

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, JANUARY 5, 2002

CLOSE TO CENTURY

GLOUCESTER OVERPOWER ITALIANS AT KINGSHOLM
AS THEY RUN IN 15 TRIES

FIVE-TRY O'LEARY LEADS WAY TO RECORD SCORE

GLOUCESTER 99 G.R.A.N. PARMA 0

DAREN O'LEARY scored five tries as Gloucester finished one point short of the century in their 15-try blitz of G.R.A.N. Parma at Kingsholm.

Gloucester simply blew the Italians away. They had too much power and too much pace and in the final frantic moments tried desperately to break the century.

There was also two tries[*sic*] for Koll Sewabu and eight other scorers. Henry Paul was one and he collected 29 points with his 12 conversions.

Tom Walkinshaw had given a rousing address to the Kingsholm masses in response to Rob Andrew's remarks last Saturday and he was almost lifted off the field following a tremendous ovation of acclaim from the Gloucester faithful.

This was not going to be a day that overly stretched Gloucester on the field, but it was a wonderful chance for them to put a giant foot into the quarter-finals.

They had only met five hours before the scheduled start, but proceeded to win the game in the opening quarter.

Daren O'Leary, restored to the wing after last weekend's stint at full-back, opened the scoring when he held onto a bullet pass from Henry Paul that was heading over his head to surge home.

Minutes later they were in again when Koli Sewabu stole in from 25 metres after he had started a dashing move in his own half. Paul again landed the conversion and Gloucester were 14-0 ahead.

Gloucester simply had more power and pace. They had already won two scrums against the head before Joe Ewens carved out their third try with a little shimmy and lovely weighted kick for Diego Albanese to pounce.

The game had already been won and so Saint-Andre was able to replace Albanese with Andy Hazell on the wing.

G.R.A.N. Parma had no concerted answer to the power of Junior Paramore, who was heroically acclaimed, Patrice Collazo and Trevor Woodman up front.

O'Leary added his second try, finishing after a quick tap-penalty from Paul as the onslaught continued.

The hungry James Forrester was next on the score sheet after 25 minutes when he finished off another move of pace and organisation.

Despite the horrendous under-foot conditions, Gloucester were far slicker and had bags more conviction and cutting edge.

O'Leary completed his hat-trick before half an hour had gone and it was a real beauty. Seizing play just outside his own half after a pass from Hazell, he beat his first man, before chipping, beating two more men with so much pace, before crashing to earth for the try.

It was a great effort and already Gloucester could seriously think about eclipsing their 98-points against Caerphilly. They knew it was tries they needed and they did not stop.

Terry Fanolua, relishing the rough and tumble, scored his side's seventh try of the afternoon when he popped over from short range following a crucial break by Paul and pass from Ewens.

Gloucester were not totally singing from the same hymn sheet, but G.R.A.N. Parma were simply blown apart. They continued to work hard, but Gloucester were breaking tackles at will and managed their eighth try just before the break.

Paul and Ewens were again heavily involved when they dragged play right for the rampaging Paramore. He could have made it to the line, but popped off a lovely little pass to Sewabu who claimed his second. Paul's conversion struck the far post, but went over, as Gloucester broke the half century.

HALF-TIME :
GLOUCESTER 52
G.R.A.N. PARMA0

It took Gloucester less than a minute into the second period to stretch their tally. This time it was Ewens who profited when he gathered an interception and jogged easily to the line.

It was so one sided that Woodman replaced Chris Fortey as hooker for the first time. But that did not dampen Gloucester's appetite for tries.

Paul was the master of the next, with a tremendous arching break that took him bursting away from the cover before Ewens put Hazell away, that well known winger, in for his first try of the afternoon.

Woodman was having a splendid time of it in the middle of the scrum and in the loose and he was at the forefront of Gloucester's 11th try.

Paul and Goodridge combined to send O'Leary scurrying down the right and his inside ball found Woodman and then Goodridge.

Gloucester fired round the ball and Clive Stuart-Smith scurried away from the defence and over. Paul's conversion took the Cherry and Whites away to 73-0, before an injury to Woodman allowed Collazo a turn at number two.

Not everything Paul tried was perfect, but he was at it again when tapping a quick penalty and bore down on the line. Andy Deacon took over and looked as though he could have made it, but off-loaded splendidly for O'Leary to claim his fourth.

They were homing in on their Caerphilly score and Paramore bagged their thirteenth try when he took a pass from Fanolua and his power drove him over. Paul's conversion took Gloucester 87-0 ahead.

Gloucester's target now was for a century of points, but the Kingsholm crowd showed their appreciation for everything Parma offered and enthusiastically wanted them to at least manage a penalty.

But there was panic at Kingsholm. The scoreboard operator had only two digits, so could not register the 100.

Gloucester made a huge effort for it when Paul grabbed his first try following a break by Fanolua and the Gloucester number 10 powered over in the far corner. It left them needing six points for the century and they reduced it by five when O'Leary snatched his fifth try of the game.

Paul started it when he stole possession deep inside his own half and weaved forward before his searching pass found Goodridge. Parma were running out of tacklers and O'Leary went in easily. Paul's conversion would have broken the century, but his kick drifted wide of the right-hand post.

The crowd roared Gloucester on in search of the one point they needed and they even turned down a penalty 15 metres out in search of more tries. But it was not to be and when Paramore knocked on from the base of the scrum, Gloucester's chance was lost.

GLOUCESTER: J. Goodridge; D. O'Leary, J. Ewens, T. Fanolua, D. Albanese; H. Paul, C. Stuart-Smith; T. Woodman, C. Fortey, P. Collazo, R. Fidler, E. Pearce, K. Sewabu, J. Forrester, J. Paramore.
Reps: D. Yachvili, L. Mercier, R. Todd, A. Hazell, P. Vickery, A. Eustace, A. Deacon.

G.R.A.N. PARMA: M. Dowling; M. de Rossi, N. Aldrov Andi, S. Caffaratti, P. D. Antoni; J. Boden, T. Francke; D. Gatti, P. Simeone, H. Nieto, F. Minello, P. Carra, F. Soncini, E. Candiago, D. Colli.
Reps: M. Alonso, D. Copelli, P. Ceron, L. Beduschi, G. Rodriguez, L. Villagra.

REFEREE : K. Evans (Wales).

STAR MAN : Daren O'Leary.

JC