

Vs Gloucester Rugby

Gallagher Premiership Rugby
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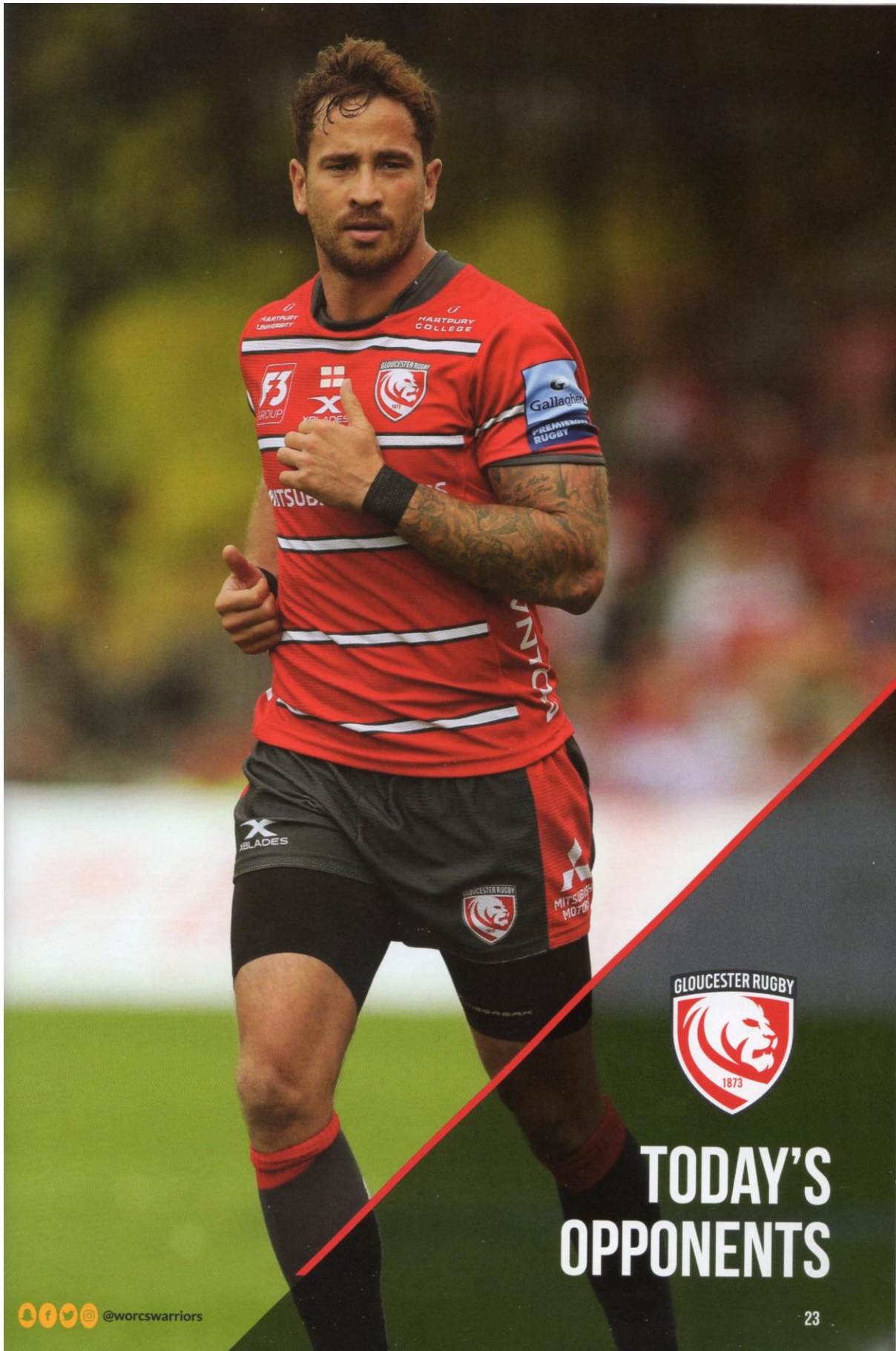
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TODAY'S OPPONENTS

THREETO WATCH

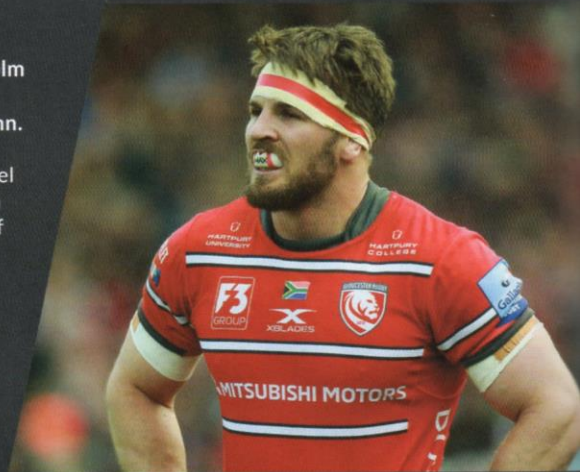
JACO KRIEL

Back row forward Jaco Kriel made the move to Kingsholm ahead of the 2018-19 season from Super Rugby's Lions, linking up once again with Head Coach Johan Ackermann.

Having represented the University of Johannesburg, Kriel progressed through the Golden Lions set-up, becoming a regular in Super Rugby and eventually became captain of the Lions in 2017.

Capped 11 times by South Africa, he has also played for Kubota Spears in Japan.

He made his competitive debut for the Cherry and Whites in the Premiership Rugby Cup against Bristol Bears at Ashton Gate and has gone on to make a dozen appearances to date in his first season in Cherry and White.



JOSH HOHNECK

Versatile prop Josh Hohnneck is in his third season at Gloucester Rugby having joined from Super Rugby's Highlanders.

He began his career with Waikato and then Bay of Plenty, before being picked up by Super Rugby franchise Waikato Chiefs, then making the move to Dunedin and representing the Highlanders.

Has been a model of consistency since arriving at Kingsholm, having made 80 appearances to date.

Josh has been a fixture in the Gloucester Rugby front row this season alongside Fraser Balmain, and signed a new contract to extend his stay at the club in December 2018.

DANNY CIPRIANI

Gloucester Rugby stunned the world of rugby just under 12 months with the signing from Wasps of Danny Cipriani, one of the game's most talented performers.

Cipriani has also represented Sale Sharks in the Premiership and Melbourne Rebels in Super Rugby. He has made over 200 senior appearances in English club rugby and has also been capped 16 times by England.

Cipriani hit the ground running in Cherry and White as he was named Gallagher Premiership Player of the Month for September and produced a number of sparkling performances as the season progressed.

He signed a contract extension in April 2019.



THE INSIGHT

THE LAST 6 GAMES

Date	Comp	Result
Sat 13 Apr	GP	Gloucester Rugby 27 - 23 Bath Rugby
Sun 7 Apr	GP	Northampton Saints 31 - 40 Gloucester Rugby
Sat 23 Mar	GP	Gloucester Rugby 27 - 14 Wasps
Sun 10 Mar	GP	Harlequins 7 - 29 Gloucester Rugby
Fri 1 Mar	GP	Bristol Bears 28 - 24 Gloucester Rugby
Fri 22 Feb	GP	Gloucester Rugby 30 - 24 Saracens

THE 2018/19 SEASON

Gloucester Rugby came into the 2018-19 season as the subject of much media speculation.

There were many reasons for optimism as Johan Ackermann and the squad reported back for pre-season training, preparing for the new Gallagher Premiership Rugby season and also a return to the top table in Europe after an absence of a few years.

First and foremost, the Head Coach was able to oversee the whole of pre-season training, unlike the summer of 2017 when he could only take up the coaching reins at Gloucester Rugby once he had completed his commitments with the Lions.

Ackermann had already signed his son Ruan from the Lions ahead of the

2017-18 season, and went back to his old club to bring in Ruan Dreyer, Jaco Kriel and Franco Mostert ahead of the current campaign.

Fellow South African forwards Gerbrandt Grobler (Munster) and Franco Marais (Sharks) were also added while Matt Banahan, Danny Cipriani and Todd Gleave made the moves from Bath Rugby, Wasps and London Irish respectively.

Early season form certainly caught the eye of the watching media, with Cipriani and Ollie Thorley both picking up Premiership Player of the Month accolades in the first half of the season.

Despite a return to Heineken Champions Cup action for the first time in several seasons, the Gallagher Premiership has been the main focus for the Cherry

and Whites this season and they come into this afternoon's game pushing hard for an end of season play-off spot as they currently find themselves in third place in the table. In fact, qualification may already have been clinched by the time you read this depending on results elsewhere this weekend. What is for certain, however, is that this season has certainly been one of progression for the Cherry and Whites as they have already bettered last season's victories and points tallies.

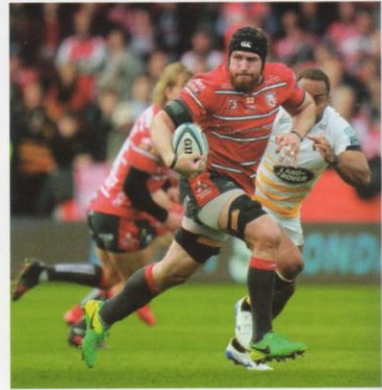
However they will be acutely aware that Alan Solomons' side have a decent record against them here at Sixways in recent years.

Throw into the mix that it's a local derby and the scene is set for a full-blooded encounter this afternoon.

HEAD TO HEAD

WARRIORS VS GLOUCESTER

Date	Comp	Result
Sat 1 Dec 2018	GP	Gloucester Rugby 36 - 16 Worcester Warriors
Sat 17 Feb 2018	AP	Worcester Warriors 25 - 15 Gloucester Rugby
Fri 22 Sep 2017	AP	Gloucester Rugby 24 - 19 Worcester Warriors
Sat 7 Jan 2017	AP	Gloucester Rugby 55 - 19 Worcester Warriors



TODAY'S TEAMS



WORCESTER
WARRIORS

WORCESTER WARRIORS

Chris Pennell	15
Perry Humphreys	14
Francois Venter	13
Ben Te'o	12
Josh Adams	11
Duncan Weir	10
Francois Hougaard	9

Ethan Waller	1
Niall Annett	2
Nick Schonert	3
Anton Bresler	4
Darren Barry	5
Marco Mama (C)	6
Sam Lewis	7
Cornell du Preez	8

Replacements

Jack Singleton	16
Callum Black	17
Gareth Milasinovich	18
Michael Fatialofa	19
Ted Hill	20
Michael Heaney	21
Jono Lance	22
Tom Howe	23



GLOUCESTER

15	Matt Banahan
14	Tom Seabrook
13	Billy Twelvetrees
12	Mark Atkinson
11	Henry Purdy
10	Danny Cipriani
9	Willi Heinz (C)

1	Josh Hohnack
2	Franco Marais
3	Fraser Balmain
4	Ed Slater
5	Dave Attwood
6	Ruan Ackermann
7	Jaco Kriel
8	Ben Morgan

Replacements

16	Mike Sherry
17	Val Rapava Ruskin
18	Gareth Denman
19	Freddie Clarke
20	Lewis Ludlow
21	Jake Polledri
22	Callum Braley
23	Louis Rees-Zammit

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: JP Doyle

Assistant referees: Anthony Woodthorpe, Jonathan Healy

TMO: Graham Hughes

Fourth Official: Greg Garner

Fifth official: Paul Box

Timekeeper: Malcolm Sinclair

Assessor: Brian Campsall