

LEICESTER TIGERS vs GLOUCESTER RUGBY - SATURDAY MARCH 7 2009, 2.45PM

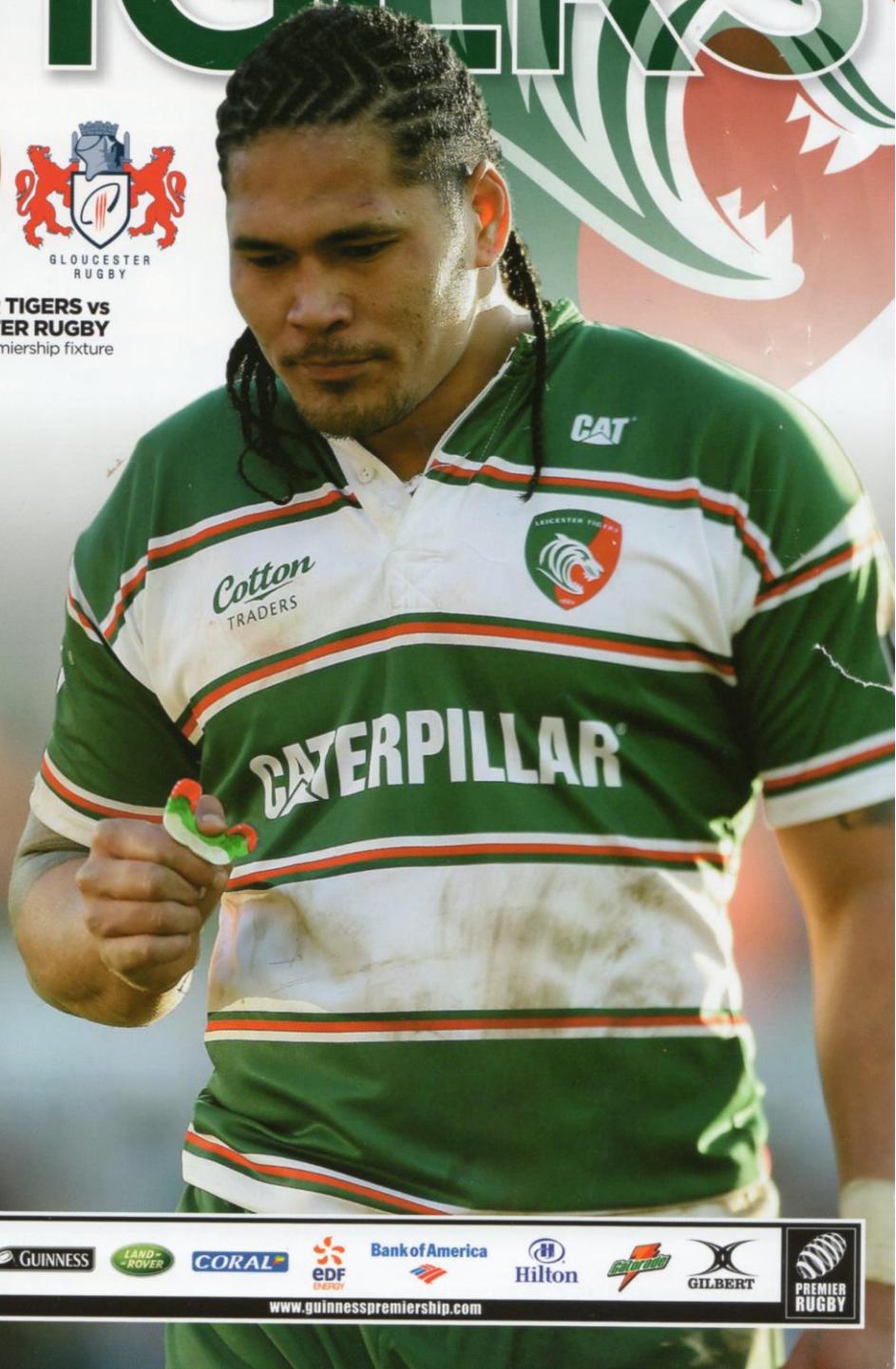
ISSUE 13 OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME 2008/09

£3.00

TIGERS



**LEICESTER TIGERS vs
GLOUCESTER RUGBY**
A Guinness Premiership fixture



www.leicestertigers.com





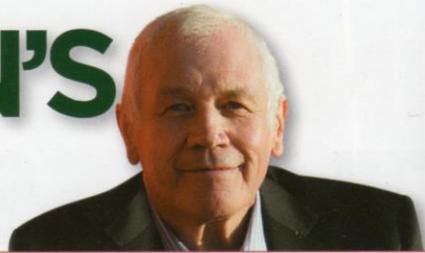







www.guinnesspremiership.com

CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN



Welcome back to Welford Road for the Guinness Premiership match of the day between two teams who are used to contesting points at the top of the league table.

A warm welcome to the supporters, players, officials and directors of Gloucester Rugby and in particular to their chairman Tom Walkinshaw who has done a great job for his club and Premier Rugby over the years and who earlier this week announced his decision to step down, after four years, as Chairman of Premier Rugby.

He has been a major force in the tremendous progress of the Club game and I have enjoyed being his deputy in Premier Rugby. I am honoured to be asked to take over the Chairmanship from him, a very hard act to follow.

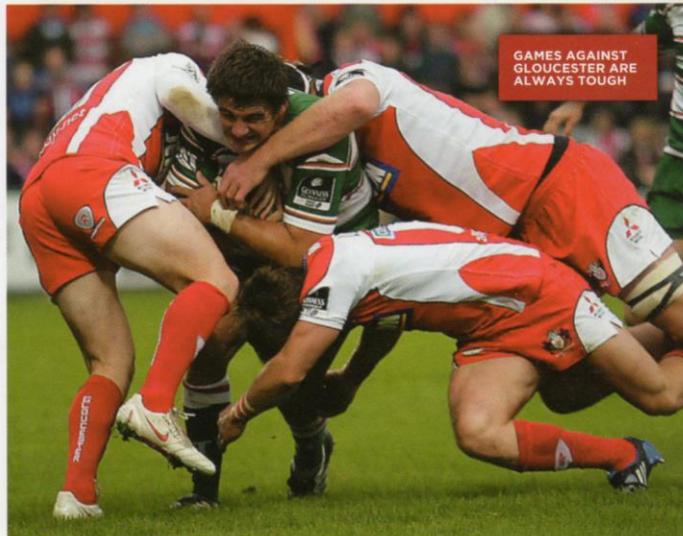
We now have to build further on the success of the Guinness Premiership and European competitions to continue to offer top quality, fantastic value club rugby to our supporters and partners.

It is no coincidence that Gloucester and the Tigers share many of the same principles.

They, like Tigers, have a great tradition and a great support. Also like Tigers, Gloucester are looking to the future with the redevelopment of their home stadium at Kingsholm.

Their team comes here as the leaders of the Guinness Premiership and on the back of a bonus-point win over Bath which will have given them an extra spring in their step during preparation for their journey here.

Gloucester have had some stern and perhaps unfair criticism in the media in recent months, yet they sit proudly on top of the table, they are the only team so far to pass the 50-point mark and have opened



an impressive gap on the rest of the play-off challengers, Tigers included.

This will be a tough game, make no mistake, and Gloucester have as good a record as any team in recent years at Welford Road.

Tigers players and supporters over many generations will remember tough and hard battles against Gloucester and I am sure we are in for another one this afternoon.

The last two weeks have brought us wins over Worcester Warriors and London Irish, following the four-try performance at London Wasps and, as Cockers says, we are right in the mix as the season enters its final quarter.

There were a number of very tight results last weekend - with Worcester beating Wasps by a point, Sale losing by a point at Saracens and only one of the six fixtures decided by more than one converted score.

That just shows how valuable every single opportunity is in a game, whether it is the opportunity to score or to prevent a score, and shows that every single point is going to be fought for right up to the final whistle of the season.

At our Board meeting last week we took the decision to freeze season ticket prices for the 2009/10 season. We thank all of you who have bought tickets for this season and hope

BRACE'S BIT



Welcome to the Gloucester team and all of their supporters here today to provide us with one of our sternest tests in the Guinness Premiership.

They come here sitting on top of the league table as we enter the final phases of the competition with a larger than normal number of clubs with aspirations of finishing in the top four and qualifying for the play-offs.

Gloucester are fresh from a good win over their fierce local rivals Bath and have most of their current internationals available to them. Confidence in the Tigers team is also high after the away win at London Irish last weekend, so the prospects of our usual pulsating, physically demanding, dramatic encounter are good.

So expect another tension-packed, gut-wrenching last 20 minutes.

We especially welcome Tom Walkinshaw, the Gloucester chairman, who stepped down as chairman of Premier Rugby earlier this week having steered the Guinness Premiership Clubs for most of the professional era.

We thank him for what he has done for the professional club game in England and the benefits his commitment and

“WE THANK HIM FOR WHAT HE HAS DONE FOR THE PROFESSIONAL CLUB GAME IN ENGLAND AND THE BENEFITS HIS COMMITMENT AND HARD WORK HAVE BROUGHT TO OUR CLUB.”

hard work have brought to our club.

He was the driving force in reaching our new agreement with the Rugby Football Union which brings with it more than £100million in the next eight years and also great benefits in successfully re-shaping and strengthening our position within the European Cup and major improvements in IRB regulation 9 by which we have to release our players for international teams.

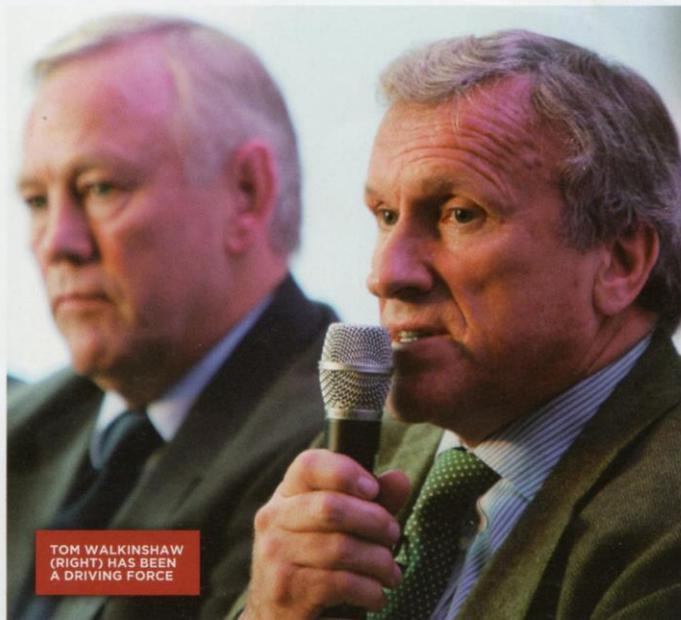
He has been the outstanding personality of the professional Club game and deserves to now be able to spend more time with his various business interests around the world and his family.

We are delighted that our Chairman, Peter Tom, will be taking over from him in what is one of the most demanding and influential positions in world rugby. Peter has the unanimous support of all the other Premier Clubs' chairmen and will make his usual dynamic impact.

The Clubs and the Game face significant new challenges in these current financially challenging times but we can feel confident that we have the right man to lead us through them.

Enjoy the game.

Peter Wheeler
Chief executive



TOM WALKINSHAW (RIGHT) HAS BEEN A DRIVING FORCE

VISITORS' BOOK

GLOUCESTER RUGBY

Gloucester make the always eagerly-anticipated journey into the Tigers' den this afternoon top of the Guinness Premiership and with three victories in their last four games.

Last Saturday's bout of M5 mayhem against Bath was of a vintage that almost defied belief as two serious heavyweights knocked all life from each other in a monstrous occasion at Kingsholm.

The fact that Gloucester claimed a bonus point and sent Bath packing with nothing to show for their efforts only broaden the smiles.

Consistency has never been Gloucester's problem. Indeed, they have finished top of the pile for the last two seasons. What they have not been able to do is transmit that ability into play-off success, but momentum is suddenly beginning to shift again at Kingsholm.

Victory from the back of beyond against London Irish almost a month ago was full of all the things Gloucester are regularly criticised for not having - resolve, attitude, stratospheric belief and bulging physicality levels.

Combine that with another recovery job against Sale Sharks and last Saturday's jaw-dropping

occasion and suddenly Dean Ryan's side are believing in themselves once again.

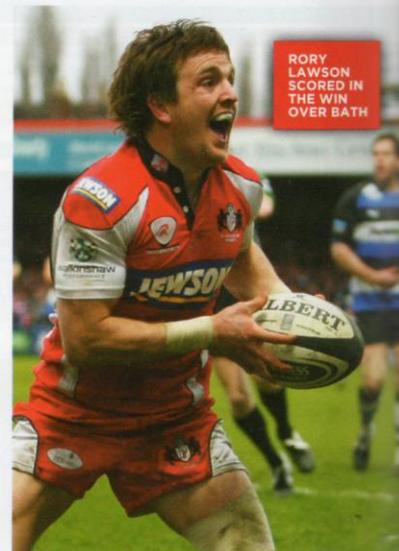
There are signs that the likes of Gareth Delve and Greg Somerville may just be exactly what is required, given their last three performances.

Delve's return to the back row following a long-term knee injury has given Gloucester a ball-carrier in heavy traffic, while Somerville's mountain of knowledge and all-round expertise have been a galvanising influence.

Throw in new arrival Carlos Spencer and his box of tricks, the game-breaking qualities of James Simpson-Daniel, the running ability of Iain Balshaw and the marksmanship of Olly Barkley and it is easy to appreciate that Gloucester are feeling pretty good about themselves again.

However, early-season defeats against Leicester and Sale Sharks had left one of the most fancied sides in the country staring up from the uncomfortable position of seventh place in the Guinness Premiership table, struggling to adapt to the new Experimental Law Variations and generally fumbling around for cohesion and reliability at the start of the campaign.

The close-season was not so much about what happened at Gloucester as what didn't happen. Despite finishing top of the Guinness Premiership pile again at the end of the regular 2007/08 season, Gloucester 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.

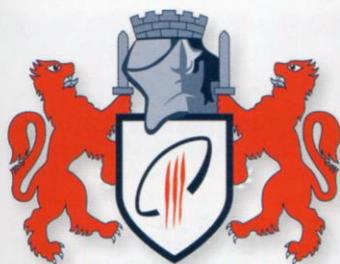
By that time, head coach Ryan had done the majority of his recruiting - a policy that included nabbing one of Bath's diamonds in Barkley, Llanelli centre Matthew Watkins and former Gloucester second row Adam Eustace, also from Stradey Park.

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

But the most striking advances have been made by players already in situ. The increasingly influential Luke Narryway is maturing into a

GLOUCESTER RUGBY:

Stadium address:
Kingsholm Stadium,
Kingsholm Road, Kingsholm,
Gloucester GL1 3AX
Stadium capacity: 16,000
Club website:
www.gloucester rugby.co.uk
Honours: Premiership
runners-up 2006/07; Cup
winners 1972, 1978, 1982
(shared), 2003; European
Challenge Cup winners 2006
Head coach: Dean Ryan



**GLOUCESTER
RUGBY**

leader, while the safe-as-houses Ollie Morgan is a year older, a year wiser and attracting the attention of the England selectors, and Olivier Azam has reinvented himself.

Gloucester's campaign got off to the worst possible start with a home defeat to Leicester Tigers - their third victory at Kingsholm in just eight months. Tries from Geordan Murphy and Toby Flood sealed a 20-8 victory, with Gloucester's only try coming from the outstanding Morgan in the first half.

But they responded by winning for the first time ever in league rugby at The Rec in a spot of West Country tribalism unique to those involved.

They backed that up with a tense victory over Harlequins, the Premiership pace-setters, with tries from Morgan and Alasdair Strokosch before Charlie Hodgson subjected them to a withering kicking assault at Edgeley Park as they struggled to come to terms with the ELVs.

Gloucester re-grouped with a 39-23 win over Newcastle at Kingsholm that included a bonus point and then built on that success with a 24-19 victory over Wasps in the EDF Energy Cup with tries from Willie Walker and Lesley Vainikolo and will face the Ospreys in the semi-finals next month.

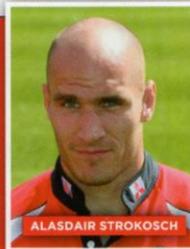
Despite bitter Heineken Cup disappointment, victories over Saracens and then back-to-back bonus-point successes over Bristol and Northampton mean Gloucester make their latest journey of 2009 in good heart and in good shape. In the Guinness Premiership that has accelerated in recent weeks with wins over Irish, Sale and Bath before the trip to the Tigers today.



JACK FORSTER



LUKE NARRYWAY



ALASDAIR STROKOSCH

**GLOUCESTER RUGBY:
PLAYING SQUAD 2008/09:**

NAME	POSITION	AGE	HONOURS
Backs:			
Jack Adams	C	22	-
Anthony Allen	C	22	England
Iain Balshaw	FB/W	29	England/Lions
Ollie Barkley	FH/C	27	England
Gareth Cooper	SH	29	Wales
Mark Foster	W	25	-
Ali James	C	29	- -
Ryan Lamb	FH	22	-
Rory Lawson	SH	27	Scotland
Dave Lewis	SH	29	-
Ollie Morgan	FB	23	England
Dan Norton	W	20	-
Charlie Sharples	W	19	-
James Simpson-Daniel	W/C	26	England
Carlos Spencer	FH	33	New Zealand
Mike Tindall	C	30	England/Lions
Henry Trinder	C	19	-
Lesley Vainikolo	W	29	England
Willie Walker	FH	30	-
Matthew J Watkins	C	30	Wales
Forwards:			
Olivier Azam	H	34	France
Marco Bortolami	L	28	Italy
Alex Brown	L	29	England
Peter Buxton	BR	30	-
Gareth Delve	BR	26	Wales
Alasdair Dickinson	P	25	Scotland
Adam Eustace	L	29	-
Jack Forster	P	21	-
Andrew Hazell	FI	30	England
Will James	L	32	Wales
Ross McMillan	H	21	-
Luke Narryway	BR	25	England
Carlos Nieto	P	32	Italy
Akapusi Qera	FI	24	Fiji
Greg Somerville	P	31	New Zealand
Alasdair Strokosch	FI	26	Scotland
Andrew Titterrell	H	28	England/Lions
Dan Williams	No8	20	-
Nick Wood	P	26	-
Dave Young	P	23	-

GLOUCESTER RUGBY

PAST PREMIERSHIP ENCOUNTERS - LAST FIVE YEARS

2008/09

GLOUCESTER 8 TIGERS 20

Tigers opened the Guinness Premiership season with a third successive victory at Kingsholm on Sunday, building on a 6-5 half-time lead. Olly Morgan scored the Gloucester try, but a second-half score from Geordan Murphy and an interception try from debutant Toby Flood in the last minute guaranteed an opening-day win.

Gloucester: Morgan (T), Lamb (P)

Tigers: G Murphy (T), Flood (T, 2C, 2P)

GLOUCESTER 25 TIGERS 26
GUINNESS PREMIERSHIP PLAY-OFF

Tigers reached a fourth successive Premiership Final after a late drop goal from Andy Goode sealed victory at Kingsholm for a second time in the season. Tigers fought back from 12-3 down and also bounced back from a Willie Walker drop goal in the closing stages.

Gloucester: Simpson-Daniel (T), Lamb (5P, C), Walker (DG)

Tigers: Tuilagi (T), Mauger (T), Goode (3P, 2C, DG)

2007/08

TIGERS 17 GLOUCESTER 30

After wins in the opening three games, Tigers stumbled to a first defeat after the visitors clocked up a 20-3 half-time lead.

Tigers: Croft (T), Cornwell (T), Goode (P), Burke (2C)

Gloucester: Lloyd (T), Penalty (T), Walker (T, 3C, 3P)

GLOUCESTER 13 TIGERS 20

A fixture between the top two in the table during the Six Nations ended with Tigers inflicting a first home league defeat on Gloucester since May 2006, though the visitors were hanging on in defence at the end.

Gloucester: Azam (T), Walker (C, 2P)

Tigers: Smith (T), Erinle (T), Goode (2C, 2P)

2006/07

TIGERS 27 GLOUCESTER 27

Gloucester's winning start to the season was brought to an end at Welford Road, but Tigers were still disappointed after leading 16-9 at half-time and 27-21 with 20 minutes remaining.

Tigers: Hipkiss (T), Rabeni (T), Goode (C/5P)

Gloucester: Forrester (T), Allen (T), Walker (C/2DG/2P), B Davies (P)

GLOUCESTER 28 TIGERS 24

Tigers outscored their hosts four tries to two, as well as leading by 12 points at the 20-minute mark, but were pegged back by the kicking of Willie Walker

Gloucester: Hazell (T), Richards (T), Walker (6P)

FEATURED MATCH:

NOVEMBER 6, 2004

TIGERS 28
GLOUCESTER 13

Tigers bounced back from a 23-8 Heineken Cup defeat in Biarritz to claim victory in front of a sell-out Welford Road crowd and stay second in the Premiership table, level on points with leaders Sale Sharks.

Replacement Alesana Tuilagi scored two second-half tries and Seru Rabeni claimed the man-of-the-match award with an outstanding performance which included an 11th-minute try, his eighth in his first 10 matches for the club.

Rabeni's score gave Tigers a platform to build on after the visitors had started the game with all guns blazing and opened the scoring with a penalty from centre Henry Paul. Experienced scrum-half Andy Gomarsall had pulled out of the team shortly before kick-off with a back spasm, allowing Alex Page into a starting role alongside fellow rookie Brad Davies.

Leicester led 10-6 at half-time, but pulled away as back row Henry Tuilagi's rampaging run created an opening for younger brother Alesana to score in just his seventh appearance for the club.

Just moments after Richard Cockerill came off the bench to make his first league appearance at Welford Road since 2001/02, a mistake by the visitors offered Tuilagi his second score, racing in

from almost halfway and diving over as the last defender made a despairing attempt at a tap tackle.

TIGERS:

Vesty (Broadfoot 75), Hipkiss (A Tuilagi 52), Rabeni, Gibson, Varnell, Goode, Bemand; Morris (Rowntree 59), Buckland (Cockerill 73), White, M Johnson (c) (B Deacon 26-36) (Moody 78), Kay, H Tuilagi (B Deacon 62), Moody (Back 66), Corry.

Rep unused: Wright

GLOUCESTER:

Goodridge, Garvey, Fanolua (Mauger 66), Paul, Bailey, Davies, Page; Bezuidenhout, Fortey, Vickery (Powell 73), Eustace, Cornwell (Balding 56), Buxton, Hazell (Forrester 52), Boer (c).

Rep unused: Parkes, Amor, Kiolo

Tigers: A Tuilagi (2T), G Murphy (T), Vardell (T), Humphreys (2C)

TIGERS 44 GLOUCESTER 16 GUINNESS PREMIERSHIP FINAL

A rampant Tigers completed the first league and cup double of the professional era, scoring seven tries as they ended a five-year wait for another league crown.

Tigers: A Tuilagi (2T), Corry (T), Jennings (T), Moody (T), F Murphy (T), Goode (T,3C, P)

Gloucester: Lamb (T), Walker (C/3P)

FIRST HEAD TO HEAD

TIGERS 0 GLOUCESTER 15

October 31, 1891

Leicester were in just their 12th season of existence and in their final season at Belgrave Road when Gloucester made their first trip to the city.

The Tigers line-up included wing pair the Reverend C M Barham and the Reverend E Farmer, with the Reverend O Wynne at half-back, plus Arthur McKecknie at full-back, the man who claimed the distinction of scoring the first points at Welford Road when Tigers moved here the following season.

The visitors claimed three converted tries and a shut-out to get off to a winning start against Leicester.

2005/06

TIGERS 25 GLOUCESTER 20

A superb first-half effort from the Tigers forwards laid the foundation for a home victory, with Tom Vardell touching down either side of half-time and prop Michael Holford claiming a try.

Tigers: Holford (T), Vardell (2T), Goode (2C/2P)

Gloucester: Allen (T), Morgan (T), Mercier (2C/2P)

GLOUCESTER 34 TIGERS 16

Gloucester leapfrogged Tigers into third place in the league table as missed first-half chances proved costly.

Gloucester: Bailey (T), Penalty (T), Foster (T), Mercier (2C/5P)

Tigers: W Johnson (T), Taukafa (T), Humphreys (2P)

2004/05

TIGERS 28 GLOUCESTER 13

Replacement wing Alesana Tuilagi scored twice as Tigers bounced back from European defeat in Biarritz to record an encouraging Premiership win.

Tigers: A Tuilagi (2T), Rabeni (T), Goode (2C, 3P),

Gloucester: Paul (T, C, 2P)

GLOUCESTER 13 TIGERS 28

Martin Corry suffered a nasty elbow injury but league leaders Tigers got 2005 off to a perfect start with a rare win at Kingsholm after overturning an early 10-point deficit.

Gloucester: Mauger (T), Eustace (T), Paul (P)

Tigers: Lloyd (T), Smith (T), Gibson (T), Goode (2C, 2P, DG)



SERU RABENI GRABBED THE HONOURS

LEICESTER TIGERS vs GLOUCESTER RUGBY

Saturday March 7 2009, Welford Road, Kick-off 2.45pm.

LEICESTER TIGERS

	Geordan Murphy	15
	Scott Hamilton	14
	Matt Smith	13
	Aaron Mauger (c)	12
	Alesana Tuilagi	11
	Sam Vesty	10
	Julien Dupuy	09
	Marcos Ayerza	01
	Benjamin Kayser	02
	Julian White	03
	Louis Deacon	04
	Ben Kay	05
	Tom Croft	06
	Ben Woods	07
	Craig Newby	08

Replacements (from)

	Mefin Davies	16
	Martin Castrogiovanni	17
	Marco Wentzel	18
	Ben Pienaar	19
	Ben Youngs	20
	Ayoola Erinle	21
	Derick Hougaard	22



Referee: Mr Wayne Barnes Assistants: Mr Alan Biggs & Mr Paul Emerson

GLOUCESTER RUGBY

	FULL BACK	15	Olly Morgan	
	RIGHT WING	14	Iain Balshaw	
	OUTSIDE CENTRE	13	James Simpson-Daniel	
	INSIDE CENTRE	12	Anthony Allen	
	LEFT WING	11	Charlie Sharples	
	FLY HALF	10	Carlos Spencer	
	SCRUM HALF	09	Rory Lawson	
	LOOSE HEAD PROP	01	Alasdair Dickinson	
	HOOKER	02	Olivier Azam	
	TIGHT HEAD PROP	03	Greg Somerville	
	SECOND ROW	04	Adam Eustace	
	SECOND ROW	05	Alex Brown	
	BLINDSIDE FLANKER	06	Apolosi Satala	
	OPENSIDE FLANKER	07	Andrew Hazell	
	NO. 8	08	Gareth Delve	

Replacements (from)

16	Andy Titterrell	
17	Carlos Nieto	
18	Marco Bortolami	
19	Alasdair Strokosch	
20	Ryan Lamb	
21	Olly Barkley	
22	Matthew Watkins	

LEICESTER TIGERS SCORERS:	
GLOUCESTER RUGBY SCORERS:	

