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WARRIOR

AVIVA PREMIERSHIP | SATURDAY 17.02.18 | KICK-OFF 3PM | ISSUE 13

Vs **GLoucester RUGBY**



GLoucester
RUGBY

AVIVA PREMIERSHIP RUGBY

AVIVA

LAND-ROVER

RICOH
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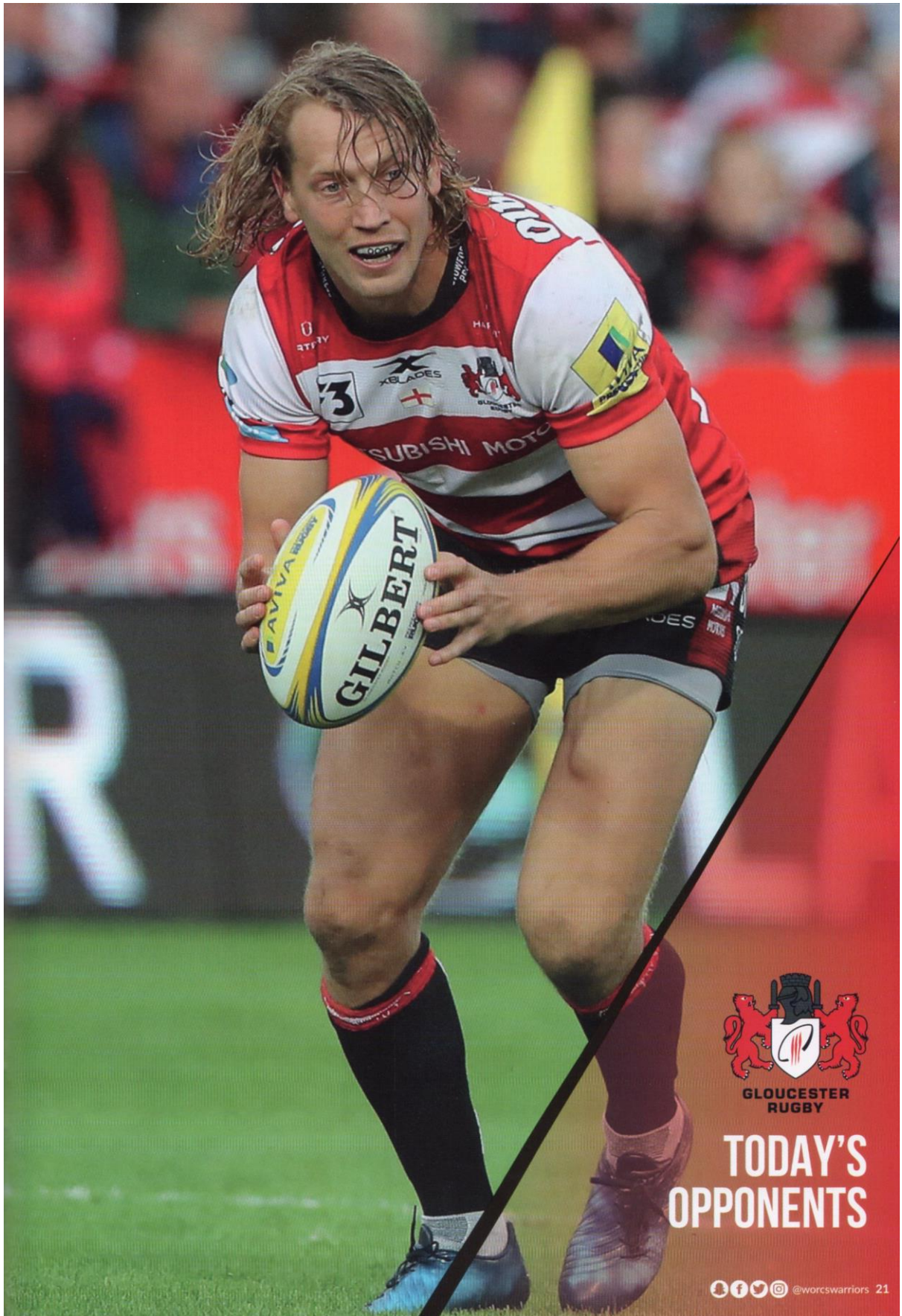
CITIZEN

GILBERT

THE SUNDAY TIMES

5

BT Sport



GLOUCESTER
RUGBY

TODAY'S
OPPONENTS

 @worcswarriors 21

THE BOSS

DAVID HUMPHREYS

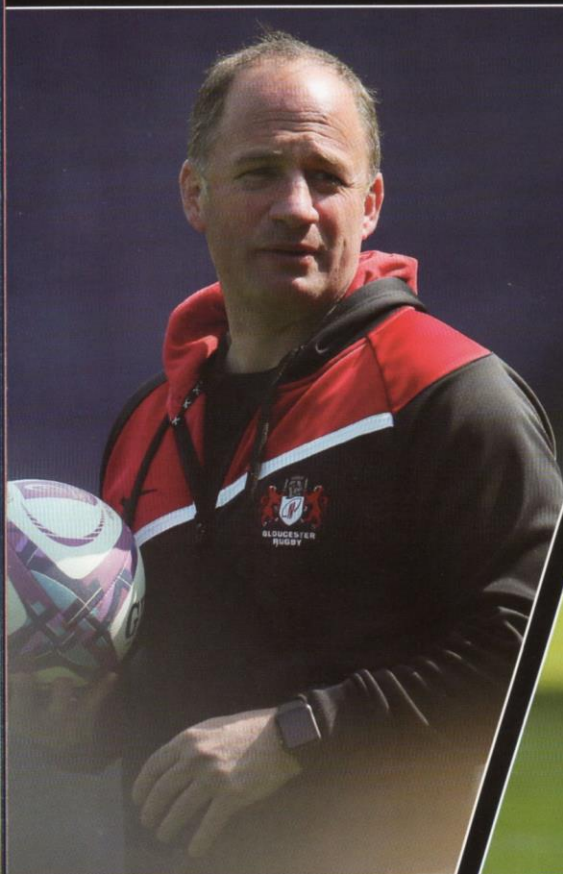
Belfast-born David Humphreys was announced as the Gloucester Rugby Director of Rugby in June 2014.

Humphreys has led his side to two ninth-placed Aviva Premiership finishes and one eighth-placed finish since taking the top job at Kingsholm.

He has also brought European silverware to the club as Gloucester lifted the Challenge Cup trophy in 2015, before finishing runners-up last time out.

Capped 72 times for Ireland as a player, scoring 560 points, Humphreys spent the majority of his playing career at Ulster, leaving briefly for a spell with London Irish before returning home for a second spell with the province.

He retired in 2008 and took on the role of Director of Rugby at Ravenhill. A qualified solicitor, his time at Ulster saw them become one of the true giants of the European rugby scene, regularly reaching the knockout stages of the Heineken Cup, losing out in the final in 2012.



Scrum-half Willi Heinz arrived at Kingsholm ahead of the 2015/16 season from the Crusaders in Super Rugby.

Christchurch born, Heinz racked up 50 caps for both Canterbury in the ITM Cup and Crusaders in Super Rugby after making his debut in 2010.

The experienced scrum-half added plenty of quality to the position in his first season at Gloucester and made 19 appearances, bettering that total in his second season when he also skippered the side frequently.

THE CAPTAIN

WILLI HEINZ

His form was reflected with a call-up to England's training camp in May 2017 and he was announced as Gloucester's captain ahead of the 2017/18 campaign.

THE INSIGHT

THE LAST 6 GAMES

| Date | Comp | Result |
|------------|------|--|
| Sat 10 Feb | AP | Gloucester Rugby 24-17 Leicester Tigers |
| Sat 3 Feb | AWC | Newcastle Falcons 31-19 Gloucester Rugby |
| Fri 26 Jan | AWC | Gloucester Rugby 43-20 Ospreys |
| Fri 19 Jan | EPCR | Gloucester Rugby 24-34 Pau |
| Fri 12 Jan | EPCR | Agen 24-45 Gloucester Rugby |
| Sat 6 Jan | AP | Northampton Saints 22-19 Gloucester Rugby |

THE 2017/18 SEASON

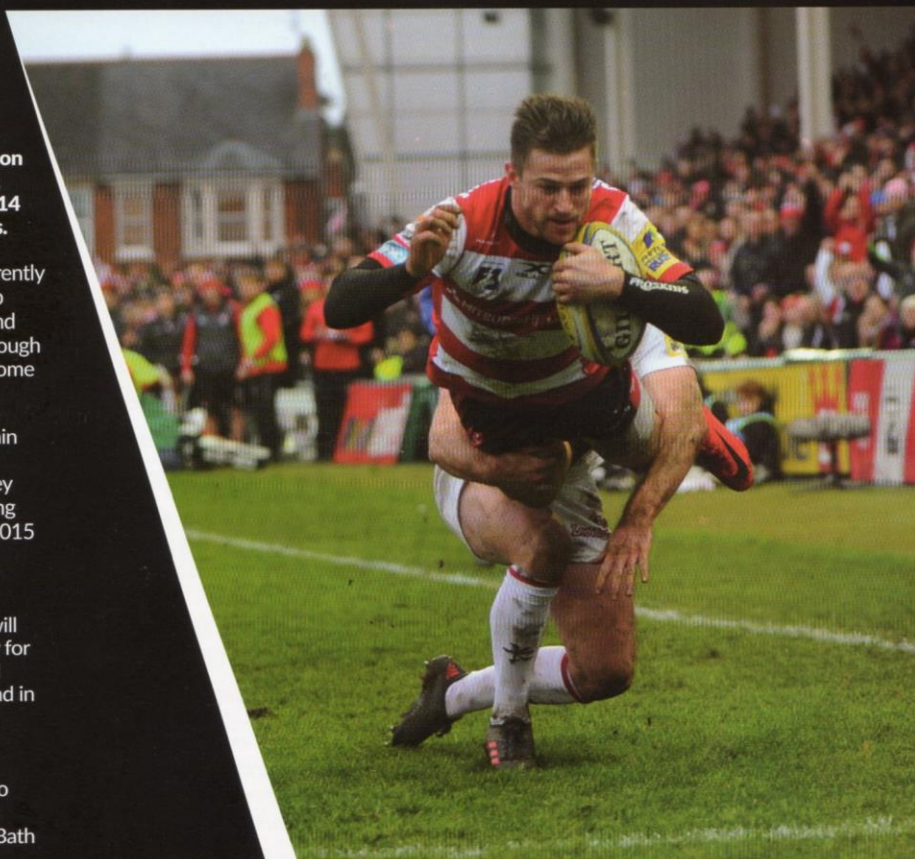
Gloucester Rugby are on course for their best season under David Humphreys, having won nine of their 14 Aviva Premiership games.

The Cherry & Whites currently find themselves in the top four of the Premiership and will be hoping they do enough to clinch a play-off spot come May.

Gloucester have once again excelled in the European Challenge Cup, where they have huge pedigree, having won the competition in 2015 and reached the final last season.

Next month Gloucester will travel to Connacht Rugby for this season's quarter-final clash after finishing second in Pool 3.

In the Anglo-Welsh Cup Gloucester weren't able to qualify for the semi-finals after finishing second to Bath Rugby in Pool 1.



HEAD TO HEAD

WARRIORS Vs GLOUCESTER RUGBY

| Date | Comp | Result |
|-----------------|------|---------------------------------|
| Fri 22 Sep 2017 | AP | Gloucester Rugby 24-19 Warriors |
| Sat 7 Jan 2017 | AP | Gloucester Rugby 55-19 Warriors |
| Fri 9 Sep 2016 | AP | Warriors 23-23 Gloucester Rugby |
| Sat 12 Mar 2016 | AP | Warriors 28-20 Gloucester Rugby |



BURNS EXPECTING TOUGH CLASH AT SIXWAYS

GLoucester battled to a thumping 24-17 victory against Leicester Tigers last weekend. But Billy Burns is expecting an even tougher test at Sixways today.

Billy Burns played a key part in Gloucester's triumph last weekend as his side dispatched Leicester Tigers at Kingsholm.

And as attentions turn to this afternoon's clash at Sixways, the Gloucester fly-half admits he's expecting a tricky encounter against Alan Solomons' side.

Burns said: "We know that it will be tough at Worcester, it always is whatever the situation. I've never had an easy game up there. Their home form is good and they always get great support.

"We're under no illusions. They had a massive result last weekend at Exeter, one that will give them great confidence. But we're also feeling positive - it should be a great game."

It's been a promising season so far for Gloucester, who have already picked up more Premiership wins than they did in the whole of the last campaign. But Burns admit there is a lot of hard work ahead of Gloucester this season.

He added: "We knew that Johan (Ackermann) came to the club with a reputation for playing ambitious rugby. He likes his sides to attack and that

suits the players here at the club. But even more promising is that we know that there's still more to come.

"The top four is tight but, to be honest, we're not looking at the table. All we're focusing on is trying to be better each day, as a group and as individual players.

"Personally, I've really enjoyed it. Johan, David Humphreys and Tim Taylor have given us the keys to implement the game plan and, as one of the playmakers, that's been fantastic. I love playing with ball in hand and taking the game to the opposition."

TODAY'S TEAMS



WORCESTER
WARRIORS

WORCESTER WARRIORS

Chris Pennell 15
Bryce Heem 14
Jackson Willison 13
Ryan Mills 12
Josh Adams 11
Jamie Shillcock 10
Jonny Arr 9

Ethan Waller 1
Jack Singleton 2
Nick Schonert 3
Donncha O'Callaghan (C) 4
Darren Barry 5
David Denton 6
Sam Lewis 7
GJ van Velze 8

Replacements

Kurt Haupt 16
Ryan Bower 17
Gareth Milasinovich 18
Anton Bresler 19
Matt Cox 20
Alafoti Faosiliva 21
Luke Baldwin 22
Dean Hammond 23



GLOUCESTER
RUGBY

GLOUCESTER RUGBY

15 Jason Woodward
14 Tom Marshall
13 Matt Scott
12 Billy Twelvetrees
11 Henry Trinder
10 Billy Burns
9 Ben Vellacott

1 Josh Hohnock
2 James Hanson
3 John Afoa
4 Tom Savage (C)
5 Mariano Galarza
6 Jake Polledri
7 Lewis Ludlow
8 Ruan Ackermann

Replacements

16 Motu Matu'u
17 Cameron Orr
18 Fraser Balmain
19 Ed Slater
20 Freddie Clarke
21 Callum Braley
22 Owen Williams
23 Mark Atkinson

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: Tom Foley

Assistant Referees: Jack Makepeace & Paul Dix

Assessor: Nigel Yates

Fourth Official: Clare Daniels

Timekeeper: Laurie Bryant

TMO: Geoff Warren

Citing Commissioners: Dave Guyan & Jay Curts