



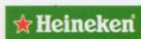
EDINBURGH v GLOUCESTER

SUNDAY 17TH DECEMBER 2006 | KICK OFF 1.00 PM | MURRAYFIELD

Heineken® Cup
Round Four



ercrugby.com



Edinburgh

T C P D

HUGO SOUTHWELL	15
CHRIS PATERSON (CAPT)	14
MARCUS DI ROLLO	13
DUNCAN HODGE	12
BEN CAIRNS	11
PHIL GODMAN	10
MIKE BLAIR	9
ALLAN JACOBSEN	1
DOUGIE HALL	2
ALASDAIR DICKINSON	3
MATT MUSTCHIN	4
SCOTT MURRAY	5
ALASDAIR STROKOSCH	6
ROSS RENNIE	7
DAVE CALLAM	8

ANDREW KELLY	16
DAVE HEWETT	17
FERGUS PRINGLE	18
SIMON TAYLOR	19
STEVEN TURNBULL	20
GREIG LAIDLAW	21
JOHN SENIO	22

Edinburgh
Gloucester

Gloucester

T C P D

OLLY MORGAN	15
JAMES SIMPSON-DANIEL	14
MIKE TINDALL	13
ANTHONY ALLEN	12
MARK FOSTER	11
WILLIE WALKER	10
PETER RICHARDS	9
CHRISTIAN CALIFANO	1
OLIVIER AZAM	2
CARLOS NIETO	3
MARCO BORTOLAMI (CAPT)	4
ALEX BROWN	5
PETER BUXTON	6
JAKE BOER	7
LUKE NARRAWAY	8

ROB ELLOWAY	16
NICK WOOD	17
ADAM EUSTACE	18
ANDY HAZELL	19
RORY LAWSON	20
RYAN LAMB	21
IAIN BALSJAW	22

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: Romain Poite (Fra)
TJ: Frank Macellio (Fra)
TJ2: Jean-Pierre Pellaprat (Fra)



Heineken Cup



TODAY'S OPPOSITION

Gloucester's season so far

DEAN RYAN, about as likely to mince his words as Gavin Henson is to take the field with a hair out of place, summed up Gloucester's Heineken Cup victory over Edinburgh in his own distinct style of the vernacular last weekend.

"Imagine shoving a stick into a hornets nest, leaving it for a week and the going back to it, well that is what we have just done," he said.

Gloucester's 38-22 victory at Kingsholm last weekend ensured they arrive at Murrayfield this afternoon still with a fighting (if outside) chance of qualification to the knockout stages of toughest, grandest and most testing club tournament in the world.

"We will have to be smarter," he added. "We are in a cup final scenario every time we take the field in this competition and that focuses the mind – it will be very tough in the return leg, that's for sure."

Gloucester's European Cup form is contrasted by their domestic efforts in the Guinness Premiership. Defeats in the opening rounds against Leinster and Agen left them with an uphill battle to qualify but they sit second in the Premiership following a 14-12 defeat to Bristol, the current leaders.

Considering they had the best part of a dozen players unavailable during the November international period because of injury and international



call-ups, their three victories over Wasps, London Irish and Saracens were vital in maintaining momentum.

"I have always believed I'm working with the right group of players and it's up to everyone here to support them," Ryan said. "In the last few weeks we have shown we are capable of learning those lessons from Europe and that has been very pleasing."

Before the Heineken Cup intervened in October, Gloucester ended their first section of five Guinness Premiership matches with four victories and a draw.

They 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.

They then got the better of Harlequins at the Stoop in a far more disjointed performance that was revved up by a virtuoso performance from scrum-half Peter Richards.

It was a solid if unspectacular start for 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 have been tagged as one of the favourites for the final stages of a number of competitions but Ryan is only too well aware that his group of players have only just begun their journey.

"Our ambition is to be at the top end of Europe but our journey has only just begun," he 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. What has been pleasing is that we have

endured a number of injuries but still progressed well. We are 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 over London Irish last season in the European Shield final. 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.

Bortolami has already shown what an outstanding athlete he is and is a natural leader of growing reputation in Gloucester's pack and Nieto is regarded as one of the best tighthead props in the Six Nations.

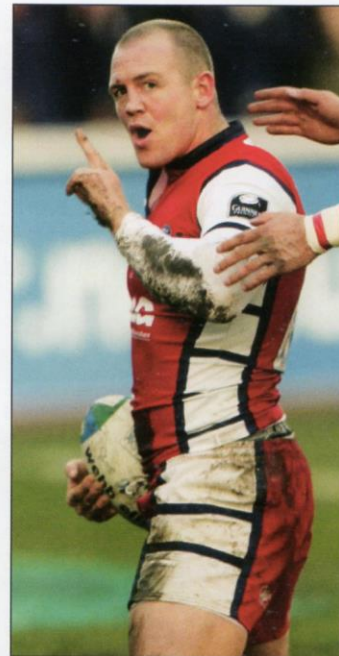
Christian Califano, once voted in the all-time best French front row, switched from Agen and has been a revelation – offering immediate set-

piece quality and a perfect learning base for youngster Jack Forster – just ask Tim Payne of Wasps.

There have been other additions too. With Ryan Lamb initially 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 and scored the final of Gloucester's three tries in the 33-24 victory over Worcester. It has meant that Ryan's biggest job has been managing the vast expectation on his squad.

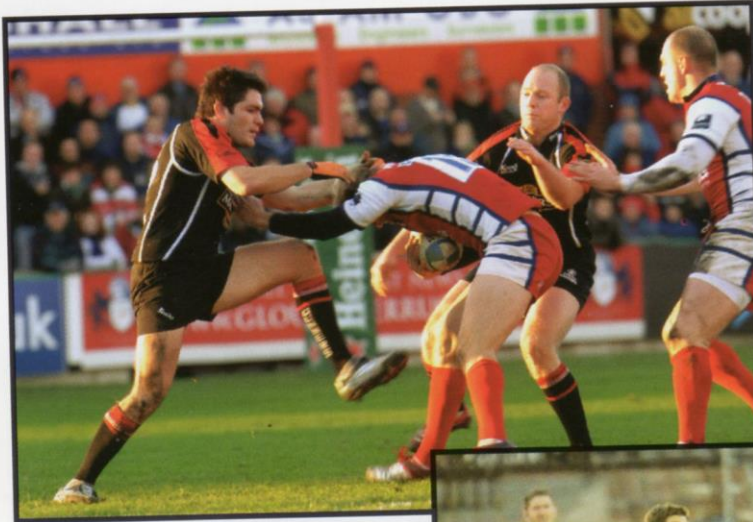
"There is an awful lot this squad can achieve but we must not get ahead of ourselves – we have a long way to go and a lot of development to go through," Ryan said.



Photos courtesy of Bruce Seabrook/GPA Images

GALLERY

v GLOUCESTER



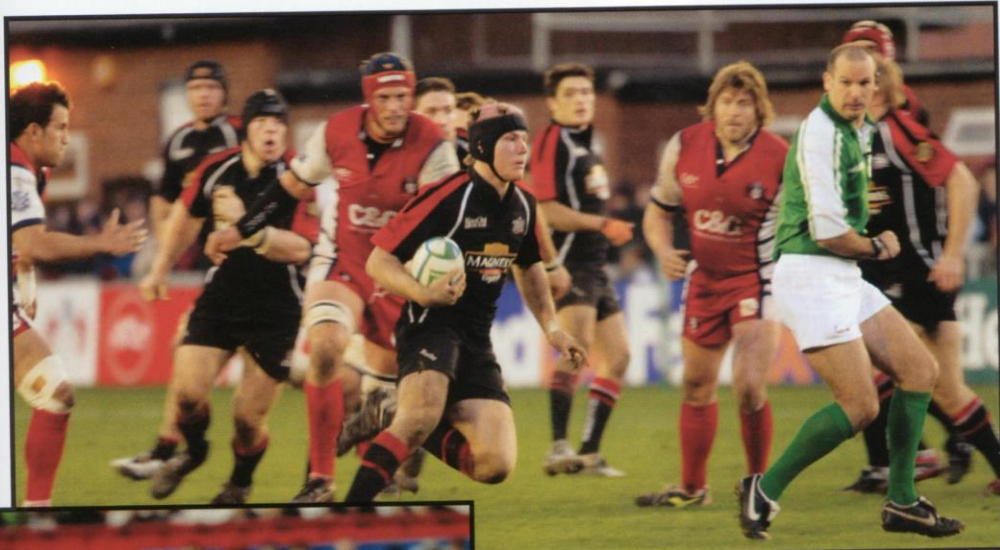
EDINBURGH MIDFIELD BOTTLING UP GLOUCESTER



DESPITE THE PITCH CUTTING UP, EDINBURGH HOLD FIRM TO STOP THE GLOUCESTER ATTACK



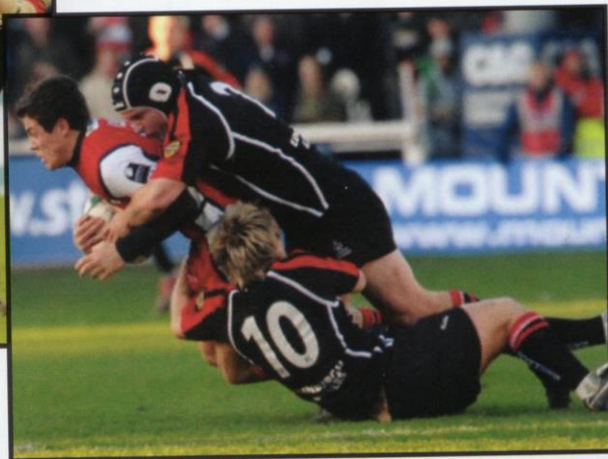
SCOTT MURRAY PROTECTS THE BALL AS MIKE BLAIR MOVES IT AWAY



ROSS RENNIE IN OPEN FIELD TO SET UP MARCUS DI ROLLO'S TRY



MOBILE PROP ALLAN JACOBSEN TAKES IT ON



ANTHONY ALLEN IS THE MEAT IN THE EDINBURGH SANDWICH