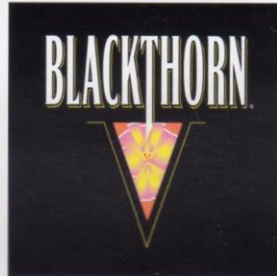
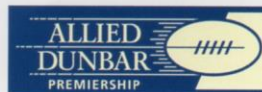




BATH VS GLOUCESTER RFC



Saturday 26 September 1998
Kick-Off 3.00pm



OFFICIAL
PROGRAMME
£2.00

RugbyCall 0891 884554

Internet: www.bathrugby.co.uk



Bath Rugby



Gloucester



Official Sponsor



Official equipment supplier



No.	PLAYER	POSITION	PLAYER	No.
15	Iain Balshaw	Full Back	Chris Catling	15
14	Ieuan Evans	Right Wing	Rob Jewell	14
13	Kevin Maggs	Centre	Richard Tombs	13
12	Jeremy Guscott	Centre	Simon Mannix	12
11	Adedayo Adebayo	Left Wing	Phillipe Saint Andre	11
10	Mike Catt	Fly Half	Mark Mapletoft	10
9	Andy Nicol	Scrum Half	Scott Benton	9
1	Dave Hilton	Prop	Tony Windo	1
2	Andy Long	Hooker	Phil Greening	2
3	Victor Ubogu	Prop	Andy Deacon	3
4	Nigel Redman	Lock	Mark Cornwell	4
5	Ben Sturham	Lock	Dave Simms	5
6	Nathan Thomas	Flanker	Ed Pearce	6
7	Richard Webster Capt	Flanker	Nathan Carter	7
8	Eric Peters	No. 8	Simon Devereux	8

Official kit supplier



REFEREE

Nick Cousins

TOUCH JUDGES

Barry Oldham
Steve Leyshon

No.	PLAYER	Replacements	PLAYER	No.
16	Steve Hatley		Audley Lumsden	16
17	Lee Mears		Rory Greenslade Jones	17
18	John Mallett		Laurie Beck	18
19	Jon Callard		Trevor Woodman	19
20	Phil de Glanville		Chris Fortey	20
21	Russell Earnshaw		Steve Ojomoh	21
22	Deiniol Jones		Pete Glanville	22



Gloucester RFC



WEST COUNTRY derby matches between Bath and Gloucester are invariably, by feudal tradition, full blooded, partisan affairs, but today's clash between these two proud clubs bears all the hallmarks of a watershed contest in terms of seasonal aspiration.

And rarely can the Cherry and White hordes from Kingsholm have been more hopeful of a first league win at the Rec than this afternoon, after Gloucester's unbeaten start to the Allied Dunbar Premiership One campaign, following home victories over London Irish and West Hartlepool and a rousing away win at Richmond a fortnight ago.

Those victories have put Richard Hill's outfit at the top of the table with Leicester and the former Bath and England scrum half will be fervently hoping his side can cement their championship credentials by beating his old club on their own turf, a prospect guaranteed to send Gloucester fans home in a state of unrestrained euphoria.

Bath, with two home wins already under their belts, will have something to say on that score, and will be only too aware of the importance of the outcome to



22

their own title aspirations. But without doubt Gloucester look set to give the European champions a real run for their money.

After struggling to establish themselves among the professional elite over the past two seasons, the Cherry and Whites are on the brink of a major breakthrough and Hill has promised his side will be fired up to break that Rec jinx in decisive fashion.

The last time Gloucester arrived at the Rec was eleven days after Bath's Heineken Cup final triumph in Bordeaux - when they were eclipsed 47-3 by a Bath side still basking in the glory of European triumph. But Hill is convinced this season's squad is stronger than it was then and he is not a man prone to false optimism.

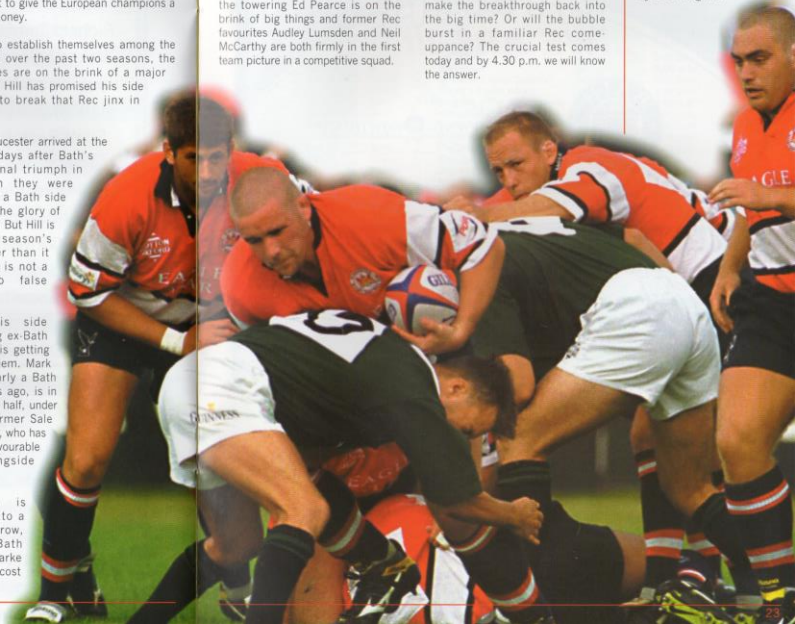
These days his side contains a strong ex-Bath element and Hill is getting the best out of them. Mark Mapletoft, so nearly a Bath recruit a few days ago, is in prolific form at fly half, under pressure from former Sale star Simon Mannix, who has already made a favourable impression alongside him.

Steve Ojomoh is breathing fire into a formidable back row, as former Bath teammate Ben Clarke discovered to his cost

at Richmond a fortnight ago, while the towering Ed Pearce is on the brink of big things and former Rec favourites Audley Lumsden and Neil McCarthy are both firmly in the first team picture in a competitive squad.

Will this be Gloucester's year to make the breakthrough back into the big time? Or will the bubble burst in a familiar Rec come-uppance? The crucial test comes today and by 4.30 p.m. we will know the answer.

By Dick Tugwell



23