



TIGERS

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Leicester Tigers V Gloucester

Saturday 16th March 2002 KO 3.00pm



VAUXHALL

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Today's Visitors



V is for Vickery...

For years Bath held sway in the West Country, but times have changed, "the Cherry and Whites" have now ripened and are beginning to look a very tasty proposition. Club captain Phil Vickery has played a pivotal role in his team's resurgence but still feels there is room for improvement...

"...We've been inconsistent this season. We've lost games here and there which we shouldn't and that has left us trailing far behind the Tigers. That's the great trait of Leicester, they win tight games when they are perhaps not playing so well. That's something we've got to look at and learn from."

Whilst Gloucester have a strong squad, it has been disrupted by the arrival of a plethora of new players over the course of the last two seasons. The England prop believes that the key to success lies in both nurturing home grown talent and bringing in outstanding foreign players that will

enable the team to progress to a new level.

"...There's a nucleus of West Country players at Gloucester who appreciate the club and what goes on there. At the same time, I think you need a bit of an outside influence and I think Leicester have done really well thanks to Rod Kafer and Josh Kronfeld. There are a lot of young lads at Gloucester and hopefully Nigel [Melville] will be able to bring them through the ranks."



Phil Vickery

Nigel Melville, the club's new director of coaching, has certainly made a good start to his time at

Kingsholm with a comprehensive victory over Sale Sharks last week. At the moment however, the former Wasps man is still taking a back seat.

"Nigel is still meeting all the players and the coaches at the present - trying to learn a bit about the club," says Phil.

Whilst Melville's arrival and another year's experience will make Gloucester

a force to be reckoned with next season, the former Redruth player believes it will be tough to wrestle the title away from Leicester this year...

"As well as Leicester, we've got to play Leeds away, Northampton away, and Bristol away, so it is going to be very tough for us. Having said that, I'm confident that if we play to our potential we can come away with some good results at the end of the season."

Gloucester do, however, come into the game brimming with confidence - having won their last four premiership matches - and Vickery doesn't feel that a victory at fortress Welford Road is out of the question.

"It's going to be very, very difficult to get a result today, Leicester are a fantastic team and their home record speaks for itself but if we train and prepare properly and hope that half a dozen Tigers players have an off day, there could be a chance we could do something! I'm certainly not going out today resigned to the fact we're going to lose!"

by Phil Vinter

GLoucester RFC DIRECTORY

Formation of club: 1873

Ground: Kingsholm, Kingsholm Road, Gloucester, GL1 3AX

Capacity: 10,500 (Seated 1,250)

Colours: Cherry and white hoops and dark blue trim

Honours: Cup Winners (3) - 1972, 1978, 1982.

Best League Finish: 2nd in division one in 1988/89 and 1989/90.

This Season: Tetley's Bitter Cup - Quarter final (lost 10-25 at London Irish). Parker Pen Shield - in semi final (on 28 April vs Sale Sharks at Franklin's Gardens)

Last Season: Zurich Premiership - 7th. Zurich Championship - Quarter final (lost 6-18 at London Wasps). Tetley's Bitter Cup - 5th round (lost 13-25 to

Leicester Tigers). Heineken Cup - semi final (lost 15-19 to Leicester Tigers)

PLAYER MOVEMENTS:

IN - Diego Albanese (Grenoble), Pierre Caillet (Brive), Patrice Collazo (Stade Francais), Ludovic Mercier (Aurillac), Daren O'Leary (Harlequins), Henry Paul (Bradford Bulls RL), Federico Pucciarello (Narbonne), Koli Sewabu (Begles-Bordeaux), Dimitri Yachvili (PUC).

OUT - Jawad Djoudi (France), Herve Gregoire-Mazocco (France), Ian Jones (London Wasps), Kingsley Jones (Worcester), Jason Little (Bristol), Elton Moncrieff (Worcester), Steve Ojomoh (Parma), Adey Powles (Retired), Stephane Sanchez (Begles-Bordeaux), Chris Yates (Worcester).



Tigers Ticket Office call 0870 128 3430

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Head to Head

TIGERS v GLOUCESTER - THE LAST TEN LEAGUE MEETINGS

Date	Venue	L	G	Leicester Tigers scorers	Gloucester scorers
8 Apr 97	Kingsholm	30	32	R.Underwood(T) A.Kardooni(T) J.Liley(T) C.Joiner(T) J.Stransky(2C2P)	P.Greening(T) A.Lumsden(T) M.Mapletoft(2C6P)
30-Aug-97	Welford Rd	33	16	N.Back(T) W.Greenwood(T) M.Horak(T) J.Stransky(3C4P)	M.Mapletoft(TC2P)
1 Feb 98	Kingsholm	25	32	M.Horak(2T) C.Joiner(T) J.Stransky(2P) W.Serevi(2C)	M.Mapletoft(2C6P) S.Benton(T)
19-Dec-98	Kingsholm	23	18	D.Lougheed(T) T.Stimpson(6P)	M.Mapletoft(TC2P) B.Johnson(T)
23-Jan-99	Welford Rd	23	16	D.Lougheed(2T) J.Stransky(T) T.Stimpson(C2P)	R.Tombs(T) M.Mapletoft(C3P)
1 Oct 99	Kingsholm	6	34	T.Stimpson(2P)	R.Tombs(T) I.Sanders(T) Penalty(T) C.Catling(T) S.Mannix(4C2P)
18-Apr-00	Welford Rd	24	13	A.Healey(D) T.Stimpson(7P)	B.Hayward(TC2P)
2 Dec 00	Welford Rd	31	28	F.Tuillag(T) T.Stimpson(C8P)	A.Deacon(T) C.Yates(T) J.Paramore(T) B.Hayward(2C3P)
31-Mar-01	Kingsholm	13	22	R.Cockerill(T) W.Stanley(T) S.Booth(P)	A.Gomarsall(T4P) I.Jones(T)
15-Sep-01	Kingsholm	40	18	L.Moody(2T) S.Booth(T) G.Murphy(T) T.Stimpson(4C2P) A.Goode(2D)	L.Mercier(6P)

GLOUCESTER MILESTONES

- 1873** - The Gloucester Journal on 15 September reported that "at a meeting at the Spread Eagle Hotel for the purpose of enrolling members of a Football Club for the City about 45 gentlemen joined", thus began one of the most famous clubs in English rugby.
Initially playing its home games at The Spa Ground (where Gloucestershire played 56 first-class cricket matches between 1882 and 1923) the club then moved to the Old College Field on the Castle Grim Estate.
- 1891** - Ground renamed, and on the 10 October, some eleven months before Leicester moved to Welford Road, Kingsholm was opened with Gloucester celebrating an 19-0 victory over Burton-upon-Trent. Walter Jackson becomes the first British Lion, and three years later is the first player capped directly from Gloucester, when he played for England v Scotland in Edinburgh.
- 1900** - Kingsholm was used for the England-Wales test match on 16 January, and then had to wait 91 years for its second international, when New Zealand beat the United States Eagles 46-6 in the 2nd World Cup.
- 1906** - Arthur Hudson becomes the only Gloucester player to score a test hat-trick when he crosses for four tries for England against France at the Parc des Princes
- 1926** - Tom Voyce plays in his 27th and final England match and is still Gloucester's most capped player; Phil Vickery is now just two caps behind Voyce's record total.
- 1932** - During the staging of a circus in the car park, a serious fire broke out which gutted the grandstand. The supporters rallied and funded the building of a replacement.
- 1953** - Number 8 John Gwilliam becomes the first Gloucester player to skipper a test side when he leads Wales against England in Cardiff.
- 1972** - Become the inaugural winners of the English Knockout Cup by beating Moseley in the final at Twickenham 17-6
- 1978** - Won the John Player Cup beating Leicester in the final 6-3 at Twickenham
- 1982** - Uniquely shared the Cup when the final at Twickenham against Moseley is drawn 12-all after extra time
- 1984** - An entire club front row is picked to start an England test match for the only time, when Gloucester's Malcolm Preedy, Steve Mills and Phil Blakeway play against South Africa in Port Elizabeth.
- 1988** - Flowers Ales become the first club shirt sponsor
- 1989** - Achieve best League finish to date, ending up second in Courage League division one behind champions Wasps
- 1990** - Repeat their best league finish with a second successive 2nd place, this time behind champions Bath
- 1996** - Richard Hill takes over as director of rugby and started signing overseas players for the first time
- 1997** - On 29 April Tom Walkinshaw is unveiled as the club's new investor
- 1999** - Philippe Saint Andre replaces Richard Hill as director of rugby
- 2001** - Phil Vickery becomes the tenth Gloucester player to tour with the British Lions. Nigel Melville assumes the role of director of rugby after Philippe Saint Andre tendered his resignation

TIGERS v GLOUCESTER - HEAD TO HEAD

First Meeting: 31 October 1891 at Belgrave Cricket & Cycle Ground - Leicester 0 Gloucester 15

Played: 182 **Won:** 82 **Drawn:** 6 **Lost:** 94

At Welford Road there have been 90 games between the two, where the tally is Leicester 60 wins, 28 victories to Gloucester, and two matches drawn

Best Win: 27-0 at Welford Road on 29 Dec 1934

Biggest Score: 40-18 at Kingsholm on 15 Sep 2001 (Zurich Premiership)

Worst Loss & Most Pts Conceded: 15-53 at Welford Road on 21 Mar 1998 (Cheltenham & Gloucester Cup)

Most Points in a game: 26 by Tim Stimpson (1C,8PG) at Welford Road on 2 Dec 2000 (Zurich Premiership)

Most Tries in a game: 3 by Ralph Buckingham at Welford Road on 11 Dec 1930

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