

NEWCASTLE FALCONS V GLOUCESTER

£3.00

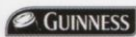
KINGSTON PARK • SUNDAY 23RD DECEMBER 2007 • KICK-OFF 3PM



FALCONS

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rock

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www.guinnesspremiership.com



SUNDAY 23RD DECEMBER 2007

Referee: Martin Fox

Touch Judges: Robin Goodliffe, Don Helme



PLEASE NOTE: team line-ups may change before kick-off

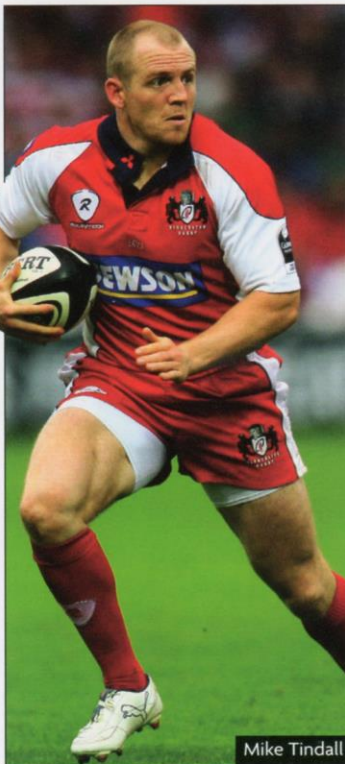
Mathew TAIT	15	FULLBACK	15	Iain BALSHAW
Tom MAY	14	RIGHT WING	14	James SIMPSON-DANIEL
Jamie NOON (captain)	13	CENTRE	13	Mike TINDALL
Toby FLOOD	12	CENTRE	12	Anthony ALLEN
John RUDD	11	LEFT WING	11	Lesley VAINIKOLO
Jonny WILKINSON	10	FLY HALF	10	Ryan LAMB
Lee DICKSON	9	SCRUM HALF	9	Gareth COOPER
Jon GOLDING	1	PROP	1	Nick WOOD
Matt THOMPSON	2	HOOKER	2	Olivier AZAM
Carl HAYMAN	3	PROP	3	Carlos NIETO
Andy PERRY	4	LOCK	4	Marco BORTOLAMI (captain)
Mark SORENSEN	5	LOCK	5	Alex BROWN
Geoff PARLING	6	FLANKER	6	Alasdair STOKOSCH
Ben WOODS	7	FLANKER	7	Luke NARRAWAY
Russell WINTER	8	NO. 8	8	Gareth DELVE
Andy LONG	16	REPLACEMENT	16	Andy TITTERRELL
David WILSON	17	REPLACEMENT	17	Patrice COLLAZO
Sean TOMES	18	REPLACEMENT	18	Will JAMES
Brent WILSON	19	REPLACEMENT	19	Peter BUXTON
James GRINDAL	20	REPLACEMENT	20	Rory LAWSON
Tim VISSER	21	REPLACEMENT	21	Willie WALKER
Ollie PHILLIPS	22	REPLACEMENT	22	Leon LLOYD

FALCONS POINTS	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
GLOUCESTER POINTS	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
TIME	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
SCORER	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>





IN OPPOSITION



Mike Tindall

A trip to Newcastle wouldn't necessarily be the top of Dean Ryan's Christmas wish-list – particularly with recent history hinting at the difficulties Gloucester face at Kingston Park – but that is the task facing the Guinness Premiership high-flyers this afternoon.

If the festive winds are favourable we could just see a minor classic this afternoon, such is the talent on show.

While the likes of the majestic Toby Flood, Jonny Wilkinson, Mathew Tait and the crew strut their stuff for the Falcons, Gloucester's young brigade are also doing very nicely.

Stand-off Ryan Lamb reeled off his third Heineken Cup man of the match performance of the season against Bourgoin last weekend, Anthony Allen has rediscovered the sort of form that

launched him into England's firmament last season and the tried and tested campaigners like Mike Tindall, Iain Balshaw and James Simpson-Daniel are running hot.

We are slowly reaching the tipping point of the season. Qualification to the knock-out stages of Europe is almost assured and Ryan and co turn their attentions back to the Guinness Premiership today.

They have lost just once – away to London Irish in October – and have set the pace alongside neighbours Bath, combining some outstanding attacking verve with a additional level of physicality that was missing from them last season and was exposed in the Heineken Cup.

Last season's losing Guinness Premiership finalists made almost the perfect start to the season: five wins from six in the first section of the Premiership. Following their shellacking at Twickenham in May,



head coach Ryan moved heaven and earth to strengthen what was already a tremendously gifted squad.

While the likes of the brilliantly precocious Lamb, the rapidly emerging Allen and full-back Olly Morgan had another season under their belts, heavy weights arrived in numbers.

Lesley Vainikolo, the try-hunting giant from Bradford was the most high profile arrival and has scored seven times already in Premiership action despite a serious neck injury.

Scotland's Chris Paterson, Wallaby hooker Jeremy Paul and Fiji's Akapusi Qera have all added to the mix. There have been other additions too: Alasdair Strokosch is a tackle-hungry, workaholic back row forward, Leon Lloyd made the switch from Leicester and Andy Titterrell has added versatility and dynamism to the hooking options.



James Simpson-Daniel

Vainikolo announced himself on the Premiership with a debut record five tries at Headingley as Gloucester ran riot in the second half to claim a 49-24 victory with eight tries in all on the opening day of the season.

Gloucester followed that up with a hard-earned victory away to Saracens that put them under greater scrutiny. Although Vainikolo suffered a neck injury, Gloucester plundered tries from Anthony Allen, Ryan Lamb, Luke Narryaway and Olly Morgan to record a 38-31 victory.

It gave them maximum points after two rounds and last week they opened up at Kingsholm with a 29-7 success over neighbours Worcester Warriors.

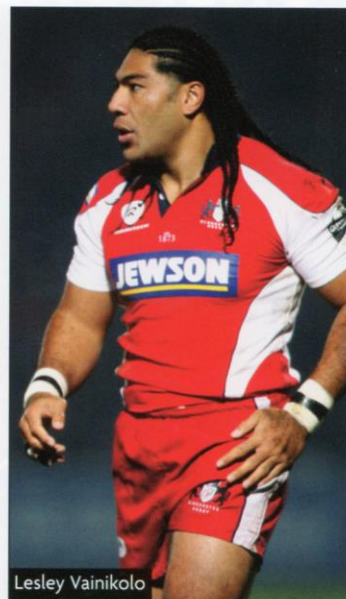
However, it was tougher than the scoreline suggested but thanks to a brilliant individual try from James Simpson-Daniel, a punishing drive and score from hooker Olivier Azam and a returning try from Mike Tindall eased Gloucester to victory in front of almost 16,000 supporters.

A 29-7 win over Leicester at Welford Road and a convincing victory over Sale strengthened their position – before their 15-10 defeat at Irish put the skids under their start.

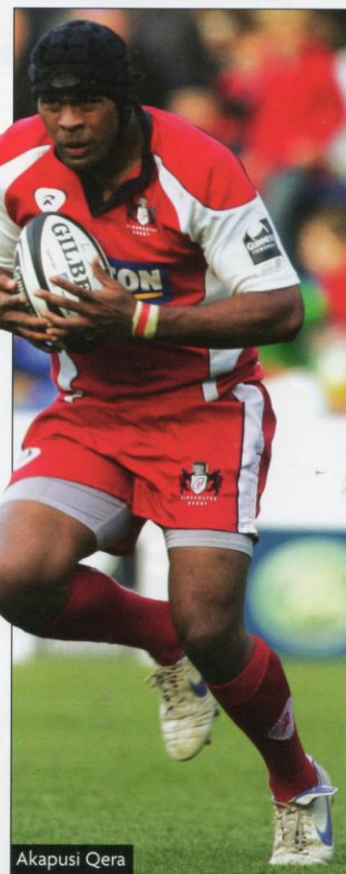
A draw against today's opponents Newcastle and defeat to Wasps put them out of the EDF Energy Cup but they have responded well with six successive victories – four in the Heineken Cup.

After pasting Ulster all over Ravenhill with the quickest bonus point in the competition's history, Gloucester beat the Ospreys and Bourgoin back-to-back.

In between, they over-turned a potentially fatal half-time deficit to grind out a 27-25 win over Harlequins thanks to two tries from the 'Volcano' and will be hunting more points this afternoon.



Lesley Vainikolo



Akapusi Qera



IN OPPOSITION

SQUAD LIST

Surname	First Name	Position	Height	Weight	DOB
ADAMS	Jack	Centre	1.82m/6' 0"	97kg/15st 3lb	17.09.86
ALLEN	Anthony	Centre	1.80m/5' 11"	90kg/14st 2lb	01.09.86
AZAM	Olivier	Hooker	1.85m/6' 1"	121kg/19st 0lb	21.10.74
BAILEY	James	Wing	1.80m/5' 11"	84kg/13st 3lb	05.08.83
BALDING	Adam	Back Row	1.88m/6' 2"	110kg/17st 4lb	07.12.79
BALSHAW	Iain	F Back / Wing	1.85m/6' 1"	90kg/14st 2lb	14.04.79
BORTOLAMI	Marco	Lock	1.95m/6' 5"	105kg/16st 7lb	12.06.80
BROWN	Alex	Lock	2.01m/6' 7"	108kg/17st 0lb	17.05.79
BUXTON	Peter	Back Row	1.92m/6' 4"	110kg/17st 4lb	21.08.78
CALIFANO	Christian	Prop	1.80m/5' 11"	110kg/17st 4lb	16.05.72
COLLAZO	Patrice	Prop	1.85m/6' 1"	110kg/17st 4lb	27.04.74
COOPER	Gareth	Scrum Half	1.72m/5' 8"	84kg/13st 3lb	07.05.79
DELVE	Gareth	No. 8	1.91m/6' 3"	115kg/18st 1lb	30.12.82
DICKINSON	Alasdair	Prop	1.84m/6' 0"	112kg/17st 8lb	11.09.83
FORSTER	Jack	Prop	1.86m/6' 1"	113kg/17st 11lb	19.03.87
FOSTER	Mark	Centre / Wing	1.83m/6' 0"	95kg/14st 13lb	02.09.83
HAZELL	Andy	Flanker	1.83m/6' 0"	93kg/14st 9lb	25.04.78
JAMES	Will	Lock	1.99m/6' 6"	122kg/19st 2lb	22.12.76
LAMB	Ryan	Outside Half	1.76m/5' 9"	81kg/12st 10lb	18.05.86
LAWSON	Rory	Scrum Half	1.73m/5' 8"	82kg/12st 12lb	12.03.81
LLOYD	Leon	Centre	1.94m/6' 4"	98kg/15st 6lb	22.09.77
MCMILLAN	Ross	Hooker	1.85m/6' 1"	105kg/16st 7lb	02.06.87
MORGAN	Olly	Full Back	1.89m/6' 2"	88kg/13st 12lb	03.11.85
NARRAWAY	Luke	Back Row	1.90m/6' 3"	100kg/15st 10lb	07.09.83
NIETO	Carlos	Prop	1.86m/6' 1"	110kg/17st 4lb	28.04.76
PATERSON	Chris	Outside Half	1.83m/6' 0"	79kg/12st 6lb	30.03.78
PAUL	Jeremy	Hooker	1.84m/6' 0"	104kg/16st 5lb	14.03.77
PRENDERGAST	Mike	Scrum Half	1.80m/5' 11"	84kg/13st 3lb	21.05.77
PRYCE	Karl	Centre	1.98m/6' 6"	120kg/18st 12lb	27.07.86
QERA	Akapusi	Back Row	1.94m/6' 4"	103kg/16st 3lb	24.04.84
SIMPSON-DANIEL	James	Wing	1.82m/6' 0"	85kg/13st 5lb	30.05.82
STROKOSCH	Alasdair	Back Row	1.91m/6' 3"	107kg/16st 11lb	21.02.83
TINDALL	Mike	Centre	1.88m/6' 2"	100kg/15st 10lb	18.10.78
TITTERRELL	Andy	Hooker	1.81m/5' 11"	94kg/14st 11lb	10.01.81
TUOHY	Dan	Lock	1.90m/6' 3"	112kg/17st 8lb	18.06.85
VAINIKOLO	Lesley	Wing	1.88m/6' 2"	112kg/17st 8lb	04.05.79
WALKER	Willie	Utility Back	1.83m/6' 0"	90kg/14st 2lb	19.05.78
WOOD	Nick	Prop	1.86m/6' 1"	109kg/17st 2lb	09.01.83