

Saturday 8th September 2001 – Kick off 2pm

the saracens

saracens.com

£2.50



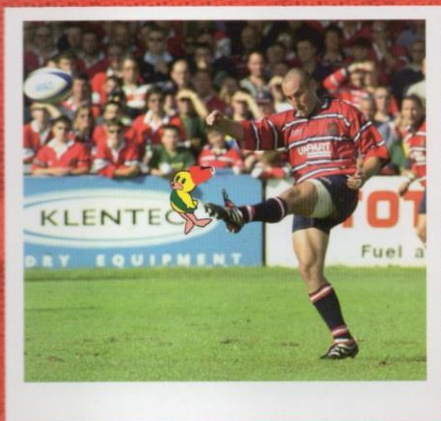
Saracens v Gloucester

saracens' official matchday programme - limited edition poster inside



SARACENS





During the summer months Gloucester's coach **Philippe Saint-Andre** has been busy looking for sharp tools for his Shed. The Cherry & Whites now boast a squad that contains seven different nationalities, including eight Frenchmen - 17 new faces in all.

Rugby League convert Jason Robinson has adapted very well indeed to the Union game with Sale Sharks, culminating with a tour with the 2001 Lions, keeping the spectators on the edge of their seats. Gloucester hope that their new signing, former Bradford Bulls star **Henry Paul**, can do the same. A few years ago he spent some time with Bath, but apart from that, we don't know what he can do in this version of the game. But there's no doubt that he's a very

exciting signing for Gloucester, and is another player that will help make the Zurich Premiership one of the top Rugby Union Leagues around.

Other players to watch for this afternoon are **Alex Stoica**, the Italian Full Back, and Argentine Winger **Diego Albanese**; both are very talented players, and will play an important role in taking their new club to where it wants to be.

With left-footed French Fly Half **Ludovic Mercier**, who **Thomas Castaignede** describes as "efficient", in Gloucester colours, Saracens will be seriously punished if they give away penalties. In their opening game of the season last weekend at home when they defeated Northampton 22 points to 9, Mercier landed 17 points.

Other arrivals include try-scoring machine **Daren O'Leary** who comes in from Harlequins, Italian front row **Frederico Pucciarello** and strong man **Patrice Collazo**. On paper Gloucester look to have a well-balanced squad that has depth, captained by **Phil Vickery**. They look set to finish above their 7th position last season.

"In their opening game of the season they defeated Northampton 22-19."

Last season Saracens kicked off their Zurich Premiership campaign at home to Gloucester with an impressive 50-20 win, with tries being scored by backs and forwards. Saracens haven't got off to such a sparkling start this year but there were some good performances by members of the young squad, including **Harbut, Winnan, Shanklin** and **Cairns** against London Wasps last Sunday.

Today all the fans should expect a great day of rugby, added to by the Saracens Matchday Experience. We hope you all enjoy your afternoon.



Gloucester

15	ADRYAN WINNAN	Full Back
14	TOM SHANKLIN*	Right Wing
13	TIM HORAN*	Centre
12	KEVIN SORRELL	Centre
11	DARRAGH O'MAHONY*	Left Wing
10	LUKE SMITH	Fly Half
9	KYRAN BRACKEN*	Scrum Half
1	LUKE HARBUT	Prop
2	ROBBIE RUSSELL*	Hooker
3	ROMAIN MAGELLAN*	Prop
4	ABDEL BENAZZI* (CAPT)	Lock
5	SCOTT MURRAY*	Lock
6	RICHARD HILL*	Flanker
7	TONY ROQUES	Flanker
8	BEN COLE	No.8
16	SEAN PHILLIPS	Replacements
17	MATT CAIRNS	
18	KIERAN ROCHE	
19	KHALID BENAZZI*	
20	NICK WALSHE	
21	BRETT SPARG	
22	GERALD ARASA	

15	CHRIS CATLING	Full Back
14	DARREN O'LEARY	Right Wing
13	JOE EWENS	Centre
12	CRISTIAN STOICA*	Centre
11	DIEGO ALBANESE*	Left Wing
10	LUDOVIC MERCIER	Fly Half
9	DIMITRI YACHVILI	Scrum Half
1	FEDERICO PUCCIARELO*	Prop
2	CHRIS FORTEY	Hooker
3	PATRICE COLLAZO*	Prop
4	ROB FIDLER*	Lock
5	ADAM EUSTACE	Lock
6	JAKE BOER	Flanker
7	ANDY HAZELL	Flanker
8	JUNIOR PARAMORE*	No.8
16	ANDY GOMMERSALL*	Replacements
17	SIMON MANNIX*	
18	JAMES SIMPSON-DANIEL	
19	OLIVIER AZAM*	
20	TREVOR WOODMAN*	
21	MARK CORNWELL	
22	ED PEARCE	

the officials

REFEREE N Yates

* Denotes international

SENIOR TOUCH JUDGE M Fox

JUNIOR TOUCH JUDGE D Broadwell

