

BRISTOL RUGBY

BRISTOL RUGBY

VS GLOUCESTER SUNDAY 9 OCTOBER 2005 • KICK OFF 3pm • £3.00



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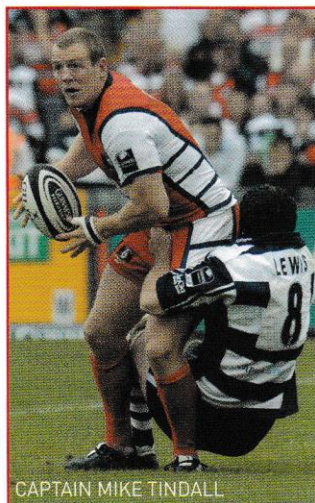
Gloucester Spotlight



GLOUCESTER ARRIVE HERE AT THE MEMORIAL STADIUM FOR THEIR SECOND VISIT IN THREE WEEKS, FOLLOWING THEIR CONVINCING WIN OVER US IN THE GUINNESS PREMIERSHIP BY 41-9.

They remain unbeaten in all competitions; the closest they came to defeat was in their opening game of the season against Worcester where they drew 15-15. Other wins in the Premiership so far have been very tightly contested affairs with a three point win over Sale (Home) and a four point victory over Northampton (Away).

They kicked off their Powergen Cup campaign last week with a comfortable win over the Ospreys by 23-7, where once again Ludovic Mercier was to the fore with thirteen points from his metronomic boot, while Henry Paul and James Simpson-Daniel pitched in with a try apiece. Like a lot of coaches this side of the Bridge Dean Ryan took the opportunity in this fixture to give some of the extended squad game time. However, such is the Cherry and Whites strength in depth that the collective potency of the side was arguably undiminished.

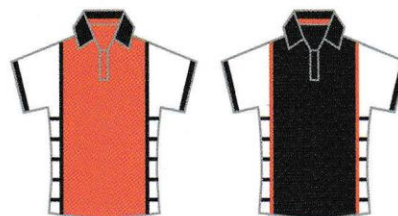


CAPTAIN MIKE TINDALL

Competition for places is extremely stiff at Kingsholm, as Ryan and his assistant Bryan Redpath fine tune their best possible line up. Hayden Thomas a shrewd signing from Exeter and Peter Richards (from Wasps) are having a battle royal at nine, while Ryan rotated his front row last week bringing in Wood, Davies and Powell for Vickery, Azam and Collazo. The back three is another area that is extremely competitive with Rob Thirlby (signed from Penzance), Simpson-Daniel, Goodridge and Foster fighting for three spots, while speedsters Marcel Garvey and James Bailey have been bidding their time in the 'A' League.

A sign of Gloucester's current strength saw six of their players named in Andy Robinson's 30-Man Squad of for the Autumn Internationals. Alex Brown, an old favourite of the Bristol crowd gets a deserved call-up in the second row, while Phil Vickery, Mike Tindall and James Simpson-Daniel, three players who have had more than their fair share of bad luck with injuries, also make a welcome return. The other two spots go to another ex-Bris man Peter Richards and one of the best attacking backrowers in the land James Forrester.

Captain for the season Adam Balding is not expected to return to action until November following his broken cheek bone against Worcester. In his absence Phil Vickery and Mike Tindall have both held the skipper's armband, although Tindall captains the side today. Centre/fly-half, Duncan McRae underwent knee surgery last week. The former Australian A back had some cartilage tidied up and some bone shaved off the side of his knee. He faces six weeks recovery time and will hopefully be back in action by November 12. Their highly rated young centre Jack Adams will be out of action for up to nine months after damaging his AC ligament in what has been



described as 'a freak' injury in the A game against Saracens two weeks ago, while Terry Fanolua, a linchpin at the club since 1997, is still recovering from a knee injury and is some way off a return to full fitness.

The Powergen Cup is perhaps the competition that Gloucester have the best chance of gaining qualification for next year's Heineken Cup from and no doubt they'll be determined to maintain their one hundred percent record going into today's game. Whispers were doing the rounds that they may be re-christened the Gloucester Lions in the near future, however there's no question today and for some time to come that their old faithful will stick to the simpler and more evocative - 'Glawster'. After all have you seen a red and white lion?

PREVIOUS KNOCKOUT GAMES VERSUS GLOUCESTER

08.12.71	home	lost	4-15
10.01.73	home	won	16-11
12.02.77	away	lost	3-12
25.01.86	away	lost	4-7
25.01.97	away	lost	12-18
16.12.01	home	lost	23-37
22.01.05	away	lost	0-21

In addition there was the Zurich Championship Final at Twickenham 08-06-2002 which was lost 23-28.

The Teams

Bristol Rugby v Gloucester Rugby



BRISTOL RUGBY

TODAY'S OFFICIALS

Referee - Sean Davey

Reserve Referee - Peter Huckle

Senior Touch Judge - Clive Leeke

Senior Touch Judge - Tony Spreadbury

Junior Touch Judge - Ashley Reay

4th Official - Andy Weymouth



GLOUCESTER RUGBY

1	DAVE HILTON	PROP	NICK WOOD	1
2	SAUL NELSON	HOOKER	OLIVIER AZAM	2
3	DARREN CROMPTON	PROP	GARY POWELL	3
4	MARIANO SAMBUCETTI	LOCK	ADAM EUSTACE	4
5	GARETH LLEWELLYN	LOCK	ALEX BROWN	5
6	MATT SALTER (C)	BLINDSIDE	JAKE BOER	6
7	DAN WARD-SMITH	OPENSIDE	ANDY HAZELL	7
8	GERAINT LEWIS	NO. 8	JAMES FORRESTER	8
9	JAKE RAULUNI	SCRUM HALF	PETER RICHARDS	9
10	JASON STRANGE	FLY HALF	LUDOVIC MERCIER	10
11	DAVID LEMI	LEFT WING	MARK FOSTER	11
12	ROB HIGGITT	CENTRE	HENRY PAUL	12
13	BRIAN LIMA	CENTRE	MIKE TINDALL (C)	13
14	SEAN MARSDEN	RIGHT WING	JAMES SIMPSON-DANIEL	14
15	BERNARDO STORTONI	FULLBACK	JON GOODRIDGE	15
16	MARK IRISH	REPLACEMENT	MEFIN DAVIES	16
17	NEIL CLARK	REPLACEMENT	TERRY SIGLEY	17
18	ROY WINTERS	REPLACEMENT	LUKE NARRAWAY	18
19	JOE EL ABD	REPLACEMENT	ROB THIRLBY	19
20	VAUGHAN GOING	REPLACEMENT	HAYDN THOMAS	20
21	DANNY GRAY	REPLACEMENT	MARK CORNWELL	21
22	MANUEL CONTEPOMI	REPLACEMENT	ANTHONY ALLEN	22
		FINAL SCORE		