

# GLOUCESTER RUGBY

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2007

SIX-TRY GLOUCESTER HAMMER BOURGOIN

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For the second week in succession, Ryan Lamb led Bourgoin on a merry dance as Gloucester took a stranglehold of sizeable proportions in Pool Two of the Heineken Cup.

Gloucester scored six tries, Lamb contributed 26 points and for the third time in four games won the man of the match award for another bewitching performance.

If Gloucester were at times a little bit frantic and unnerved to off-load a pass here or there, Lamb remained coolness personified. He allowed players to run off him, he remained calm and calculated and trotted along with the sort of swagger we have come to expect.

It was another personal milestone because not only did he kick every one of his nine shots at goal, his precision and all-round subtlety was a joy as Gloucester claimed a sizeable and fully deserved victory.

Lamb may have been the one dazzling but there were other contributions that were equally sizeable. Gareth Delve had the sort of power-orientated game that marks him out as a different style number eight to the others in Gloucester's stable, Akapusi Qera made any number of dazzling line-breaks and Olivier Azam was a physical menace – not only in the loose but also at scrum-time, where Gloucester thoroughly dominated.

That is not to say Bourgoin didn't have their moments because they most certainly did. They were far more adventurous than they had been a week ago, Benjamin Boyet did any number of good things, Marc Rennie was a handful and number eight Wessell Jooste carried hard in the first half.

Their three tries were just reward for their effort but they simply couldn't live with Gloucester's relentless ability to play from all areas, their withering assault in the scrum or have a game-breaker like Qera or a carrier like Delve.

Gloucester were 9-6 ahead thanks to three Lamb penalties to two from Boyet when they opened up a 16-6 lead with the first try. James Simpson-Daniel fielded a kick from Florian Denos and headed inside the cover, bringing Iain Balshaw into the line. The full-back got his pass away to Qera and although possession was fumbled between him and Mike Tindall, the flanker chased onto Tindall's kick to pounce and score.

It was just what Gloucester needed because they had been quiet in the opening quarter but once they got a sniff, went in again after 22 minutes. Delve launched the attack from a free-kick at a scrum, Simpson-Daniel and Luke Narryway took play to beneath the sticks, when they shifted play to the left where Lesley Vainikolo off-loaded brilliantly inside to Tindall and Delve burrowed in from short range.

However, it was rather apt that Bourgoin struck back eight minutes before the break with their first try from a Gloucester mistake. There was no real need for them to play from so deep but when the ball was lost in contact, Rennie picked up and sent Matthieu Nicolas home behind the sticks with an inside ball.

Boyet's conversion made it 23-13 and it was all slightly too close for comfort. But this Gloucester side, when they get it right, can go from anywhere and when Narryway and Tindall combined from a quickly taken line-out, Bourgoin's defence was splintered, Lamb timed his pass to Qera to perfection and from the ruck, Rory Lawson, Lamb and Anthony Allen all had a hand in putting Balshaw over for try number three.

At 30-13 ahead, Gloucester were far more comfortable and when the powerful Delve and the excellent Narryway got together after 46 minutes, Lamb once again times his pass to perfection to replacement Willie Walker, who stepped the cover brilliantly to go behind the sticks.

Lamb continued his 100% kicking record with the conversion and then picked off try number five. Boyet ran across the face of Gloucester's defence and for the second time in two weeks looked for a long, midfield pass that Lamb read to perfection, picked off the ball and raced to the line.

He converted his own try to establish a 44-13 lead. However, Bourgoin deserve a lot of credit for the way they stuck to their task in the final quarter.

They had played some neat stuff in the first-half but from a driven line-out after 65 minutes, hooker Jean-Phillipe Genevois was bundled over from a series of neatly controlled driving mauls.

But still the scoring had not finished. When Delve was in the vanguard of a penetrating drive into the heart of Bourgoin's defence, Simpson-Daniel went for the line but off-loaded brilliantly to Vainikolo, who dotted down from short range.

The score took Gloucester over the half-century mark – Lamb finding the heart of the sticks with another conversion – but Bourgoin had the final say when flanker Brice Monzeglio barged his way over in the final minute to give the visitors something to shout about on another day for Lamb.

#### Gloucester Team

15. Iain Balshaw 14. James Simpson-Daniel 13. Mike Tindall  
12. Anthony Allen 11. Lesley Vainikolo 10. Ryan Lamb 9. Rory Lawson  
1. Nick Wood 2. Olivier Azam 3. Carlos Nieto 4. Peter Buxton 5. Alex Brown  
6. Luke Narraway 7. Akapusi Qera 8. Gareth Delve

16. Andy Titterrell 17. Christian Califano 18. Marco Bortolami  
19. Alasdair Strokosch 20. Gareth Cooper 21. Willie Walker 22. Leon Lloyd

Bourgoin Team

15. Florian Denos 14. Mathieu Nicolas 13. Rudi Coetzee 12. Matias Viazzo 11. David Janin 10. Benjamin Boyet 9. Morgan Parra 1. Arnauld Tchougong Kanga 2. Jean-Philippe Genevois 3. Olivier Sourgens 4. Chris Wyatt 5. Damien Fevre 6. Brice Monzeglio 7. Mark Rennie 8. Wessel Jooste

16. Benoit Cabello 17. Karena Wihongi 18. Julien Pierre 19. Augusto Petrilli 20. Remy Mandon 21. Nicolas Carmona 22. Anthony Forest

HT: 30 - 13

Attendance: 12,370

JC