

THE CITIZEN

MONDAY, APRIL 22, 2002

GLOUCESTER VIRTUALLY GUARANTEED OF HEINEKEN CUP QUALIFICATION AFTER TRIUMPH AT MEMORIAL GROUND

FANOLUA: WE OWED VICTORY TO FANS

Terry Fanolua emerged battered but victorious from an awesome performance against Bristol, admitting Gloucester had been 'rattled' by two crushing defeats at Wasps and Northampton.

But the Samoan centre, a monumental performer in Gloucester's midfield, insisted the whole squad owed it to themselves and the thousands of Cherry and White supporters who swelled the Memorial Stadium to finally put to bed their two nightmares last week.

Gloucester's 41-40 success moves them back up to second place in the Premiership and all but guarantees their place in the Heineken Cup next season.

"We needed that big time," he said.

"It was a massive setback to lose last week and it got us all rattled a bit.

"We knew we needed to win to have any confidence for the rest of the season.

"We wanted to make sure we never went through last week again and we owed it to ourselves and the people of Gloucester who were very disappointed last week – it was vital for them as well we won.

"It was a workmanlike performance and is certainly a good feeling.

"We couldn't bear another defeat down here to Bristol and we are delighted with the end result after a tough match," he added.

Gloucester scored five tries – two through the superb efforts of Junior Paramore and one each from Phil Vickery, Koli Sewabu and Andy Gomarsall.

It was a crucial victory for the Cherry and Whites and propels them back to second in the Premiership and a real chance of finishing behind Leicester, with two matches remaining against Bath and Leeds.

"It was good we got our confidence back and now we want to carry that through for the rest of the season," said Fanolua.

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