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LONDON WASPS

VS

GLOUCESTER RUGBY



SUNDAY 4TH MAY 2008 KICK OFF 3.00PM




OFFICIAL MATCHDAY MAGAZINE 2007/08 ISSUE.16


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PREMIERSHIP PREVIEW

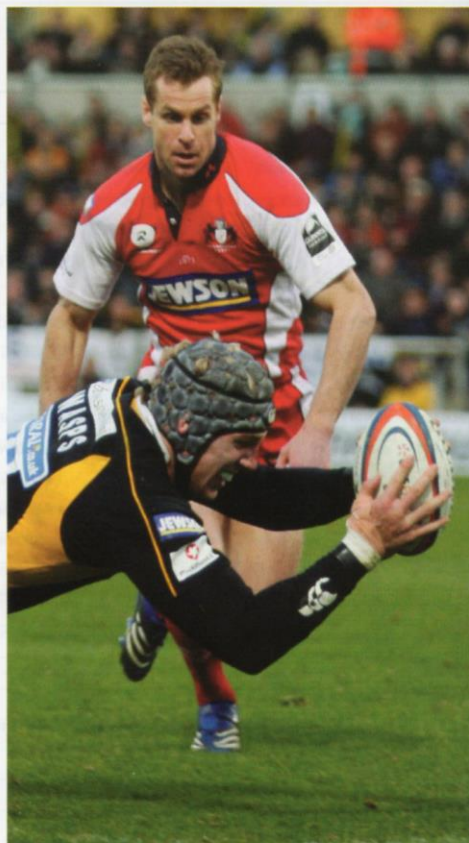
TODAY'S GAME
LONDON WASPS V
GLOUCESTER RUGBY
ADAMS PARK, KO 3.00PM



 London Wasps have won eight games in succession in the Guinness Premiership, since losing 17-18 to today's opponents at Kingsholm on 26 January. Wasps have won their last 13 home games in all competitions.

 League leading Gloucester Rugby have won their last two games in the Guinness Premiership, but away from home have lost their last six matches in all competitions. Gloucester have already visited Adams Park this season; losing 26-29 in the EDF Energy Cup on 4 November.

 Wasps have won their last 20 home games in all competitions against Gloucester – their last victory on Wasps soil being 23-19 at Sudbury in the 3rd round of the Pilkington Cup on 27 January 1990.



ALSO IN THE PREMIERSHIP TODAY
HARLEQUINS V SALE SHARKS
TWICKENHAM STOOP, KO 3PM



LONDON IRISH V LEEDS CARNEGIE
MADEJSKI STADIUM, KO 3PM



NEWCASTLE FALCONS V
LEICESTER TIGERS
KINGSTON PARK, KO 3PM



HEAD TO HEAD:
RECENT PREMIERSHIP MEETINGS

26/01/08	A	GLOUCESTER	18-17
26/12/06	H	WASPS	33-12
18/11/06	A	GLOUCESTER	27-21
06/05/06	A	WASPS	32-37
26/12/05	H	WASPS	32-25
27/12/04	H	WASPS	33-20



GLOUCESTER RUGBY

GUINNESS PREMIERSHIP POSITION AT THE TIME OF PRINT: **1ST**

FOR THE pace-setters in the Guinness Premiership, it has been a rocky start to 2008 – but as they turn for home in the title race Gloucester still occupy a play-off place.

Defeats against Bristol, Harlequins and recently Worcester in the Premiership under-mined their excellent start to the season and when they slipped out of the European Cup's dazzling spotlight of exposure against Munster, it left them with one competition on the horizon.

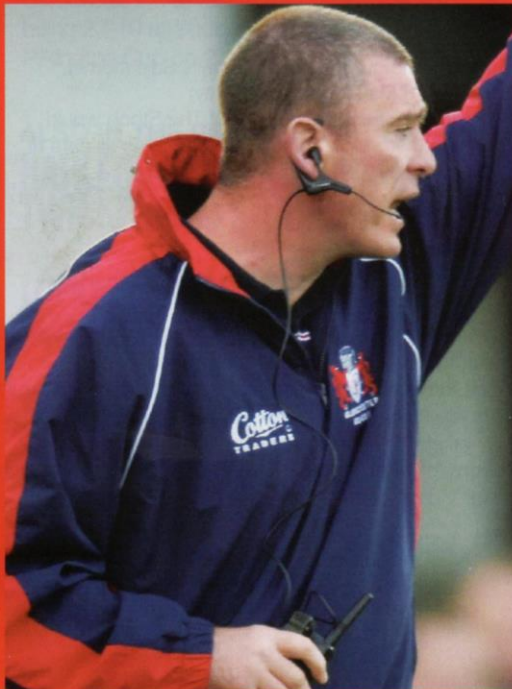
Despite the defeat to the Heineken Cup finalists at Kingsholm, Gloucester produced enough of a threat to give them more than cause for encouragement. They followed that up with a six-try dismemberment of Saracens and then added five more against Leeds thanks to Akapusi Qera's hat-trick to re-ignite their play-off credentials that will conclude against west country rivals Bath next weekend.

But rewind still further and it easy to appreciate that Gloucester's form has been patchy. Losing away to the Ospreys in the Heineken Cup could hardly be described as a surprise and they were then on the soggy end of a 10-5 defeat in the mud against Bath and a thriller against Leicester during the international period.

The one defeat to really set the fires raging at Castle Grim was at Bristol – when head coach Dean Ryan described the performance as 'appalling' and 'unacceptable'. But amid the defeats, lack of form, injuries and a raft of players unavailable on international duty, Ryan's side actually kept themselves in the top two.

The Head Coach has his international players available again this afternoon and last season's losing Guinness Premiership finalists moved heaven and earth to strengthen what was already a tremendously gifted squad.

HEAD COACH: DEAN RYAN



Dean Ryan played for Saracens, Wasps, Newcastle and Bristol and won the league title twice with Wasps and then Newcastle. Regarded as one of the most robust and durable back row forwards of his generation, Ryan guided Newcastle to the first ever Premiership title in 1997-8. After he moved to Bristol, he moved into coaching in the summer of 2000 – replacing former Australia coach Bob Dwyer.

He was in charge at Bristol for two seasons, taking them to the Zurich play-off final in 2002 when they lost to Gloucester. In the summer of that year, he moved to Kingsholm under director of rugby Nigel Melville.

He replaced Melville as head coach in 2005 and in that season guided Gloucester to the European Challenge Cup title with victory over London Irish. Last season, Gloucester finished top of the Guinness Premiership but lost the play-off to Leicester

TODAY'S VISITORS GLOUCESTER RUGBY



While the likes of the brilliantly precocious Ryan Lamb, the rapidly emerging Anthony 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 nine times already in Premiership. He now has five England caps following his debut against Wales last month and is a key man in the squad.

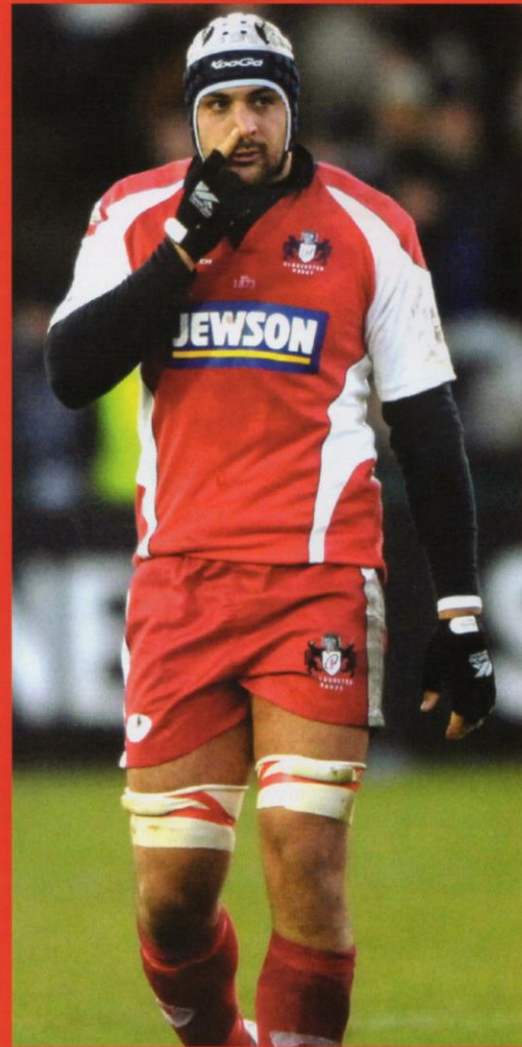
Scotland's Chris Paterson and Fiji's Qera have all both to the mix and strength in depth. There have been other additions too: Alasdair Strokosch is a workaholic back row forward who was Scotland's stand-out player in the Six Nations Championship, Leon Lloyd made the switch from Leicester and Andy Titterrell has added versatility and dynamism to the hooking options and has come into his own in the last few games.

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 Narraway 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.

Although the EDF Energy Cup passed them by again for another season, Gloucester qualified top of their Heineken Pool following four bonus point victories in six attempts and Ryan has already re-signed a number of key individuals ahead of next season. Although 2008 has yet to see them re-produce the rugby that saw them make such a great start to the season, there is enough in Ryan's squad to suggest they can continue challenging in the Premiership – against their fierce rivals this afternoon.



CAPTAIN MARCO BORTOLAMI

THE Italian national captain is in his second season with Gloucester after joining from Narbonne. Bortolami (27) was made Italy's youngest captain in 2003 when he led the Azzurri into battle against the All Blacks, following his debut as a 20-year-old. He has since won 64 international caps and has developed into one of the best locks in the world. He plays at four and alongside Alex Brown has formed one of the most dangerous line-out operations in the country.



LONDON WASPS

- 15 JOSH LEWSEY
- 14 PAUL SACKEY
- 13 FRASER WATERS
- 12 RIKI FLUTEY
- 11 TOM VOYCE
- 10 DANNY CIPRIANI
- 9 EOIN REDDAN
- 1 TOM FRENCH
- 2 RAPHAEL IBANEZ
- 3 TIM PAYNE
- 4 SIMON SHAW
- 5 TOM PALMER
- 6 JOE WORSLEY
- 7 TOM REES
- 8 LAWRENCE DALLAGLIO (C)

- 16 JOE WARD
- 17 MICHAEL HOLFORD
- 18 GEORGE SKIVINGTON
- 19 JAMES HASKELL
- 20 MARK MCMILLAN
- 21 DOMINIC WALDOUCK
- 22 MARK VAN GISBERGEN

MATCH STATS

SCORE

TRIES

CONVERSIONS

PENALTIES

DROP GOALS

- FULL BACK
- WING
- CENTRE
- CENTRE
- WING
- FLY HALF
- SCRUM HALF
- PROP
- HOOKER
- PROP
- LOCK
- LOCK
- FLANKER
- FLANKER
- NO.8

SUBSTITUTES



ADAM J PARK
SUNDAY 4TH MAY 2008
KICK OFF: 3.00PM

OFFICIALS

REFEREE: WAYNE BARNES
TOUCH JUDGE: STUART TERHEEGE
TOUCH JUDGE: PAUL EMERSON
4TH OFFICIAL: TONY SPREADBURY

GLOUCESTER RUGBY



- OLLY MORGAN 15
- IAIN BALSHAW 14
- JAMES SIMPSON-DANIEL 13
- MIKE TINDALL 12
- LESLEY VAINIKOLO 11
- RYAN LAMB 10
- RORY LAWSON 9
- NICK WOOD 1
- ANDY TITTERRELL 2
- CARLOS NIETO 3
- MARCO BORTOLAMI (C) 4
- ALEX BROWN 5
- ALASDAIR STROKOSCH 6
- AKAPUSI QERA 7
- LUKE NARRAWAY 8

- OLIVIER AZAM 16
- JACK FORSTER 17
- WILL JAMES 18
- GARETH DELVE 19
- GARETH COOPER 20
- CHRIS PATERSON 21
- WILLIE WALKER 22

MATCH STATS

SCORE

TRIES

CONVERSIONS

PENALTIES

DROP GOALS

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LONDON WASPS V GLOUCESTER



DATE: 4TH MAY
KICK OFF: 15:00

TOP PERFORMERS

Total Metres

Josh Lewsey	1106
Tom Voyce	684
Fraser Waters	560

Total Carries

Josh Lewsey	142
James Haskell	135
Joe Ward	100

Total Tackles

James Haskell	148
Riki Flutey	136
Tom Palmer	118

Lineouts Won

George Skivington	56
Tom Palmer	53
Richard Birkett	33



Daniel Cipriani Ryan Lamb

59	Total Carries	51
539	Total Metres	490
81	Tackle	70
22	Missed Tackle	17
20	Defender Beaten	11
6	Try Scored	4
192	Total Passes	290
107	Total Kicks in Play	157
14	Turnover Conceded	18

TOP PERFORMERS

Total Metres

Lesley Vainikolo	816
James Simpson-Daniel	761
Anthony Allen	655

Total Carries

Luke Narraway	128
Anthony Allen	114
Peter Buxton	84

Total Tackles

Peter Buxton	180
Luke Narraway	160
Alasdair Strokosch	156

Lineouts Won

Alex Brown	57
Marco Bortolami	36
Luke Narraway	28

MATCH PREVIEW

With the battle for top four places likely to go down to the wire this game is likely to be pivotal in the race for the play-offs. A win for the visitors would make their place in the top four certain and would virtually seal a home draw. On the other hand Wasps would be favourites for a top two place if they were to emerge victorious as they still have a game in hand. The clash at fly-half is likely to have a big bearing on the outcome with the talented duo of Cipriani and Lamb ready to lock horns. Statistically they are pretty similar although Lamb has passed a slightly higher proportion of ball received that the Wasps man.

TEAM STATS

SCRUMS		LINEOUTS		TRIES		OPEN PLAY			
193	Put Ins	184	252	55	Scored	61	116	Av. Tackles	110
175	Won	173	215	20	No. 1st Phase	25	14	Av. Misses	12
91	% Won	94	85	17	No. Own Half	17	98	Av. Carries	74
38	Pen Won	25	7	30	No. In 1st Half	29	443	Av. Metres	377
9	Won Opp Feed	21	2	25	No. In Second Half	32	13	Av. Defs Beaten	12
5	% Opp Feed	13	13	29	From Set Piece	32	14	Av. T' Overs Con	12
4	Pen Opp Feed	14	6	11	From Turnover	15	9	Av. Pens Con	7

