

# GLOUCESTERSHIRE ECHO

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2001

## GLOUCESTER ON RAMPAGE

LOCK ARCHER IS MADE TO PAY AS SAINT-ANDRE'S MEN  
CUT LOOSE

GLOUCESTER 51 BRISTOL 17

Bristol paid a heavy price for their indiscipline as they were heavily beaten in the Zurich Premiership by Gloucester. They had England lock Garath Archer sent off in the first half and when prop Julian White was sin-binned in the second half they were always fighting a desperate rearguard action.

As a result they suffered their heaviest defeat at Kingsholm, in front of a crowd of nearly 8,500.

The contest was effectively over by half-time as Gloucester played with power and pace to take Bristol apart and lead 23-10.

Bristol surprisingly had two periods of supremacy. They started each half better than Gloucester but made little use of it.

Gloucester claimed two of their six tries in the first half through back row players Andy Hazell and Junior Paramore.

David Rees scored Bristol's first-half try, his pace taking him past several defenders.

Then came the crucial moment with Archer's punch ending in his dismissal by Welsh referee Nigel Williams.

With three penalties and a conversion from Ludovic Mercier and a conversion from Henry Paul, Gloucester had things sewn up by half-time, Shane Drahm adding a conversion and a penalty for Bristol.

Bristol emerged strongly at the start of the second half, dominating for 10 minutes, but still failing to score.

When Gloucester got going it was one-way traffic. Chris Catling joined the line to score the first of Gloucester's four second-half tries but was injured in the process and ended up in hospital with a dislocated shoulder.

With Bristol's pack under intense pressure Gloucester finally drove them over their own line for hooker Christ Fortey to score, and with Gloucester making wholesale changes Andy Gomarsall came on to exert a major influence.

The former England scrum-half scorched through for a solo try and then James Simpson-Daniel ended the match with a superb try.

By this time Mercier was back on target after unusual first-half failings and converted all four tries.

Bristol showed what might have been with a try by Andrew Sheridan when they were down to 13 players and Drahm converted.

Bristol coach Dean Ryan blamed the sending off of Archer for their hammering.

"It was a good contest until Archer was sent off," said Ryan.

"It was pretty foolhardy to lose a player at Kingsholm, and the damage it did to us was enormous.

"We are very disappointed, but we will look at the incident in the cold light of day before considering any action.

"Archer's discipline has not been a problem for me."

Gloucester coach Philippe Saint-Andre was pleased with his side's six-try victory but still saw a lot of merit in Bristol's play.

"They are a good team and we will still be fighting them for a place in the top six at the end of the season," he said.

"Bristol played well in the first 20 minutes and also had us under pressure early in the second half."

Saint-Andre was also impressed with the improvement shown by ex-rugby league star Paul on his Premiership debut.

"He is more dangerous every day and gets better and better. He is good in defence and makes very good decisions."

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