

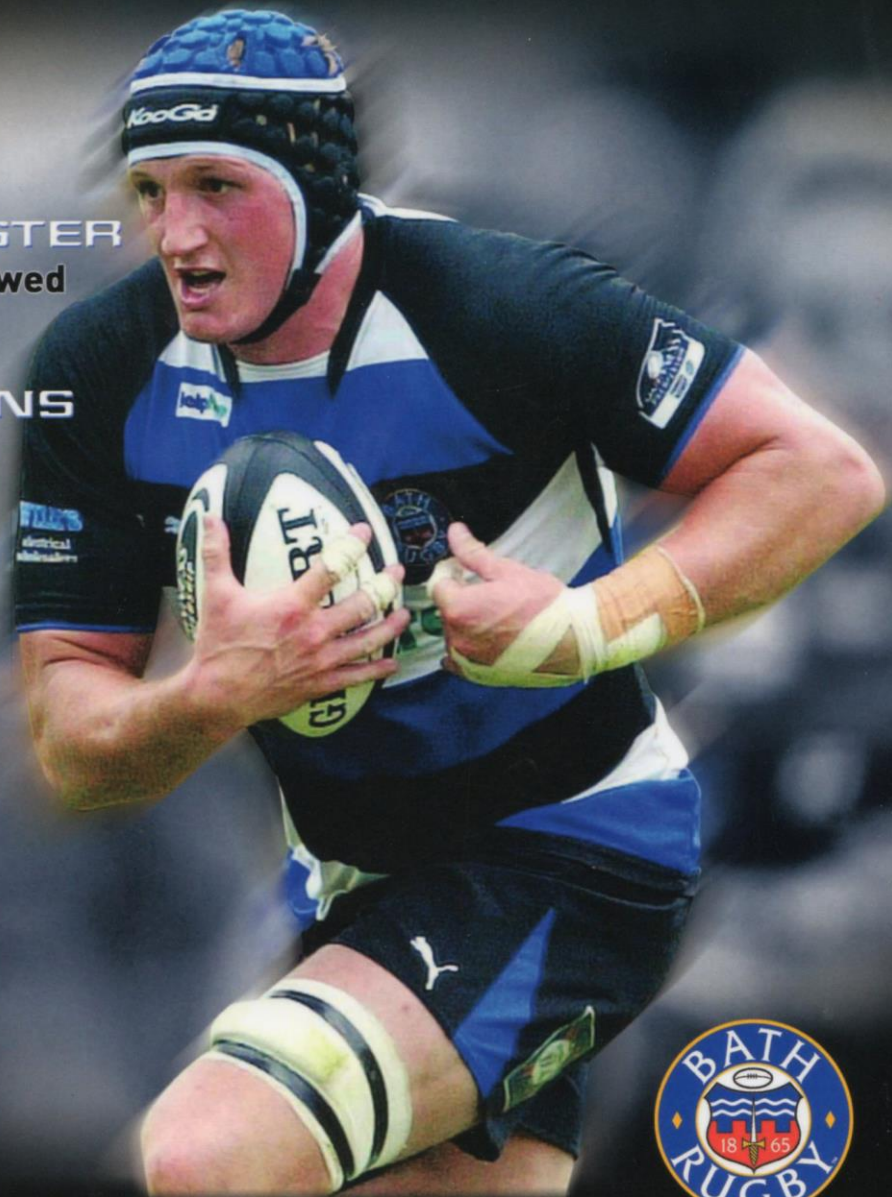
BATH RUGBY

V GLOUCESTER SATURDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER 2008 KICK-OFF 2.45PM

HOOVER
Moving on in

GLOUCESTER
Rivalries renewed

**TWENTY
QUESTIONS**
Hape under
the spotlight



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BATH
RUGBY

Head Coach Steve Meehan

V

GLOUCESTER
RUGBY

Director of Rugby Dean Ryan



T C P D

[illegible]

Nick **ABENDANON**
Joe **MADDOCK**
Tom **CHEESEMAM**
Eliota **FUIMAONO-SAPOLU**
Matt **BANAHAN**
Butch **JAMES**
Michael **CLAASSENS**

15	FULLBACK	15
14	RIGHT WING	14
13	CENTRE	13
12	CENTRE	12
11	LEFT WING	11
10	FLY HALF	10
9	SCRUM HALF	9

Olly MORGAN
Lesley VANIKOLO
Matthew WATKINS
Mike TINDALL
James SIMPSON-DANIEL
Ryan LAMB
Gareth COOPER

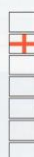
			
			
			
			
			
			
			
			
			
			
			
			
			
			
			
			
			
			
			
			
			
			
			

[illegible]

David **FLATMAN**
Lee **MEARS**
Matt **STEVENS**
Justin **HARRISON**
Peter **SHORT**
Stuart **HOOPER**
Michael **LIPMAN (C)**
Jonny **FAAMATTUAINIU**

1	PROP	1
2	HOOKER	2
3	PROP	3
4	LOCK	4
5	LOCK	5
6	FLANKER	6
7	FLANKER	7
8	NO. 8	8

Nick **WOOD**
Andy **TITTERELL**
Carlos **NIETO**
Will **JAMES**
Alex **BROWN**
Peter **BUXTON**
Andrew **HAZELL**
Luke **NARRAWAY**

[illegible][illegible]

	Pieter DIXON
	Duncan BELL
	David BARNES
	James SCAYSBROOK
	Scott BEMAND
	Shaun BERNE
	Jack CUTHBERT

16	REPLACEMENT	16
17	REPLACEMENT	17
18	REPLACEMENT	18
19	REPLACEMENT	19
20	REPLACEMENT	20
21	REPLACEMENT	21
22	REPLACEMENT	22

Olivier	AZAM
Dave	YOUNG
Marco	BORTOLAMI
Alasdair	STROKOSCH
Rory	LAWSON
Olly	BARKLEY
Willie	WALKER

FINAL SCORE

TODAY'S OFFICIALS: Referee | Wayne Barnes Touch Judges | Stuart Terhegge & Kevin Stewart

FINAL SCORE

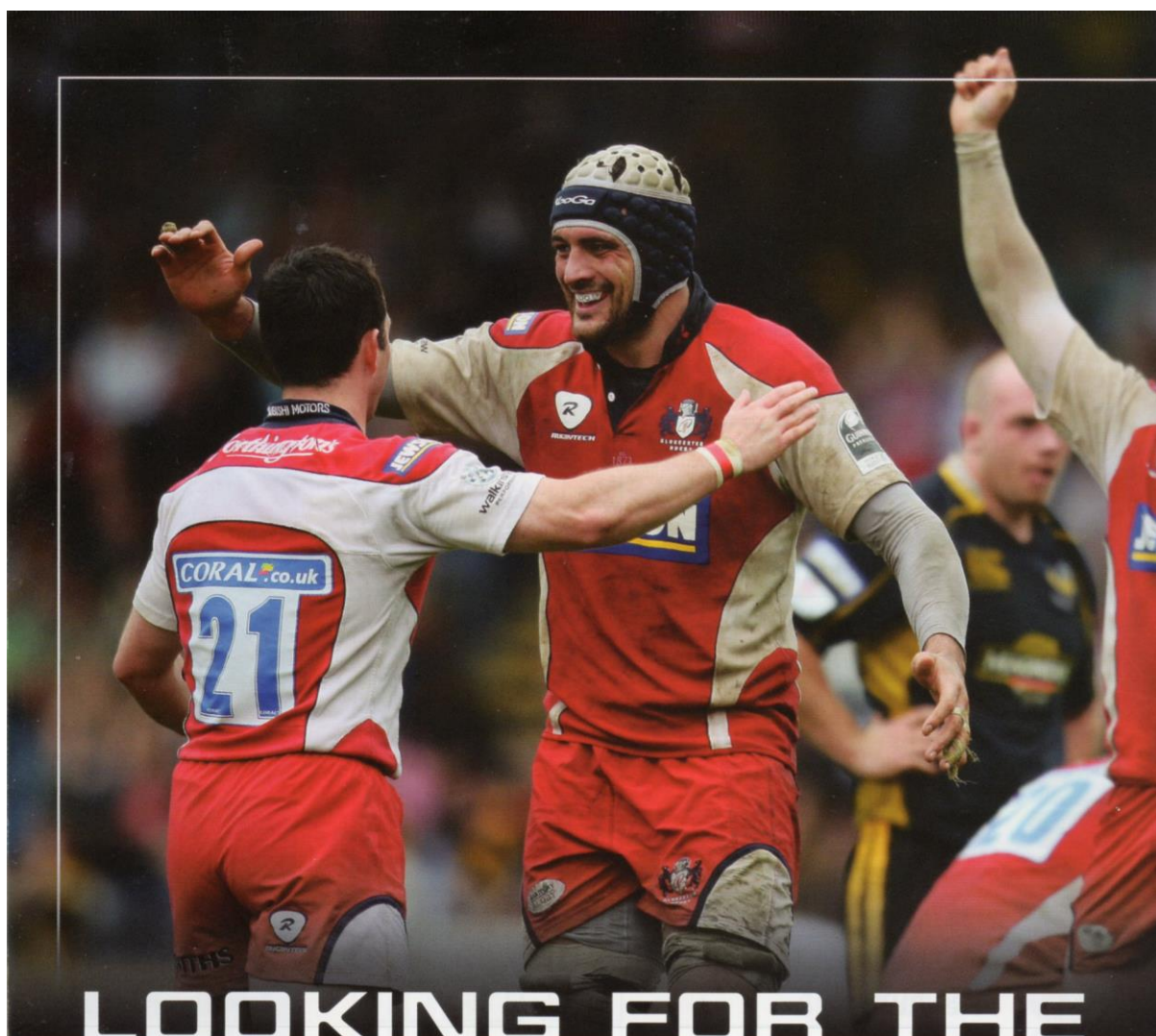


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LOOKING FOR THE PERFECT FINISH

It was not so much about what happened at Gloucester over the summer as what didn't happen. Despite finishing top of the Guinness Premiership pile again at the end of the regular 2007-8 season, Gloucester again failed to transfer their obvious potential into a dividend during the play-offs – it was a familiar, unfulfilled ending to what threatened to be a triumphant season.

Leicester's magnificent manipulation and street-wise cussedness consigned Gloucester's season to the dustbin of history at the semi-final stage and that tantalising wait for a domestic trophy went on.

By that time, head coach Dean

Ryan had done the majority of his recruiting – a policy that included nabbing one of Bath's diamonds in Olly Barkley – Llanelli centre Matthew Watkins and former Gloucester second row Adam Eustace – also from Stradey Park.

When he completed negotiations to bring Canterbury prop Greg Somerville to Kingsholm by Christmas, the general thought was that Gloucester's squad was stronger than last season's and well capable of challenging again this season.

Barkley has been brought in to provide a tactical nous and big-game understanding that so often seemed to evaporate and as a left-

footed kicking option, will via with Ryan Lamb and Anthony Allen for the 10 and 12 positions respectively.

He is yet to pull on Gloucester colours in anger after damaging his left wrist on England duty in the summer but he is expected to be a highly influential addition to the squad once he is fully fit.

Somerville is the most capped prop in All Black history and alongside Dave Young – the young and aggressive tight forward from Leicester – Gloucester kept their summer additions to a minimum.

With the likes of the emerging and increasingly gifted Luke Narryway, the robust Anthony Allen and the safe as houses Olly Morgan a year



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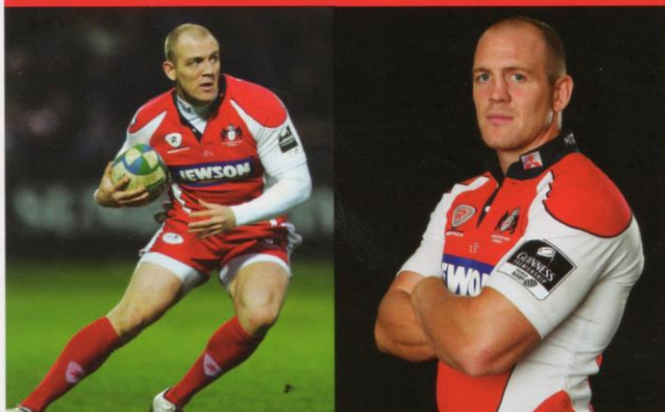
CAPTAIN MIKE TINDALL

MIKE TINDALL will return to his former employers this afternoon as captain of Gloucester.

Once a large and decisive cog in the midfield workings of Bath, Tindall will skipper their closest and biggest rivals for the second time in a Guinness Premiership match.

Put together like a pillar of St Paul's, Tindall is the central element to Gloucester's three-quarter line. A damaging ball carrier and destructive defender, Tindall has a wealth of experience and was part of England's World Cup winning squad in 2003. Able to operate at either 12 or 13, he also possesses a crucial kicking game.

In total, he has made 62 appearances for Gloucester and has won 56 England caps. Alongside Olly Barkley, Gareth Delve and Iain Balshaw, Tindall is one of four ex-Bath players in Gloucester's squad.



"Another combustible afternoon of mayhem is almost guaranteed and for those who make the trip from the red half of this contest, they will be thinking, as they always do 'could this really be the year.'"

older and a year wiser, Gloucester's squad is up there with anything in the Premiership.

Their pre-season preparations centred on a training camp in Canada and a victory over their A side, before a strong Bayonne team won comfortably in France after Cardiff pulled out of a fixture scheduled at Kingsholm.

They completed their preparations with a 30-8 victory over Glasgow under the new ELV's but their Premiership campaign got off to the worst possible start last weekend with a home defeat to those Tigers – their third successive victory at Kingsholm in eight months.

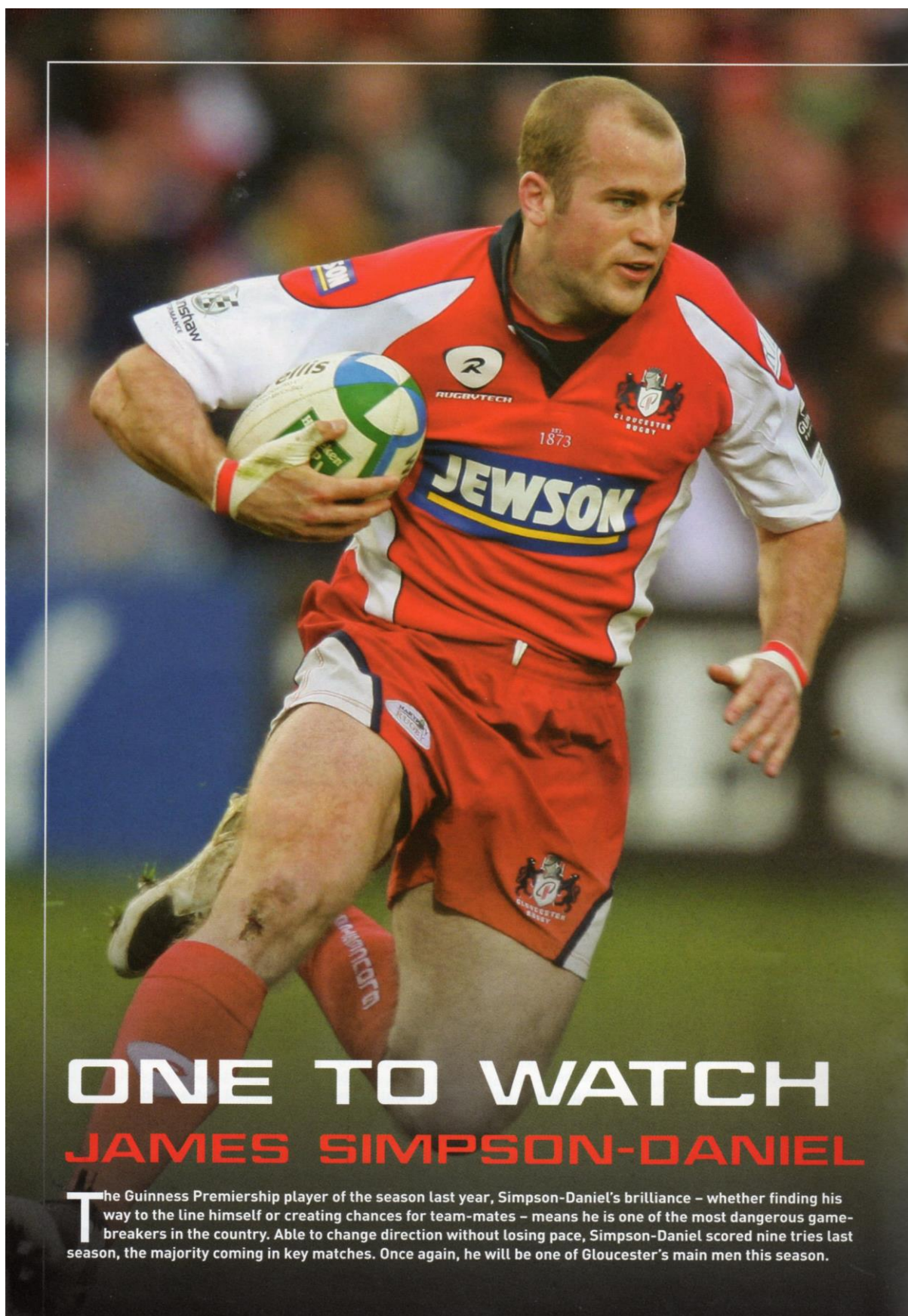
Tries from Geordan Murphy and Toby Flood sealed a 20-8 victory – Gloucester's only try coming from the outstanding Morgan in the first-half.

But today is different – different for the reasons that mark this particular brand of West Country tribalism as unique to the people involved. Gloucester's league record at the Rec is as wretched as it could possibly be and Bath's thumping success over Bristol last weekend has established

Steve Meehan's side as early pace-setters.

Gloucester could be without Anthony Allen, who picked up an ankle injury last weekend, but there is enough history between these two giants to suggest another mini classic this afternoon.

When Gloucester beat Bath 8-6 at Kingsholm on the final day of last season it was regarded by many as the match of the season. Another combustible afternoon of mayhem is almost guaranteed and for those who make the trip from the red half of this contest, they will be thinking, as they always do 'could this really be the year.'



ONE TO WATCH

JAMES SIMPSON-DANIEL

The Guinness Premiership player of the season last year, Simpson-Daniel's brilliance – whether finding his way to the line himself or creating chances for team-mates – means he is one of the most dangerous game-breakers in the country. Able to change direction without losing pace, Simpson-Daniel scored nine tries last season, the majority coming in key matches. Once again, he will be one of Gloucester's main men this season.



OLLY MORGAN

The England full-back opened his try account for the season against Leicester last weekend. Brilliant under the high ball, a brave and committed defender and willing to lend his support in attack, Morgan's recent form has made it a mockery that he was left out of England's elite player squad. With time on his side, Morgan has every chance to take the next step on the international stage.

THREE TO WATCH



ALASDAIR STROKOSCH

Powerfully built and remorselessly strong, Strokosch announced himself on the scene last season following his move from Edinburgh with a series of bullet-hard performances. Quiet and unassuming, Strokosch's work ethic, ability to contest at the breakdown and carrying potential marked him down as one of Gloucester's most consistent players last season.



WILL JAMES

After graduating to Gloucester from Cornish Pirates, James has gone onto international honours with Wales and has established himself as a key member of Gloucester's forward pack. As a front jumper in the line-out and heavy ball carrier, James has put pressure on both Alex Brown and Marco Bortolami for regular rugby in Gloucester's engine room.



HEAD COACH DEAN RYAN

As famous for his choice post-match words as he was for **formidability as a player**, Dean Ryan now enters his fourth year with Gloucester Rugby with one thing on his mind – winning.

Having lost their first Guinness Premiership match against Leicester last weekend, Ryan will be looking for a much changed performance against Bath Rugby today.

Formerly a player with Saracens, Wasps, Newcastle and Bristol, he won the European Challenge Cup in his first year and is widely regarded as one of the most respected and forward thinking coaches in the Premiership.

Responsible for bringing on players like Ryan Lamb, Anthony Allen and Ollie Morgan, Ryan led Gloucester to the top of the Guinness Premiership this last year and will be looking to secure the same spot (and better) this season.