

Kubota

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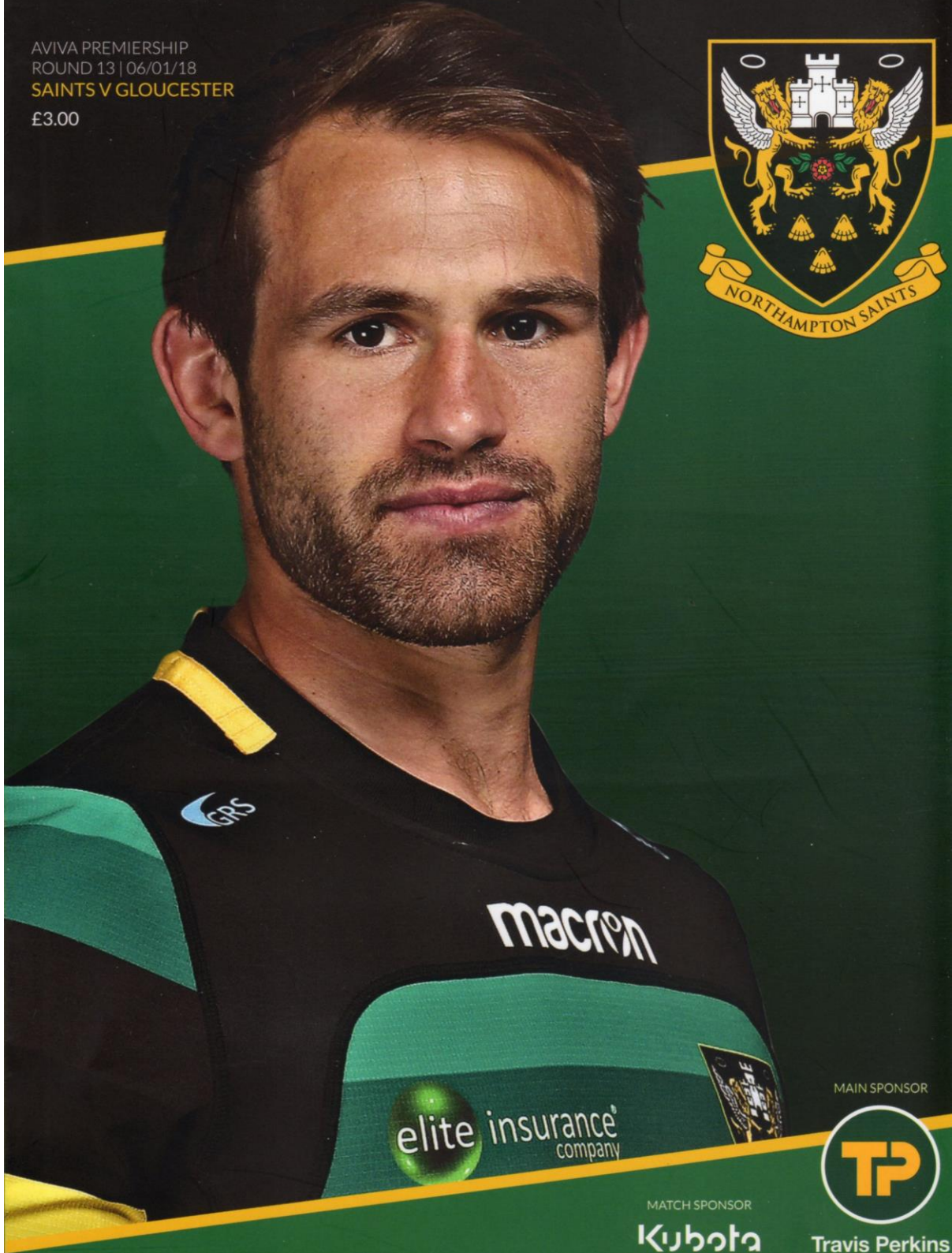
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AVIVA PREMIERSHIP
ROUND 13 | 06/01/18
SAINTS V GLOUCESTER
£3.00



MAIN SPONSOR



Travis Perkins

MATCH SPONSOR

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AVIVA PREMIERSHIP RUGBY

AVIVA

LAND ROVER

RICOH imagine. change.

CITIZEN

GILBERT

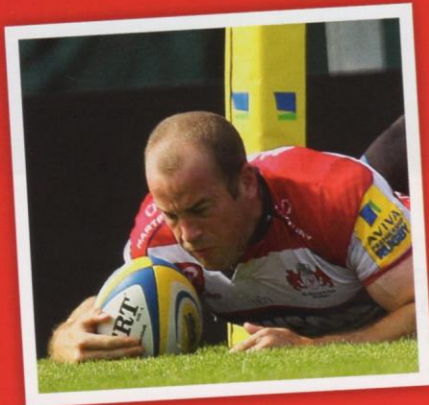
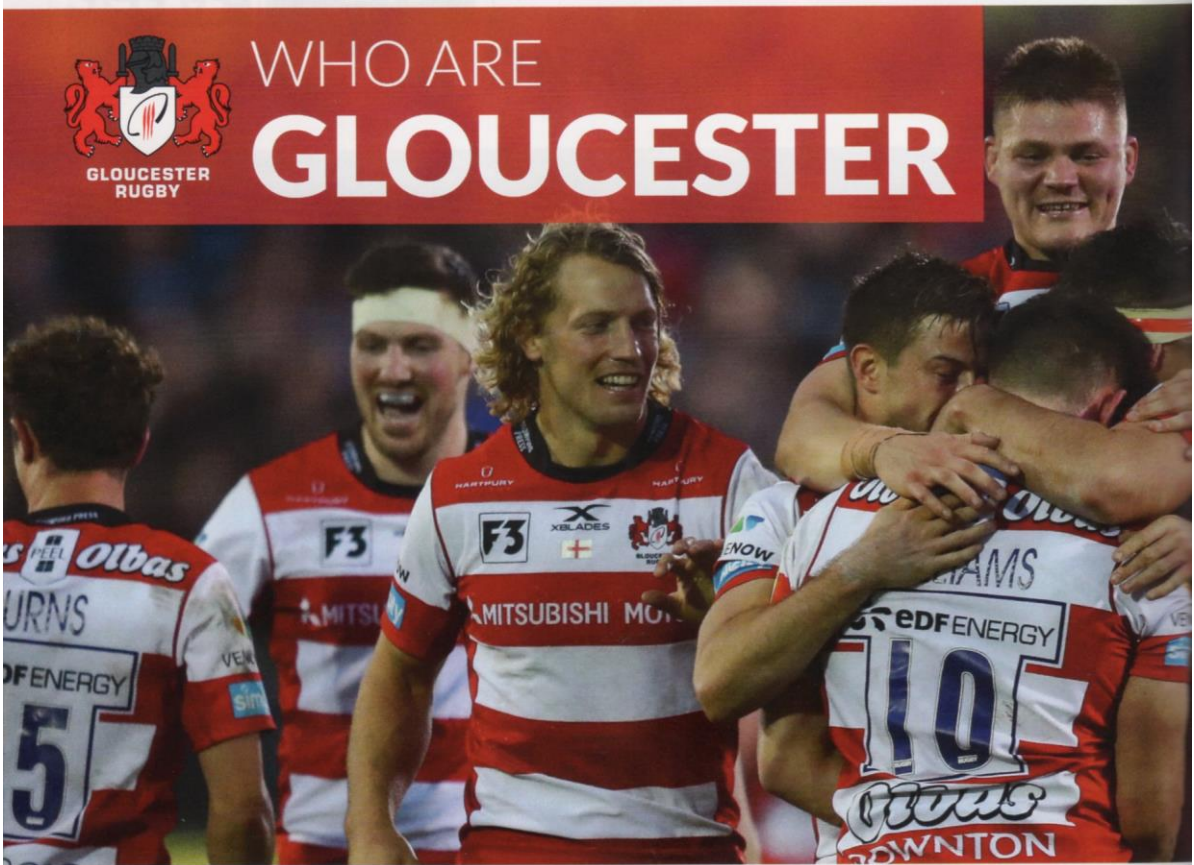
THE TIMES THE SUNDAY TIMES

5

BT Sport



WHO ARE GLOUCESTER



119

TOP TRY SCORER
JAMES SIMPSON-DANIEL

Under new head coach Johan Ackermann, Gloucester have gone from strength to strength this season and finally look like the West Country powerhouses of old.

After last weekend's victory over Sale Sharks, the Cherry & Whites remain comfortably inside the Aviva Premiership's top four heading into the second half of the season.

Ackermann has given his charges licence to thrill in the league so far this term, with Gloucester running in plenty of sensational scores and try-of-the-season contenders already.

The former South African international got his tenure off to a flying start with an opening-day win over defending Aviva Premiership champions Exeter Chiefs, and

has followed that up with notable victories over Saints, Bath, and Saracens among others.

Away from their raucous home patch of Kingsholm however they have been far less prolific, with only two wins from six away matches thus far – comfortably beating Newcastle Falcons 29-7 at Kingston Park in November after edging the West Country derby against Bath 22-21 at the Rec the month previously.

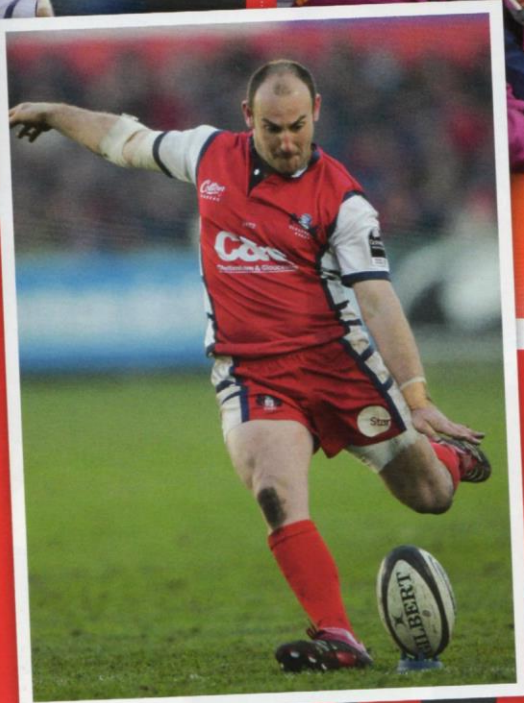
But as well as playing some eye-catching rugby, Gloucester have also shown they are capable of winning ugly and grinding out a result – beating Sale 20-16 last weekend.

The Cherry & Whites dug in and it was dogged defending at the death rather than expansive play that earned them a precious four points.



AVIVA PREMIERSHIP RECORD

P **461** W **240** D **16** L **205**



1,325

TOP POINTS SCORER LUDOVIC MERCIER

TOTAL POINTS FOR

10,677

TOTAL POINTS AGAINST

9,980

TOTAL TRIES FOR

1,082

TOTAL TRIES AGAINST

994

MOST CONSECUTIVE WINS

8

MOST CONSECUTIVE DEFEATS

8

BIGGEST WIN

68-12

(v Bath Rugby 2002)

HEAVIEST DEFEAT

6-53

(v Northampton Saints 2014)

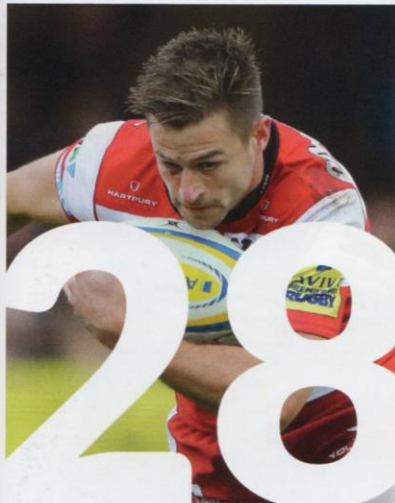


GLOUCESTER RUGBY

**BY NUMBERS
2017/18
CAMPAIGN**

22.9

GLOUCESTER HAVE SCORED AN AVERAGE OF NEARLY 23 POINTS A GAME SO FAR THIS SEASON



WHEN IT COMES TO DEFENDERS BEATEN, **HENRY TRINDER** TOPS THE STATS FOR GLOUCESTER, BEATING NEARLY 30 DEFENDERS IN HIS EIGHT APPEARANCES SO FAR

16

&

GLOUCESTER WINGER **HENRY PURDY** HAS MADE MORE CLEAN BREAKS AND METRES THAN ANY OTHER GLOUCESTER PLAYER SO FAR THIS SEASON

79%

GLOUCESTER'S KICKERS HAVE THE FIFTH BEST PERCENTAGE ACROSS THE LEAGUE



RUAN ACKERMANN HAS MADE NEARLY 150 CARRIES IN HIS 12 APPEARANCES FOR GLOUCESTER SO FAR THIS SEASON, SOME 50 MORE THAN THE NEXT BEST GLOUCESTERMAN

149

9

4 & 6

WILLI HEINZ TOPS THE STATS FOR BOTH THE MOST TRIES SCORED AND THE MOST TRY ASSISTS FOR GLOUCESTER

ACKERMANN ALSO TOPS THE STATS FOR THE MOST TURNS WON ACROSS THE GLOUCESTER SQUAD



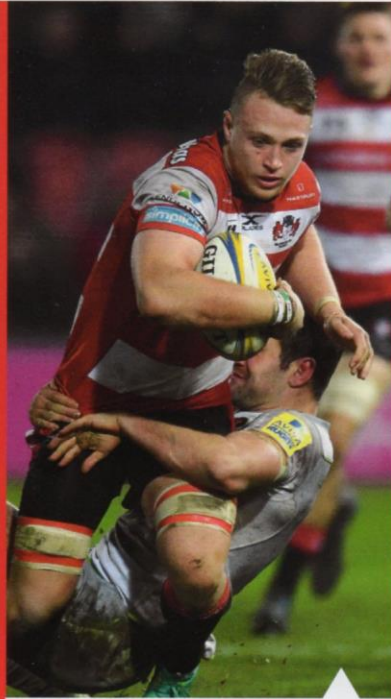
69

BILLY TWELVETREES IS GLOUCESTER'S TOP POINTS SCORER SO FAR THIS SEASON

202

IN DEFENCE, GLOUCESTER'S TOP TACKLER IS **LEWIS LUDLOW**, MAKING SOME 76 MORE TACKLES THAN THE NEXT BEST DEFENDER

WHOTO WATCH



LEWIS LUDLOW

BACK ROW | 23

A product of Gloucester's academy system, Lewis Ludlow is capable of playing at number eight or at six, and has been ever-dependable in the Aviva Premiership so far this season – playing every match.

After a breakthrough season last year, in which he amassed 15 league appearances and captained the Cherry & Whites in the Anglo-Welsh Cup, the 23-year-old is currently the most prolific defender in the whole of European rugby.

Ludlow has made an astonishing 202 tackles in 12 Aviva Premiership matches so far, which is streets ahead of anyone else in the English top flight and anyone else in Europe's three professional leagues.

Not only that, Ludlow is a classy lineout operator as well, alongside Jeremy Thrush, with both players inside the league's top ten in lineouts won and steals.

RUAN ACKERMANN

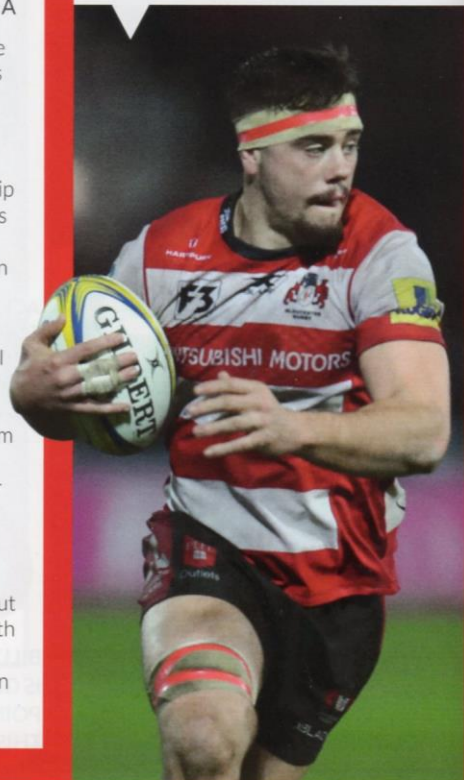
BACK ROW | 22 | SOUTH AFRICA A

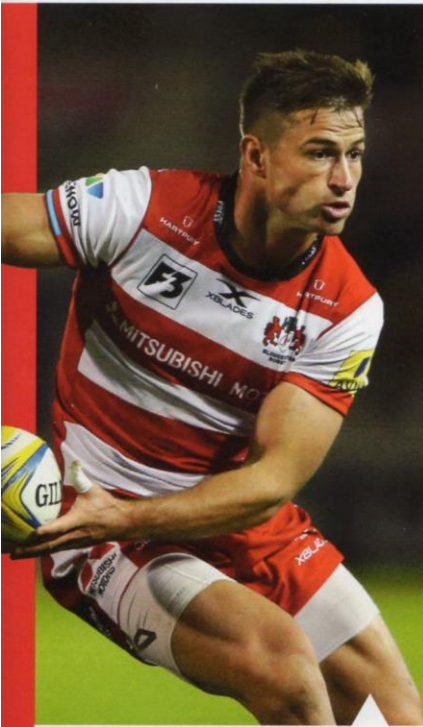
When Johan Ackermann's first move as Gloucester's new head coach was to sign his son, it's fair to say a few eyebrows were raised.

But after 12 lung-busting appearances in the Aviva Premiership so far, Ruan has certainly proved he's in the Cherry & Whites line-up on merit alone and has been a key cog in Gloucester's rise.

A standout performer in the Lions progression to the Super Rugby final in 2017, flanker Ackermann – who also turned out for the Barbarians against Samoa at the London Stadium in 2016 – was named the Aviva Premiership Player of the Month for November.

An exceptionally fit back-rower, Ackermann has already made a whopping 149 carries this season, but has coupled that attacking ability with over a century of tackles made and he currently sits third in the league in turnovers too.





HENRY TRINDER

CENTRE | 28

Northampton fans will not need reminding about the threat of Gloucester's Henry Trinder, after the centre scored two tries in the Cherry & Whites' victory the last time the sides met.

The Swindon-born back, 28, has been with Gloucester since 2007 and has hit top form this season after recovering from a series of knee injuries.

He still hasn't quite managed to shake the injury problems that have plagued him, returning to action just before Christmas having missed just over a month with a knock sustained just after scoring four tries in five matches.

But his exceptional form earned him a new contract at the start of December, and after returning off the bench against both Wasps and then Sale Sharks last week, don't be surprised if the explosive midfielder lines up in the starting XV this afternoon.

BILLY BURNS

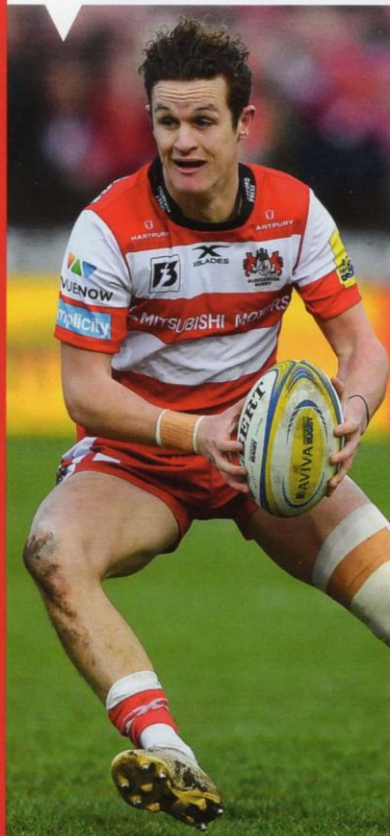
FLY HALF | 23 | ENGLAND U20

A former England under-18s and under-20s fly-half, as well as younger brother of Bath's Freddie, Billy Burns bounced back from a serious knee injury to star for Gloucester last season.

And he has continued that upward trajectory under Ruan Ackermann this season, with the 23-year-old featuring in all but one of their Premiership clashes so far.

It has been the way that he's brought the best out in his backline this term that marked him out as a fine fly-half – not just of the future, but the here and now.

Showing superb fleetness of foot Burns scored twice against London Irish last month, and he's dovetailed superbly with Billy Twelvetrees in Gloucester's winning run, with the latter taking on the goalkicking duties.



THE SQUAD

FORWARDS

HOOKER

James Hanson
Richard Hibbard
Motu Matu'u

PROP

Fraser Balmain
Gareth Denman
Josh Hohneck
Paddy McAllister
Cameron Orr
Val Raparva-Ruskin

LOCK

Tom Denton
Mariano Galarza
Tom Savage
Ed Slater
Jeremy Thrush

FLANKER

Ruan Ackermann
Freddie Clark
Lewis Ludlow
Ross Moriarty
Jacob Rowan

NUMBER EIGHT

Gareth Evans
Ben Morgan

BACKS

SCRUM-HALF

Callum Braley
Willi Heinz
Ben Vellacott

FLY HALF

Billy Burns
Lloyd Evans
Owen Williams

CENTRE

Mark Atkinson
Matt Scott
Andy Symons
Henry Trinder
Billy Twelvetrees

WING

David Halaifonua
Henry Purdy
Charlie Sharples
Ollie Thorley

FULL BACK

Tom Marshall
Jason Woodward

HOW TODAY'S TEAMS MIGHT LINE UP



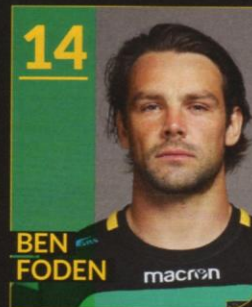
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AHSEE TUALA

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14



BEN FODEN

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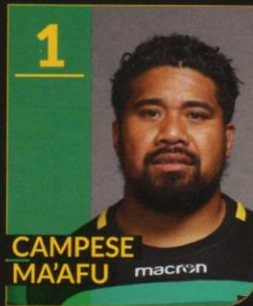
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ROB HORNE

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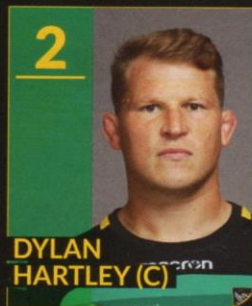
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CAMPESE MA'AFU

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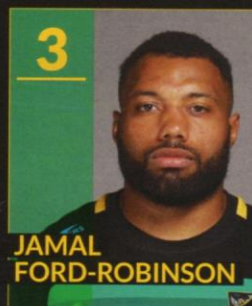
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DYLAN HARTLEY (C)

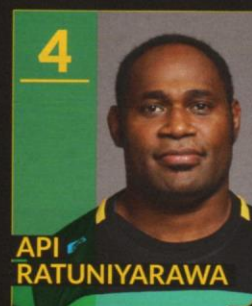
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JAMAL FORD-ROBINSON

4



API RATUNIYARAWA



GLoucester RUGBY

15



TOM MARSHALL

F3

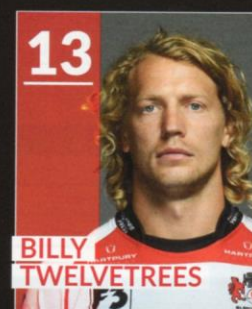
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CHARLIE SHARPLES

F3

13



BILLY TWELVETREES

F3

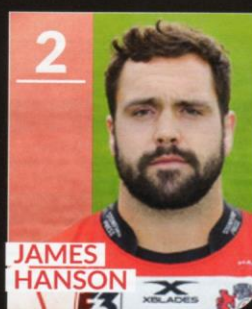
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JOSH HOHNECK

F3

2



JAMES HANSON

F3

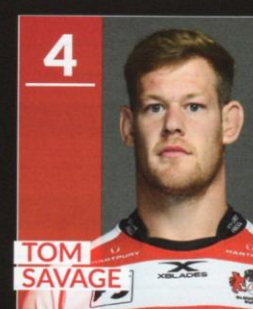
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JOHN AFOA

F3

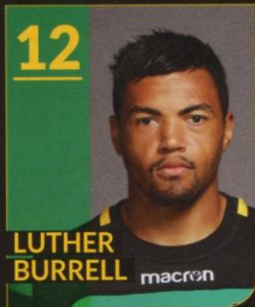
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TOM SAVAGE

F3

MATCH OFFICIALS
 REFEREE: IAN TEMPEST
 ASSISTANT REFEREES: JACK MAKEPEACE & WAYNE FALLA



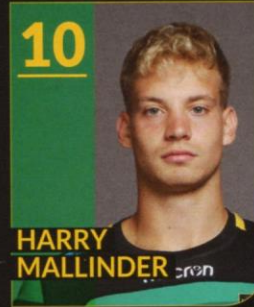
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LUTHER BURRELL
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11

KEN PISI
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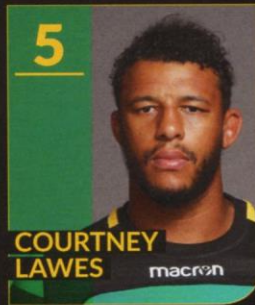
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HARRY MALLINDER
macron



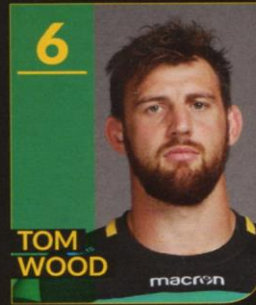
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NIC GROOM
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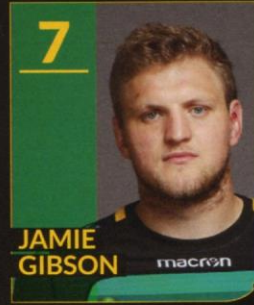
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COURTNEY LAWES
macron



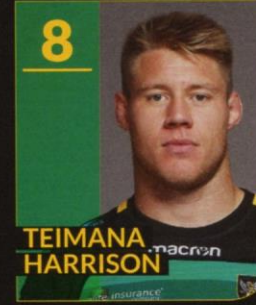
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TOM WOOD
macron



7

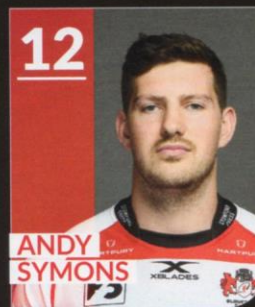
JAMIE GIBSON
macron



8

TEIMANA HARRISON
macron

REPLACEMENTS: 16 MIKEY HAYWOOD | 17 FRANCOIS VAN WYK | 18 KIERAN BROOKES | 19 MICHAEL PATERSON | 20 BEN NUTLEY | 21 COBUS REINACH | 22 STEPHEN MYLER | 23 NAFI TUITAVAKE



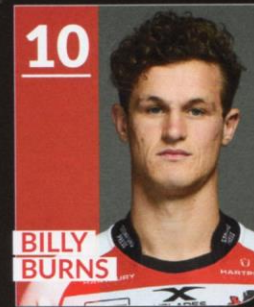
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ANDY SYMONS
XELADES



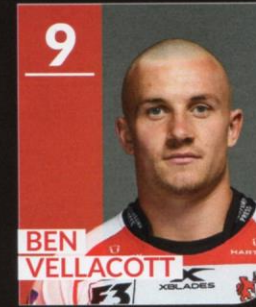
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DAVID HALAIFONUUA
XELADES



10

BILLY BURNS
XELADES



9

BEN VELLACOTT
XELADES



5

JEREMY THRUSH
XELADES



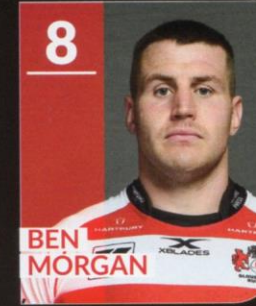
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RUAN ACKERMANN
XELADES



7

LEWIS LUDLOW
XELADES



8

BEN MORGAN
XELADES

REPLACEMENTS: 16 RICHARD HIBBARD | 17 CAMERON ORR | 18 FRASER BALMAIN | 19 ED SLATER | 20 FREDDIE CLARKE | 21 CALLUM BRALEY | 22 HENRY TRINDER | 23 JASON WOODWARD