAM HUGHES (MANCHESTER SOCIETY).



Athletic Ground, Richmond

FAN ZONE WITH BOB FENTON

Bob Fenton got his own back last weekend – invading Ireland with a bunch of Under-14s from Hucclecote on an end of season tour that was a huge success – just don't mention the hangover or the Munster song.....

▶ JUST back from Ireland after a short tour with the boy's under 14s side from Hucclecote – and in a reversal of recent trends they put one over on a Munster representative side beating them 17-0... now if only the proper Gloucester side could do that to the proper Munster side.

The trip meant that I was not in my usual spot for last week's demolition of Saracens – mores the pity. Fortunately I was able to watch it in a pub in the heart of Munster-Land.

When we arrived in the pub there were a few people watching a very dull looking soccer match, a request to watch the rugby met with a half-hearted response until simple economics took over – 15 adults, 20-odd kids all wanting to drink and eat while watching the rugby... Well how could he refuse?

And let me pass on a warning to anyone else who is considering venturing over

to Ireland in the coming weeks – turn on your radio at your peril. If you do, you are more than likely to hear "The Munster Song" that is topping the charts over there.

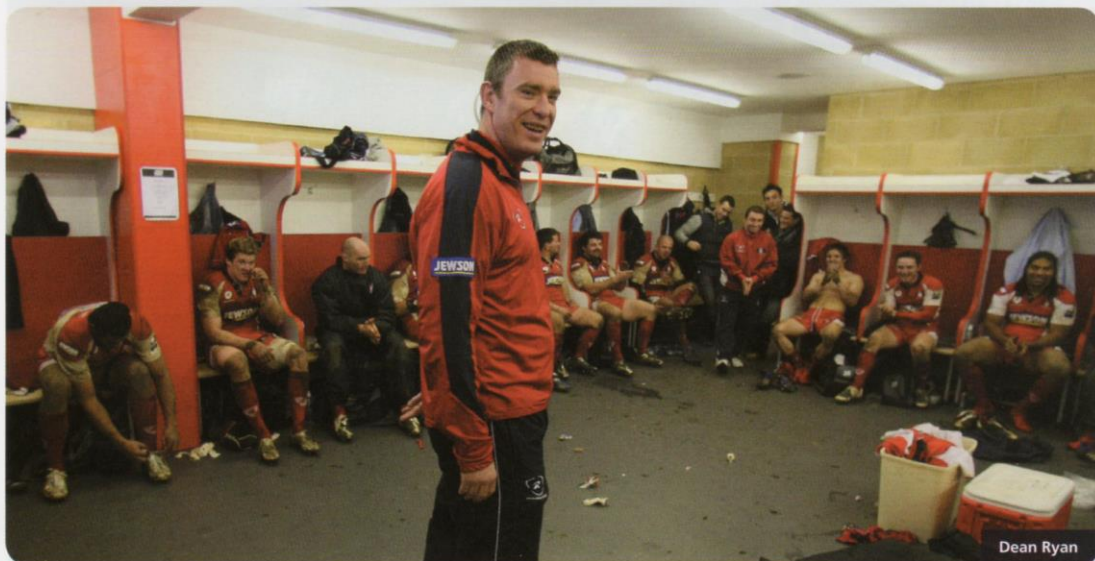
I had the pleasure – and I use the term with the utmost irony – of hearing the song on Sunday morning. And it is truly awful. I've searched the internet for the lyrics to reproduce them for your enjoyment – count yourselves lucky that I have not managed to find them. No doubt someone will find somewhere to download it from if you really want to hear it.

Just imagine the worst cod-country ballad with terrible words about Munster men standing up for the boys in red and black, winning overseas, terrible words about Thomond Building Site etc etc. I know I had consumed the equivalent of a small lake of Guinness the day before, but I can absolutely guarantee that it was not the black stuff that made me

want to throw up that morning.

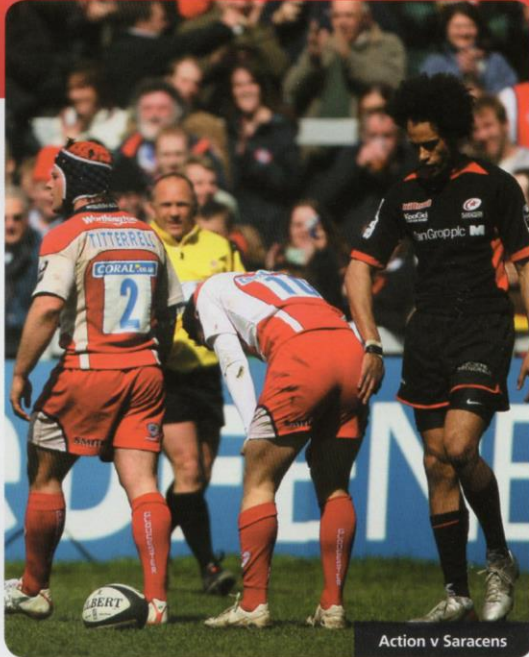
Actually while the song may be a crime against all things musical, I should point out that it has been released – and apparently bought in huge numbers – to bring financial aid to the Bluebell Scholl in Raheen – a school for autistic children. While I may hate it, I must say 'well done' to the songwriters, musicians and everyone else responsible for raising money for such a good cause.

But back to last week's game – what a great performance. After so many 'experts' raised their doubts about whether Gloucester had it in them to remain at the top of the table we produce an excellent display and simply blew Saracens away. It was like going back to some of the earlier games at the start of the season, and while the visitors had rested a few players after their Heineken Cup exploits I don't think it would have made a shred of difference to the outcome if they had





Action v Munster



Action v Saracens



If we play like that today it's going to be very hard for Leeds to live with us. They have really struggled this season, showing the gulf in class that exists between the top two divisions. While they are still mathematically capable of avoiding the drop it looks all over for them.

Bob Fenton on today's game



played their first choice 15.

If we play like that today it's going to be very hard for Leeds to live with us. They have really struggled this season, showing the gulf in class that exists between the top two divisions. While they are still mathematically capable of avoiding the drop it looks all over for them.

But they will be playing for pride, and that is as good a motivator as anything else. We can be sure that Dean and his team will not be underestimating them, or giving them anything but their full respect. That said, I can't see any other outcome than a home win though.

I mentioned raising money for good causes a few lines ago, and as this is the last chance I will get I want to mention

our own fund raising venture, namely the walk from Kingsholm to Adams Park I – and a whole bunch of Gloucester and Wasps fans – will be doing next month to raise money in memory of Chris and Bram Lane, who died in the floods at Tewksbury RFC last summer. We will set off from Kingsholm on Tuesday 29th April with a shortish stroll to somewhere the other side of Cheltenham, before returning to Gloucester for a fund raising evening. Hopefully Dean Ryan will be along to lend his support, with any luck some of the squad will be there too. We will have many things to auction, including autographed items that have been kindly donated by the club. Watch the websites for more details of this event.

We'll start the walk properly the next day with the following itinerary:

www.gloucesterrugby.co.uk

Wednesday 30th April:

Cheltenham to Stow-on-the-Wold RFC

Thursday 1st May:

Stow to Chipping Norton RFC

Friday 2nd May:

Chipping Norton to Bicester RFC

Saturday 3rd May:

Bicester to Chinnor RFC

Sunday 4th May:

Chinnor to Adams Park

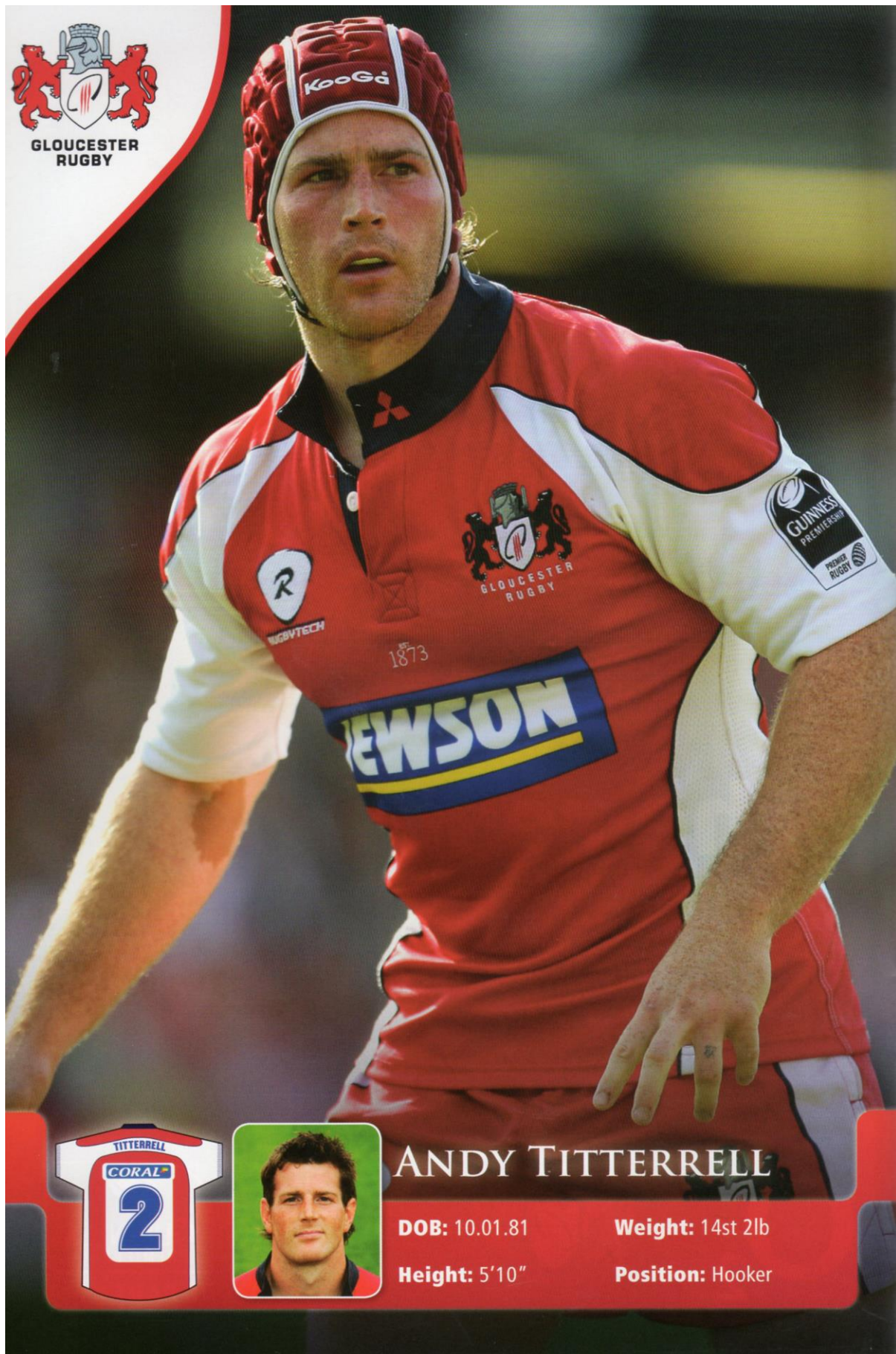
As with the walk for Matt Hampson last season, we will be staying at the clubs en route, and it is the intention that fundraising events can be arranged. The full distance of the walk is between 70 and 80 miles - spread over five days... My feet ache already.

The Lane family have nominated the Salvation Army and Breast Cancer Care as the charities they would like to benefit from the fundraising. The details of how you can make a donation can be found on the Shedweb website, either that or contact me via Alastair Downey at Gloucester Rugby – I'm sure he won't mind me saying that.

Thanks in advance for your support – and thanks to those who have already helped us raise a considerable amount of money for the two good causes.



GLoucester
RUGBY



ANDY TITTERRELL

DOB: 10.01.81

Weight: 14st 2lb

Height: 5'10"

Position: Hooker