

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2000

SCHISANO HAT-TRICK SETS UP VICTORY

GLOUCESTER HANG ON TO SCORE A VITAL WIN
AGAINST ROTHERHAM

ROTHERHAM 23 GLOUCESTER 29

ROTHERHAM

M. Umaga	15
N. Simpson	14
J. Naylor	13
A. Nothey	12
M. Wood	11
S. Binns	10
D. Scully	9
S. Bunting	1
C. Johnson	2
R. Latham	3
H. Parr	4
G. Kenworthy	5
M. Schmid	6
R. Earnshaw	7
I. Essunati	8

Subs: J. Thorp, A. Olver,
J. Dudley, C. Harrison,
N. Spence, T. Garnett,
P. Greaves.

GLOUCESTER

T. Fanolua
R. Jewell
J. Ewens
C. Yates
F. Schisano
B. Hayward
A. Gomarsall
S. Simon
O. Azam
A. Powles
R. Fidler
I. Jones
J. Boer
K. Jones
J. Paramore

Subs: J. Simpson-Daniel,
I. Sanders, S. Sanchez,
M. Kwisiuk, S. Ojomoh,
A. Eustace, E. Pearce.

Referee: G. Warren (Bristol)

Star Man: Andy Gomarsall (Gloucester)

Frank Schisano scored a Premiership hat-trick as Gloucester survived an awesome Rotherham recovery to claim their first victory of the season.

Gloucester were cruising to victory after Andy Gomarsall inspired them to three first period scores, through Rob Jewell and Schisano.

When the flying Frenchman scored at the start of the second half, Gloucester were cruising, but a tremendous recovery brought Rotherham within six points, but the Cherry and Whites held on.

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Gloucester arrived at Clifton Lane with just one mission. They had to win. Defeat was not even an option for coach Philippe Saint-Andre's side. After his public outburst in the week, claiming he would walk away from Kingsholm if the supporters wished, the Cherry and White hordes turned out in force to voice their support and they were awarded[sic] with a first start in Gloucester colours of Andy Gomarsall.

He began at scrum-half, while Kingsley Jones was handed his first start of the season on the flank.

Rotherham may not have a great reputation as a professional rugby side, but they are prepared to wreck a few this season and they tore into Gloucester from the whistle, striving for their first win of the campaign. But, crucially, Gloucester held the sway from the first scrum and with six minutes gone, showed the first signs of attacking instincts.

Gloucester collected the line-out and Jake Boer was driven on at speed, Chris Yates took Byron Hayward's pass and crashed through, but Gloucester could not capitalise.

Just two minutes later, however, they opened the game up with an awesome try. Gomarsall tapped a quick penalty and raced forward, fed the advancing Boer who tore through Michael Schmid's tackle and bounded on before finding Rob Jewell who pinned his ears back and raced into the corner. Hayward converted.

That stirred the hosts into action and Mike Umaga kicked a penalty after an offence by Olivier Azam, before they attacked again. The ball came left and Nigel Simpson found Jim Naylor who had just Terry Fanolua to beat, but the Samoan made a tremendous tackle.

Gloucester dusted themselves off and were soon attacking again as Gomarsall waltzed round Michael Wood, chipped infield and Franck Schisano raced in to score. Hayward converted and Gloucester were 14-3 ahead.

With just 22 minutes of the half gone, Gloucester scored their third try. Its foundations lay in the hearts of the forwards who drove relentlessly forward. Junior Paramore picked up from the back of the scrum and drove forward, allowing Gomarsall to find Hayward who put Schisano away for his second try.

The hosts were shell-shocked but Umaga kicked a penalty to make it 21-6, and Gloucester went off the boil in the final quarter and conceded several penalties, but Hayward steadied their nerve with his first penalty as Gloucester went in at half time 24-6 ahead.

Half-time:

Rotherham 6 Gloucester 24

After Gloucester's first half showing, it was not beyond them to not only win the game, but to collect the extra bonus point for four tries. They attacked with real passion from [the] outset and with Paramore having one of his best games for Gloucester, he attacked and defended with vigour; Gloucester battered Rotherham back.

Both he and Yates were heavily involved as Gloucester rolled play to underneath the Rotherham posts.

Hayward looked as if he had scored when he jinked but was held just short, but the hosts defence had been sucked in and Gomarsall gave the scoring pass to Schisano who completed his hat-trick and fourth in two games. Hayward's conversion hit the post, but Gloucester were well in command.

However, Rotherham ripped back into the game; helped by Gloucester's indiscipline in the loose, they camped themselves inside Gloucester's 22 metre line.

Gloucester's cause was not helped when Serge Simon, who had again been his typically robust self was sinbinned for a professional foul.

Gloucester were forced into a drastic reorganisation, but Rotherham had enough scent in their nostrils to turn them over at the scrummage and cause considerable disruption.

However, they failed to breach Gloucester's defence frequently enough behind the scrum, but eventually they had to give and when the play dissolved left, Dave Scully appeared with the try. Umaga converted.

Gloucester had just wilted under the pressure and the raucous home crowd rallied their troops for one last effort. It came as Gloucester gave away possession and substitute James Thorp claimed the try. Umaga again found something with the conversion and now Rotherham were within six points of Gloucester.

It was quite an astonishing finish. Gloucester's heart was pounding quickly now and they could not even control their own scrummage but they defended valiantly when they had to, finally get off the mark in the Premiership.