

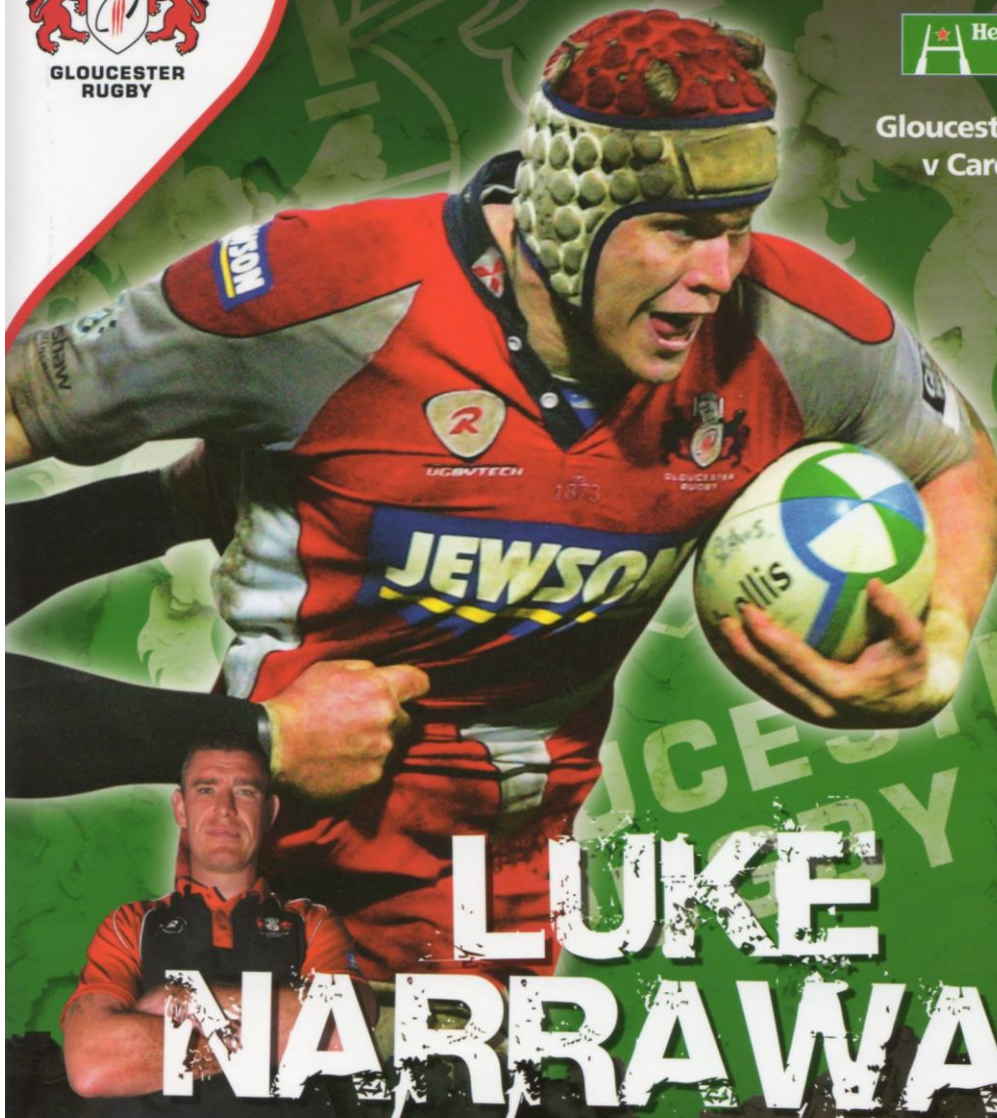


OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME OF GLOUCESTER RUGBY 2008/2009 ISSUE 11 • £3.00



Gloucester Rugby
v Cardiff Blues

18.01.09 15.00



LUKE NARRAWAY

DEAN RYAN

Europe is special

CARDIFF BLUES

All you need to know

STEVE COTTON

Gloucester are in good shape

GET TO KNOW

Will James

LEIGH HALFPENNY

Wales awaits

PLUS: Fans Zone, Peter Arnold, Dave King and much more.

Heineken Cup Round Five



ercrugby.com



CAPTAIN'S CORNER



AS A PROFESSIONAL rugby player, these are the days you crave.

There has been a difference to this week – not that training or preparation has been better or more intense than any others – but this is the Heineken Cup and suddenly every little thing seems more significant.

Across Europe this weekend the stellar talents will take another major leap towards qualification to the knockout stages of the most demanding club competition on the planet and we want to be among them.

This is not a time to reflect or be overly critical about what did and didn't happen against Newcastle last weekend. In many ways, this is a new start, with everything to fight and play for.



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In some ways our backs are against the wall. Defeat in Cardiff without a losing bonus point means there has been an element of catch up throughout the rest of the group, we know we have to win today and we have been operating with a number of injuries to key personnel.

They are not excuses, they are facts but this afternoon is an occasion for which this club, group of players and supporters were made for.

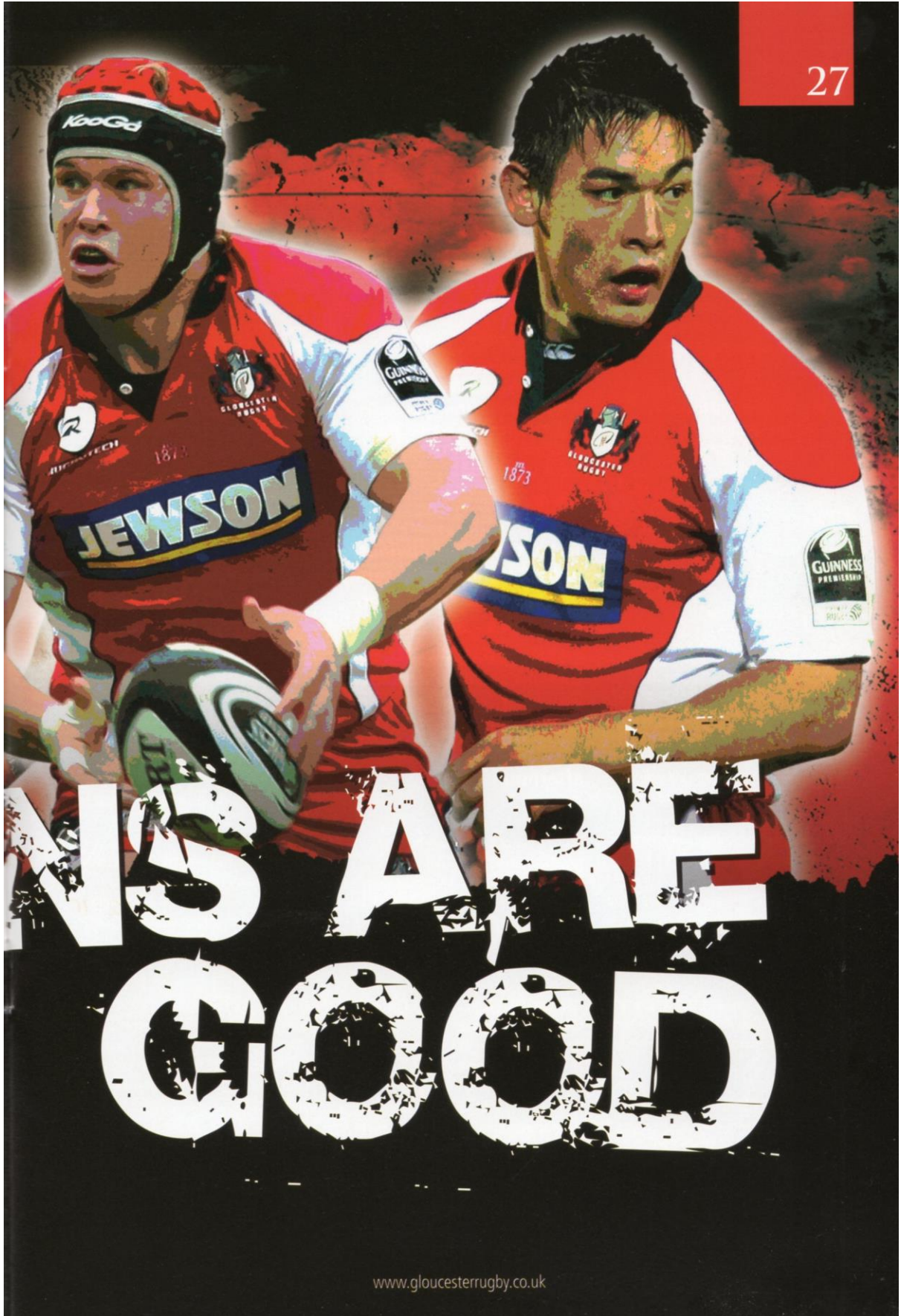
We appreciate Cardiff are a very good side – any team that can win in Biarritz are a major threat – but we want to make sure today is about what we can do, how we can impose ourselves on the game and produce the sort of European performance we can really build on.

Kingsholm will be close to capacity this afternoon and I don't need to tell anyone that the noise generated from the stands and terraces really can make the difference. It is that little bit extra that really counts in Europe so please get behind the boys this afternoon for one of the biggest games of this season or any other season.





➔ With key players returning from injury and still in contention on three fronts, Steve Cotton of the Western Daily Press argues Gloucester have laid the foundations for a big challenge in the coming months.



KINGS ARE GOOD

THE SIGNS ARE GOOD



BUT FOR a fly-half, a loosehead prop and a hooker, there was a worrying moment a week or two ago when you could almost name a complete injured XV of Gloucester players.

Olly Morgan, Iain Balshaw, James Simpson-Daniel, Anthony Allen, Lesley Vainikolo, Gareth Cooper, Greg Somerville, Will James, Alex Brown, Peter Buxton, Akapusi Qera, Andy Hazell and Gareth Delve.

Thirteen players, all of whom you could make a case for claiming are "first choice", have been – or remain – unavailable through injury.

But there have been no complaints. Not from Dean Ryan, nor from men such as Mike Tindall, Luke Narraway or Alasdair Strokosch, who have played and played and played without a break.

The workload of those three individuals – and various others in the squad – has been demanding as they have been required to play week after week without the luxury of rest or rotation.

However, despite their problems regarding numbers, Gloucester remain in an excellent position. Second in the Guinness Premiership – two points behind the leaders and five ahead of fifth-placed Leicester after 12 games – still very much in the Heineken Cup mix and into the last four of the EDF Energy Cup. It's not really that bad, is it?

Morgan, Balshaw, Simpson-Daniel, Allen, Cooper, James, Brown, Buxton, Qera, Hazell and Delve are all either back playing or very close to returning – and the team's overall record so far this season is 14 victories and five defeats from 19 matches.

Of course, the coming months will determine whether this is an average, good or excellent season – but at roughly the halfway point things could be a whole lot worse.

There is a very solid base from which to attack the second half of the campaign, with the team now having an excellent understanding of the game-plan and those aforementioned key men gradually returning to the fold.



Today's match is obviously hugely significant in terms of Gloucester's Heineken Cup hopes – and next week's trip to Biarritz will take on equal importance provided victory is assured against a very impressive Cardiff Blues side this afternoon.

Today's match is obviously hugely significant in terms of Gloucester's Heineken Cup hopes – and next week's trip to Biarritz will take on equal importance provided victory is assured against a very impressive Cardiff Blues side this afternoon.

Not that it will be that easy, of course. Cardiff are one of the five teams to have beaten Gloucester this season, along with Leicester, Sale Sharks, London Irish and Newcastle, and only Irish's performance at the Madejski Stadium last month came close to matching the clinical nature of the Blues' display at the Millennium Stadium in October.

In both games, a 42-12 defeat at Irish and a 37-24 reverse in the Welsh capital,

Gloucester made mistakes which were punished by the cutting edge of their opponents. And those errors are the kind which every Gloucester player and coach knows must be eliminated if this is to become the great season the club covets.

The defeat in Cardiff could arguably end up being more damaging, but this afternoon Gloucester have their opportunity to redress the balance. The Heineken Cup pool stages offer such little room for error but the mathematics are fairly simple now: only a win will do.

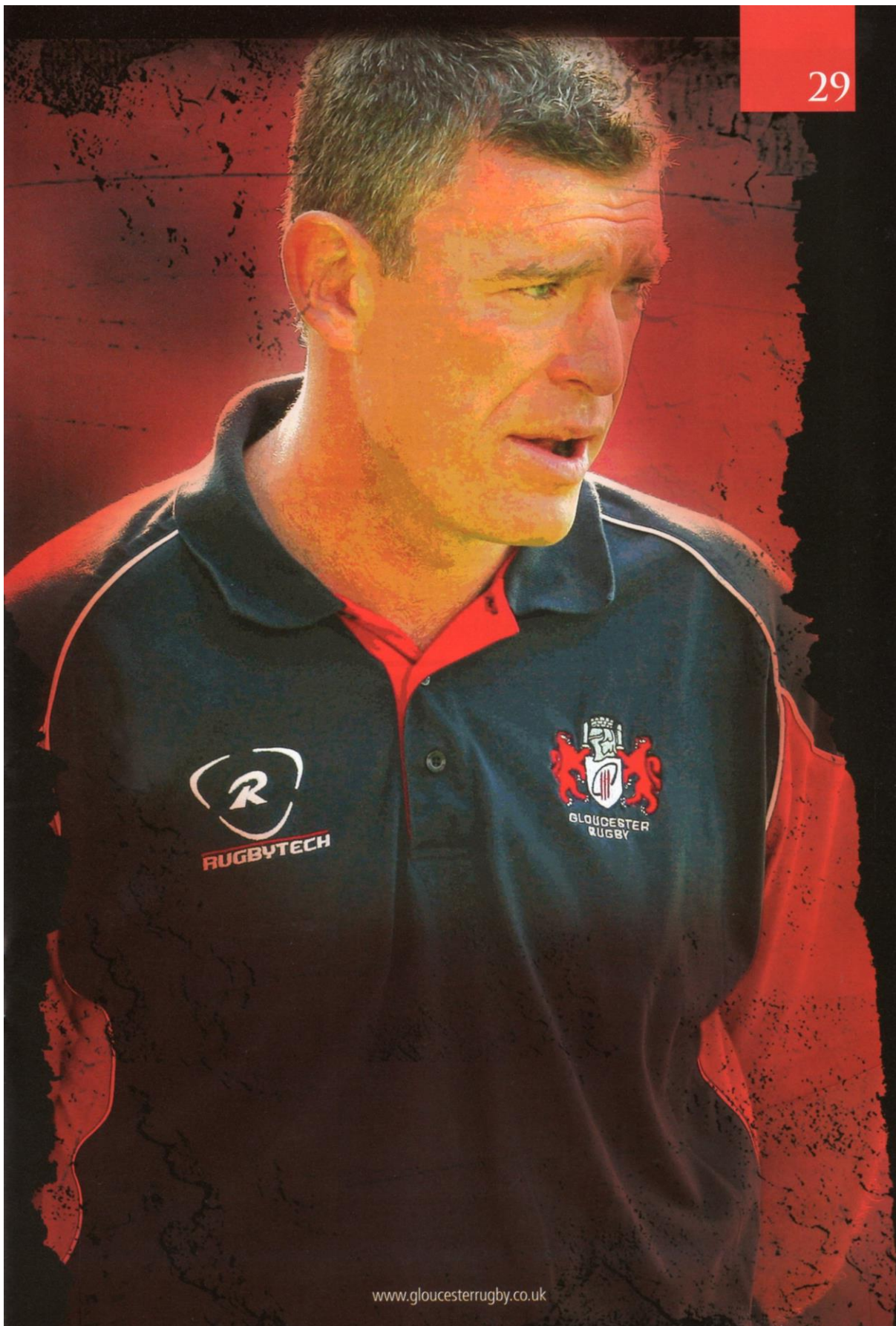
If that is achieved then next week's trip to Biarritz to face a fading force – ninth place in the Top 14 after 15 games tells its own story for the proud Basque club – takes on the same kind of intrigue and excitement that surrounded that trip to Limerick six years ago today.

The Experimental Law Variations arguably impacted on Gloucester's game earlier in the season, but results would suggest the bulk of those initial issues have now been resolved.

Victories against Bath, Harlequins, Biarritz and Saracens – two of them away from Kingsholm – in the first three months of the season suggest lessons of past seasons' failures are being learned, but only the next few months will provide conclusive proof.

Today against Cardiff, next week at Biarritz, the following week at home to London Irish, late February at home to Bath – the big matches are coming thick and fast.

And only the outcomes of those games – and the others that will follow in March, April and May – will determine what kind of season this will be. The early signs, however, are very encouraging.





RYAN'S REVIEW



Last weekend we suffered a defeat at Newcastle, how did you view it?

DR: IT was a game dominated by the conditions. Very rarely I have ever seen a wind as strong as the one that swept through Kingston Park last Sunday. It dictated the way both teams approached the contest and dragged it to a level that made it much easier for Newcastle to match us.

That is to take nothing away from their spirit or enthusiasm because I thought they were the underlying elements of their performance but it narrowed the

gap in terms of what was achievable in those conditions. We said we just had to sit in and wait for something to break and when we got it back to 7-7 at the start of the second half I was pretty confident we could grow and win the game.

But we slightly went to sleep from a quick free kick that put us on the back foot and Tom May took his opportunity. We did have a chance with a late penalty ourselves but I stand my immediate reaction that the decision to opt for a scrum was brave. If it had come off, we would have been top of the league but we are still in a very

healthy position and I don't see it as a defeat that will damage us long-term given the circumstances of it.



This week, England announced their new EPS squad that includes three players from Gloucester, you must be very pleased?

DR: I THINK we all should be pleased. All three of them – Tins, Morgs and Naz have been form players for us for some time and in that respect it is no surprise they have been included. Mike's inclusion is an indicator they are looking for some reliability and experience. It has been pretty obvious we miss his experience and coolness when he is not involved with us and it may well be the same with England.

He does the simple things very cleanly and makes few mistakes. Both Olly and Luke have been in really good form for us and we are delighted they will get the opportunity to press their claims on the international stage. They are clearly two very talented players who will only get better over time.

We also have four players in the Saxons squad and they all can have legitimate hopes they could be elevated into the senior squad in the future. To produce seven players within these squads is great for the club.

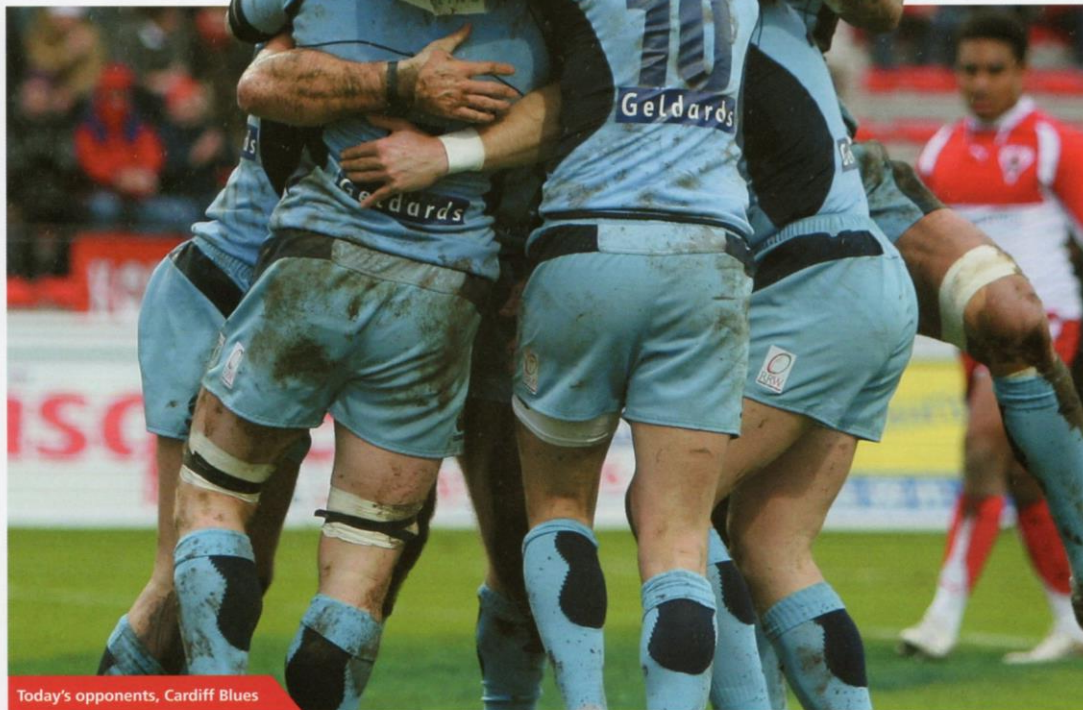


Today is the first of back-to-back Heineken Cup games – how do you view the visit of Cardiff?

DR: I WOULD say it is a bit of a one-off. We are in a situation where we know only two wins will realistically get us into the knockout stages of



Danny Williams breaks through to score a try against Gloucester



Today's opponents, Cardiff Blues

the competition. Heineken weeks just feel a little bit different – there is an understanding we face something slightly out of the unknown and the magnitude of the competition seems to grow round by round.

If you look back at the game at the Millennium Stadium, we paid the price for making too many errors. I thought we got ourselves back into the game well but three minutes before half-time effectively cost us the game and that has been the telling period of the group stages.

Cardiff are obviously a very talented side and their win in Biarritz shows they are more than capable of going on the road in this competition and getting a result.

I think it should be a fantastic contest between two sides who really want to play and a win for us would keep the pool alive – that is massive motivation for us.



Lastly, how is the injury situation looking?

DR: WITH any luck, we could get a clutch of players back at roughly the same time. Sinbad, Balsh, Gareth Delve and Akapusi Qera are all getting very close to a return and so is Andy Hazell.

We have operated with reduced numbers but it won't be long before we have some pretty key and influential people available for selection again and that is great news for us.



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TODAY'S TEAMS

Sunday 18th January 2009 15.00
Gloucester Rugby v Cardiff Blues



Gloucester

Cardiff Blues

TODAY'S OFFICIALS
 Referee: Alan Lewis Touch Judges: J Lacey & S Flannery 12-16
 4th Official: B Robertson 5th Official: Mark Tovey

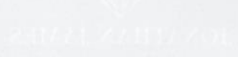
Gloucester Replacements

16 BITTERBELL 17 WOOD 18 JAMES 19 EUSTACE 20 LAWSON 21 WALKER 22 SIMPSON-DANIEL

Cardiff Replacements

16 YAPP 17 WILLIAMS 18 MORGAN 19 RUSH 20 REES 21 SWEENEY 22 ROBERTS

Heineken Cup



errugby.com

PERSONAL FILES

with **Will James**

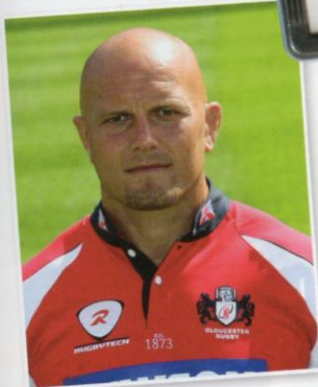


by Ian
Randall

Will James

The Welsh second row joined Gloucester from Cornish Pirates and has already impressed during his stint at Kingsholm. At 6ft, 6in he has become a crucial member of the Gloucester squad thanks to his work-rate, fitness and physicality. As a front jumper, James also combines his line-out contribution with power at the scrum and ball carrying qualities.





1. What is the first match you remember watching?

It would have been on TV, but I really can't remember who it was.

2. Who is your sport's best pundit?

Will Greenwood. He's got a good knowledge of the game, a good personality and he has a bit of humour about him as well. He doesn't talk a lot of irrelevant rubbish.

3. Can you explain Cricket?

Two teams of 11 players, one of them fielding, bowling, trying to get to get the opposition out by taking wickets. Once you've got ten wickets you've won...and now I'm starting to confuse myself...

4. What's been your worst fashion crime?

I've got a pair of bright, white trainers. I wear them quite a lot and I do think sometimes that I'm getting a bit old to be wearing stuff like that. Maybe it's me trying to cling onto my youth, which is fast disappearing into the distance.

5. Who has the flashiest motor at the club?

Me. I've got a 1998 turbo diesel Ford

Escort estate. It's just clicked past 100,000 miles and I'm very proud of it.

6. If money was no object what would be the 1st thing you would buy?

A round of drinks. If someone game me a bottomless pit of money I'd go out and celebrate for a few days first before I bought anything.

7. Who's the most famous person with your christian name?

William Shakespeare. He's pretty famous isn't he?

8. Can you play a musical instrument?

I can play the drums. I've done so since I was about 11, and now I do it for relaxation. My wife bought me quite a nice kit last year, but it's electrical which means I can plug myself in with a set of headphones and the neighbours don't go crazy.

9. If you could be in a band, which one would you choose?

That's quite hard. Possibly Van Helen. He was quite a talented guy.

10. How would you improve the play offs?

I'd get rid of them, and not just because we've been on the wrong end of a couple of heavy defeats. I don't see the point in having a really hard fought league system when it doesn't really count for very much.

11. What is your nickname at the club and how did it come about?

Grills. Let's just say I can get hold of certain types of barbeque for people, and some of the boys have had them

off me. It's stuck because of that.

12. Which two of your team mates would you want with you in a quiz team?

Nick Wood - he's the obvious one - and Rory Lawson. He can think on his feet and he's pretty stealthy.

13. Has your sport ever brought you to tears?

I've been close to crying a few times because of pain. I'm not saying I wouldn't, but I don't think I have.

14. What's the most common mistake you see players making in your sport?


I would say it's off the field, when people think it's quite a boring job when in fact it is an interesting thing to do. It is physically demanding and hard work but you are doing what you love doing and being paid for it. That's what you've got to remember.

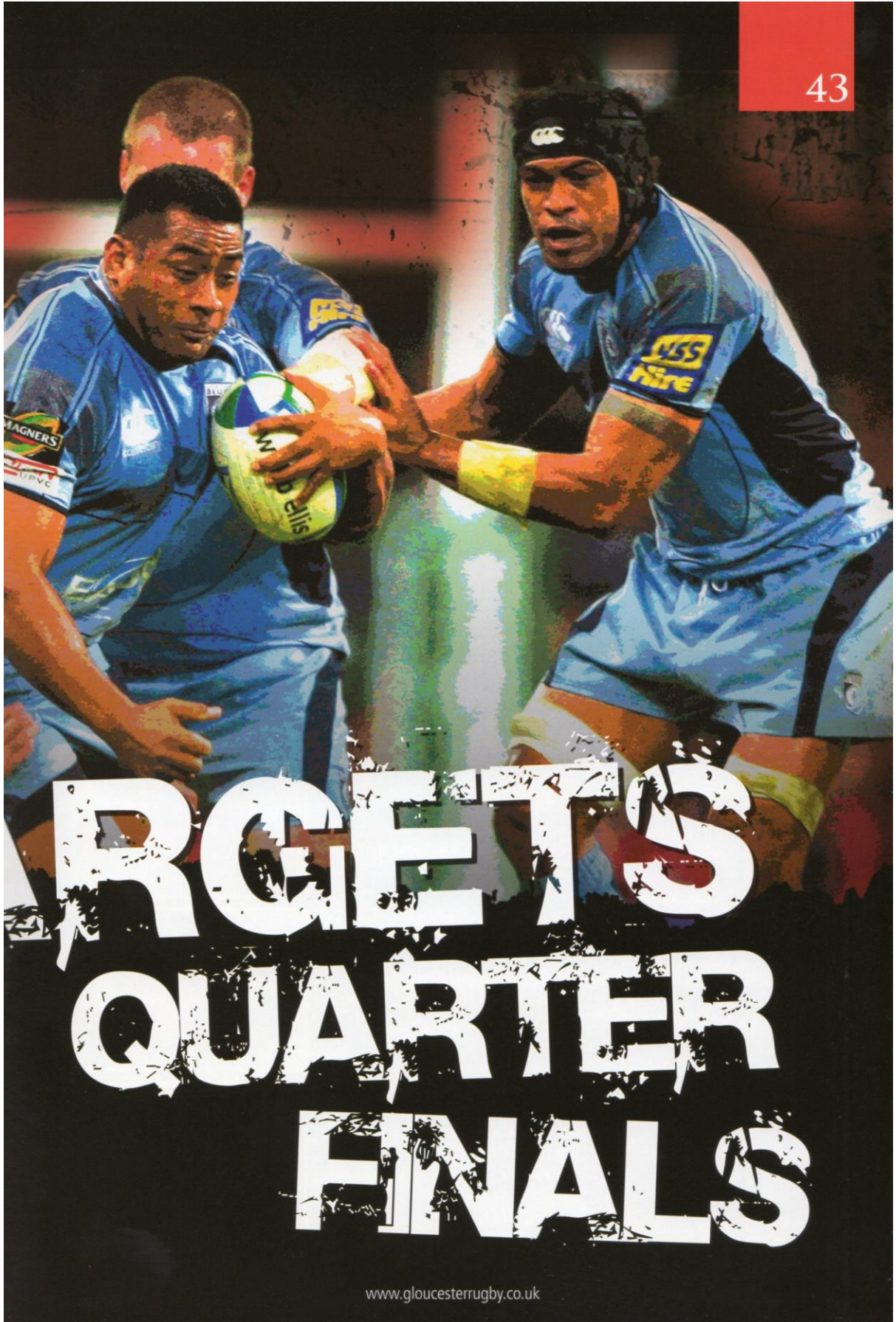
15. Where in the world is the best night out?

Hard to choose between New York and Las Vegas. Vegas is great to go to and blow yourself out for two or three days, but New York is brilliant too. It has a bit of everything.





 Gloucester will go hunting for a home win against Cardiff today that will keep their Heineken Cup hopes alive, as Luke Narry tells the matchday programme.



ROGETS QUARTER FINALS

LUKE TARGETS QUARTER-FINALS



GLOUCESTER Rugby's Heineken Cup quarter-final hopes are in their own hands – and they

cannot afford another slip-up if they are to qualify as Pool 6 winners.

And Cardiff Blues come to Kingsholm today for a showdown knowing that the double over their near neighbours in a massive Anglo-Welsh contest will guarantee them a place in the last eight for the second successive tournament.

The Blues, 37-24 winners against Gloucester in a Millennium Stadium thriller back in October, along with triple champions Toulouse and Harlequins, are the sole survivors with four wins from four starts.

"This is the make or break match for us – without a doubt the biggest and most important game of our season so far," said Gloucester's England back row forward Luke Narraway, who has played in all four of their Pool matches so far and scored tries in both legs of their double over Rugby Calvisano, including a Heineken Man of the Match award-winning performance in Italy in Round 3.

"If we lose that will be us very much out of the Heineken Cup but win on Sunday and we will still be right there in the mix with a tough game at Biarritz Olympique to come in Round 6.

"The big thing is that our fate is totally in our own hands, it is up to us to go on and qualify for the quarter-finals and to do that we have to start with a victory against the Blues on Sunday and then repeat that over in Biarritz five days later."

Before the Blues' try bonus triumph at the home of Welsh rugby in Round 2,

Gloucester led the tournament series between the clubs 3-0, including a 21-15 quarter-final win on home turf in 2001 in front of their passionate home supporters.

"Having the match at Kingsholm is a huge thing for us," said Narraway. "The best club crowd I have played in front of was the one at Kingsholm for the Munster quarter-final tie last season and I see



The best club crowd I have played in front of was the one at Kingsholm for the Munster quarter-final tie last season and I see Sunday as having much the same sort of atmosphere with most of the 16,500 crowd roaring us on.



Sunday as having much the same sort of atmosphere with most of the 16,500 crowd roaring us on.

"The Round 2 match at the Millennium Stadium was magic as a spectacle – it was my first time as a player at the Millennium and the stadium and crowd were just unbelievable – but our rugby was not the best.

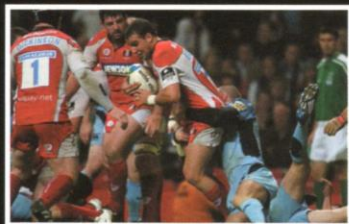
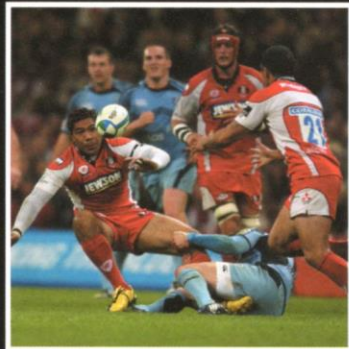
"We were pretty sloppy, and it was disappointing that we gave them so much of the game, including a valuable try bonus point. So the first thing on Sunday is to look for the win and then, if we can play some decent rugby, perhaps push on and earn the bonus point.

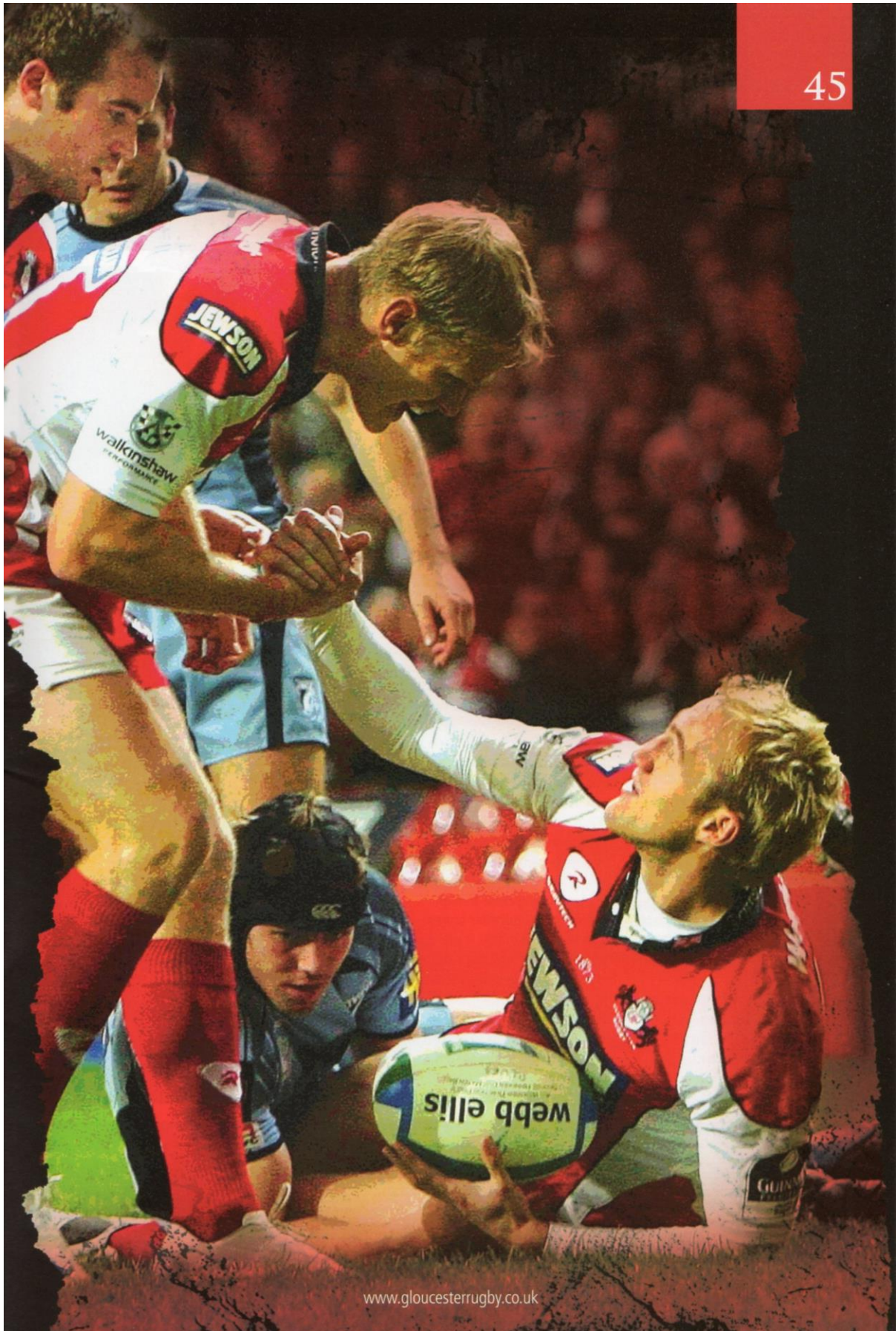
"However, the Blues are a great side with

so many great players – the Welsh regions have certainly benefited from having their leading players with just the four sides – so it is hard to single out individual threats as their squad is almost entirely international players."

But Andy Powell has come on really powerfully and played some great rugby so we will need to stop their strong runners like him while being well aware of the dangerous players they have in the backs.

"As for Gloucester, our season has been a bit hit and miss – we have played well in some matches and then let ourselves down in others – but we will be ready."





GLOUCESTER RUGBY
SARACENS

22
16



Tindall leads charge

Saturday, January 3, Attendance: 16,500
Referee: Andrew Small



GLOUCESTER got 2009 off to the perfect start with a narrow, hard fought win at home to Saracens.

Olly Morgan's fifth Guinness Premiership try of the season and some expert kicking from Olly Barkley eased Gloucester to the four points that further enhanced their play-off credentials.

With a contact area swamped with bodies and against a canny, intelligent side, Gloucester needed all their wit and competitive spirit to get them home. Nothing encapsulated that more than skipper Mike Tindall, who was instrumental in their only try and was then as solid as they come in every other aspect of the contest.

There were other important contributions to, from the seismic physicality of Olivier Azam to Adam Eustace, who went toe to toe with All Black Chris Jack.

Barkley and Glen Jackson swapped penalties before Gloucester scored their only try. Morgan started and finished the move by surging forward before Tindall got outside his defender with a powerful break

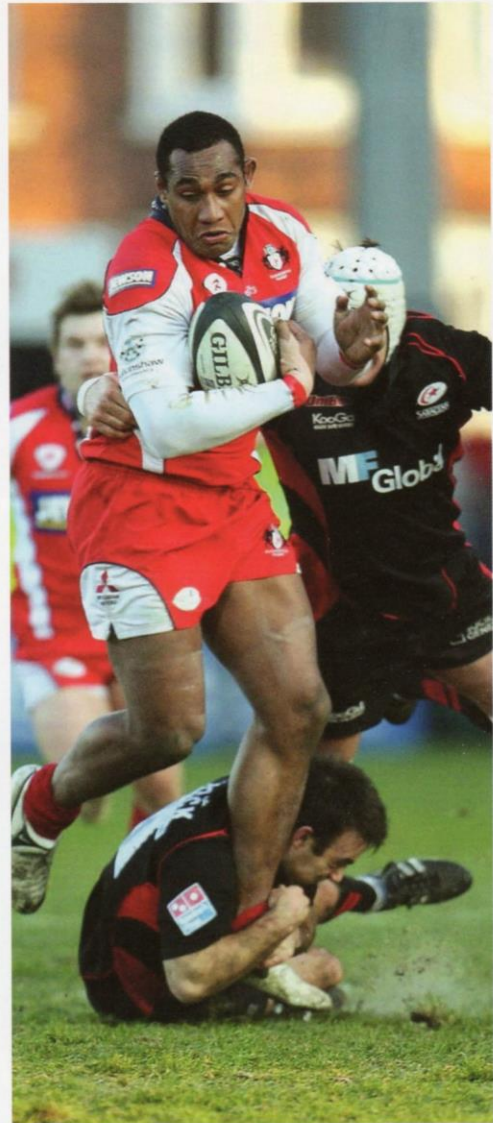
and Lesley Vainikolo managed to get his pass inside towards Morgan who followed up to score.

Vainikolo was then to depart with an Achilles injury and Saracens responded with a try of their own. Jackson took a penalty quickly and kicked diagonally cross-field towards Richard Haughton and he got ahead of Matthew Watkins and went behind the sticks.

Jackson converted and then added a penalty on the stroke of half-time to give Saracens the interval lead.

Gloucester changed things around at the break and began to turn the screw at the tackle area. It was significant because Saracens eventually started to concede penalties. Barkley levelled the scores and with the scrum operating close to high temperature, Gloucester scored again. Kameli Ratovou made a mess of Ryan Lamb's high kick and Barkley nudged over the penalty.

Barkley then sealed the points when Noah Cato was penalised for obstructing Apo Satala with the penalty that took Gloucester 22-16 ahead and home and dry.



Man of the Match



Mike Tindall produced another outstanding contribution.

Coach's Comment



"It was a tough, close game and we stayed in the contest well to win it," head coach Dean Ryan.



Timeline

5 mins	
Barkley pen	3-0
10 mins	
Jackson pen	3-3
20 mins	
Morgan try, Barkley con	10-3
25 mins	
Jackson pen	10-6
32 mins	
Haughton try, Jackson con	10-13
38 mins	
Barkley pen	13-13
40 mins	
Jackson pen	13-16
47 mins	
Barkley pen	16-16
63 mins	
Barkley pen	19-16
68 mins	
Barkley pen	22-16

Gloucester Line-up

15	Olly Morgan	(1t)
14	Matthew Watkins	
13	Mike Tindall	(capt)
12	Olly Barkley	(5p, 1c)
11	Lesley Vainikolo	
10	Ryan Lamb	
9	Dave Lewis	
1	Nick Wood	
2	Olivier Azam	
3	Carlos Nieto	
4	Adam Eustace	
5	Alex Brown	
6	Alasdair Strokosch	
7	Apolosi Satala	
8	Luke Narraway	
REPS		
16	Andy Titterrell	
17	Alasdair Dickinson	
18	Marco Bortolami	
19	Dan Williams	
20	Rory Lawson	(Lewis)
21	Willie Walker	
22	Mark Foster	(Vainikolo)



PETER ARNOLD

It's been a pretty bleak start to 2009 on the injury front for Gloucester and last Sunday's defeat at Newcastle drove Peter Arnold to drink – again. But he hopes to be raising a glass to a Heineken Cup victory tonight.

SOMEBODY UP THERE DOESN'T LIKE US

IT'S SPOOKY isn't it? Almost as if someone 'Up There' has said, "Now, how can we hurt Gloucester most this week? I know. Let's snap Lesley Vainikolo's Achilles!"

Obviously, one has to expect a certain number of injuries in the course of a long season, but the incidence of really severe ones this season is nearly too pronounced to be mere coincidence. Les's mishap is only the latest in a line which stretches back to last summer. Most people would agree that last season's stand-out player was Akapusi Qera. He gets

himself hurt during the lay-off period, and we haven't seen him since. Hopefully, it won't be long before he's back, and the opposition will find it ominous that he is reported to have 'bulked up' during his rehab. As if he wasn't big enough already.

At around the same time, Gareth Delve, who had forced himself back into the Wales squad, also got injured and hasn't been able to play this season.

When hostilities commenced in 2008, we seemed to have an embarrassment of back-row riches, but those two injuries, allied to the sad retirement of James Forrester, left the cupboard looking rather bare. Thank heavens (and Dean Ryan) for the arrival of Apo Satala, who has certainly made an impact and seems to get better with every game.

Outside the pack, James Simpson-Daniel came into full flower, and was terrifying defences up and down the country, when he got badly hurt, too. It seems he might be back before too long, and with Vainikolo out for the season, we're going to need him, especially as Iain Balshaw's groin injury

appears to be more intractable than first thought. Let's not forget Anthony Allen's problems, either.

Les' misfortune couldn't have come at a worse time. First, we have the two European games, then we may have to cope with the depredations of the England squad. Things don't look too happy.

People always say in these circumstances, that the situation does give opportunities to young players to step up and make their marks. I wouldn't like to take bets that our talented bunch of youngsters won't do just that.

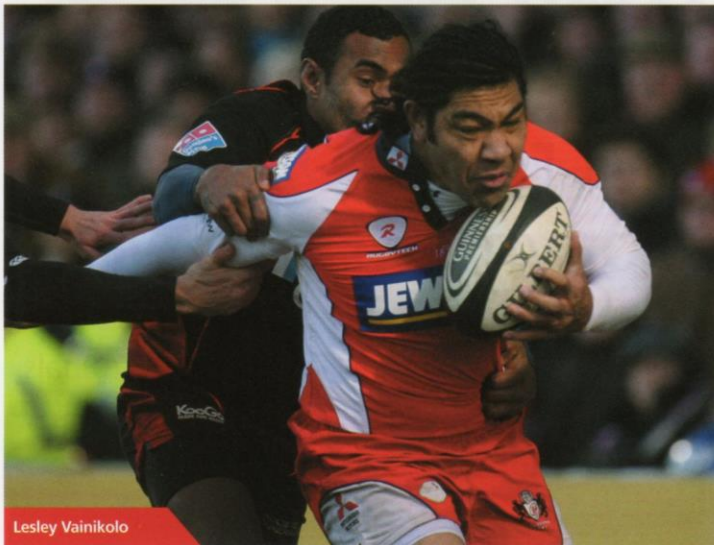
DIFFERENT GAMES, SAME RESULT

IF YOU were looking for two utterly contrasting games, then you would have no further to look than our recent matches against Bristol and Saracens. There was a good deal of inventive rugby in the Memorial Ground encounter, while the match right here was all about 'winning ugly' as the trendy modern saying goes, and never mind the luxury of providing entertainment.

Of course, there was one happy constant in the two games, and that was the encouraging form of Mike Tindall. I'm tempted to remark that he doesn't really need a car if he can run like that, but that would be a bit insensitive, so I won't say it. I will, however, observe that if Martin Johnson doesn't recall him to the England squad on that form, then he needs a white stick.

I was disappointed with Martin Bayfield's remarks on ITV's coverage of the Saracens game. You'd have thought that a former lock forward of his pedigree would have had more appreciation of the thick and dirty aspects of rugby life.

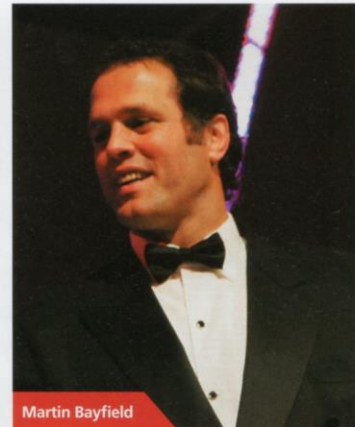
To imply that there was no rugby played in the second half was frankly wrong. It just



Lesley Vainikolo



Tindall in action against Falcons



Martin Bayfield

wasn't the sort of rugby that looks good on the telly.

I suppose we do have to realise that television commentators don't really care who wins or loses. They're not necessarily looking for good rugby so much as a spectacle for their viewers, and if the exigencies of the game demand a dour struggle in order to gain the vital points, then that conflicts with the demands of the all-devouring goggle box.

I also note that our old friend, Peter Butler, is demanding that under-pitch heating be installed at Kingsholm. On the evidence of the other Saturday, it would be very nice, wouldn't it? However one does have to consider the financial aspect. It wouldn't be cheap, and would, presumably, entail digging up the pitch and re-laying it afterwards. There would have to be some careful analysis to determine whether the operation would be worth it for a system which, as a rule, would only be used for a few weeks in the year.

It might be cheaper to ask the Shed to come out of the bars and breathe on the pitch beforehand.

BLACK SUNDAY

I HAVE to confess that the remains of the Christmas drinks took a right bashing last

Sunday evening. I had to do something to cheer myself up after the events of last Sunday afternoon.

// I was disappointed with Martin Bayfield's remarks on ITV's coverage of the Saracens game. You'd have thought that a former lock forward of his pedigree would have had more appreciation of the thick and dirty aspects of rugby life. //

I wasn't all that surprised when we lost our away game at London Irish. They were, after all, going great guns at the time, and our squad had been ravaged by the dreaded lurgy all week. In contrast, I couldn't see any way we were going to lose up at Newcastle. The squad looked strong enough, in spite of injuries and illness, and the Falcons haven't exactly been setting the world alight this

season. I know that Newcastle are much more difficult to beat at home than on the road, but we had the momentum going with us after the previous two games so all looked set fair for a handy win.

What I hadn't allowed for was a 60mph wind. As everyone knows, gale force conditions turn the game into a lottery, and this time the coin fell the wrong way. Just one penalty sealed it.

I was listening to the commentary on the radio, which, with all due respect, doesn't always give the full picture, but it did seem to me that the Falcons were getting a lot more kickable penalties than we were, and by the time we got one, we needed five points, so taking a scrum was an understandable option. Not only did that not work, but Olly Azam got yellow carded in the process, which effectively ended any chance of that play being repeated.

Just when I thought my day couldn't get any worse, the news came through that Olly Morgan had got injured. Just before the England squad is to be announced and we have two European games to face.

Typical.

I was quite glad to go to bed that night.

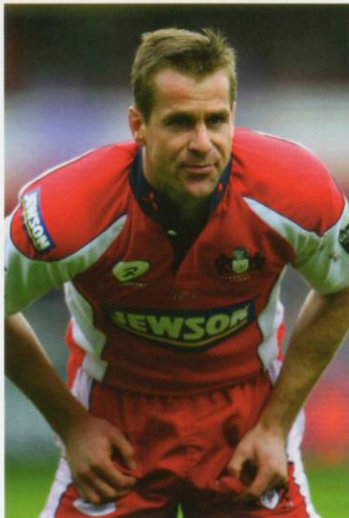
DAVE KING'S WORLD OF RUGBY

 Dave King takes another sideways look at the goings on at events on planet rugby

THE Guinness Premiership all-time leading try scorer is the former Sale Sharks winger Steve Hanley with 75 tries. Unfortunately Steve has had to call time on his rugby career due to injury.

THE television deals that have been confirmed will provide wall to wall coverage from 2010. Sky will televise England's autumn Internationals. They have also renewed a four year deal to screen the Heineken Cup. Sky will also cover 26 live Guinness Premiership games, the new Anglo-Welsh Cup and twelve games from the English Championship which replaces National Division One.

Setanta who will enter the market place in a joint deal with Sky with £54 million made available to the top English clubs over three years. Setanta will broadcast a further 43 live Premiership games a

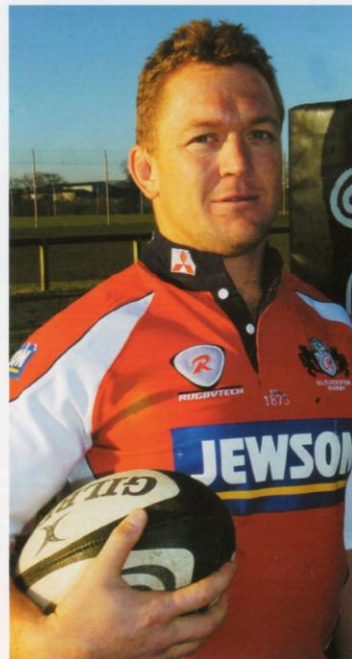


season, with a guaranteed three televised games a weekend with one on Friday night, the others on Saturday and Sunday afternoons. They will also have exclusive rights to a Guinness Premiership semi-final and the Guinness Premiership final. In total live television exposure will mean 69 games will be live excluding Anglo Welsh coverage.

OUR former utility player, Chris Paterson has now won 90 caps for Scotland. He earned his first cap against Spain in the 1999 World Cup. Chris landed an amazing 36 consecutive goals for Scotland between August 11th 2007 and June 7th 2008. He did not miss a single attempt during the 2007 Rugby World Cup or the 2008 Six Nations Championship. Chris Paterson's phenomenal run came to an end against Argentina. That match saw him overtake Gavin Hastings long standing Scotland point's record of 667 and in his next international he passed Scott Murray's record of 87 caps for Scotland.

WHEN Greg Somerville made his debut for the club versus Calvisano in December he became the 28th player out of our squad

of 39 players to make their debut as a replacement. Leaving eleven players to make their debut from the Kick-off.



THE recent cricket winter tours to India and the West Indies are stark reminders of two prominent cricketers who have played for Gloucester rugby club. They were Welshmen, Willie Jones and Tony Lewis. Willie Jones played for Gloucester and Neath. He played for Wales in a Red Cross wartime international in 1940. In 340 matches for Glamorgan he reached 1,000 runs in a season on 7 occasions.

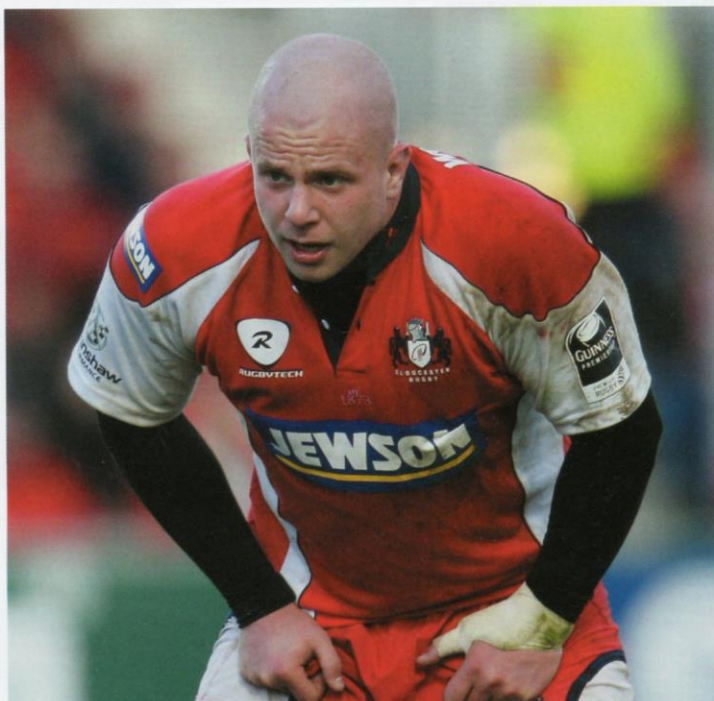
Willie scored two double centuries in Glamorgan's championship winning campaign of 1948 and totalled more than 13,000 runs in his career.

Tony Lewis, was a double Cambridge Blue, playing full-back for Neath and Gloucester. He played in 315 matches for Glamorgan. Tony, was the county's captain for six seasons and led the Welsh county to the Championship title in 1969. He made nine appearances in Test matches for England and captained them on a tour to India and Pakistan. Tony scored over 15,000 runs for Glamorgan.

MANY of our supporters will remember former Gloucester player John Gwilliam captaining Wales to their first Triple Crown for 39 years when they defeated Ireland 6-3 in Belfast on 11th March 1950. Those celebrations were muted when a Tudor V aircraft carrying Welsh fans home crashed at Llandow, near Cardiff killing 80 people. There were three survivors; an appeal fund launched raised £40,000.

The task we face when we meet Ospreys in the E.D.F. semi-final at the Ricoh Stadium in Coventry is almost an International one. For in February 2008 no fewer than thirteen players from Ospreys represented Wales at Twickenham versus England. The only outsiders were Mark Jones of the Scarlets and Martyn Williams of the Blues.

NICK Wood made his 100th appearance for the Club in our Guinness League



away match with London Irish on the 20th December 2008. That century of appearances came from 76 starts and 24 as a replacement. Nick made his debut on 21st September 2003 against London Irish at the Madejski Stadium.

We have recorded more points in league matches against Sale Sharks at Kingsholm than any other club with 381. The points recorded with each club are followed by the number of league matches in parenthesis that have been played to date:

Sale 381 (12), Newcastle 366 (11), Bristol 352(10) Saracens 344 (13), Leicester 321 (13), London Irish 316 (12)), Harlequins 305 (13), Bath 303 (13), Wasps 298 (13), Northampton 247 (11), Leeds 195 (6), Worcester 117 (4), Bedford 91 (2), West Hartlepool 90 (3), Rotherham 72 (2), Orrell 57 (2), London Scottish 29 (1).



NEWCASTLE FALCONS 10
GLOUCESTER RUGBY 7



Falcons fly

Saturday, January 11, Attendance: 5,026

Referee: Tim Wigglesworth



TOM MAY'S late penalty consigned Gloucester to a hugely

disappointing defeat against Newcastle on Sunday.

In horrendous conditions that were dictated by an extremely strong wind, Newcastle were full value for their victory – their spirit and determination were outstanding against more skilful opposition.

Against such conditions it was almost impossible to play any meaningful rugby, indeed passing the ball more than five yards was at times impossible, and it seemed the contest would end in a draw until May's late penalty.

Newcastle took a first-half lead with the one real attack of the half. Scrum-half Micky Young sent Jamie Noon hurtling into midfield from a scrum and when possession came back, Danny Williams managed to get past Mark Foster and Olly Morgan to reach the line.

Rory Clegg held his nerve to land the conversion following two penalty misses – and Newcastle led

7-0 at half-time. However, it took Gloucester three minutes to level the scores after the break.

They made a right old mess of a Newcastle scrum and Rory Lawson nipped in to turn over the ball. Gloucester came infield through Olivier Azam and Lawson bundled his way through to score.

At that stage, there was the very real prospect Gloucester would go on and win the game but Newcastle were exceptionally brave and committed and despite Gloucester's best efforts, couldn't break through again. The game change when Young took a quick free-kick and got in behind Gloucester's defence and although Steve Jones had missed an early penalty, May stepped up and drilled his kick through the posts.

It left Gloucester requiring at least a penalty to salvage the game and they got the opportunity with time ticking by but in the conditions opted for a scrum and couldn't make the pressure tell.

Newcastle saw the game out to claim a vital victory.



Coach's Comment



"It's disappointing but conditions dictated the contest which made it very difficult," head coach Dean Ryan.



Timeline

27 mins	Williams try, Clegg con	7-0
43 mins	Lawson try, Barkley con	7-7
70 mins	May pen	10-7



Gloucester Line-up

15	Olly Morgan	
14	Matthew Watkins	
13	Mike Tindall	(capt)
12	Olly Barkley	(1c)
11	Mark Foster	
10	Willie Walker	
9	Rory Lawson	(1t)
1	Alasdair Dickinson	
2	Andy Titterrell	
3	Carlos Nieto	
4	Marco Bortolami	
5	Alex Brown	
6	Alasdair Strokosch	
7	Apolosi Satala	
8	Luke Narraway	
REPS		
16	Olivier Azam	(Titterrell)
17	Nick Wood	(Dickinson)
18	Will James	(Bortolami)
19	Adam Eustace	
20	Dave Lewis	
21	Ryan Lamb	(Morgan)
22	Anthony Allen	(Tindall)