

NEC Harlequins Official Matchday Magazine  
2006/07 Season | Issue 1 | Price £3.00

# Quins



**Gloucester  
Rugby**

Saturday 9th Sept. 2006  
Guinness Premiership  
Kick-Off 3.00pm

**NEC**

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[www.guinnesspremiership.com](http://www.guinnesspremiership.com)

## TODAY'S VISITORS

If this Guinness Premiership season promises to be one of the most open for years, then the advance of Gloucester should be one of its most intriguing aspects over the next nine months.



For those people who inhabit Kingsholm's dark depths on a regular basis, last season's late surge masterminded by a host of young backs came as quite a culture shock, but times are changing in one of the game's most respected environments.

Suddenly, names like Anthony Allen, Ryan Lamb, Olly Morgan, Mark Foster and James Simpson-Daniel were the first on the lips of supporters who were used to watching home-town forwards make a regular mess of all-comers to Castle Grim.

Gloucester's new-found freedom, partly orchestrated by design and partly by necessity, ended in triumph with the European Challenge Cup against London Irish. But by then, the wheels were already in motion for this campaign.

Under the stewardship of head coach Dean Ryan, Italian duo Marco Bortolami and Carlos Nieto joined from Narbonne and Viadana respectively in two of the highest profile signings of the close season. Bortolami has already shown what a natural leader and outstanding

forward he is in the making by leading Gloucester to victory over Bath last Saturday.

Christian Califano, once voted in the all-time best French front row, switched from Agen and has been a revelation – offering immediate set-piece quality and a perfect learning base for youngster Jack Forster.

There have been other additions too. With Lamb out of action with an ankle injury, Willie Walker has taken his opportunity in the number 10 shirt, while both scrum-

half Rory Lawson and lock Will James have the potential to make serious impacts.

Iain Balshaw completed the summer recruitment drive from Leeds and can be deployed from either wing or full back. It has meant that Ryan's biggest job in pre-season has been managing the vast expectation on his squad.

Gloucester have been tipped to challenge the dominance of champions Sale, Leicester and Wasps but Ryan has been meticulous in not stoking the fires too much.



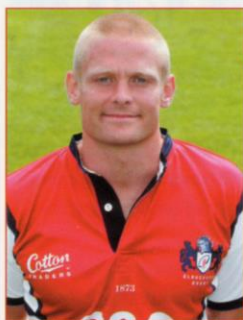
Gloucester celebrate winning the European Challenge Cup last season.

"Our ambition is to be at the top end of Europe but our journey has only just begun," Ryan has said. "There will be some pain along the way but we have an exciting and developing group of players who all work tremendously hard to try and be successful. We are on a journey together and there is a long way to go."

Gloucester's 24-19 victory over Bath last weekend came courtesy of tries from Jack Adams and Morgan to set Gloucester up in perfect heart for today's extremely tough test at the Twickenham Stoop.

## TODAY'S VISITORS

## GLOUCESTER – ONES TO WATCH

**Iain Balshaw**

Iain Balshaw made the switch to Gloucester this summer from Leeds Tykes whom he joined in 2004, having spent seven years at Bath prior to this. Before the start of this season, he had made 106 Premiership

appearances for Bath and Leeds scoring 38 tries.

He has won 24 caps for England, making his debut during the 1999/2000 season. Balshaw was part of the

World Cup winning squad in 2003, where he came on as a replacement in the final victory over Australia. He was also part of the British & Irish Lions squad that toured Australia in 2001.

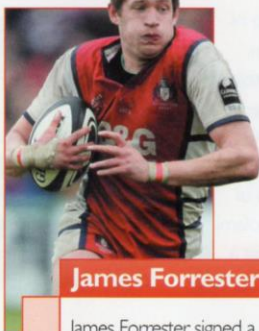
Position: **Wing / Full Back** DOB: 14/4/79 Height: 1.83m Weight: 95kg

**Christian Califano**

Christian Califano joined Gloucester on a two-year contract from French club side Agen over the summer. He had a year in the Premiership with Saracens over the 2002/03 season, having played for Toulouse prior to this with whom he won the inaugural Heineken Cup in 1996.

Califano made his France debut in 1994 against New Zealand and won the last of his 68 caps in 2003 against Ireland in the Six Nations. The tight-head prop, equally at home at loose-head, has made a name for himself as being one of the most destructive scrummagers in the business.

Position: **Prop** DOB: 16/5/72 Height: 1.80m Weight: 113kg

**James Forrester**

James Forrester signed a new three-year contract with Gloucester back in the summer of 2004 and scored the match winning try in the 36-34 victory over London Irish in the European Challenge Cup final at the end of last season. Going into this season, he had scored 24 tries having played 54 Premiership games for the Cherry and Whites.

Played for England in their annual end of season fixture against the Barbarians back in May, but a shoulder injury forced him to withdraw from the England Saxons squad that competed in the Churchill Cup.

Position: **Back Row** DOB: 9/2/81 Height: 1.95m Weight: 108kg

**Mike Tindall**

Mike Tindall joined Gloucester on a three-year contract last summer, thus ending his eight year stay at west country rivals Bath. He made 23 appearances for the club last season, scoring three tries in the Cherry and Whites successful European Challenge Cup campaign.

Tindall has won 49 caps for England, making his debut against Ireland in the 2000 Six Nations Championship. A crucial member of the 2003 World Cup winning squad, Tindall featured in every game bar one and scored a try against Georgia in the opening pool match of the tournament.

Position: **Centre** DOB: 18/10/78 Height: 1.88m Weight: 102kg

# TODAY'S VISITORS



## GLOUCESTER SQUAD PROFILES 2005/06

Ground: **Kingsholm** Capacity: **12,500** Head Coach: **Dean Ryan** Coach: **Bryan Redpath**  
Club Website: [www.gloucesterrugbyclub.com](http://www.gloucesterrugbyclub.com)

### ANTHONY ALLEN

Position: Centre  
DOB: 1/9/86  
Height: 1.80m  
Weight: 97kg

### OLMER AZAM

Position: Hooker  
DOB: 21/10/74  
Height: 1.85m  
Weight: 118kg

### ADAM BALDING

Position: Back Row  
DOB: 7/12/79  
Height: 1.88m  
Weight: 110kg

### JAKE BOER

Position: Back Row  
DOB: 1/11/75  
Height: 1.87m  
Weight: 108kg

### MARCO BORTOLAMI

Position: Second Row  
DOB: 12/6/80  
Height: 1.95m  
Weight: 110kg

### ALEX BROWN

Position: Second Row  
DOB: 17/5/79  
Height: 2.00m  
Weight: 115kg

### PETER BUXTON

Position: Back Row  
DOB: 21/8/78  
Height: 1.92m  
Weight: 113kg

### PATRICE COLLAZO

Position: Prop  
DOB: 27/4/74  
Height: 1.85m  
Weight: 110kg

### MEFIN DAVIES

Position: Hooker  
DOB: 2/9/72  
Height: 1.78m  
Weight: 96kg

### ADAM EUSTACE

Position: Second Row  
DOB: 9/1/79  
Height: 1.95m  
Weight: 110kg

### MARK FOSTER

Position: Wing / Centre  
DOB: 2/9/83  
Height: 1.83m  
Weight: 91kg

### JON GOODRIDGE

Position: Full Back  
DOB: 26/2/81  
Height: 1.86m  
Weight: 92kg

### ANDY HAZELL

Position: Back Row  
DOB: 25/4/78  
Height: 1.83m  
Weight: 100kg

### WILL JAMES

Position: Second Row  
DOB: 22/12/76  
Height: 1.95m  
Weight: 122kg

### RUDI KEIL

Position: Centre  
DOB: 8/12/77  
Height: 1.85m  
Weight: 93kg

### RYAN LAMB

Position: Fly Half  
DOB: 18/5/86  
Height: 1.76m  
Weight: 86kg

### RORY LAWSON

Position: Scrum Half  
DOB: 12/3/81  
Height: 1.76m  
Weight: 82kg

### LUDOVIC MERCIER

Position: Fly Half  
DOB: 1/11/76  
Height: 1.80m  
Weight: 90kg

### OLLY MORGAN

Position: Full Back  
DOB: 3/11/85  
Height: 1.89m  
Weight: 91kg

### LUKE NARRAWAY

Position: Back Row  
DOB: 7/9/83  
Height: 1.90m  
Weight: 104kg

### CARLOS NIETO

Position: Prop  
DOB: 28/4/76  
Height: 1.85m  
Weight: 110kg

### PETER RICHARDS

Position: Scrum Half  
DOB: 10/3/78  
Height: 1.75m  
Weight: 88kg

### TERRY SIGLEY

Position: Prop  
DOB: 12/10/78  
Height: 1.88m  
Weight: 119kg

### JAMES SIMPSON-DANIEL

Position: Wing  
DOB: 30/5/82  
Height: 1.82m  
Weight: 92kg

### ROB THIRLBY

Position: Wing / Full Back  
DOB: 2/3/79  
Height: 1.86m  
Weight: 92kg

### HAYDN THOMAS

Position: Scrum Half  
DOB: 18/10/78  
Height: 1.73m  
Weight: 80kg



### WILLIE WALKER

Position: Fly Half  
DOB: 19/5/78  
Height: 1.80m  
Weight: 90kg

### NICK WOOD

Position: Prop  
DOB: 9/11/83  
Height: 1.86m  
Weight: 110kg

# TODAY'S TEAMS

 NEC HARLEQUINS	VS	 GLOUCESTER
Tom Williams	FULL BACK	Olly Morgan
Simon Keogh	WING	Jack Adams
Hal Luscombe	CENTRE	Mike Tindall
Stuart Abbott	CENTRE	Anthony Allen
David Strettle	WING	Mark Foster
Andrew Mehrtens	FLY-HALF	Willie Walker
Steve So'oialo	SCRUM HALF	Peter Richards
Ceri Jones	PROP	Nick Wood
James Hayter	HOOKER	Mefin Davies
Ricky Nebbett	PROP	Christian Califano
Nicolas Spanghero	LOCK	Marco Bortolami (C)
Simon Miall	LOCK	Alex Brown
Andre Vos	FLANKER	Peter Buxton
Paul Volley (C)	FLANKER	Andy Hazell
Nick Easter	NO. 8	James Forrester
	REPLACEMENTS	
Jimmy Richards	16	Olivier Azam
Mike Ross	17	Jack Forster
Jim Evans	18	Will James
Chris Hala'Ufia	19	Luke Narraway
Danny Care	20	Rory Lawson
Adrian Jarvis	21	Ludovic Mercier
Gavin Duffy	22	James Bailey

## TEAM STATS 06/07

### QUINS

Position:	7
Played:	1
Won:	0
Lost:	1
Drawn:	0
Points:	1

### GLOUCESTER

Position:	3
Played:	1
Won:	1
Lost:	0
Drawn:	0
Points:	4

## TODAY'S MATCH

**Quins vs Gloucester**  
Guinness Premiership Round 2  
Sat 9th September 2006  
KO 3.00pm

## TODAY'S OFFICIALS

Referee: **Roy Maybank**  
1st TJ: **Peter Huckell**  
2nd TJ: **Andy Watson (RAF)**  
4th Official: **Tom Moses**

## THE RESULT

**Quins:**

**Gloucester:**