

Todays Visitors Gloucester Rugby





Club **Details**

Director of rugby: Dean Ryan Captain: Marco Bortolami

Current League Position: 3rd

Last Season's League Position: 5th

Gloucester

Previous 3 Fixtures

Fri 12th Jan 07 Agen 26 Gloucester 18

Fri 19th Jan 07 Gloucester 19 Leinster 13

Sat 27th Jan 07 Gloucester 44 Sale Sharks 24

Gloucester

Next 3 Fixtures

Sat 24th Feb 07 Gloucester v Worcester Warriors Kingsholm KO: 15:00

Sat 3rd Mar 07 Northampton Saints v Gloucester Franklin's Gardens KO: 15:00

Sun 11th Mar 07 Gloucester v Leicester Tigers Kingsholm KO: 13:00

Gloucester's Kit today:





t's been a mixed season for Gloucester in this season's two main competitions, but with a great blend of youth and experience, Director of Rugby Dean Ryan is building what looks like an impressive squad for this campaign and beyond.

The Cherry and Whites come into the game on the back of an impressive 44-20 victory over Sale Sharks, although they have been unable to repeat their form in the Guinness Premiership in this season's Heineken Cup, following two defeats to Agen and a loss in Leinster.

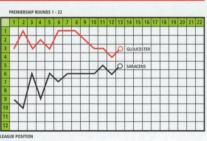
This is the third meeting between the two teams this season with Saracens enjoying two victories out of the meetings, but in the game that really mattered – the Guinness Premiership clash between the two teams In November – Dean Ryan's men came out on top in front of the Sky TV cameras.

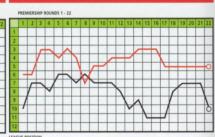
With youngsters like Ryan Lamb and Anthony Allen attracting rave reviews, coupled with the experience of players like Mike Tindall and lain Balshaw, they have an excellent blend in the side and have produced some impressive results this season. Another player to have settled in quickly to life in the Premiership is Italian second row Marco Bortolami. The Italian was quickly installed as captain for the 2006/07 campaign and is already a crowd favourite.

Last season, Gloucester just missed out on a top four place in the 2005/06 Guinness Premiership as they suffered a dramatic final day defeat to London Wasps when they seemed to have the match already won. Their overall fifth place was an improvement by one spot on the previous season and was enough to ensure Heineken Cup rugby at Kingsholm for the forthcoming campaign – that along with the Challenge Cup win over London Irish to put a trophy in the cabinet.

Gloucester v Saracens Form 2006-07

Gloucester v Saracens Form 2005-06





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Squad **List**

Surname	First	Position	Height		Weight		DOB	Honours
	name		(Metric)	(Imp)	(Metric)	(Imp)		
Adams	Jack	Centre	1.82m	6ft 0in	97kg	15st 2lb	17/09/86	
Allen	Anthony	Centre	1.80m	5ft 10in	92kg	14st 3lb	01/09/86	
Azam	Olivier	Hooker	1.85m	6ft 0in	118kg	18st 5lb	21/10/74	France
Bailey	James	Wing	1.80m	5ft 10in	90kg	14st 1lb	05/08/83	
Balding	Adam	Number 8	1.88m	6ft 2in	110kg	17st 7lb	07/12/79	
Balshaw	lain	Wing	1.83m	5ft 10in	95kg	14st 7lb	14/04/79	England/ Lions
Boer	Jake	Flanker	1.87m	6ft1in	108kg	16st 8lb	01/11/75	
Bortolami	Marco	Lock	1.95m	6ft 6in	110kg	17st 2lb	12/06/80	Italy
Brown	Alex	Lock	2.00m	6ft 7in	115kg	17st 8lb	17/05/79	England
Buxton	Peter	Back row	1.92m	6ft 3in	113kg	17st 5lb	21/08/78	
Califano	Christian	Prop	1.80m	5ft 10in	113kg	17st 5lb	16/05/72	France
Collazo	Patrice	Prop	1.85m	6ft	110kg	17st 2lb	27/04/74	France
Davies	Brad	Outside half	1.77m	5ft 9in	89kg	14st 1lb	13/02/83	
Davies	Mefin	Hooker	1.78m	5ft 10in	96kg	16st 5lb	02/09/72	Wales
Elloway	Rob	Hooker	1.83m	6ft 0in	104kg	15st 4lb	09/11/83	
Eustace	Adam	Lock	1.95m	6ft 4in	110kg	17st 2lb	09/01/79	
Forrester	James	Number 8	1.95m	6ft 5in	108kg	16st 8lb	09/02/81	England
Forster	Jack	Prop	1.82m	6ft 0in	119kg	18st 6lb	19/03/87	
Foster	Mark	Wing	1.83m	6ft 1in	91kg	14st 3lb	02/09/83	
Goodridge	Jon	Full back	1.86m	6ft 1in	92kg	14st 1lb	26/02/81	
Hazell	Andy	Flanker	1.83m	6ft 0in	100kg	15st 8lb	25/04/78	England
James	Will	Lock	1.95m	6ft 6in	122kg	19st 8lb	22/12/76	
Keil	Rudi	Centre	1.85m	6ft 1in	93kg	14st 1lb	08/12/77	
Lamb	Ryan	Stand off	1.76m	5ft 9in	86kg	13st 6lb	18/05/86	
Lawson	Rory	Scrum half	1.76m	5ft 9in	82kg	12st 8lb	12/03/81	
McMillan	Ross	Hooker	1.88m	6ft 2in	110kg	17st 2lb	02/06/87	
Mercier	Ludovic	Stand off	1.80m	5ft 10in	90kg	14st Olb	01/11/76	
Merriman	James	Flanker	1.83m	6ft 0in	95kg	14st 7lb	17/01/84	
Miller	Dean	Flanker	1.89m	6ft 3in	103kg	15st 3lb	13/09/87	
Morgan	Olly	Full back	1.89m	6ft 3in	91kg	14st 6lb	03/11/85	
Narraway	Luke	Back row	1.90m	6ft 3in	104kg	15st 4lb	07/09/83	
Nieto	Carlos	Prop	1.85cm	6ft 1in	110kg	17st 2lb	28/04/76	Italy
Pendlebury	Jonathan	Lock	1.94m	6ft 5in	108kg	16st 8lb	15/01/83	
Richards	Peter	Scrum half	1.75m	5ft 10in	88kg	13st 8lb	10/03/78	England
Sigley	Terry	Prop	1.88m	6ft 2in	119kg	18st 6lb	12/10/78	
Simpson-Daniel	James	Wing	1.82m	5ft 11in	92kg	14st 1lb	30/05/82	England
Thirlby	Rob	Wing	1.86m	6ft 2in	92kg	14st 1lb	02/03/79	
Thomas	Haydn	Scrum half	1.73m	5ft 8in	80kg	12st 4lb	18/10/78	
Tindall	Mike	Centre	1.88m	6ft 2in	102kg	15st 8lb	18/10/78	England/ Lions
Tuohy	Dan	Lock	2.99m	6ft 6in	108kg	17st Olb	18/06/85	
Walker	Willie	Stand off	1.80m	5ft 10in	90kg	14st Olb	19/05/78	
Wood	Nick	Prop	1.86m	6ft 2in	110kg	17st 2lb	09/01/83	

Today's Visitors

Head 2 Head Take a closer look at some of the key players and decision makers



A regular member of the England U21s squad in recent years, Bailey signed for Gloucester from Bristol Shoguns in the summer of 2004. The talented wing man scored 14 tries in 21 first team appearances for the Shoguns in the 2003/04 division one campaign.

Has made his name on the sevens circuit as a dangerous finisher and game-breaker after starting his career as a member of the Saracens Academy.

The highly sought-after 23year-old Ratuvou was one of the stars of Fiji's recent Pacific Five Nations campaign and has added pace and power to the Saracens line-up since his arrival in the summer.

The 6ft 3in Ratuvou played in Fiji's five test matches in the summer which included wins over Samoa, Japan and Italy and he played under Saracens' Raiwalui, who captained the country during the series of games in which he impressed. He was also part of the Fijian 7s squad on the IRB Series last season.



James Simpson-Daniel Apps: 11 Points: 15 (3 tries)

Centre

Apps: 20 Points: 10 (2 tries) SARACENS

Kevin Sorrell



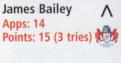
Sinbad joined Gloucester from Sedbergh School and has established himself as one of the game's biggest talents. His Gloucester debut was against Rotherham in 2001 when he scored a superb individual try. The wingman has gone on to make an impression at England level. His first England try came against Italy in the Six Nations in 2003 and he played in the opening game against New Zealand on the tour of 2004.

Simpson-Daniel is regarded as one of the most electric finishers in the Premiership. He has suffered with injury and illness but on his day is the most dangerous open field runner in the squad.

The Saracens Players' Player of the Year for the 2005/06 season. Sorrell, has been one of the club's most consistent performers over the past decade and it's the second time in his career that he's been honoured by his club team mates.

Saracens to the core. Sorrell first joined the club in 1995 and he's represented England at U19, U21 and A level. Strong in defence and in the tackle, he gets through a lot of unseen work on the field and has been a regular in the side alongside centre partner Ben Johnston for many years.

In the 2003/04 season, his performances earned him an England A call-up with some feeling he was unlucky not to earn a place in the full squad.



Wing

Apps: 14 Points: 30 (6 tries)

Kameli Ratuvou







Carlos Nieto Apps: 11 Points: 0

Prop

Apps: 17 Points: 20 (4 tries) 54

Kevin Yates



Nieto joined Gloucester on a three-year contract last summer. The tough scrummaging setpiece specialist and Italian international is seen as a direct replacement for Phil Vickery on the tighthead side of the scrum.

The Argentinian-born prop made his Italy debut against England in the 2002 Six Nations and was recalled by Pierre Berbizier to the national set-up for the 2005 summer tour of Argentina and Australia.

A hugely experienced prop, Kevin Yates extended his Saracens contract at the close of the 2005/06 season and like his fellow front row partner Cobus Visagie, has been one of the cornerstones of the Saracens scrum in the past two seasons.

He's had spells with Bath and Sale Sharks and made more than 100 appearances for the two clubs before joining Saracens from the Manchesterbased club.

His rugby career has also seen him enjoy a spell down under in New Zealand with the Wellington Hurricanes where he anchored down in the scrum in the Super 12 competition and also the NPC. Capped twice by England on their tour to Argentina in 1997.



Adam Balding Apps: 6 Points: 5 (1 try)

Λ

Back Row

Apps: 12 Points: 15 (3 tries) SARACENS

Ben Skirving



Signed for Gloucester from Leicester Tigers, the England 'A' international Balding has added to the squad's back-row options, where he fights it out with Forrester, Boer, Buxton, Hazell and a number of youngsters.

He ended last season as Gloucester's skipper and started the new campaign as their first choice number eight before he fractured a cheek bone in three places on the opening weekend of the season against Worcester. Unfailingly direct and powerful, Balding was one of Gloucester's players of the season last campaign.

The powerful No.8 Skirving was enjoying a fine season at the base of the scrum and was a regular on the scoresheet in the first half of the season. He combines power with pace and were it not for the injury, would have been included in the England Saxons Churchill Cup squad.

Skirving joined the Saracens Academy set-up in 1999 from his local club Bishop's Stortford and has represented England at every level from U16 to U21 and made his England A debut in February 2006.

His pace also saw him included in the England 7s squad at the end of the 2004/05 season but it's the 15-man game where Skirving is at his best.

Gloucester Memories

Saracens 50 Gloucester 20 Sunday 20th August 2000





Match **Details**

Scorers

Tries: Bracken, Davison, Sorrell, Murray, Luger, Johnston

Conversions: Castaignede (4)

Penalties: Castaignede (4)

Saracens Team

Castaignede, Luger, Johnston, Sorrell, O'Mahony, McRae, Bracken, Wallace, Cairns, White, Davison, Murray, Chesney, Hill, Diprose It's not often that the famous Shed Heads are silenced as they support their beloved Gloucester, and to be honest, we have to look back a long way for the last time that the Men in Black had the Cherry & Whites' faithful stuck for words, seven whole years to be exact!

These days, the West Country side are the epitome of a top four outfit: consistent, well coached, a strong and healthy squad with a balance of youth and experience and even when we look back to the turn of the century (Y2K), it's still fair to say that they were a very competitive side, always mixing it with the best.

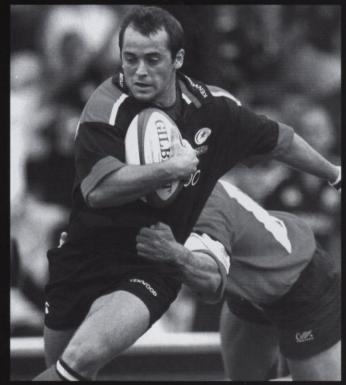
However, the 2000/01 season saw Gloucester in a transitional period; the likes of Mapletoft, Saint Andre, Simms and Benton were long gone and players like lan Jones and Junior Paramore had been brought in to steady the ship. They also began the season without some of their normal power up front, with Messrs Vickery and Woodman out injured, so their muchvaulted pack was missing a bit of its grunt.

Saracens, on the other hand, had a starting line up back then that resembled a who's who of rugby, with players like Thomas Castaignede, Dan Luger, Scott Murray and Duncan McRae joining the likes of Richard Hill, Tony Diprose, Danny Grewcock, Paul Wallace and Kyran Bracken in the summer and the new season held such promise that even Director of Rugby Francois Pienaar found it hard to conceal a hint of real optimism in front of the press.

It was the opening game of the season in late August and Vicarage Road was bathed in sunshine; there was an air of expectation in Watford in what many were hoping would be a return to the glory days of 1997/98.

However, as the game kicked off, Gloucester came out all guns blazing and took the game to the Men in Black in the opening quarter and it was a feisty 15 minutes, in which the home side did well to come out from level at 6-6.

As the game wore on, Saracens grew in confidence and through the quick thinking of Bracken and McRae, put the pressure back on the visitors. Captain Bracken scored the first try of the game from a scrum five metres out and that seemed to open the floodgates.





Bill Davison was next to score in a period that saw Gloucester only touch the ball to restart. His try came from quick ball along the line followed by quick recycling, which ended with a powerful drive over the line from the lock. The final two tries of the half that made it bonus time for Saracens, as they notched up 4 tries for their first Premiership point of the season, came from sublime runs from the back line.

Kevin Sorrell was first with a powerful run from half way after McRae had instigated the initial break. He brushed aside the attempted tackle of Fanolua and scored under the posts.

The final try of the half came a minute later with Luger making a dazzling run. He sped into the opposition half and sent a beautiful pass out wide to Castaignede, he jinked inside and passed the ball to Johnston. As Saracens entered the 22, the ball went through several pairs of hands, the final recipient being Murray, who launched himself at the line to score one of the best tries ever scored at Vicarage Road.

As expected, Gloucester resumed the second half in a fiery fashion, but this time Saracens had the answers. By the time Dan Luger had scorched over in the 5th minute of the half, the once vocal visiting support had fallen silent and were forced to sit back and admire.

Castaignede was threatening from deep and

causing all sorts of problems for the defence, with Sorrell and Johnston always ready to support but one such break saw the visitors notch up their first try after an interception by Simon Mannix.

Saracens' final try came again from the hands of Castaignede; this time he made amends as he fielded a clearance kick. He ran into midfield and then switched with O'Mahony, who had come off of his wing, and set off towards the sticks, drawing the defence. He then reached a wall of defenders and sent a long pass out wide back to Castaignede, who had looped him and he set off down the touchline. He beat the winger and then passed inside to the supporting Johnston for another fantastic try.

Gloucester, to their credit, never gave up, and despite missing a few players through injury, like Woodman and Vickery, put up a battle. They scored the final try of the match making the score 47-20.

With 12 minutes to go, the frustration of the afternoon got to Olivier Azam who head butted Darragh O'Mahony, which left him sprawled on the ground. The French hooker was sent off and minutes later when Saracens had a penalty inside Gloucester's half, instead of kicking for touch, captain Bracken opted for the kick at goal, which, if successful, would bring up the half century. Castaignede duly obliged and sealed a rousing victory.

Fezzinc

To celebrate the Fez Boys 10th this week we feature pictures of Shed Head favourites being fezzed at Vicarage Road



Above: Mark Mapletoft before he decided to play for was one of Gloucester's



Above: Nigel Melville



Above: Rob Thirlby left

Recent Premiership Meetings Head 2 head



Saracens	v G	loucester

DATE	VENUE	S	G	SARACENS SCORERS	GLOUCESTER SCORERS	
Sat 3 Apr 04	Vicarage Road	8	16	Morgan Williams(T) Nicky Little(P)	Marcel Garvey(T) Henry Paul(C/3P)	
Sun 21 Nov 04	Vicarage Road	14	9	Robbie Kydd(T/3P)	Simon Amor(3P)	
Sat 30 Apr 05	Kingsholm	14	13	Ben Johnston(T) Penalty Try(T) Nicky Little(C) Glen Jackson(C)	Olly Morgan(T) Duncan McRae(C/2P)	
Sat 26 Nov 05	Kingsholm	8	19	Matt Cairns(T) Glen Jackson(P)	Mark Foster(T) James Bailey(T) Ludovic Mercier(D/2P)	
Sun 8 Jan 06	Vicarage Road	9	19	Glen Jackson(3P)	Peter Richards(T) Ludovic Mercier(C/4P)	
Sat 4 Nov 06	Kingsholm	12	21	Glen Jackson(4P)	Ludovic Mercier(P) Willie Walker(C/2P) Rudi Keil(2T)	

Saracens' only defeat in their last nine matches in all competitions was 15-28 at Leicester in the Guinness Premiership on New Year's Day. At Vicarage Road Saracens have won five in a row since Worcester beat them 17-20 there in the Guinness Premiership on 26 November.

Gloucester have won just two of their last five encounters in the Premiership, whilst away from home Gloucester have slipped to three successive defeats at Wasps, Sale and Agen. Gloucester have won the last three encounters with Saracens, with Sarries last win being 24-16 in the Wildcard final at Twickenham in May 2005. Gloucester have won on three of the last four occasions they have visited Vicarage Road.

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Sar	acens	Vs	Gloucester						
T C P DG	PLD	Position	PLD	T C P DG					
	KEVIN YATES 01	Prop	01 CHRISTIAN CALIFANO						
	FABIO ONGARO 02	Hooker	02 OLIVIER AZAM						
	CENCUS JOHNSTON 03	Prop	03 CARLOS NIETO						
	IAIN FULLARTON 04	Lock	04 MARCO BORTOLAMI (C)						
	SIMON RAWALUI (C) 05	Lock	05 ALEX BROWN						
	KRIS CHESNEY 06	Flanker	06 PETER BUXTON						
	RICHARD HILL 07	Flanker	07 ANDY HAZEL						
	BEN SKIRVING 08	No.8	08 ADAM BALDING						
	NEIL DE KOCK 09	Scrum Half	09 RORY LAWSON						
	GLEN JACKSON 🔲 10	Fly Half	10 WILLIE WALKER						
	KAMELI RATUVOU 🗌 11	Wing	11 JAMES SIMPSON-DANIEL						
	ANDY FARRELL 12	Centre	12 MIKE TINDALL						
	KEVIN SORRELL 13	Centre	13 JACK ADAMS						
	TOMAS DE VEDIA 14	Wing	14 JAMES BAILEY						
	DAN SCARBROUGH 15	Full Back	15 OLLY MORGAN	0000					
Replacements									
	MATT CAIRNS 16		16 MEFIN DAVIES						
	TOM MERCEY 17		17 NICK WOOD						
	TOM RYDER 18		18 WILL JAMES						
	PAUL GUSTARD 19		19 JAKE BOER						
	ALAN DICKENS 20		20 PETER RICHARDS						
	ADAM POWELL 21		21 LUDOVIC MERCIER						
	RODD PENNEY 22		22 ANTHONY ALLEN						



Next Home Match

Sunday 4th March 2007 Guinness Premiership Saracens v Sale Sharks Kick off 3.00pm



Sunday February 18th 2007

Man of the match

Referee - Rob Debney Touch Judge - Andrew Watson Touch Judge - Roger Baileff

Ticket Hotline: 01923 475222 Buy online www.saracens.com



Next Away Match

Saturday 24th February 2007 Guinness Premiership Bath Rugby v Saracens Kick off 2.45pm



Seve's new London masterpiece

