



A STATISTICAL LOOK AT TO TODAY'S GAME



WORCESTER WARRIORS VS GLOUCESTER

13.10.06

8PM

here would never be a better time for the Warriors to register their first Premiership win over their neighbours. Worcester find themselves at the wrong end of the table and ex Gloucester winger, Marcel Garvey, will be looking to put one over on his former team. He has made the most metres for the Warriors this season with 150 from 13 carries. Gloucester will be looking to keep up their impressive form that has seen them score 10 tries so far, nine of them coming in the second half of matches.





MARK FOSTER

TOP PERFORMERS

TOTAL METRES Marcel Garvey

Marcel Garvey	150
Lee Best	125
Dale Rasmussen	94
TOTAL CARRIES	
Pat Sanderson	27
Lee Best	20
Drew Hickey	19
TOTAL TACKLES	
Tom Harding	27
Dale Rasmussen	26
Pat Sanderson	25
LINEOUTS WON	
Craig Gillies	20
Phil Murphy	11
Pat Sanderson	7





13	TOTAL CARRIES	14	
150	TOTAL METRES	105	
11	TACKLE	10	
5	MISSED TACKLE	4	
3	CLEAN BREAKS	0	
1	TRY SCORED	0	
3	DEFENDER BEATEN	2	
4	TOTAL KICKS IN PLAY	4	
1	TURNOVER CONCEDED	3	

TOP PERFORMERS

TOTAL METRES

IUIAL METRES	
Olly Morgan	174
Peter Richards	152
James Forrester	106
TOTAL CARRIES	
James Forrester	24
Olly Morgan	22
Anthony Allen	21
TOTAL TACKLES	
Andy Hazell	41
Peter Buxton	27
James Forrester	27
LINE OUTS WON	
Marco Bortolami	18
Alex Brown	9
James Forrester	9

MATCH AVERAGES

SCRUMS	W	G	LINEOUTS	W	G	TRIES	W	G	OPEN PLAY	W	G
Put Ins	41	42	Throws	67	68	Total	4	10	Tackle	74	81
Won	37	37	Won	53	50	1stPhase	2	3	Missed tackle	9	8
% Won	90	88	% Won	79	74	OwnHalf	2	5	Ball Carry	. 66	53
Pens Won	6	5	Not Straight	3	5	1stHalf	2	1	metres	240	287
Won Opp Ball	2	4	Quick Throws	2	2	2ndHalf	2	9	defender beaten	5	9
% Won On Opp Ball	6	10	Won on Opp Ball	7	22	Set Piece	1	8	turnover	11	10
Pens Won on Opp Ba	ill 1	3	% Stolen	13	34	Turnover	1	0	penalties conceded	7	9





GLOUCESTER RUGBY

onsidering head coach Dean Ryan has been without a raft of potential first-choice players through injury, Gloucester's start to the season – three victories and a draw to sit in second place in the Guinness Premiership table with 14 points – has been encouraging for the Kingsholm club.

It hit the buffers against the Neath Swansea Ospreys in the EDF Energy Cup, a fortnight ago, before they returned to winning ways with an eight-try victory against rivals Bristol, last Saturday.

But, tonight, they turn their attentions back to the Guinness Premiership and an extremely intense visit to Sixways to face the Worcester Warriors in a potentially mouthwatering encounter.



There's no doubt Gloucester will be on a high, even if Ryan makes a number of changes or is able to welcome back a couple of his more established senior figures, like Mike Tindall and Iain Balshaw.

Gloucester opened their season with a West Country derby victory over their nearest and dearest from Bath on the opening weekend – youngsters Jack Adams and Olly Morgan scoring the tries in their 24-19 success.

Then they got the better of Quins at the Stoop in a disjointed performance that was revved up by a virtuoso performance from scrum-half Peter Richards

It has been a solid if unspectacular start for Dean Ryan's side. The Kingsholm head coach has concocted one of the most exciting groups of players in the country, blending a mixture of youthful swagger and talent with high-quality experience in key positions.

From the beginning of the campaign, they've been tagged as one of the favourites to the final stages of a number of competitions, but Ryan's only too aware that his group of players have only just begun their journey.

"Our ambition is to be at the top end of Europe," he says. "There'll 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're on a journey together and there's a long way to go. What's been pleasing is that we've endured a number of injuries but still progressed well. We're capable of making a number of changes and still be very competitive."

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

Under the stewardship of Ryan and his assistants Bryan Redpath and Denis Betts, Italian duo Marco Bortolami and Carlos Nieto joined – from Narbonne and Viadana respectively – in two of the highest profile signings of the close season.

There've been other additions too.
Ryan Lamb's ankle injury has given
Willie Walker an opportunity in the
number 10 shirt, while both scrum-half
Rory Lawson and lock Will James have
the potential to make serious impacts.

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

"There's an awful lot this squad can achieve, but we mustn't get ahead of ourselves – we have a long way to go."

THREE TO WATCH

ANTHONY ALLEN

CENTRE



FACT FILE

DOB: 01.09.86

Height: 5ft 11ins / 1.80m

Weight: 14st 6lbs / 92kg

The vastly-gifted centre burst onto the scene last season after completing his studies at Millfield School. He announced himself with a couple of crucial tries in the Middlesex Sevens final against Wasps and, since then, has made 23 appearances in all competitions and has scored seven tries. This season he has made five appearances and scored once.

CHRISTIAN CALIFANO

PROP



FACT FILE

DOB: 16.05.72

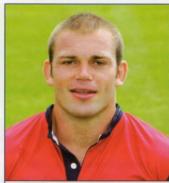
Height: 5ft 11ins / 1.80m

Weight: 17st 6lbs / 113 kg

Califano has turned out to be one of the signings of the season so far. Once named in the all-time best French front row, the very gifted set-piece expert brings a huge amount of experience. Capable of propping on both sides of the scrum, Califano joined the club from Agen in the summer and has previous Premiership experience with Saracens.

ANDY HAZELL

FLANKER



FACT FILE

DOB: 25.04.78

Height: 6ft / 1.83m

Weight: 15st 9lbs / 100 kg

Hazell has made 124 appearances in all competitions for Gloucester since his debut in 1997 and is now one of the most destructive and accomplished openside flankers in the country. His work-rate, tackle power and effort on the ball mark him down as one of the most consistent men in the Gloucester side. He has won six England caps but was not included in the recent Elite Player Squad.







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IT HAS BEEN A FRUSTRATING PERIOD FOR CARLOS NIETO. GLOUCESTER'S NEW POWERHOUSE PROP. BUT AS HE RETURN FOLLOWING A SHOULDER OPERATION AND IS DESPERATE TO MAKE UP FOR LOST TIME.

THE **ITALIAN JOB**



et's be honest, they couldn't be much different. One's a shavenheaded Cornishman who delights in a uniquely agricultural use of the vernacular, the other's a shaggyhaired Italian, who's still getting to grips with the English weather.

But they share a common bond. Phil Vickery has returned from his long-standing back injury for his new employers Wasps, six months after a third major operation. His replacement at Kingsholm, Carlos Nieto, has also yet to pull on his new shirt in anger, but they're both ridiculously-talented tight-head forwards and they're about as common as teeth in hens.

Nieto's regarded as a gem. Pinpointed by head coach Dean Ryan - alongside his second row team-mate Marco Bortolami - as one of the singularly most important additions to the squad, the Italian international developed a cyst in his right shoulder during pre-season that was pressing on a nerve and made any serious attempt at set-piece work almost impossible.

Despite that frustration, he's finding life in the Cotswolds with his wife and young son to his liking.

"It's really great," he says. "I've come to Gloucester, it's a great place with wonderful people, great support and

a really good team. Unfortunately, I haven't been in a position to play a game and I find that very frustrating because I want to do well in a new

"I'm not really sure how the cyst happened, but it needed to be removed. But Gloucester's like a family and they have been very good

Gloucester have also recruited Frenchman Christian Califano to complement their front row options, but Nieto's a crucial addition.

"The capture of both Marco and Carlos didn't simply occur because an agent touted them around," Ryan explains. "They were carefully identified as players we wanted to be a part of our squad. Marco's an athlete waiting to explode and we've already seen glimpses of his ability.

"Carlos, to my mind, was the form prop in the Six Nations last season and someone of his quality does not become available too often. I feel genuinely sorry for him that he hasn't been able to contribute in a game environment because he's at a new club and wants to succeed.

"But we know what he can produce - he's a vastly experienced individual, a damaging operator at the set-piece, a renowned scrummager and a great guy to have around. He'll provide our forward pack with a huge amount of quality."

Nieto spent seven years with Viadana and made his Italian debut in 2002, without establishing himself as immediate first choice. But he was recalled by Pierre Berbizier for the summer tour in 2005.

"I know I have some experience and I think that will be good for the team. I like the scrum and the lineouts - this is where my life is - and I like to think I can be a big help to the team here," Nieto added.

"In England, it's obvious to me that the scrum and line-outs are very important - it's a big part of the game. From the games I've seen, every teams wants to win the scrums and it's always a hard fight.

"For me, it wasn't a hard decision to come to England. I had seven years experience in Italy and that's a long time. The English Championship is one of the best, if not the best, in Europe and I wanted to experience it.

"A year before the World Cup was a good time to extend my experiences and I want to improve as much as I can. The rugby here is fantastic, the stadium is always full, the people, supporters and team are fantastic and now I just want to contribute to the team."

<u>LASTSEASON</u>



WORCESTER WARRIORS

15

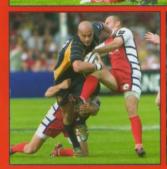


GOUGESTER RUGBY

15









REPORT

Warriors took two points from the opening match of the 2005-2006 Guinness Premiership season after finding themselves six points down to Gloucester within the first 10 minutes.

Despite their slow start, Worcester picked up their pace on the half-hour mark with three penalties from James Brown, a lead they looked like holding to half-time until Ludovic Mercier's 50m penalty drew the teams level.

Warriors went ahead again after 42 minutes through a fourth Brown penalty, then the two fly-halves traded kicks to keep the home side's nose in front with 15 minutes to go.

Worcester made two changes on the 65-minute mark, with former Cherry & Whites favourite Chris Fortey replacing Andre van Niekerk and Shane Drahm making his debut in place of James Brown. After Mercier levelled the score at 15-15, Drahm watched his penalty fall agonisingly short.

Warriors finished on the front foot and attacking the Gloucester line, but the vital breakthrough never came.

TEAM

Worcester: Delport, Hylton, Rasmussen (Le Roux 71), Lombard, Hinshelwood, Brown (Drahm 65), Powell, Hickey, Sanderson, Vaili, Gillies, Collier (Murphy 57), Horsman (Taumoepeau 80), Van Niekerk (C Fortey 65), Windo.

TODAY'S LINE-UPS

WORCESTER WARRIORS

GLOUCESTER RUGBY

RUGBY	Try Conversion Penalty Drop Goal	- 22		Try	Conversion	Penalty	Drop Goal	No.
Lee Fortey		01	PROP	01				Patrice Collazo
Aleki Lutui		02	HOOKER	02				Mefin Davies
Chris Horsman		03	PROP	03				Christian Califano
Richard Blaze		04	LOCK	04				Will James
Phil Murphy		05	LOCK	05				Adam Eustace
Pat Sanderson (c)		06	FLANKER	06				(c) Peter Buxton
Tom Harding		07	FLANKER	07				Andy Hazell
Kai Horstmann		08	NO. 8	08				James Forrester
Ryan Powell		09	SCRUMHALF	09				Peter Richards
Shane Drahm		10	FLYHALF	10				Ludovic Mercier
Mark Tucker		11	WING	11 🗆				Mark Foster
Simon Whatling		12	CENTRE	3-12 <u></u>				Anthony Allen
Dale Rasmussen		13	CENTRE	13 🗆				Jack Adams
Aisea Havili		14	WING	14 🗆				James Bailey
Lee Best		15	FULL BACK	15 🗌				Iain Balshaw
Darren Morris		16	REPLACEMENTS	16				Olivier Azam
Ben Gotting		17		17				Jack Forster
Gavin Quinnell		18		18				Jake Boer
Drew Hickey	0000	19		19				Ryan Lamb
Matt Powell	0000	20		20				Mike Tindall
Thomas Lombard	0000	21		21				Nick Wood
Thinus Delport		22		22 🗆				Jon Goodridge
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	1	w 1		REFERE				Dave Pearson
And	10111	0	wast	тоисн тоисн				Peter Huckle Rob Debney
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