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THE EXILE



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GLoucester Rugby
22 FEBRUARY 2020 - KO 3PM
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SEASON SO FAR

Today's visitors currently occupy sixth place in the Gallagher Premiership table, just one point above London Irish.

Gloucester started the season in impressive fashion, securing a 16-18 victory over Sale Sharks at the AJ Bell Stadium in Round 1.

Round 2 saw Wasps visit Kingsholm, with the Cherry and Whites continuing their form from the opening game with a 25-9 win over the Coventry-based side.

Next up was a trip to Welford Road to face Leicester Tigers. In a close match, the Tigers inflicted Gloucester's first loss of the season, with the visitors coming out on the wrong side of a 16-13 scoreboard.

Premiership champions Saracens then made the journey to Kingsholm, and the visiting team secured a hard-fought 12-21 win.

December arrived and Harlequins hosted the West Country outfit at The Stoop. Quins came out on top in another highly-competitive fixture, snatching a 23-19 victory.

Gloucester got back to winning ways thanks to an emphatic 36-3 win over Worcester Warriors before a tricky trip to Franklin's Gardens ended in a 33-26 defeat to Northampton Saints.

The first Gallagher Premiership in 2020 saw Gloucester come out on top in the West Country derby over Bath, winning 29-15. Bristol Bears defeated the Cherry and Whites 34-16 at Ashton Gate before Exeter Chiefs travelled to Kingsholm last week. The Chiefs secured the win on the road, winning 15-26.



Matt Banahan

Matt moved to Gloucester from local rivals Bath Rugby in the summer of 2018.

Matt had spent his entire senior playing career with Bath having moved there from the London Irish Academy before his move to Kingsholm.

Predominantly a winger, he is also capable of playing at centre and made in excess of 250 appearances for Bath, also winning 16 caps for England.

Banahan made a significant contribution in his first season in Cherry and White, making 24 appearances and scoring seven tries.

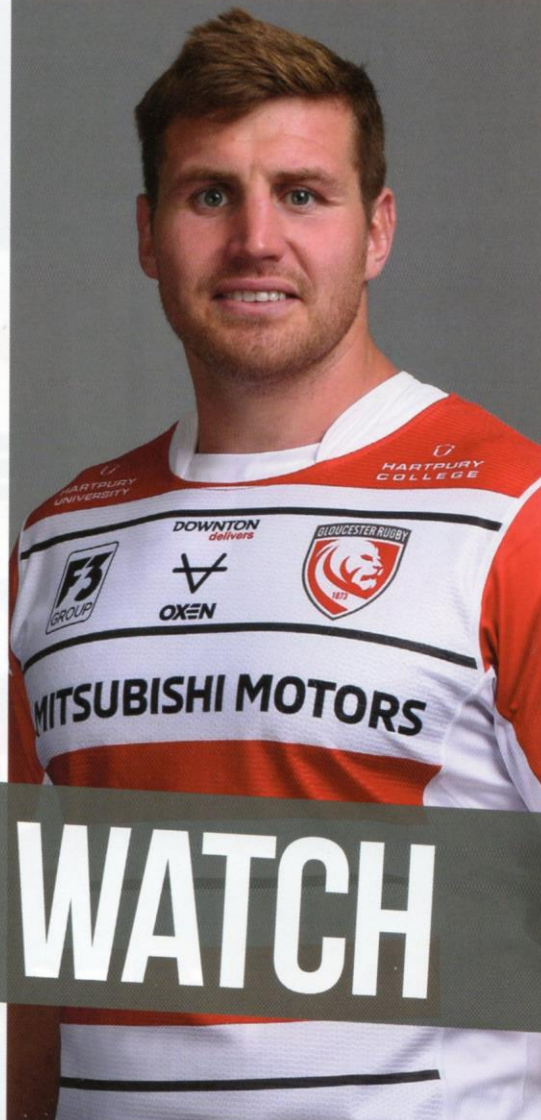


Ben Morgan

England international number eight Ben Morgan moved to Gloucester Rugby from Scarlets in the summer of 2012. He was born in Bristol, educated in Gloucestershire and started his rugby career with Dursley RFC.

He joined the Scarlets in May 2009 and went on to become a first team regular. He could have qualified for Wales under residency rules but opted to play for England, the country of his birth, and has gone on to win more than 30 international caps.

Now one of Gloucester's senior players, he enjoyed one of his best seasons in Cherry and White in 2018-19 and is closing in on 150 competitive appearances for the club.



TWO TO WATCH



THE TEAMS

TODAY'S OFFICIALS

REFEREE: LUKE PEARCE
AR1: ANTHONY WOODTHORPE
AR2: ROB WARBURTON
NO 4 OFFICIAL: SIMON ADAMS
NO 5 OFFICIAL: TOM TAHANY
TMO: DAVID GRASHOFF



LONDON IRISH



GLOUCESTER RUGBY

15 FULL-BACK	BEN LOADER	MATT BANAHAN
14 WINGER	WAISAKE NAHOLO	LOUIS REES-ZAMMIT
13 OUTSIDE CENTRE	CURTIS RONA	CHRIS HARRIS
12 INSIDE CENTRE	TERRENCE HEPETEMA	BILLY TWELVETREES
11 WINGER	OLIVER HASSELL-COLLINS	TOM MARSHALL
10 FLY-HALF	STEPHEN MYLER	DANNY CIPRIAN
9 SCRUM-HALF	NICK PHIPPS	JOE SIMPSON
1 LOOSEHEAD PROP	DANNY HOBBS-AWOYEMI	VAL RAPAVA-RUSKIN
2 HOOKER	DAVID PORECKI	FRANCO MARAIS
3 TIGHTHEAD PROP	OLIVER HOSKINS	FRASER BALMAIN
4 SECOND ROW	ADAM COLEMAN	GERBRANDT GROBLER
5 SECOND ROW	FRANCO VAN DER MERWE ©	FRANCO MOSTERT ©
6 OPENSIDE FLANKER	MATT ROGERSON	RUAN ACKERMANN
7 BLINDSIDE FLANKER	BLAIR COWAN	LEWIS LUDLOW
8 NUMBER 8	ALBERT TUISUE	BEN MORGAN
REPLACEMENTS		
16	MOTU MATU'U	TODD GLEAVE
17	HARRY ELRINGTON	JOSH HOHNECK
18	SEKOPE KEPU	CIARAN KNIGHT
19	STEVE MAFI	ED SLATER
20	BEN DONNELL	FREDDIE CLARKE
21	BEN MEEHAN	JAKE POLLEDRI
22	JAMES STOKES	CALLUM BRALEY
23	MATT WILLIAMS	MARK ATKINSON

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