

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2001

## TYKES OVERPOWERED BY CHERRY AND WHITES GLOUCESTER RUN IN EIGHT TRY'S AS THEY THRASH LEEDS AT KINGSHOLM

GLOUCESTER 58 LEEDS 17

Gloucester subjected Leeds to an eight-try mauling to overwhelm the Tykes at Kingsholm.

The Cherry and Whites' forward machine was simply too much for the Premiership new boys, who never came to terms with the power and organisation of Gloucester.

They were never really in top gear, but Leeds looked totally out of their depth as Gloucester bagged four tries in each half.

Gloucester made a wholly unconvincing start at a blustery, but expectant Kingsholm.

Leeds were basic but committed, and even Gloucester's usual fundamentals up front lacked their usual zip.

They had to get to grips with a number of changes in the pack, but they were still able to take the lead when Ludovic Mercier landed a fourth minute penalty when Leeds were penalised for not releasing.

But Gloucester had to do more defending than they would have liked in the first 15 minutes, as Leeds looked boisterous in their efforts. They levelled the scores when Jon Benson kicked a penalty when Gloucester were penalised for not releasing.

Gloucester were blighted by an early affliction to make basic errors and they conceded a vast amount of ball in contact.

It took another Mercier penalty to free them from their shackles, but they rocked Leeds with two blisteringly quick tries.

Junior Paramore created the first when he picked up and hacked forward from the base of the scrum on the far side. Dimitri Yachvili came in to add a crucial punt forward and Daren O'Leary surged away unopposed to score.

Barely a minute later, they were in again. Yachvili aimed a fine kick in behind Dan Scarborough, who paid the price for his slowness to react. James Simpson-Daniel hurried him towards touch, but his throw only found Henry Paul who galloped away to score.

It was the first pass he had received, and it came from a Leeds man. Mercier converted and Gloucester were 18-3 up.

It had split the game right open and blown all of Leeds' confidence out of the window. Suddenly, Gloucester's heavy hitters like Junior Paramore were far more effective, as they started to carry the ball with power and precision.

Their third try came after 26 minutes and it cut Leeds to pieces. Yachvili, who had been active and hard, set the move going with a neat pass to his right. Jake Boer made a crucial impact before Phil Vickery gave a beautiful little pass for Mercier to score beneath the posts.

Gloucester had scored 19 points in eight minutes as Leeds struggled to live when the Cherry and Whites moved play wide with speed.

Leeds were committed and tackled diligently, but they lacked the overall quality to seriously hurt Gloucester.

Such was Gloucester's superiority, they collected their bonus point two minutes before the interval.

Ironically it came on the back of Leeds pressure, but when Paul spilled the ball when he hit John O'Reilly, Simpson-Daniel picked up half way inside his 22 and went the length of the field to score. Mercier converted and Leeds looked a shell-shocked side at the break following a Gloucester points salvo.

Half-time: Gloucester 32, Leeds 3.

Gloucester had killed the game by the break and it allowed Saint-Andre to make several positional changes. Daren O'Leary was replaced by Marcel Garvey, Robert Todd moved to centre that allowed Mercier to move to number 15 and Paul got his first appearance at outside half.

But that did not excuse Gloucester's sloppy start to the period. They allowed Leeds onto them and could not escape their half. It allowed the Tykes a try when Yachvili's quickly taken free-kick found Paul, but his clearance kick hit Steve Bachop, who ran in to score.

But that only served to waken Gloucester from their slumber and they responded with a series of devastating breaks.

Garvey was the first to profit when O'Reilly's pass from the base of the scrum went behind Graham MacKay. He thought the ball was rolling dead, but the tiny Gloucester winger raced round him, booted the ball up the line and scored behind the posts. Mercier converted, and it was not long before he was in action again. Mark Cornwell ripped possession away, Patrice Collazo took possession on and Paul's grubber kick allowed Todd to beat MacKay to the touchdown.

Gloucester were in total command now and blasted over the half century with their seventh try.

Mercier set it up with a swinging run on the far left. Adam Eustace made a crucial impact and set play moving right before Ewens' kick in behind enabled Simpson-Daniel to stroll over for his second.

On this evidence it was very hard to see how Leeds even managed to beat Leicester seconds. They were out-manœuvred, out-powered and out finished by Gloucester [who] collected their eighth try and it was one of the best. Garvey and Forrester created it, before Paul found the highly impressive Ed Pearce.

His overhead pass on half way found Koli Sewabu. A swift dummy took the Fijian surging away. He cut further inside before off-loading to Eustace who scored. Paul added the conversion to make it 58-10.

That was the end of their scoring. They had been slightly off colour at the start of both halves, but had blown Leeds away with a powerful array of tries when they turned it on.

Leeds managed a consolation at the end when Craig Emmerson collected O'Reilly's hanging kick, but this was another fine Kingsholm performance and puts them in great heart ahead of their trip to Bath.

GLOUCESTER: R. Todd; D. O'Leary, J. Ewens, H. Paul, J. Simpson-Daniel; L. Mercier, D. Yachvili; F. Pucciariello, C. Fortey, P. Vickery (capt.), E. Pearce, M. Cornwell, J. Boer, K. Sewabu, J. Paramore.  
Reps.: A. Gomarsall, M. Garvey, T. Fanolua, J. Forrester, A. Eustace, P. Collazo, A. Deacon.

LEEDS TYKES: J. Benson; D. Scarborough, S. Wood, T. Davies, C. Emmerson; S. Bachop, J. O'Reilly, M. Holt, G. Kerr, C. Murphy, T. Palmer, C. Hogg (capt.), C. Mather, I. Feaunati.  
Reps.: K. Fullman, R. Rawlinson, E. Jones, I. Clark, C. Kendra, J. Mayer, G. MacKay.

REFEREE: R. Goodlife (RFU).

STAR MAN: Robert Todd.