

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, MAY 4, 2002

PARTY TIME AT KINGSHOLM AS GLOUCESTER DEMOLISH BATH  
SIMPSON-DANIEL STARS AS CHERRY AND WHITES SCORE NINE  
TRIES AGAINST THEIR BITTER RIVALS

GLOUCESTER 68 BATH 12

To a sea of Cherry and White, Gloucester surged into the Heineken Cup with a nine-try thrashing of a crushed Bath at Kingsholm.

Gloucester's victory was their best against their fiercest rivals and James Simpson-Daniel led the way with a sparkling hat-trick.

The hosts were never seriously troubled and added scores through a Terry Fanolua brace, Henry Paul, Robert Todd, Patrice Collazo and Junior Paramore.

Ludovic Mercier added 23 points with the boot to complete an emphatic victory that will live long in the memory.

A positive start was imperative for the home side and they got it when Ludovic Mercier landed a long distance penalty in the second minute to a tremendous roar.

A Gloucester victory would cement their place in the Heineken Cup and through the workmanlike efforts of Rob Fidler and Jake Boer, the Cherry and Whites added to their total with a try after five minutes.

Bath had a line-out well inside their own half, but Mark Regan's throw missed everybody except Junior Paramore. The Gloucester number eight shattered forward and found Federico Pucciariello in support.

Gloucester recycled quickly enough for Mercier to find Terry Fanolua, who put James Simpson-Daniel over in the far left corner.

It started a rigorous trend of Gloucester domination and shoddy regard for the basics from Bath who looked a team full of uncertainty.

Ten minutes later, Gloucester were in again. Boer started it with a powerful surge that involved the strong strides of Todd before Mark Cornwell put Paramore in from close range down the right.

It was easy and deadly and although Bath attempted to keep the ball, Gloucester hit them back in the tackle where Fidler got through a tremendous amount of work, as did Paramore and Boer.

All of Bath's basic skills were not good enough. From a shaky line-out to an under pressure scrum, it was a half developing into stuff of Gloucester dreams.

Bath's only threat came when Nathan Thomas broke down the blindside of a line-out, but Gloucester tackled them into midfield submission.

From Henry Paul, who looked in easy control at full-back, to the edifying efforts of the front row, Gloucester were in complete charge.

With 11 minutes to go to the break, Gloucester added their third try and it will be another to make Bath wince.

From a messy scrum inside Gloucester territory, Diego Albanese shot through a gaping hole in midfield and fed James Forrester, who was held just short. Cornwell arrived in support and Gomarsall's feed found Mercier who put Todd away to score. Mercier converted for a 22-0 lead and added a penalty minutes later.

Gloucester had hardly broken sweat in all truth. They had too much power and force, and added their fourth try from another Bath mistake.

Nathan Thomas' quick throw caught out Rob Thirlby who was robbed on the floor by Forrester. Gomarsall, Paul and Fanolua were all involved in an arching move that created room for Forrester to look at a massive overlap, but switch inside to Collazo who went away to score.

Kingsholm's merriment knew no bounds. Mercier converted and landed a drop-goal before the break to send Gloucester down the tunnel out of sight.

Half-time: Gloucester 35, Bath 0.

It had been all Gloucester in the first period – a crushing effort that had blitzed Bath – and they started the second period in the same vein.

Azam robbed Bath of possession and although the first move broke down, Simon Danielli's chip was gathered by Albanese who sent Fanolua in from short range.

Gomarsall and Fanolua then created a score for Paul, who cut past the cover with style to surge in to score. Mercier converted to leave Gloucester three shy of the half century.

Bath's response was immediate when Tom Voyce sent Sam Cox over straight from the kick off, but Gloucester's control and penetration had been virtually unquestioned. Their back row never allowed Bath any room through the crushing efforts of Boer and Paramore and leggy surges of Forrester.

Rarely, can a Bath side at Kingsholm have been so completely destroyed and Gloucester's fun had not finished. Simpson-Daniel added his second with a change of pace and surge to the line that was quite breathtaking in its devil and poise for Gloucester's seventh try.

He then turned provider when Pucciariello robbed Bath of possession and he moved effortlessly through the gears to send Fanolua away to score beneath the posts. Mercier converted to extend Gloucester's lead to 61-5.

The man they call 'Sinbad' collected his hat-trick with 10 minutes to go after another sensational run that cut Bath to ribbons.

Understandably, the heat went out of Gloucester's play in the final few moments, but by now Kingsholm was in a real party swing.

Gloucester's previous best against Bath was 23-7 and they had destroyed that comfortably. Not even a late try from Gareth Delve could sour the atmosphere.

Thousands of fans invaded the pitch at the final whistle to celebrate the victory – an absolute crushing success that puts Gloucester into the Heineken Cup next season.

GLOUCESTER: H. Paul; D. Albanese, T. Fanolua, R. Todd, J. Simpson-Daniel; L. Mercier, A. Gomarsall; P. Collazo, O. Azam, F. Pucciariello, R. Fidler, M. Cornwell, J. Forrester, J. Boer (capt.), J. Paramore.  
Reps.: J. Frape, T. Beim, C. Fortey, T. Woodman, P. Vickery, K. Sewabu, E. Pearce.

BATH: R. Thirlby; T. Voyce, S. Cox, S. Davey, S. Danielli; O. Barkley, K. Dalzell; D. Barnes, M. Regan, S. Emms, S. Borthwick, D. Grewcock, G. Thomas, N. Thomas, D. Lyle (capt.).  
Reps.: G. Cooper, A. Long, J. Mallett, G. Knox, A. Crockett, G. Delve, M. Gabey.

REFEREE: D. McHugh (IRFU).

STAR MAN: James Simpson-Daniel.