

OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME
ISSUE **08**

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GLOUCESTER RUGBY

vs LEICESTER TIGERS
AVIVA PREMIERSHIP RUGBY - ROUND 10

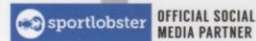


MARIANO GALARZA

EXCLUSIVE PROGRAMME
INTERVIEW ON PAGE 40



30.01.16
KICK-OFF 3.00PM
KINGSHOLM
AVIVA PREMIERSHIP RUGBY



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C CAPTAIN'S CORNER BILLY TWELVETREES

GOOD AFTERNOON, AND WELCOME TO KINGSHOLM AS WE HOST LEICESTER TIGERS AHEAD OF WHAT WILL BE A HUGEY EXCITING AND TESTING FEW WEEKS.

THERE is always a certain buzz in the Kingsholm air when Leicester come to town, and it has historically been a really exciting and closely fought game.

Always a special game, a traditional rugby club with great supporters like ourselves which makes for a superb atmosphere, and I am massively looking forward to testing ourselves against a quality team.

Richard Cockerill and Aaron Mauger have got Tigers playing some superb rugby behind their typically powerful pack, so today's game will be a tough yet exciting one.

(RIGHT) Whatever the conditions are like at Kingsholm today we are sure it will be a great atmosphere



ALWAYS A SPECIAL GAME. A TRADITIONAL RUGBY CLUB WITH GREAT SUPPORTERS LIKE OURSELVES WHICH MAKES FOR A SUPERB ATMOSPHERE...

We find ourselves now on the verge of a really important few weeks in terms of the Aviva



Premiership, where we take on some huge domestic challenges.

We're not looking a minute past today's game and we are really keen to build on some good work from the Challenge Cup, where the whole squad has contributed to a strong outcome from the pool stages.

We worked really hard against some tricky opponents and have been rewarded with a home quarter final again, taking on an exciting Dragons side. So that is definitely something to look forward to in a few weeks time.

The squad effort we have shown over the tournament shows the depth we have been working on and it shows the number of boys in the squad that are ready to

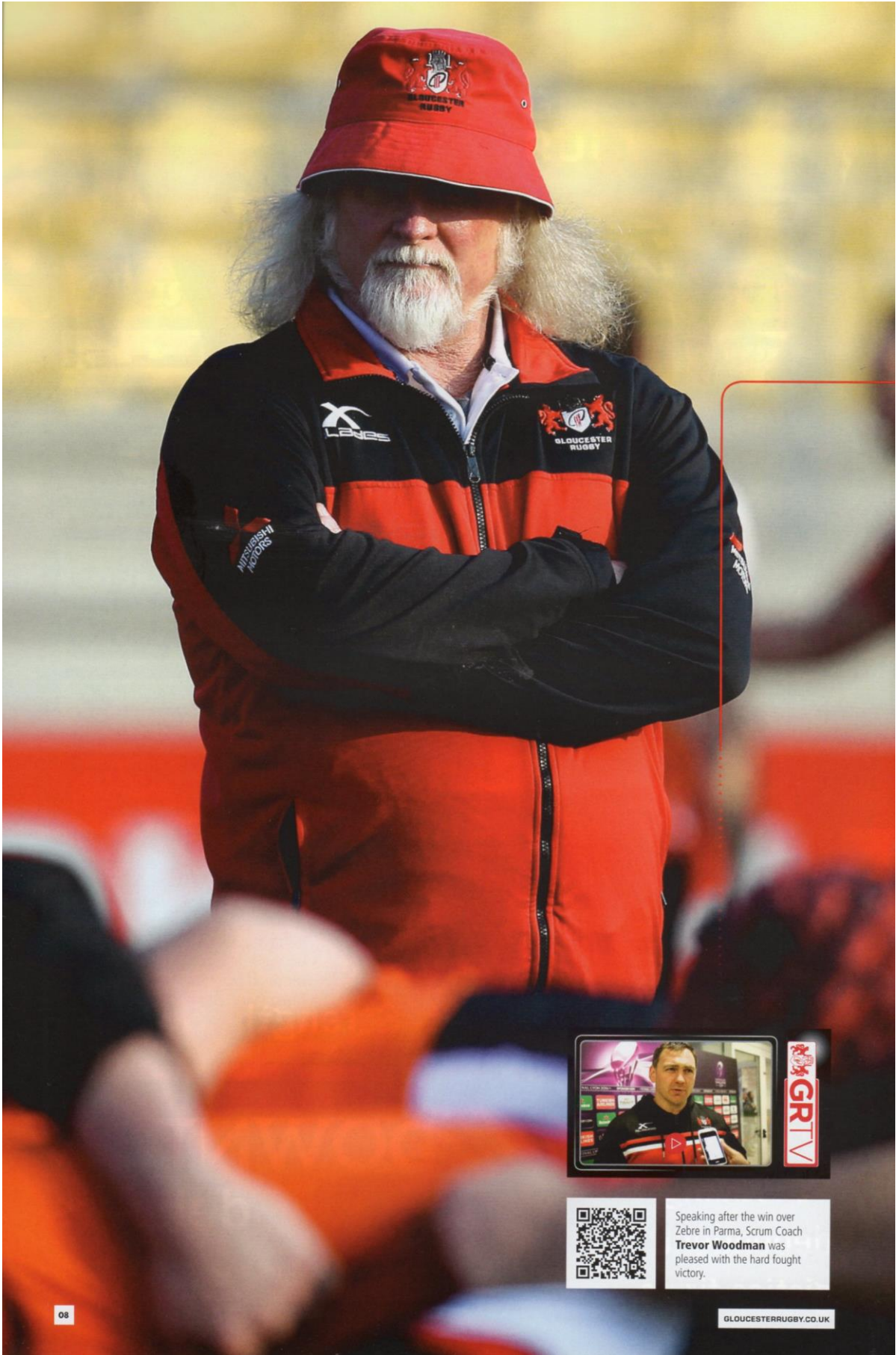
come in and make a big impact, creating a real selection dilemma for the coaches.

We are now looking to use today's game as a real marker of our development as a squad, after what has admittedly been a few 'ugly wins'.

But that is something to be pleased with, winning games where we feel like we can play better, so we will be looking to really add to our performances over the next couple of weeks.

Raise your voices today, and we will be doing our level best to get Kingsholm rocking!

Billy



Speaking after the win over Zebre in Parma, Scrum Coach **Trevor Woodman** was pleased with the hard fought victory.

COMING UP...

EXCLUSIVE MATCHDAY PROGRAMME INTERVIEW
MARIANO GALARZA



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DAVID HUMPHREYS

DIRECTOR OF RUGBY

AFTER AN INCREDIBLE WEEKEND OF EUROPEAN RUGBY WHERE QUALIFICATION FOR BOTH THE CHAMPIONS AND CHALLENGE CUP WENT RIGHT TO THE WIRE, WE'RE DELIGHTED TO BE BACK AT KINGSHOLM FOR OUR AVIVA PREMIERSHIP FIXTURE AGAINST LEICESTER.

FIVE English teams in the Champions Cup Quarter Finals highlights the strength and competitiveness of the Premiership and highlights the challenges for us in competing in the top half of the League.

It was another hard fought victory in Italy but the players take great credit for winning Pool 4 with a 100% winning record and continuing our unbeaten run in the Challenge Cup to 15 games.

squad over the last few months, and managed individual player workloads, we are in good shape for the rest of the season.

With other key players close to returning from injury, we're slowly developing the strength in depth required to compete in both the Premiership and Europe.

We were all disappointed with last weekend's performance against Zebre. It was an important win, and ultimately that's all that

...WE SHOWED REAL SPIRIT AND RESILIENCE TO WIN THE GAME HELPED, IN NO SMALL PART, BY THE FANTASTIC SUPPORT WE RECEIVED FROM OUR TRAVELLING FANS. ONCE AGAIN, GLOUCESTER SUPPORTERS OUTNUMBERED THE HOME SUPPORTERS AND SEEMED TO THOROUGHLY ENJOY THEIR WEEKEND IN PARMA!

We know it will require a step up in performance to maintain that record and retain the Cup, but a European quarter-final at Kingsholm in April is something we can all look forward to.

Before then however, we have the exciting prospect of 10 consecutive Premiership fixtures starting with Leicester this afternoon. With Bath, Harlequins and Saracens next up, the results from these 4 games will go a long way to determining our final league position and Champions Cup qualification for next season.

At this stage of the year we are well aware that Six Nations' call-ups and injuries can take their toll on first team squads, but we're confident that having rotated our



(LEFT) Laurie and the coaching team are pleased with the progress the squad has made but also aware there is still plenty to work on

matters, but we started slowly and didn't manage to apply any real pressure on the scoreboard.

However, we showed real spirit and resilience to win the game helped, in no small part, by the fantastic support we received from our travelling fans. Once again, Gloucester supporters outnumbered the home supporters and seemed to thoroughly enjoy their weekend in Parma!

I'm sure you'll all join with me in welcoming Richard Cockerill, the players, staff and supporters from Leicester Tigers to Kingsholm this afternoon and I hope you enjoy the game.

David



The Citizen

MAKE OR BREAK

DAVID HUMPHREYS ADMITS GLOUCESTER'S NEXT FOUR PREMIERSHIP MATCHES WILL MAKE OR BREAK THEIR DOMESTIC AMBITIONS.



THE Cherry and Whites are aiming not only to finish in a higher position than last year's disappointing ninth place but to also push into the top six.

That would secure automatic qualification for the European Rugby Champions Cup should they fail to successfully defend their

Challenge Cup title.

Attention turns from Europe to a home clash with Leicester Tigers on Saturday – the first of 10 consecutive matches in the Premiership.

Following the Tigers, the Cherry and Whites face Bath, Harlequins and Saracens and Humphreys

knows it will go a long way to shaping their season.

He said, "Our next four games – Leicester Tigers, Bath, Harlequins, Saracens – and then Newcastle and Wasps will be really important.

"These matches will give us a pretty good idea of where we are and will almost define our season. We have to come out of it with wins and with some players coming back from injury we should have a strong squad to pick from.

"We always talk about the depth of squad and that's something we are aspiring to, to build the depth that those teams have. That is why they have been the top teams in the Premiership in the last few years."

Gloucester's hopes during the period will be substantially boosted by their lack of representation in the Six Nations.

Only Greig Laidlaw and Ross Moriarty are fully-fledged members of the Scotland and Wales squads respectively, with Matt Kvesic currently part of England's party on injury cover and Billy Twelvetrees, Ben Morgan and Jonny May (injury) missing out altogether.

It is a far cry from the days of losing the likes of Alasdair Dickinson, Alasdair Strokosch, Rory Lawson, Scott Lawson, Chris Paterson, Marco Bortolami and Mike Tindall in the Championship.

And Humphreys concedes while it is disappointing on one level, it does ensure his side will have plenty of strength in depth in the months ahead.

He added, "Every team looks at the Six Nations and knows your squad could take a bit of a hit through international selection.

"For us this year due to injury, change of management and players perhaps not performing as well as they would like, we have not had that recognition.

"But we have always said if you want recognitions at international level then you have to produce performances week in, week out for Gloucester.

"If we are more successful we will see more players selected and recognised with international call ups.

"Of course our players are ambitious and want to play international rugby. But before they do that, they need to produce that quality of performance and form every week for us."

While Laidlaw, as Scotland captain, is assured of plenty of game time during the Championship, Moriarty is looking to make his first appearance in the tournament.

The 21-year-old is yet to nail down a regular starting spot in the Gloucester ranks and has been rotated in a competitive back-row.

But Humphreys insists that is no reflection on the former Junior World Championship winner, who has added further elements to his game to compliment the ball carrying.

Following the World Cup, the Welsh management told Moriarty to improve upon the tight elements of the game and it has been visibly clear in recent weeks.

The Gloucester Director of Rugby said, "Ross obviously made a huge impact during the course of the World Cup and in



pre-season.

"One of the big strengths of our squad is the quality of player we have across the back row. Ross has been rotated around with the others but we will need them all playing well.

"People have seen him playing here in the last few weeks and his level of performance has improved.

"His confidence has grown as a result of his international experience, he has that belief now that he can compete and perform at the highest level and we have seen that at Gloucester.

"He's still a young man; he has huge potential and will only get better over the years. He's worked really hard on his game, in the gym

and aerobically to get the fitness required to perform at this level.

"It's all about balance, we all look for different things in different players depending on what we want to do. He's a physical player and there's a real edge to everything he does.

"But he has also added to his game. 18 months ago the ball carrying was a big part of his game but, to be successful at not just international level but in the Premiership, you have to have a number of strings to your bow and he has done that."

Citizen
AVAILABLE DAILY



GLOUCESTER RUGBY
HERITAGE

www.gloucester rugbyheritage.org.uk

GLOUCESTER PROPS PART 5

THROUGHOUT THE HISTORY OF THE CLUB, GLOUCESTER BUILT AND MAINTAINED A FINE AND DESERVED REPUTATION FOR HARD UNCOMPROMISING PROP FORWARDS - OTHER CLUBS, INCLUDING THE WELSH, ALWAYS KNEW THAT THEY WERE IN FOR A TOUGH ENCOUNTER UP FRONT WHEN THEY FACED THE CHERRY AND WHITES.

The final article on great Gloucester props looks at great props of the professional era.

THE CORNISHMEN
PHIL Vickery from Bude and Trevor Woodman from Liskeard first played on opposing sides as 11 year old schoolboys in Cornwall. They went on to play together for Gloucester and for the victorious England team in the 2003 Rugby World Cup Final.



PHIL VICKERY
THE sheer size and power of tighthead Phil Vickery marked him out from the rest and earned him the nickname "Raging Bull." He played 145 games for Gloucester between 1995 and 2006 and captained the club from 2001 to 2003.

47 of his 73 England caps were won as a Gloucester player – a club record. He went on two British Lions tours (to

Australia in 2001 and to South Africa in 2009), playing in five of the internationals and played in three World Cups (1999 – 2003 – 2007), including two finals, playing on the winning side in 2003 and captaining his country in the 2007 final.

Phil had already played for England at Under 16 and Colts level before joining Gloucester from Redruth in 1995, aged 19. Within three years of arriving at Kingsholm he came off the bench to play in England's 60-26 drubbing of Wales. His February 1998 debut was followed by a summer tour of Australia, New Zealand and South Africa, in which he was one of the few successes. He played in the 1999 World Cup and for the British Lions in Australia in 2001, a series that was narrowly lost, although the forward battle was won convincingly.

Vickery was Gloucester club captain in 2001-02 when they won the Zurich Championship, beating Bristol in the final, and again in 2002-03 when they topped the Premiership and beat Northampton in the Powergen Cup Final, although he was injured and unable to take part in the match.

Returning from injury, he played in all seven games of the victorious 2003 World Cup campaign, captaining England for the first time against Uruguay and, with his club loose head partner Trevor Woodman, dominating all opposition that

they met in the competition.

Injuries to neck, shoulder, back and arm continued to hinder his career and to limit his appearances for club and country and in 2006 he was released by Gloucester and joined Wasps. Once again he came back to resurrect his career, playing a further 26 times for England. He captained his country in Argentina and to the final of the 2007 World Cup and toured South Africa with the British Lions in 2009, playing in two of the three tests.



TREVOR WOODMAN
LOOSEHEAD Trevor "Dougie" Woodman was a solid scrummager and extremely talented ball-handler, whose turn of pace made him ideally suited to the developing professional game. He played 140 games for Gloucester between 1996 and 2004 and won 21 England caps. A World Cup winner in 2003, he was regarded as one of the best loosehead props in



world rugby when his career was sadly cut short by injury.

Just five months younger than his fellow Cornishman, he played for England Colts alongside Vickery and hooker Phil Greening before joining them at Kingsholm in 1996 to form a formidable young front row.

After consolidating his place in the Gloucester side during 1998-99 and playing a full season for England A, Woodman made his full England debut as a replacement in a World Cup warm-up match against the USA in August 1999. But it was not until November 2002 that he started for the first time against the All Blacks at Twickenham. He seized the opportunity to put in an outstanding performance and remained first choice England loosehead to the end of his career.

Woodman, at the peak of his form, played his part in Gloucester's great 2002-03 season, and then went on to World Cup glory with England at Sydney that autumn. After playing in the final, he returned to Gloucester to bring the house down with a superb try against Northampton at Kingsholm the following Saturday.

Woodman joined Sale in the summer of 2004, but within weeks sustained an injury to his back which led to his retirement from rugby, aged just 28. He is now a member of the coaching staff at Kingsholm.

THE FOREIGN LEGION TIMES change and with professionalism came a succession of international props from across the world.

First to arrive in 1999 was French international **SERGE SIMON** who, signed as cover, played just 18 games for Gloucester but in that short time became a folk hero in the Shed for his tough uncompromising style and obvious relish for the game.

Another Frenchman, **PATRICE COLLAZO** joined Gloucester from Begles in 2001, playing 78 games for the club in 2001-03 and 2005-08, with two seasons at Toulouse in between. Accomplished in tight and loose, Collazo played for Gloucester in both the Zurich Championship Final victory of 2002 and the European Challenge Cup victory in 2006. He is now Head Coach at La Rochelle.

The 25 year old Argentine **RODRIGO RONCERO** joined Gloucester for two seasons in 2002, playing 33 games. A mobile prop, and destructive scrummager, he became a crowd favourite for his wholehearted performances. He went on to play 45 games for Argentina and in 2009 was ranked one of the ten best players in the world..

Italian-Argentine prop, **CARLOS NIETO**, transferred from Viadana to join his captain Marco Bortolami at Kingsholm in 2006. The 29 year old from La Plata was in

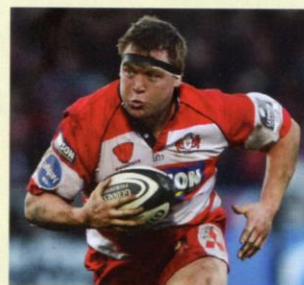


the form of his life and turned in consistently dominant performances in his three seasons with Gloucester, starting 60 of his 65 games.

When **CHRISTIAN CALIFANO** joined Gloucester from Agen in September 2006, the tighthead prop had won 69 caps for France and had a reputation as one of the most destructive scrummagers in

the game, on either side of the scrum. Although in the twilight of his career, his performances for Gloucester earned Califano one last recall for France against the All Blacks in 2007. He played 36 games for Gloucester in his two seasons with the club.

With 66 international caps, **GREG SOMERVILLE** was the most-capped All Black prop of all time when he joined



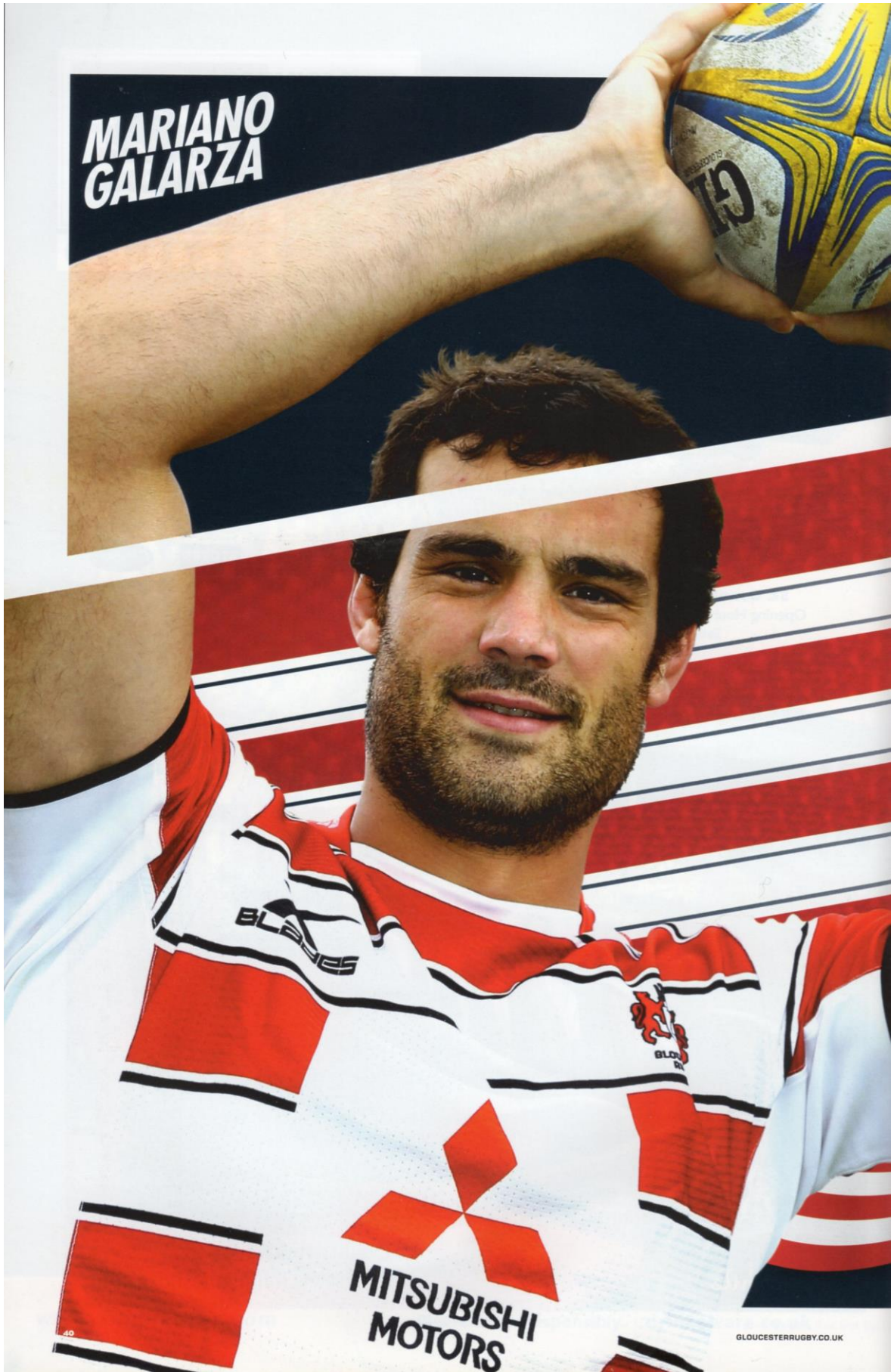
Gloucester in 2008 from the Crusaders, where he had won five Super Rugby championships. Known as "Yoda", Somerville was an influential figure, both on the field and in the dressing room, during his two seasons and 37 games at Kingsholm.


THE TRADITION LIVES ON LOOSEHEAD NICK WOOD (Radley and Brasenose College, Oxford), though not a typical home-grown Gloucester prop of the old school, is a one club man in the Kingsholm tradition who was unlucky to miss out on an England cap and, with 266 appearances for Gloucester, is now approaching the club record for the professional era.

And the powerful All Black tight-head **JOHN AFOA**, capped 36 times and a formidable competitor, has played a large part in restoring the Gloucester front row to its former dominance since arriving at Kingsholm in 2014.



**MARIANO
GALARZA**





PUMA VS TIGER

HE'S ONE OF THE STRONG, SILENT MEMBERS OF THE SQUAD, CONTENT TO DO HIS TALKING ON THE PITCH, RATHER THAN OFF IT. AND, OFF THE BACK OF A NUMBER OF RECENT STARTS, MARIANO GALARZA'S CONTRIBUTIONS ARE COMING ACROSS LOUD AND CLEAR.

BY his own admission, he had a difficult start to his Gloucester Rugby career. His debut was delayed by an injury picked up representing his country in the Rugby Championship.

He returned to play his part in helping Gloucester lift the European Rugby Challenge Cup, but then picked up another injury. Suspension then further delayed his return.

However, the Gloucester management had seen enough to offer him a new contract and, to his credit when signing on again, the big second row stated that he felt that he owed the club a debt, and vowed that the Kingsholm crowd would soon see him performing at his best.

Getting a good run of games is easier said than done given the strength in depth in the Gloucester second row at present. Tom Savage and Jeremy Thrush are regulars while Tom Hicks, Joe Latta and Elliott Stooke are all battling for selection.

So, speaking after last week's 14-11 victory over Zebre in Parma, Galarza admitted that he's simply looking to make the most of every opportunity and glad to be playing his part.

"The last two games have been good to clinch a quarter-final. In the Zebre game, we probably weren't at the level that we want to be, but we finally won the game, our sixth in the tournament and that was important to be at home in the quarter-final.

IT WILL BE TOUGH. BUT WE HAVE THE SQUAD, WE HAVE THE PLAYERS. WE HAVE THE TEAM TO FACE THE CHALLENGE AND GET SOME GOOD RESULTS.



"These games are not easy. All the teams are growing and getting better all the time. There are no easy games and you have to be solid as a team for the full 80 minutes to win the game and not relax for a minute.

"But to be at home will be like an extra advantage because we have an amazing support who always push us on. It's what we wanted and it's good to have achieved it.

"I couldn't believe the number of supporters that we had in Parma. There were more of them than there were Zebre supporters! It's always good to hear the famous "Gloucester, Gloucester" when you're battling in the game!"

The spirited performance in Parma also showed the strength in depth that Gloucester are





"I've played quite a few games recently and I'm feeling good. I'm always quite self-critical and always looking for areas to improve my game. I think my best years are coming and I'm happy for them to be at Gloucester."

But today, the Puma is hoping to be taking on the Tigers. It's always a hard-fought clash – no quarter asked, none given. The significance of the next few games is not lost upon Galarza.

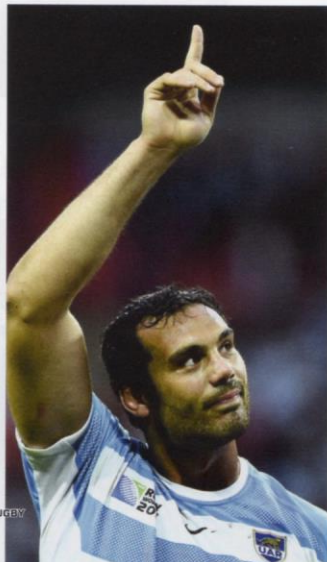


I'VE PLAYED QUITE A FEW GAMES RECENTLY AND I'M FEELING GOOD. I'M ALWAYS QUITE SELF-CRITICAL AND ALWAYS LOOKING FOR AREAS TO IMPROVE MY GAME. I THINK MY BEST YEARS ARE COMING AND I'M HAPPY FOR THEM TO BE AT GLOUCESTER.

developing in the squad. Several changes were made to the starting line-up, some big names left at home, but the team still prevailed. And that's important according to the big lock.

"I think we have a good depth in the squad, in terms of the quantity and quality of players. It means we can be competitive in both tournaments. With competition in every position, it also pushes every player to keep on improving and perform at their best.

"You have to play well every time you get a chance because of the other players in your position. It's good to have this competition.



"The next month is very important for us, not just the Leicester game. We need to get good results over the next five games in order to try and get into the top six of the Premiership, which is where I think we belong.

"We need to be solid in all areas of our game and have a good month because it's a key part of our season.

"It will be tough. But we have the squad, we have the players. We have the team to face the challenge and get some good results."

KINGSHOLM NEWS WITH BOB FENTON



FIRST OF ALL, BELATED CONGRATULATIONS TO MATT KVESIC ON HIS CALL UP TO THE ENGLAND SIX NATIONS SQUAD.



THE news came just before the La Rochelle game. It's well deserved - and slightly overdue - recognition for his consistent performance.

Unfortunately no place for Ben Morgan or Billy Twelvetrees, and Jonny May is missing through injury. England's loss is Gloucester's gain though as it means we'll be that much stronger through the next group of games.

That's all a bit parochial though, we all know where they would rather be and no one would expect anything else. Of course they want to play at the highest levels. Hopefully they will get the chance to show Eddie Jones what he's missing and their recall is not too far away.

Today then... these big games just keep coming, don't they?

At the start of the season, in my other day job helping to pull together the @Holm magazine (available in all high quality outlets), I spoke with David Humphreys about this. He said something



about it being the most intensive season since the game went professional. The LV= Cup games gave us a chance to rest a few key players and we don't have that luxury this year. So it should have come as no surprise to see some of our 'fringe players' getting a run out in the European competition.

But they did the job for us, didn't they? Another unbeaten run through the group stages - the last two games definitely coming under the 'it's the result that matters' category rather than providing a feast of flowing rugby.

To be honest, it's hard to recall any real highlights from the La Rochelle game, the conditions were not great and the rugby about the same. The most memorable thing for me was the fact that the French guys were monsters! I wouldn't have liked to be the chef preparing the post-match meal for that bunch...

Listening to the game in Italy last Saturday was nerve shredding tough. I thought when Mark Atkinson scored that the flood gates would open just a bit and we would make the game safe.

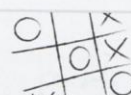
Instead it was Zebre who looked (sounded) like they were going to nick it. Fortunately Billy B stepped up and nailed the penalty to get the points for us. No more like that though, please. At my age my nerves can't cope with that kind of pressure anymore!

So the last two games were not pretty, but like I said - they were all about the points and have got us a home quarter final and if that goes well, a home semi final too.

It is a funny old competition

COMING UP...

BACK TO SCHOOL
WITH LEWIS LUDLOW



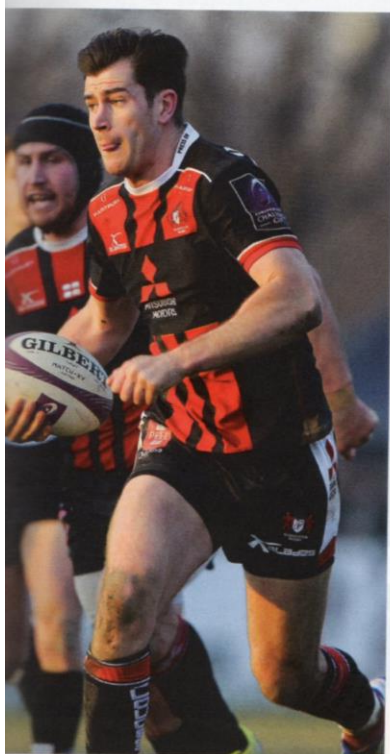
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THIS YEAR THE ARRIVAL OF AARON MAUGER HAS ADDED A BIT TO THEIR GAME TOO - A BIT OF RAPIER TO GO WITH THEIR TRADITIONAL BLUDGEONING BROADSWORD OF A PACK. THEY'VE EVEN ENLARGED THEIR SAND PIT AT WELFORD ROAD. MAYBE BY THE TIME WE GO THERE IN APRIL THEY WILL HAVE A BIT OF GRASS ON IT TOO.

where, after winning all six games we come out second behind a team that won five. But that's what you get with winning (and losing) bonus points. Next time we'll just have to score more tries...

But we're into the last eight and that's all that matters, and we know who's coming to town - Newport Gwent Dragons. That almost qualifies as a local derby.

I just hope - really hope - that we don't get the dreaded Thursday night kick off. It might be great for TV, turning up here in the knowledge that there will be a good crowd, but it won't be half the spectacle that we would get if it were a good, old fashioned, 3pm on Saturday kick off.



That's a little way off yet, though. A small matter of the next batch of Premiership games to come, and today Leicester Tigers, to get past first.

The next four games are going to be a real test for us, Bath (well, maybe not them as they are below us in the table!), Saracens and Harlequins and, of course Leicester, will give us a very good idea of where we stand.

Even though Leicester have been somewhat eclipsed over the past few seasons by Saracens - together with their eye watering 40-odd million pound debt - they are still rightly regarded as a benchmark club that others aspire to be like.

This year the arrival of Aaron

Mauger has added a bit to their game too - a bit of rapier to go with their traditional bludgeoning broadsword of a pack. They've even enlarged their sand pit at Welford Road. Maybe by the time we go there in April they will have a bit of grass on it too.

The more expansive style will make one of our old boys, Freddie Burns, very happy no doubt. It can't have been his life's ambition to play rugby kicking the ball away, so to play with ball in hand more will put a smile on his face.

Not too much of a smile today, we only want one Burns brother grinning at the end of this game, and that'll be the younger brother in Cherry and White!



RANDALL ON RUGBY

HERE WE ARE, THEN, AT THE START OF TWO MONTHS WHICH WILL BASICALLY DECIDE THE LEAGUE SEASON.

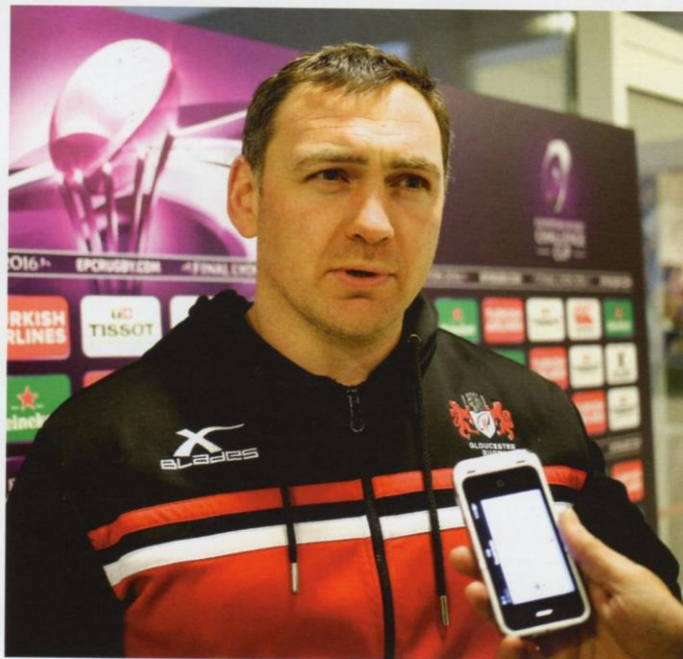
NOT my words, but those of Scrum Coach Trevor Woodman in Parma last Saturday.

Gloucester had just edged past Zebre to complete a full house of victories in Pool 4 of the Challenge Cup, and we now know it will be Newport Gwent Dragons who will come to Kingsholm in the quarter finals in April.

Woodman's focus however, was the 10 consecutive Premiership matches in between. Only three games will remain after the Dragons fixture, so his description of this period as "a big battle" told you everything about the intensity we can expect in the coming weeks.

It was Billy Burns' calmness off the tee that ensured the win last Saturday, and today - selection permitting - we could see the rare sight of the Burns brothers on the same pitch.

There is a gap of four years between them so it never happened coming up through the age groups, and it has only occurred twice since they were on same footing in the men's game - once at Worcester in May 2014 with Freddie and Billy in the Gloucester team, and then again last February at Welford Road, with Freddie at fly half for the Tigers and Billy at full back for the Cherry & Whites.



"Even though we are at different clubs now, we want the best for each other," Billy told me.

"We try and help each other out, we'll watch each other's games, and there is always banter - and some tips - going both ways.

"I've got a lot to learn in terms of game management, and the Premiership game at Wasps (Billy's only Premiership start this season)

was a reality check because it didn't go as I wanted it to.

"David Humphreys has an overseeing role as Director of Rugby but he watches a lot and he was an outstanding player in his time and we'll sometimes sit down for two hours going through a game analysing what I was thinking."

Freddie Burns left Gloucester in the summer of 2014 after scoring

WE TRY AND HELP EACH OTHER OUT. WE'LL WATCH EACH OTHER'S GAMES. AND THERE IS ALWAYS BANTER - AND SOME TIPS - GOING BOTH WAYS. BILLY BURNS

678 points in 84 Premiership appearances. He signed a new contract at Leicester earlier this month and Billy is in no doubt that



to play them because they will have players away preparing for the Six Nations but we know it'll still be a physical battle against Leicester, it always is."

Tigers lost their last game in Pool 4 of the Champions Cup against Stade Francais, but five previous wins mean they go into the last eight as second seeds behind Saracens.

Freddie Burns' appearance at fly half was only his sixth of the campaign after an injury in pre-season and BBC Radio Leicester commentator Bleddyn Jones echoes Billy's view on his elder brother's form.

"Under Richard Cockerill last season the Tigers were playing a more forward orientated game which didn't really suit Freddie," he said.

"He showed plenty of enthusiasm but he had to adjust to that style as a new signing, and he didn't get a run of games because he was competing with Owen Williams, who was a better distributor of the ball.

"This season Freddie has been transformed by Aaron Mauger, he has bought into what he wants and is playing with more confidence as a result. So, now there is nothing

with a first professional contract.

"I'm not massively academic," Billy admitted. "If it was all to end tomorrow I'd be unsure what I



"EVEN THOUGH WE ARE AT DIFFERENT CLUBS NOW, WE WANT THE BEST FOR EACH OTHER..."

his brother is back to somewhere near his best form.

"Freddie enjoyed being at Gloucester and the Leicester move was a big one for him," Billy went on.

"Some coaches come in and you hit it off with them, and that's what happened with Aaron Mauger at the Tigers. He gets on really well with him, and their style this season suits Freddie because they have expanded their game and they run the ball a bit more.

"You could say it's a good time

between them. They are fighting each other to be first choice and it is raising the benchmark for both of them."

The atmosphere today - for a traditional Saturday afternoon 3.00pm kick off - will be a far cry from the Minis and Juniors games where the Burns brothers first started running and catching a ball. Freddie is an established Premiership player with five England caps to his name while Billy, who is still only 21, remains on the learning curve you associate

would do next because I got a feeling from playing rugby that I didn't get doing anything else.

"I've learned a lot from training with players like James Hook and we have a great relationship but there is going to come a time where if I am going to take myself seriously as a player I need to get past him and into the team. To do that I have to train hard and if I'm selected put my foot forward and see where I land."

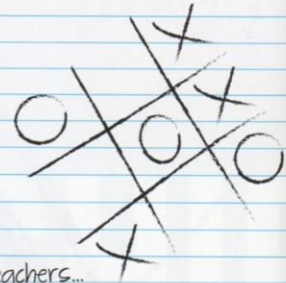
Today, that could be eyeball to eyeball with his brother.



Back To School

by Lewis Ludlow, age 22

PRIMARY SCHOOL



I WENT TO Russell Lower School

MY BEST FRIEND WAS Kieran Willis

Lewis' best friends

1. Kieran
2. Duncan
3. Tom
4. David



MY FAVOURITE TEACHER WAS Didn't really like teachers...

MY FAVOURITE SCHOOL DINNER WAS Pizza Fridays

IN MY SNACK BOX I HAD a banana and a chocolate bar

MY PRIMARY SCHOOL LOVE WAS Not telling



Dear Mr and Ludlow

We regret to inform you that Lewis thinks he is a monkey and eats his banana whilst swing from the climbing frame!

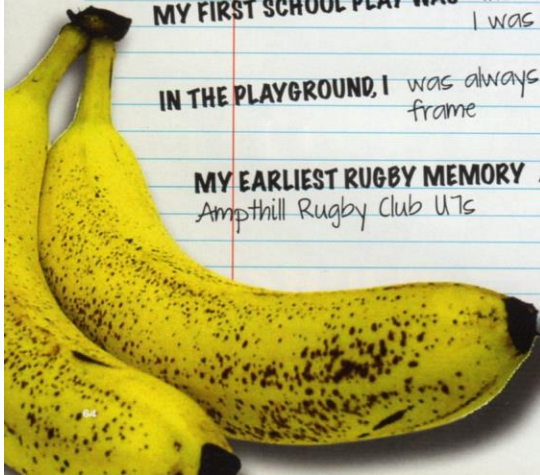
MY FIRST SCHOOL PLAY WAS The Christmas Nativity, I was a Shepherd

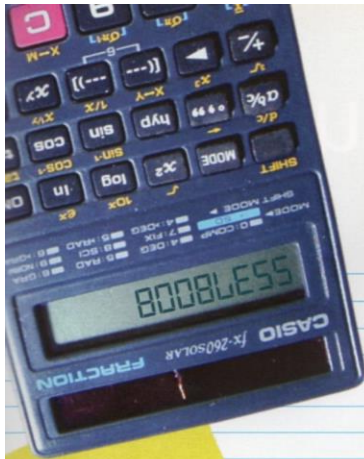
IN THE PLAYGROUND, I was always on the climbing frame

MY EARLIEST RUGBY MEMORY My first Sunday session with Ampthill Rugby Club U7s

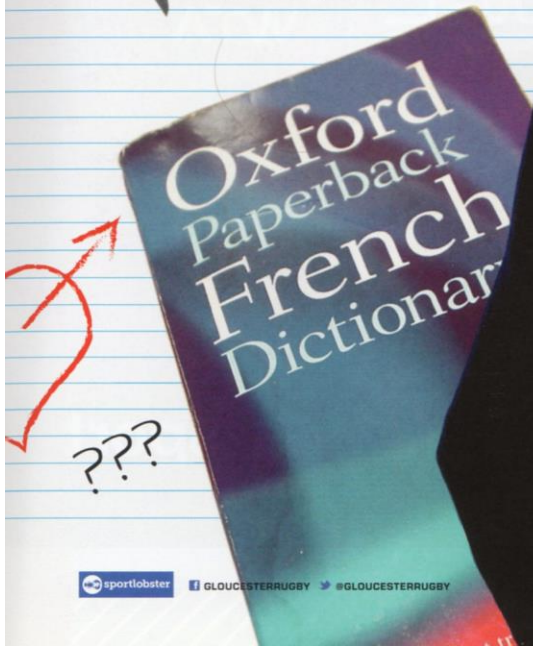
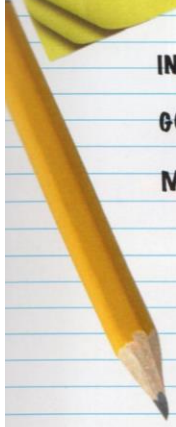
WHEN WE PLAYED RUGBY I PRETENDED TO BE Lawrence Dallaglio

AT SPORTS DAY, I was in the Egg & Spoon and the Sack race





Lewis' timetable
 French homework
 Lunch
 Target practice



SECONDARY SCHOOL

I WENT TO Redborne Upper School

MY FAVOURITE MEMORY is hitting the teacher in the head in a snowball fight...

I ENJOYED Lunchtime!

MY GRADES WERE 4A*, 6A, 3B, 1D 

MY HARDEST SUBJECT WAS French

MY UNIFORM WAS Black trousers, white polo, black jumper

IN PE, I USED TO run the 110m hurdles

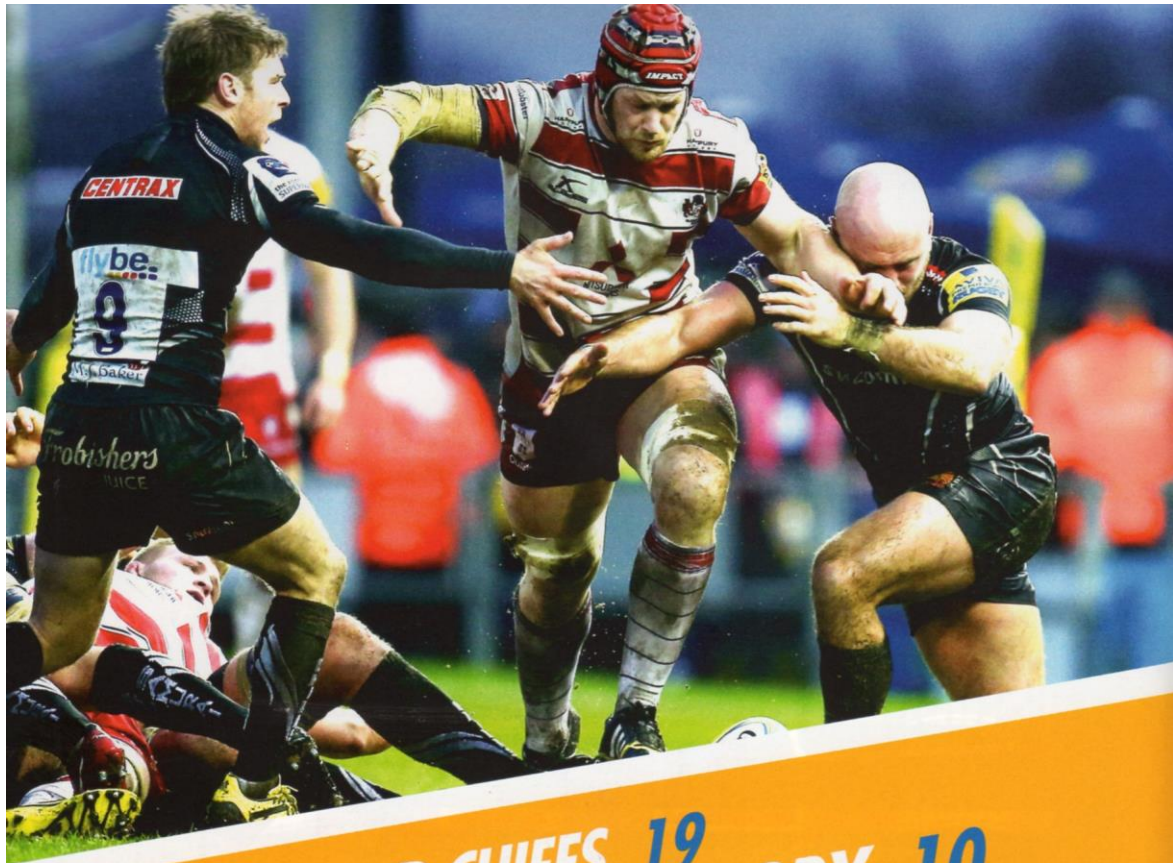
GOT IN TROUBLE FOR too many things

MY FAVOURITE SCHOOL TRIP WAS PGL trip to France

AT SCHOOL I WANTED TO BE
 a Physiotherapist

ON WORK EXPERIENCE I WENT TO
 a local leisure centre





EXETER CHIEFS 19 GLOUCESTER RUGBY 10



HALF TIME 19-0
ATTENDANCE 12,600
REFEREE Ian Tempest

GLOUCESTER paid a dear price for a poor opening quarter at Sandy Park, as the Exeter Chiefs scored three tries to open up a 19-0 lead and Gloucester simply couldn't close the gap.

The Cherry and Whites had decided to play into what seemed to be a gale force wind. The theory was obviously to try and turn around at half time still in touch. Unfortunately, it didn't work out that way.

The most frustrating aspect of the defeat was that Exeter didn't really have to work that hard for their tries, simply take advantage

of Gloucester errors. And you can't get away with that against a team going incredibly well this season.

From that moment on, the game was actually pretty close. In fact, Gloucester scored ten unanswered points, but it wasn't enough.

It all added up to a frustrating afternoon for Gloucester, who had come into the game on the back of a decent run of form and looking forward to pitting themselves against Rob Baxter's in-form outfit.

However, with the wind dominating proceedings, they were up against it from the moment that Julian Salvi dived headlong to charge down James Hook's kick. Thomas Waldrom hacked the loose ball ahead to score.

And the big number eight was unveiling the 'toot toot' celebration once again shortly afterwards. Rob Cook's clearance



Talking to GRTV, Tom Savage was able to take positives in defeat after a tricky game against Chiefs



was driven back by the wind, Exeter set up the catch and drive and Waldrom was deadily from six inches out.

When Cook then couldn't gather Gareth Steenson's wickedly bouncing chip a few minutes later, Olly Woodburn pounced to score and the writing looked to be on the wall.

But, credit Gloucester for their resilience. Many teams would have fallen apart after this triple blow, but the Cherry and Whites dug deep and hung in there until half time, refusing to concede again.

The challenge now was to try and use the elements which were now behind them. Certainly

METRES RUN WITH THE BALL
EXETER CHIEFS 215M
GLOUCESTER 294M

...ONCE YOU GIVE A TEAM AS GOOD AS EXETER IN THESE CONDITIONS THAT MUCH OF A LEAD IT'S A LONG WAY BACK - BUT I ACTUALLY THOUGHT WE PLAYED SOME GOOD RUGBY. DAVID HUMPHREYS

Gloucester went on to dominate second half possession and territory but couldn't breach the home defence or force key mistakes.

Greig Laidlaw opened Gloucester's account with a long range penalty, but it wasn't until the 69th minute that the first try came - Cook managed to offload as man and ball arrived at the same time and Charlie Sharples showed good strength to make the line.

Seeking to get back even within losing bonus point range, Gloucester gave it everything in the final stages, but it wasn't to be. The Chiefs showed why they've been so hard to beat this season and duly closed the game out.

MATCHDAY SQUADS



EXETER CHIEFS

- 15 Phil Dollman
- 14 Olly Woodburn 1T
- 13 Jack Nowell
- 12 Ian Whitten
- 11 James Short
- 10 Gareth Steenson 2C
- 9 Will Chudley
- 1 Alec Hepburn
- 2 Jack Yeandle
- 3 Tomas Francis
- 4 Ollie Atkins
- 5 Geoff Parling
- 6 Don Armand
- 7 Julian Salvi
- 8 Thomas Waldrom 2T

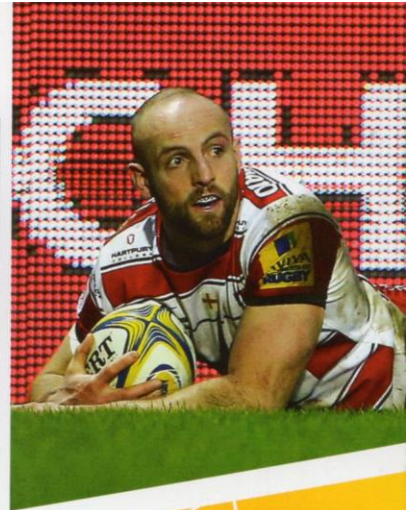
- 16 Elvis Taione
- 17 Ben Moon
- 18 Moray Low
- 19 Jonny Hill
- 20 Kai Horstmann
- 21 Dave Lewis
- 22 Will Hooley
- 23 Michele Campagnaro



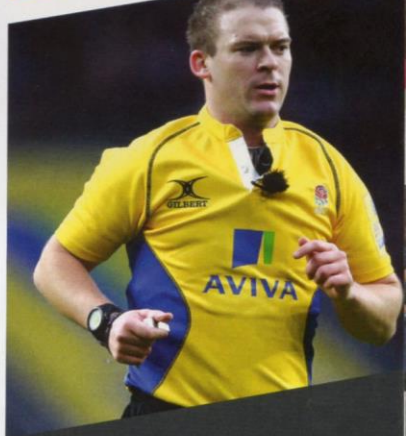
GLOUCESTER RUGBY

- 15 Rob Cook
- 14 Charlie Sharples 1T
- 13 Bill Meakes
- 12 Billy Twelvetrees
- 11 Henry Purdy
- 10 James Hook
- 9 Greig Laidlaw 1P
- 1 Nick Wood
- 2 Richard Hibbard
- 3 Nicky Thomas
- 4 Tom Savage
- 5 Jeremy Thrush
- 6 Sione Kalamafoni
- 7 Matt Kvesic
- 8 Ben Morgan

- 16 Tom Lindsay
- 17 Dan Murphy
- 18 Paddy McAllister
- 19 Mariano Galarza
- 20 Ross Moriarty
- 21 Willi Heinz
- 22 Billy Burns 1C
- 23 Mark Atkinson



PENALTIES CONCEDED
EXETER CHIEFS 11
GLOUCESTER 8



Sherbornes Solicitors Ltd

OFFICIAL LEGAL PARTNER

APPLYING THE LAW

One of Gloucester's main issues on the day was coping with the speed of the Exeter defensive line.

On numerous occasions, the Chiefs back row appeared to be making no attempt to get back outside but, with the officials unable or unwilling to penalise them, the home side continued to get away with it throughout.



when faced with such massive ball carriers wasn't surprising and the home set piece held up well throughout.

Although a 20-10 final scoreline hints at a relatively close encounter, Gloucester were in charge pretty much throughout the game despite the best efforts of the spirited French side.

Greig Laidlaw got the scoreboard ticking over with an early penalty, but it was a mistake from La Rochelle fly-half Fabien Fortassin that led to a gem of an opening try from Rob Cook.

The full-back fielded an errant cross kick before kicking ahead behind the La Rochelle defence. He won the chase to the loose ball, toe poked it ahead and then won the race to gather and touch down.



GLOUCESTER RUGBY 20

LA ROCHELLE 10

HALF TIME 17-3
ATTENDANCE 9,209
REFEREE David Wilkinson (Ireland)

GLOUCESTER made it five wins from five in this season's European Rugby Challenge Cup and clinched a quarter-final place with a workmanlike performance against a durable La Rochelle side.

It wasn't easy. La Rochelle couldn't progress in the group but resisted the temptation to send a weakened side to Kingsholm. And, in their ranks, they possessed some of the biggest units to ever grace the Kingsholm turf and weren't afraid to use them!

In the circumstances, Gloucester slipping off a few first up tackles



Fly-half **Billy Burns** acknowledged that it had been a big effort against a tough opponent

Julien Audy opened La Rochelle's account with a 34th minute penalty, but it only provoked Gloucester into greater urgency. David Halaifonua had a try ruled out for a forward pass before the Cherry and Whites finished the half with a slightly bizarre score.

The visitors thought Charlie Sharples had knocked on a long pass, but the ball had hit the winger's foot. Mark Atkinson picked up the loose ball as the defence froze, popped it inside for Billy Twelvetrees and the centre



METRES RUN WITH THE BALL
GLoucester 317M
LA ROCHELLE 566M

THE BIG THING TODAY WAS GETTING THE WIN AND REMAINING UNBEATEN WITH FIVE WINS OUT OF FIVE AND SECURING A HOME QUARTER FINAL. AND WE'VE DONE THAT.

DAVID HUMPHREYS

cruised home.

Laidlaw extended the lead after the break with a straightforward penalty, but the dogged French side wouldn't go away and got some reward when Benjamin Lapeyre scored from close range after an extended period of pressure.

Despite the best efforts of both sides, that was it for the scoring. Gloucester came closest when Rob Cook couldn't quite hold on to David Halaifonua's inside pass.

Job done for Gloucester, a home quarter-final secured but still work to be done to clinch a high seeding for the knock-out stages.

MATCHDAY SQUADS



GLoucester RUGBY

- 15 Rob Cook 1T
- 14 Charlie Sharples
- 13 Billy Twelvetrees 1T
- 12 Mark Atkinson ■
- 11 David Halaifonua
- 10 Billy Burns
- 9 Greig Laidlaw (C) 2C 2P
- 1 Yann Thomas
- 2 Darren Dawiduike
- 3 Nicky Thomas
- 4 Tom Savage
- 5 Mariano Galarza
- 6 Ross Moriarty
- 7 Jacob Rowan
- 8 Lewis Ludlow

- 16 Tom Lindsay
- 17 Dan Murphy
- 18 Josh McNulty
- 19 Joe Latta
- 20 Elliot Stooke
- 21 Callum Braley
- 22 Stevie McColl
- 23 Matt Kvesic



LA ROCHELLE

- 15 Benjamin Lapeyre 1T
- 14 Elliot Roudil
- 13 Jean-Pascal Barraque
- 12 Pierre Aguilhon
- 11 Alexander Northam
- 10 Fabien Fortassin
- 9 Julien Audy 1C 1P
- 1 Thomas Synaeghel
- 2 Hikairo Forbes
- 3 Uini Atonio
- 4 Damien Lagrange
- 5 Leo Cedaro ■
- 6 Zeno Kieft
- 7 Jason Eaton (C)
- 8 Afa Amosa

- 16 Maxime Gau
- 17 Jordan Seneca
- 18 Vincent Pelo
- 19 Romain Sazy
- 20 Kevin Gourdon
- 21 Jules Lebillard
- 22 Zack Holmes
- 23 Gabriel Lacroix



PENALTIES CONCEDED
GLoucester 9
LA ROCHELLE 8



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APPLYING THE LAW

From a very early age, you're taught to play to the whistle. Gloucester did just that on the stroke of half time, La Rochelle didn't and it resulted in a try for the Cherry and Whites.

The visitors thought Charlie Sharples had knocked on and stopped. Mark Atkinson picked up the loose ball, popped it inside to Billy Twelvetrees and the centre ran in untouched.

2-0 15-7 18-19
 12-0 15-12
 12-7 18-12



TODAY'S TEAMSHEET

GLOUCESTER RUGBY vs LEICESTER TIGERS



Aviva Premiership Rugby - Round 10
 Saturday 30th January 2016, KO 15:00 Kingsholm

STEVE McCOLL	FULLBACK	15	FULLBACK	<i>E BELL</i>	MATHEW TAIT
CHARLIE SHARPLES	RIGHT WING	14	RIGHT WING	<i>T BETHAM</i>	ADAM THOMPSTONE
BILL MEAKES	OUTSIDE CENTRE	13	OUTSIDE CENTRE		MANU TUILAGI
BILLY TWELVETREES (C)	INSIDE CENTRE	12	INSIDE CENTRE		MATT SMITH
DAVID HALAIFONU	LEFT WING	11	LEFT WING		TELUSA VEAINU
JAMES HOOK <i>T CPP</i>	FLY HALF	10	FLY HALF	<i>C</i>	FREDDIE BURNS
WILLI HEINZ	SCRUM HALF	9	SCRUM HALF	<i>INTERLON</i>	BEN YOUNGS
PADDY McALLISTER	LOOSEHEAD PROP	1	LOOSEHEAD PROP	<i>T</i>	MARCOS AYERZA
RICHARD HIBBARD	HOOVER	2	HOOVER	<i>BATEMAN</i>	TOM YOUNGS (C)
PAUL DORAN-JONES	TIGHTHEAD PROP	3	TIGHTHEAD PROP	<i>BALMAIN</i>	DAN COLE
TOM SAVAGE	LOCK	4	LOCK		DOM BARROW
JEREMY THRUSH	LOCK	5	LOCK		GRAHAM KITCHENER
SIONE KALAMAFONI	BLINDSIDE FLANKER	6	BLINDSIDE FLANKER		MIKE FITZGERALD
JACOB ROWAN	OPENSIDE FLANKER	7	OPENSIDE FLANKER		TOM CROFT
BEN MORGAN <i>T</i>	NUMBER 8	8	NUMBER 8		LACHLAN McCAFFREY

DARREN DAWIDIUK	REPLACEMENT	16	REPLACEMENT		HARRY THACKER
NICK WOOD	REPLACEMENT	17	REPLACEMENT	<i>JOHNSON</i>	LOGOVI'I MULIPOLA
NICKY THOMAS	REPLACEMENT	18	REPLACEMENT	<i>T</i>	FRASER BALMAIN
MARIANO GALARZA	REPLACEMENT	19	REPLACEMENT		SEBASTIAN DE CHAVES
MATT KVESIC	REPLACEMENT	20	REPLACEMENT	<i>CRAWE</i>	LAURENCE PEARCE
GREIG LAIDLAW	REPLACEMENT	21	REPLACEMENT	<i>GIDDY?</i>	SAM HARRISON
BILLY BURNS	REPLACEMENT	22	REPLACEMENT	<i>COMBATHO</i>	TOMMY BELL
MARK ATKINSON	REPLACEMENT	23	REPLACEMENT	<i>ROBERTS</i>	PETER BETHAM

Officials

Referee JP Doyle Assistant Referees Ross Campbell and Nigel Carrick