



OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME || 2016/17 SEASON || GLOUCESTER RUGBY



GLOUCESTER RUGBY

VERSUS

NEWCASTLE FALCONS

ISSUE 3 || AVIVA PREMIERSHIP RUGBY
SATURDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 2016 || £3





CAPTAIN'S CORNER

GREIG LAIDLAW



GOOD AFTERNOON, AND WELCOME TO KINGSHOLM FOR TODAY'S GAME WITH NEWCASTLE FALCONS, AND A VERY WARM WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS FROM THE NORTH EAST.

As a squad, we are in a much better place this week after picking up our first win of the season last time out at Sale.

The opening pair of fixtures were two games where we felt we showed what we could do in patches, but at this level of competition, opponents never need a second invitation to punish you.

It's been two weeks since we were last at Kingsholm, and the night of the Leicester game was definitely one of mixed emotions. But for now, we'll be looking again today to capitalise on home advantage and try and build on the momentum we've created.

After a draw with Worcester, it was hugely pleasing to get a win on the board at Sale. Having tasted victory in Salford in April, we felt this gave us real confidence making the long trip last Friday.

Sale are a massive physical threat, but we felt really happy with how we coped with that, and we were able to control the game for long parts.

Our game management was much improved to see out the win and it was incredibly important that, every time we got in the Sale 22, we were able



to come away with points, with two really smart tries for John and Charlie.

And now, looking forward, we enter a very important part of our season with back-to-back home fixtures and looking to kick on.

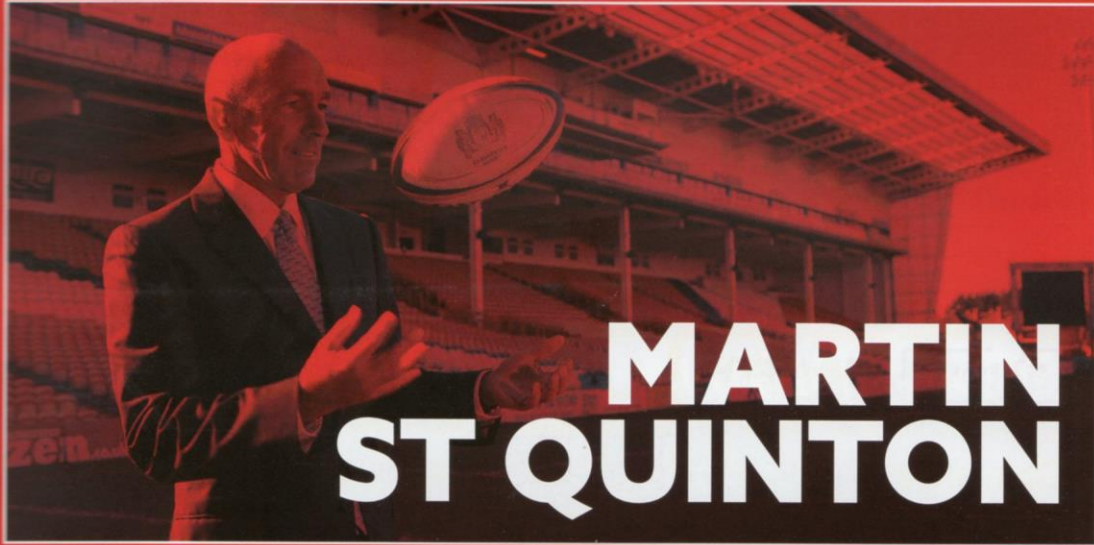
We are determined to showcase to our supporters the improvements that we are constantly making, and this week is another chance to pull on the jersey and do exactly that.

The team spirit in the changing room is very positive and we are able to have a lot of honest conversations with us all sharing the same targets and goals...and the occasional sing song as you may have seen on the BT Sport cameras!

It's really exciting to be back at Kingsholm today, and have a Saturday afternoon kick off. We will be doing all that we can today, against a really dangerous opponent, and we're really excited about the challenge.

Enjoy the game

Greig



MARTIN ST QUINTON

Good afternoon and a very warm welcome to Kingsholm.

Like everyone connected with the club, I was absolutely delighted to see the team secure our first win of the season with a battling performance up at Sale, never an easy place to visit.

I am lucky to be able to watch the team train on a regular basis and talk to David Humphreys and his coaching staff. The physical work they put in to training has to be seen to be really appreciated, as is

the analytical work they carry out on each and every opponent.

We could easily have won our first two games, and that's why I was delighted to see the team get some reward for their hard work last Friday. Hopefully, it will be the first of many this season.

Following the game, I was interested to read the comments of Steve Diamond regarding the HIA (Head Injury Assessment) protocols.

If you didn't see it, he was quoted as follows in The Rugby Paper:

"The pressure's on the medical people under the new HIA regulations. The game's gone soft where, if you get a tap on the head these days, we've got to get these players off. Our player was fine."

Sale were obviously under pressure as their fly-half had picked up a knock and they didn't have a like for like replacement on the bench. The medics obviously had concerns and were, quite rightly, acting in the player's best interests.

All I can say from a Gloucester perspective is that we have invested heavily in our Medical Department and can confidently say we employ some of the very best people in this field.

We ourselves had two players, Mariano Galarza and Ross Moriarty, both observing the Return to Play protocols last week and, valuable as they would have been to our cause, we would never entertain any temptation to cut corners. Player welfare is of paramount importance.

I'm sure it's not the last we'll hear on this subject!

Martin



WEEK 4 OF THE 2016/17
AVIVA PREMIERSHIP SEASON
AND I'M DELIGHTED TO
WELCOME DEAN RICHARDS,
HIS NEWCASTLE FALCONS
STAFF, PLAYERS AND
SUPPORTERS TO
KINGSHOLM.

Leaving the stadium three weeks ago after the Leicester game, there was an overwhelming sense of disappointment that we hadn't won the game after an outstanding 50 minutes of rugby. So much of what we had prepared for throughout preseason was evident in both the ambition we showed in attack and the outstanding defensive commitment that gave us a bonus point try just after half time.

The last 30 minutes...lots of lessons learned to ensure it doesn't happen again with this squad. More importantly, one result didn't change the belief within the playing and coaching group that we have made real on-field progress over the last few months.

"So much of what we had prepared for throughout preseason was evident in both the ambition we showed in attack and the outstanding defensive commitment that gave us a bonus point try just after half time."



The win in Sale last weekend highlighted that progress with quality attacking rugby in the first half resulting in two tries, backed up by a strong defensive effort in the second half. We controlled field position for the last 15 minutes and showed really good game management, alongside Greig Laidlaw's goal kicking, allowed us to close out the match.

In a league where so many teams are so closely matched, goal kicking is crucial and Greig's record of 38 out his last 39 kicks (including 16/16 this season)

in the Aviva Premiership is an incredible stat!

After two away games, we're all delighted to be back at home this afternoon and know that we'll have to back up last week's performance with another big game today. Very similar to ourselves, Newcastle have already beaten Sale and will be very disappointed to have lost to Leicester at home last weekend.

As always, thank you for your support and enjoy the game.

David



VIEW FROM THE

GLOUCESTER Citizen



Charlie Sharples says Gloucester cannot afford to "get carried away" with their stunning victory away to Sale Sharks while there is much more Premiership rugby still to be played.

The wing was among the action again on Friday night, adding to his breakaway score against Leicester and a disallowed try away to Worcester with another touchdown to hand Gloucester a nine-point lead at the interval.

After his frustrations at Sixways, there was no doubt this time as he latched onto a beautifully-

"WE CAME UP HERE TO GET THE WIN SO JOB DONE AS FAR AS THAT IS CONCERNED, FAIR PLAY TO SALE - WE KNEW WE WERE GOING TO BE IN FOR A TOUGH GAME."



weighted grubber kick from full-back Tom Marshall to unlock the Sale defence.

"We came up here to get the win so job done as far as that is concerned," Sharples said post-match. "Fair play to Sale - we knew we were going to be in for a tough game."

"We played some great rugby in the first half, got our tries and took the lead into half-time. We knew we would go through some tough patches through the second half - particularly off those driving mauls - and the boys did well to keep them out."

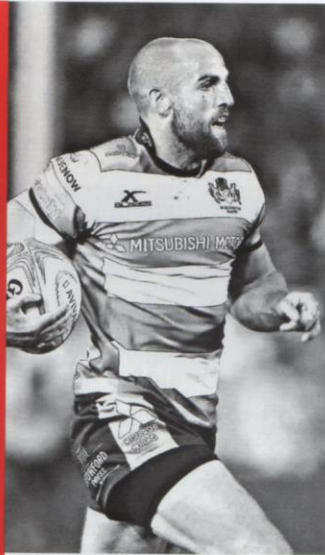


"There is still plenty for us to work on but we controlled the game relatively well and finished the game comfortably on the right end of the score-line. There were some good moments where we kicked the ball well although there were some loose moments as well.

There was inevitably a different feeling in Cherry and White quarters after the victory at the AJ Bell, as Gloucester managed to shut out Sale's importunity and captain Greig Laidlaw continued to do what he does well from the tee.

Sixteen points on the night from the Scottish scrum-half added to the 12 he recorded in Salford in April as his boot overthrew Sale for the first of Gloucester's back-to-back wins away to Sale following 15 years of hurt in these parts.

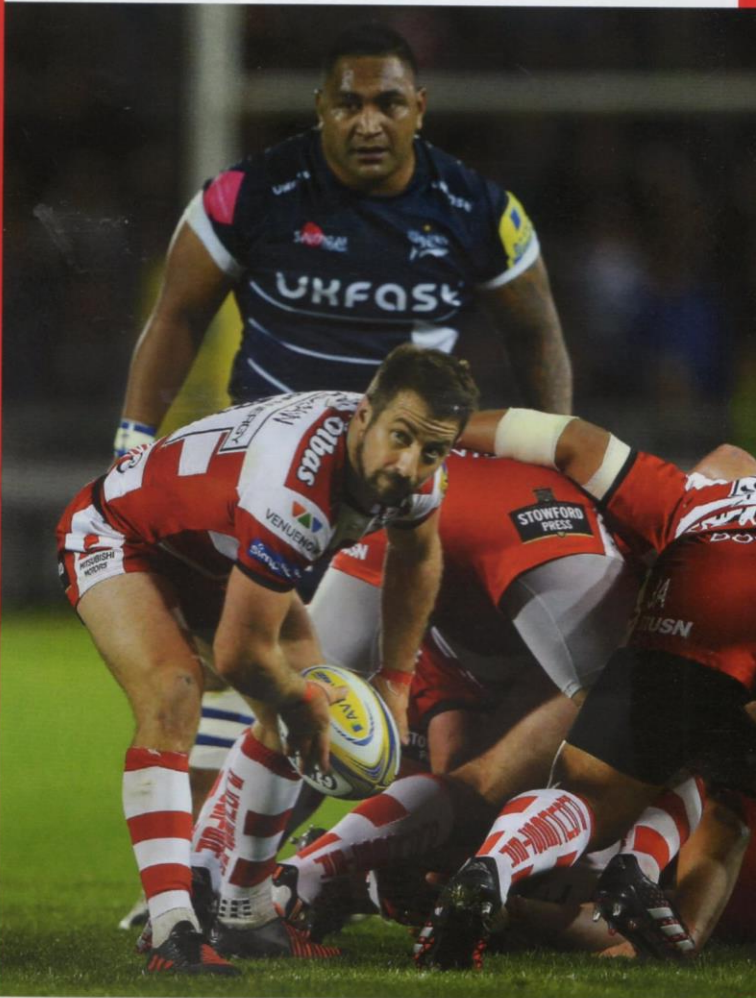
Looking ahead to a return to Kingsholm where Newcastle Falcons present the next challenge, Sharples believes Gloucester are now in a much healthier position



having taken little reward from their defeat and draw against Leicester and Worcester.

"It's a happy changing room because that's the win we had been looking for in those first two games which seemed to elude us," Sharples continued. "But we are able to kick on into next week during two home games. It is early days so we cannot afford to get carried away.

"We came up to Sale to get the win and we came away with the win, so we have some points on the board, which puts us in a good place. We will enjoy this feeling but will get back to work on Monday and get ready for the game against Newcastle."



GLOUCESTER RUGBY
HERITAGE

www.gloucesterrugbyheritage.org.uk

GREAT PLAYERS FROM THE GLOUCESTER BACK ROW

PART ONE

The period immediately before and after World War I



1. SID SMART

Born at Kingsholm, Gloucester in 1888, Sid Smart was a No 8 with a real turn of speed who was working as a driller at Gloucester Wagon Works when he joined Gloucester RFC from Gordon League in 1911.

He quickly established himself in the senior side and within a few months was playing County Championship Rugby for Gloucestershire. His meteoric rise continued the following year when the selectors took note and after two successful trials he was picked for England against South Africa.

He went on to play throughout England's 1912-13 Grand Slam season and was an ever-present for Gloucestershire, winning the first of his four County Championship Winners medals. The success continued in 1913-14 when he represented England throughout a second successive Grand Slam.

After war service in the army, Sid returned to further rugby success, gaining three more England caps and helping Gloucestershire to win three successive County Championships in 1920-21-22.

In 1920-21, his England career now over, he played for Gloucester in rare victories over all four leading Welsh clubs. He was made club captain the following season.

In all, Sid made 196 appearances for his club, 32 for his county and won 12 England caps. But for the war, the totals would surely have been much higher.

A life member of the Gloucester club, Sid Smart was still acting as a steward in the grandstand at his beloved Kingsholm when he collapsed and died aged 81.



2. ARTHUR "TART" HALL

The son of a coalminer from Ruspidge in the Forest of Dean, "Tart" Hall was an outstanding half back for Cinderford, Bristol and Gloucestershire before the 1914-18 war, partnering the great Adrian Stoop in an England trial in 1911 and winning a County Championship Winners medal in the 1912-13 final against Cumberland. He joined Gloucester from Bristol in 1913 to play his rugby closer to his home in the Forest, continuing to play at half back.

After the war "Tart" Hall rejoined Gloucester and, at the age of 33, moved to the back row of the pack where he was to play for a further 9 seasons and 200 games. He went on to gain a second England trial in 1920 and three more County Championship Winners Medals in 1920-21-22.

The legendary hard man from the



Forest retained his pace and fitness to the end of his career and played his final match at the age of 41.

The Citizen paid this tribute, "A keener enthusiast never stepped on the playing field...a more popular player has never donned a Gloucester jersey."

FRANK AYLIFFE

Born in Gloucester in 1892, Frank Ayliffe had just broken into the Gloucester side when World War I brought his playing career to a halt. He was commissioned as a lieutenant in the Worcestershire Regiment and wounded in both arms while fighting in France but was able to resume playing after the war and went on to make 239 appearances for Gloucester and 28 for Gloucestershire.

In 1919-20, he played in 30 of Gloucester's 33 fixtures and, playing alongside Smart and Hall, won the first of three Championship Winners medals for Gloucestershire. Athletic News described Frank as "a strong young fellow who has very good hands but also does his share of work in the pack." He retained his county place to win medals in each of Gloucestershire's three successive 1920-21-22 victories.

In 1922-23 he took over from Sid Smart as club captain and proved a popular leader of a successful team which equalled the club record of 27 wins. Ending his county career with a fourth Championship final in 1924-25, he went on to play a final season for Gloucester, appearing in 31 of their 37 fixtures.

3. TOM VOYCE

Was Tom Voyce the greatest player ever to put on a Cherry and White jersey? Dubbed the "King of Gloucester," he appeared in every match for England's Grand Slam winning teams of 1921, 1923 and 1924 and when he retired with 27 caps was second only to his friend and captain Wavell Wakefield in the list of most-capped England players.

A British Lion in South Africa in 1924, he was forced through injuries to play many of his games outside the scrum and was described by the South African captain as "the second best wing three-quarter in the British team." With his ferocious tackling and pace around the pitch, he set new standards for back row play.

Tom was born in Gloucester in 1897 and played his early rugby with Gordon League. His career was all the more remarkable because of a serious eye injury he sustained while serving in World War I.

On leaving the army he joined Gloucester RFC and, within six months of his first senior club game, made his England debut against Ireland at Lansdowne Road. A reserve for the 1920 County Championship Final, he won Championship Winners medals in 1921 and 1922 and played 27 games for his county.

Tom Voyce captained Gloucester for four seasons from 1924 to 27 before retiring the following year, having played 171 games (a total limited by representative calls) and scored 55 tries. He went on to become President of the RFU in 1960 and was awarded the OBE two years later. He was President of Gloucester from 1970 to 1978.

Wavell Wakefield paid this tribute, "The name of Tom Voyce is synonymous with that of Gloucester...for he was a great player from a great club - a wonderful inspiration to any side."

4. GEORGE McILWAINE

South African born George McIlwaine came to Gloucester in 1925 while at Cambridge, having failed to get into the University side. Coached by Tom Voyce, he quickly developed into a top class wing forward and became a favourite with the Kingsholm crowd. The following season he gained his first blue in an overwhelming Cambridge victory by 33 points to three and was described as the finest forward on the field. He

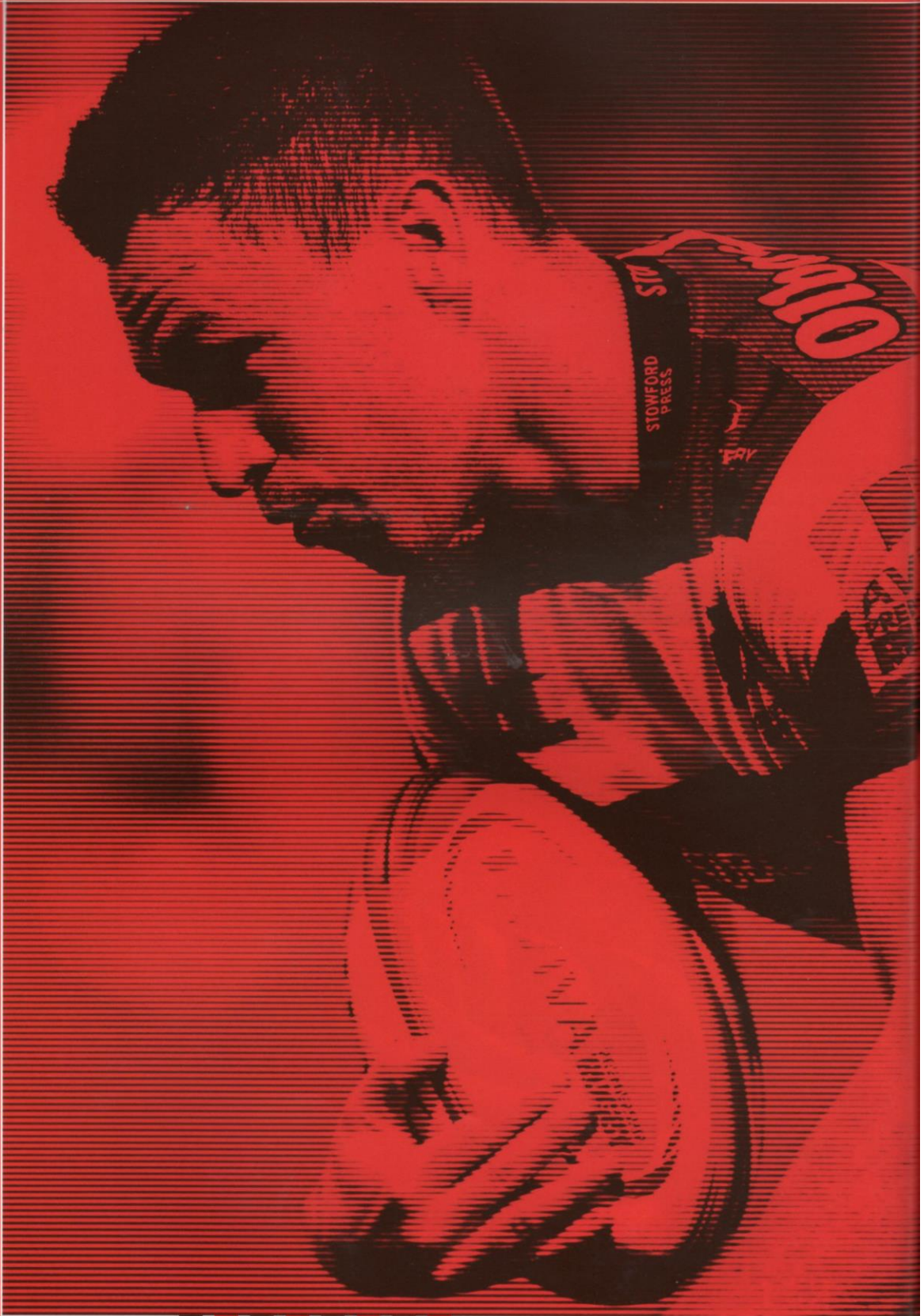


played for Gloucestershire against the New Zealand Maoris, Yorkshire and Devon and scored two tries in a rare Gloucester victory over Swansea.

That summer his outstanding performances won him a place on the British Isles tour of Argentina in which he took part in all four unofficial tests. He came home to win a second blue and to play for Western Counties against New South Wales Waratahs.

In 1928-29, his final season, he played in a third successive Cambridge victory and represented the Barbarians at Leicester. His last game was for Gloucestershire against Devon in the South West Championship play-off.

In his brief 33 game career with Gloucester, McIlwaine had made a great impact and many friends at the club and it came as a great shock when it was reported on 1 November 1930 that he had died in Calcutta at the age of 25.



FOR SEVERAL SEASONS, AMONGST THE GALACTICO NAMES THAT DOMINATE THE HEADLINES IN THE SUPER RUGBY COMPETITION, TOM MARSHALL WAS A UNSUNG HERO OF THE BACK LINE IN FIRST CHRISTCHURCH AND THEN WAIKATO. AND AFTER A MOVE NORTH TO KINGSHOLM LAST SUMMER, THE FLYER IS ALREADY SHOWING HIS OWN SUPER BRAND OF RUGBY IN CHERRY AND WHITE.

WORTH THE WAIT



The 26-year old full back had to bide his time before making an impact at Kingsholm, but after a patient recovery from injury, his skillset and exciting attacking brand is clear to see.

After playing alongside the likes of Tim Nanai-Williams, Sonny Bill-Williams, Damien McKenzie and Aaron Cruden in a Chiefs' jersey, the talented back is already showing his potential in Cherry and White, at a club where he is loving every minute, especially having endured an arduous wait to get started.

"It was tough to be fair. The boys and the coaching staff were really good when I arrived, and they were really understanding with my injury.

"I was on the sidelines for the majority of the season, but there was never any pressure on me to rush my recovery to get back on the field, which was nice.



"At the end of the season, it was nice to get a few games in, albeit I was a bit rusty, but it was nice all the same to get a few games under my belt."

After touching down in Gloucestershire, Marshall underwent knee surgery, but the Auckland-born man was able to find the silver lining from the injury, as it gave him more time to get to grips with his new environment, and explore the county.

"I think it did benefit me. Obviously being injured you're on a slightly different schedule when you have the weekends off and stuff, so it's nice to be able to use that time as wisely as I could and get away and explore Gloucestershire with my partner which was great.

"Saying that, you definitely get a bit of an itch to get out there and get amongst it with the boys when you are finally able to get the boots back on too."



Results-wise, the Cherry and White start to the season has been one full of potential as Marshall testifies.

"I think we're in a better place now, than we were last year. Obviously, there were a couple of frustrating results at the start of the season, but it was good to get back on track with the win over Sale.

"I was on the sidelines for the majority of the season, but there was never any pressure on me to rush my recovery to get back on the field."



"Hopefully we can carry a little bit of that momentum forward, and look to come home to Kingsholm, and put in a good performance this weekend."

In the era of analysis, commentary and focus on the game more than ever, Marshall is fully aware that he falls into the utility back category with his versatility. However, right now, he is delighted that he can focus his mind on the fifteen jersey for the short term.

"I think, for now, certainly it is nice to concentrate on that one position and it's been quite a long time since I had back to back consistent rugby, and I'm trying to get myself into form and then work on my game. So it definitely helps to concentrate on one job and one role."

After many years in Super Rugby, and the long seasons down South, Marshall is coming to terms with a change in environment, as he contrasts the two approaches to the game and professionalism.

"I guess this is my first season of playing in the Northern Hemisphere, so I'm interested and excited to see how I find it. Obviously being on the sidelines last year, you notice there is a level of rotation, throughout the squad, and there has to be because it is a long season and the boys get managed really well.

"It will be interested to see how the body holds up and how it adjusts to the different competitions throughout the season."

Elder brother James has now also made the trip North, arriving recently with London Irish in the Greene King IPA Championship, and Tom is able to find a lot of comfort in having family close as he looks forward.

"Yeah it certainly is nice to have, he's coming to watch the game at the weekend, and then on Sunday I'll go and watch him.

"It's nice to see a familiar face, and having that home comfort is always nice."



KINGSHOLM NEWS

with

Bob Fenton

It's probably safe to say that the season did not start the way we would have hoped for.

Or rather it did! For the first 55 minutes against Leicester we played the kind of rugby we could only dream of. The Tigers were ripped apart and the bonus point was in the bag after 46 minutes. The only downside was that the game didn't end at that point and we all know what happened next.

The following week at Sixways, Worcester did what they always do - gave us a proper battering. But unlike, previous seasons, we didn't collapse and come away on the wrong end of a thumping, instead we clawed our way back into it and came away with a draw.

I guess the most frustrating thing about both those matches is that we had put ourselves in with a chance of winning both of them. And failed to capitalise. On the positive side, we came out of the fixtures with more points than we did from them last term.

So, onto Sale for the third of our Friday night fixtures. No chance said the experts in the media. No chance said a good percentage of our own fans, still burned by the experience from the previous two weeks. 'I think we've got a good chance,' said our coaches, And they were right!

A gutsy display, hanging on at times but great 'dog' from the big boys up front and taking the points



when we had the opportunity saw us home. And any win against Sale is doubly delicious just to see Steve Diamond's face afterwards - I think it's fair to say that he doesn't like losing very much!

So eight points from the first three games... not too bad, but is it the kind of form that will win us the league? At the start of the season David Humphreys said at a press conference that it was our ambition to do just that - to win the big prize. It's fair to say that this drew quite a bit of comment, and dare I say it - derision, from some quarters.

But you know what, I like that attitude. I like the thought of our senior players and coaches getting together to discuss the objectives for the season and saying that they wanted to win the thing. Would supporters have been happy if they said 'Our objective is, by the end of the season, to be in the middle of the table'? I think not... Setting a target for mediocrity is no target at all.

In my day job if I set a target for my team that was not ambitious or stretching, I would be asked to justify why we were aiming for second best and be given a very hard time indeed. So yes - we shoot for the moon. Of course we may not hit that objective, but if we fall a little short we will still have secured that cherished European Cup spot and who is going to be disappointed with that?

Talking of being disappointed, that's me today. I'm not going to be in my usual spot here at Kingsholm, instead I'll be miles away at a wedding. The groom is

a season ticket holder here, so is his Dad, yet he managed to agree to get married in the rugby season! Inconvenient or what?

The first home league game I have missed for about 14 seasons. I'm not sure what the protocol is for staying wired in to Twitter at a wedding is, but I reckon by about 4:45pm next Saturday I'll have found out.

But I have had a fix of rugby this week, in fact I as I write this I am sat in the spectator area at 'Leisure@' in Cheltenham watching the wheelchair rugby tournament with teams from Cornwall, Southampton, Stoke Mandeville and - our opponents in the final - the Ospreys.

I'm very pleased to be able to report that the Gloucester boys won that game, and the tournament. An outstandingly exciting spectacle that went to the wire, Gloucester eventually winning by just a handful of points.

It's a real shame that there are not more people here to watch though. This is tough, competitive sport - a mixture of Mad Max meets formula one (for the pit stops and wheel changes) with a dash of a chess championship thrown in as players move and block their opponents.

We are lucky to have such a good team attached to Gloucester Rugby, and the club's community team together with all the other



"We are lucky to have such a good team attached to Gloucester Rugby, and the club's community team together with all the other volunteers that help to keep the team running deserve huge praise for the effort they put into it."

volunteers that help to keep the team running deserve huge praise for the effort they put into it.

Of course I am slightly biased - through my day job I have the huge privilege of managing our sponsorship of the team - in fact we renewed that sponsorship just this month, signing up to support them for another three years.

We have seen the team grow from a handful of players to a club that can almost manage to put out two teams, and one that secured promotion from Division Three in their first year of competition. They have players in international development squads as well as some who turn up for a more social game - if being clattered by someone travelling at 20mph can ever be considered social!

We've all sat and marvelled at the skills and determination of the athletes taking part in the Rio Paralympics - get out and support the team on your doorstep. I absolutely guarantee that you will love every second of it.

And if you are brave enough you can even get into one of the chairs and give it a try!



RANDALL on RUGBY



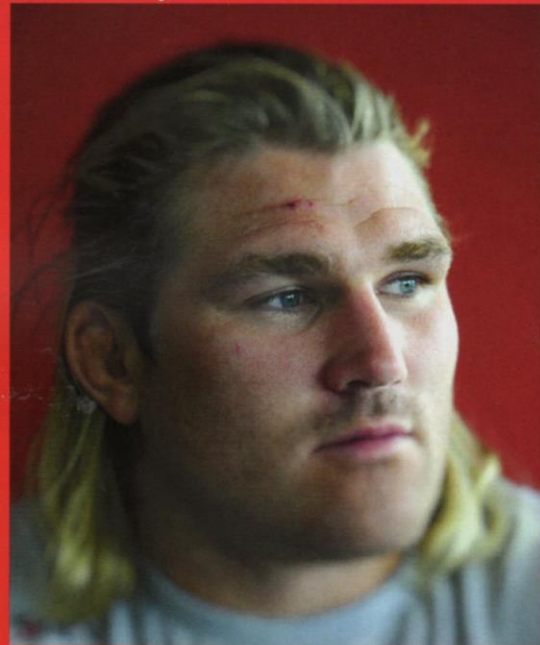
I THINK IT'S FAIR TO SAY THE PREMIERSHIP SEASON HAS EXPLODED INTO LIFE. HERE WE ARE WITH ONLY THREE ROUNDS GONE AND A LOT SEEMS TO HAVE HAPPENED ALREADY.

I'm sure David Humphreys didn't anticipate using the word "capitulated" on the day of the Leicester match and the game at Sixways against Worcester equally contained extremes of emotion. You only had to see the seriousness of Humphreys' facial expression to see how highly he valued the win at Sale after a more pragmatic performance and continued flawless kicking from the tee by Greig Laidlaw.

Today we welcome Newcastle, who so nearly beat Leicester last Sunday. They lost heavily at Bath in Round 2 and hooker Richard Hibbard wasn't surprised by their reaction.

"They're a proud bunch of boys and that Bath result stung them" he said. "I've been in those games where I've been on the losing side and it doesn't happen two weeks in a row."

A one-to-one audience with Hibbard is a rare event, and given he's recently become a father for the third time I was fortunate to catch him. He and his wife Louise now have a little boy to join their daughters, aged 8 and 6, and off the field he cuts a different figure to the image we see on the field.



"My family is everything" he went on. "I play rugby for them - it's what I do it all for. I quite enjoy the physical confrontation but that's just for the pitch. I love the game but it's brutal and unforgiving and it could be over for you at any moment so planning for life after rugby is a necessity whether you are 18, 24 or my age (Hibbard will be 33 in December).

"I've always worried about having a plan B for the family and I'd like to think I have things in place."

"MY FAMILY IS EVERYTHING, I PLAY RUGBY FOR THEM - IT'S WHAT I DO IT ALL FOR."





To that end Hibbard is a director of an estate agency in Neath Port Talbot and a business partner in an electrical firm, both of which he devotes time to on his days off back in South Wales. To cut down on the travelling on training and recovery days, he also has a base locally as well. But, wherever is, he is Hibbard maintains a selfless attitude.

His agent's involvement with a charity prompted a short autobiographical e-book to encourage reading, Hibbard is a supporter of the annual "Movember" campaign and he's auctioned items on social media to raise money for others.

"If I can do anything for any sort of charity then I just like to do it" Hibbard said. "I'm in a lucky position in terms of what I do and the stuff I get. I'm a bit of a hoarder and keep quite a lot, especially the things that really mean something. But, if I can raise money by giving some of it away, then that's what I do and it's good fun if people feel they want to bid for it."

Now in his third season at Kingsholm, Hibbard made his 50th appearance for the club at Sale.

He has started all this season's three Premiership games, playing an increasing number of minutes in each one, and he believes a judgement can only be made about Gloucester's start once the first block of games, which conclude at Exeter on October the 8th, has been completed.

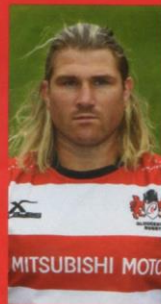
"It's early days and the new game plan is still being tested" he reflected. "The first half against Leicester was probably the best 40 minutes I've been involved with at Gloucester.

"We let the game slip away and it was our own fault, and we were disappointed we didn't win at Worcester too. We could have had nine points from those first two games. As it is we had four, and now we've had the encouragement of the win at Sale it's about cutting out the mistakes."

Ross Moriarty missed the win at the AJ Bell Stadium whilst going through the return to play protocols after leaving the field with a head injury at Worcester, and Hibbard feels the flanker can be a real asset to Gloucester when he's fit again.

"Ross is raw and aggressive - one of our best carriers of the ball as well as one of the best defenders" he concluded.

"IF I CAN DO ANYTHING FOR ANY SORT OF CHARITY THEN I JUST LIKE TO DO IT"



"He really came into his own last season, and had a fantastic summer tour with Wales even though the results didn't go our way. Playing at six suits him. He can destroy people from there. He has the odd mad moment but that's him."

Gloucester have scored 113 points in their last three Premiership games against the Falcons. Maintain that ratio this afternoon and it'll feel as if the form curve really is on the up.

Gloucester United kick off A League campaign with battling win



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The Gloucester Rugby Academy were well represented last week, as Gloucester United got their Aviva Premiership A League campaign off to a winning start with a hard-fought 22-19 victory over Saracens Storm at Kingsholm.

It was a young United side, who would perhaps have featured a few more first teamers, but for the need to hold some players back due to injury concerns in the first team squad.

So, in the circumstances, it was a very positive outcome for the Cherry and Whites. All Gloucester's points were scored in the first half and it took a dogged defensive effort in the latter stages to protect the lead and close out the win.

It was a frenetic opening

few minutes. Gloucester took the lead with a Greg Jackson try after a catch and drive, but the visitors hit back quickly with scores from Samu Vunisa and Tim Streather.

The gauntlet had been laid down by the Storm, but the United responded in style. Jackson scored his second in identikit fashion, before Lloyd Evans floated a cross kick for David Halaifonua to catch and dive over.

Evans added the extras and followed it up with a 36th minute penalty as Gloucester kept up the pressure on the visitors, skipper Streather issued with a team warning after a number of penalty awards.

It had been a good first 40 minutes for the United, but they paid the price for failing

to exit cleanly from the restart. The Storm took full advantage and created an overlap for George Perkins to score in the right hand corner.

Gloucester then had to withstand a real barrage from the visitors, but did so with real spirit, and could even have extended the lead in the latter stages as Protheroe and Evans both came close.

GLOUCESTER UNITED:

15. Mat Protheroe; 14. David Halaifonua, 13. Tom Hudson, 12. Elliott Creed, 11. Tom Seabrook; 10. Lloyd Evans, 9. Callum Braley (capt); 1. Paddy McAllister, 2. Greg Jackson, 3. Nicky Thomas; 4. Charlie Beckett, 5. Alex Craig; 6. Freddie Clarke, 7. Dan Thomas, 8. Gareth Evans
Replacements: 16. Henry Walker, 17. Ciaran Knight, 18. Josh McNulty, 19. Morgan Morris, 20. Will Safe, 21. Harry Randall, 22. Ben Vellacott, 23. Ollie Graham

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ACTION REPLAY || FRIDAY 2 SEPTEMBER || KINGSHOLM || ATT 14,298

Gloucester Rugby **31**

Tries: Sharples, Scott (2), Purdy. Conversions: Laidlaw 4. Penalties: Laidlaw 1

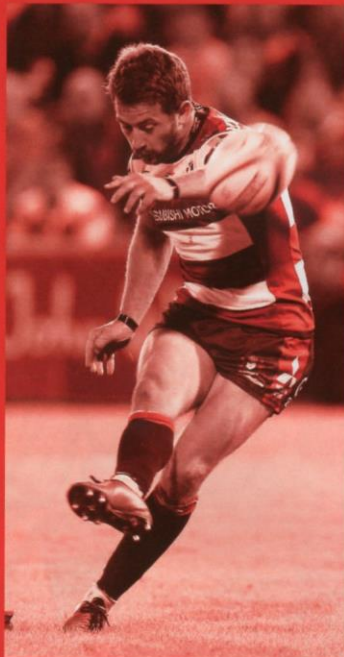
Leicester Tigers **38**

Tries: O'Connor, Pietersen, Harrison (2), Tuilagi. Conversions: Harrison (2), Burns (3). Penalties: Burns

'A Jekyll & Hyde' performance was how some described Gloucester's performance after the 31-38 Aviva Premiership defeat at home to the Leicester Tigers in the opening game of the season.

To be fair, that description may well have been levelled at the Tigers as well – their Director of Rugby Richard Cockerill was certainly pretty scathing when he spoke about their first half display after the game.

Bit, crucially, Leicester's purple patch lasted just that little bit longer than Gloucester's as the visitors swooped late to secure a valuable away win.



- 15 Marshall
- 14 Sharples 1T ▼
- 13 Scott 2T
- 12 Twelvetrees
- 11 Purdy 1T
- 10 Burns ▼
- 9 Laidlaw 4C, 1P
- 1 Y Thomas ▼
- 2 Hibbard ▼
- 3 Afoa ▼
- 4 Savage
- 5 Galarza
- 6 Moriarty
- 7 Kvesic ▼
- 8 Morgan ▼

Replacements used:
Dawidiuk, McAllister,
Doran-Jones, Rowan,
Heinz, Hook, Evans

- 15 Tait
- 14 Veainu ▼
- 13 Betham
- 12 Tuilagi 1T ▼
- 11 Pietersen 1T
- 10 Burns 3C, 1P ▼
- 9 Harrison 2T, 2C
- 1 Ayerza ▼
- 2 Youngs ▼
- 3 Bateman ▼
- 4 Slater
- 5 Barrow ▼
- 6 Hamilton ▼
- 7 O'Connor 1T
- 8 McCaffrey

Replacements used:
McGuigan, Genge,
Cole, Kitchener,
Evans, Youngs,
Smith, Thompstone

Such an outcome was virtually inconceivable after the first 45 minutes. The Cherry and Whites produced some of their best rugby for many a month and had deservedly romped to a 31-7 lead, securing the try-scoring bonus point in the process.

But, from that moment on, the Tigers turned the game on its head. Eating into Gloucester's lead, Leicester got to within one score in the final quarter only for Gloucester's defence to stiffen and look set to hold firm.

However, a fortunate bounce of the ball saw the visitors draw level with fewer than three minutes remaining and then score with the last play of the game to snatch the victory.

It was a kick in the teeth for Gloucester who had looked so



good for so long. They still took two points from the game but it was scant consolation on the night.

The first 45 minutes were manna from heaven for the home supporters. A fine opening try for Matt Scott got Gloucester off to a flyer but was quickly cancelled out by a score for Manu Tuilagi with the Gloucester support screaming for a forward pass.

It seemed to matter little. Charlie Sharples restored the lead with an interception, Greig Laidlaw extended the lead with a penalty before great work from Ross Moriarty set up Scott for his second.

When Henry Purdy sprinted home for the bonus point try on 45 minutes, all seemed set fair.



Crucially, the Tigers hit back immediately with a try for JP Pietersen before Gloucester's discipline started to slip and allowed Freddie Burns to pin his former team back within their 22 on regular basis.

Sam Harrison scored the Tigers' third and Burns made it a one score game with a penalty. Gloucester dug deep and had a long range penalty chance to extend the lead again, but kicked into the 22 and lost the lineout.

In hindsight, it was a key moment. A wicked bounce of the ball resulted in a try for Brendon O'Connor and the conversion levelled the scores.

By now, there seemed to be a certain inevitability about things such as the momentum swing and, when Harrison touched down in the final seconds after another punishing catch and drive by the Leicester pack, the comeback was complete.

APPLYING THE LAW WITH

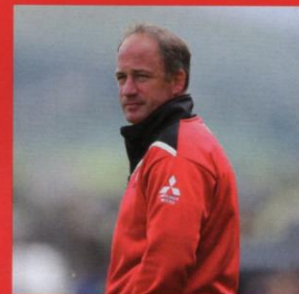


Official Legal Partner

Such a fast paced game was always going to be a tough one to administer for the officials.

However, the first Leicester try, scored just after Gloucester had taken the lead, was launched by a pass from Mathew Tait to Telusa Veainu that looked yards forward.

In a game where the Tigers eventually won by seven points in the final minute, every score proved to be vital



DIRECTOR OF RUGBY DAVID HUMPHREYS

"I haven't experienced a game where there was such a difference between the first and second-half performances.

"Everything we did well in the first half, we did badly in the second half. We gave away too many penalties, and Leicester took advantage of every opportunity.

"The bottom line is it's not acceptable when you lead 31-7 at home, and then lose the game."

ACTION REPLAY || FRIDAY 9 SEPTEMBER || SIXWAYS || ATT 8,905

Worcester Warriors 23

Tries: Humphreys, Vuna, Te'o. Conversions: Lamb. Penalties: Lamb, Heathcote

Gloucester Rugby 23

Tries: Scott, Purdy. Conversions: Laidlaw (2). Penalties: Laidlaw (3)



Gloucester left Sixways with mixed feelings after the 23-23 Aviva Premiership draw with Worcester. Relief that they came away with two points having trailed 20-9 at one point, annoyance that they didn't clinch the win when well placed in the final quarter.

As was the case the week before against Leicester, there was a lot of good about Gloucester's play on the night. However, there were also plenty of areas where improvements is required.

On the night, the Cherry and Whites came out strongly, seemingly trying to banish the memories of the heartbreaking home defeat at the hands of the Tigers just seven days before.



- 15 Willison
- 14 Hammond
- 13 Olivier
- 12 Te'o 1T ▼
- 11 Vuna 1T
- 10 Lamb 1C 1P ▼
- 9 Arr
- 1 Ruskin ▼
- 2 Annett ▼
- 3 Johnston ▼
- 4 O'Callaghan
- 5 Barry ▼
- 6 Fa'osiliva ■
- 7 Mama
- 8 Dowson

Replacements used:
Bregvadze,
Leleimalefaga, Daniel
Scotland-Williamson,
Heathcote 1P,
Humphreys 1T

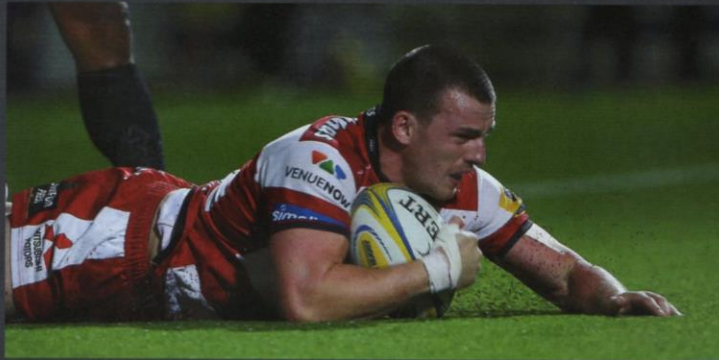
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- 1 Y Thomas ▼
- 2 Hibbard ▼
- 3 Afoa
- 4 Savage
- 5 Galarza ▼
- 6 Moriarty ▼
- 7 Kvesic
- 8 Morgan

Replacements used:
Dawidiuk, Orr, Latta,
Rowan, Heinz, Hook,
Atkinson.

Greig Laidlaw opened the scoring with an early penalty as Gloucester hit the ground running and Charlie Sharples will count himself unlucky that he was denied a try when the tackle was deemed to have been completed.

However, the game turned on its head as a loose Gloucester pass was hacked downfield, gifting Worcester great field position which they converted into a try for Ben Te'o.

Laidlaw responded with a second penalty but another loose pass presented Worcester with more possession and territory, and they took full advantage as Cooper Vuna crashed over in the corner despite more than a hint of a forward pass.



A Ryan Lamb penalty gave Worcester a 15-6 lead at half time and Gloucester were left with some real soul-searching to do at the break.

Laidlaw's third penalty narrowed the gap and Worcester were dealt a blow on 51 minutes when Alafoti Faosiliva was sent off for leading with the elbow into contact.

With the best part of half an hour left to play, Gloucester would have been feeling positive but promptly conceded a third try as Perry Humphreys took advantage of some poor tackling.



Gloucester then started to show what they're capable of when it all comes together as Mark Atkinson's half break and offload put Matt Scott under the posts.

Tom Heathcote's penalty gave the home side a bit more breathing space, but the Cherry and Whites hit back with a cracker, Henry Purdy touching down in the corner and Laidlaw converting to level the scores.

With all the momentum behind them, Gloucester went in search of the win and set up camp in the Worcester 22. One possible overlap was spurned, while Ben Morgan very nearly wriggled clear.

However, the drop goal looked to be the best option, but Gloucester couldn't set it up and conceded a penalty as time expired to let Worcester off the hook and see both teams take points for a draw.



APPLYING THE LAW WITH



Official Legal Partner

It was a testing evening for referee Luke Pearce with several decisions referred to the TMO.

Gloucester will feel aggrieved that Charlie Sharples' try was chalked off, while Worcester's second try featured a forward-looking pass.

The home crowd, on the other hand, will feel that Alafoti Faosiliva's red card was partly awarded due to replays looking worse at full speed on the big screens.



DIRECTOR OF RUGBY

DAVID HUMPHREYS

"We are obviously disappointed, given the context of the game, to only come away with two points.

"At the same time, at 20-9 down after the way we lost last week, it would have been easy for the players to feel a bit sorry for themselves.

"But we showed some real composure and played some very good rugby, and we gave ourselves a couple of opportunities in the last four or five minutes that we should have taken to win the game."



TEAM LINE-UPS

SATURDAY 24 SEPTEMBER
AVIVA PREMIERSHIP
RUGBY ROUND FOUR

T P C D				T P C D								
				TOM MARSHALL	15	FULLBACK	15	SIMON HAMMERSLEY				
				CHARLIE SHARPLES	14	RIGHT WING	14	VERENIKI GONEVA				
				MATT SCOTT	13	OUTSIDE CENTRE	13	DOMINIC WALDOUCK				
				MARK ATKINSON	12	INSIDE CENTRE	12	JUAN PABLO SOCINO				
				HENRY PURDY	11	LEFT WING	11	SINOTI SINOTI				
				BILLY BURNS	10	FLY-HALF	10	MIKE DELANY				
				WILLI HEINZ (C)	9	SCRUM HALF	9	SONATANE TAKULUA				
				PADDY MCALLISTER	1	LOOSEHEAD PROP	1	ROB VICKERS				
				RICHARD HIBBARD	2	HOOKER	2	SCOTT LAWSON				
				JOHN AFOA	3	TIGHTHEAD PROP	3	JON WELSH				
				TOM SAVAGE	4	LOCK	4	CALUM GREEN				
				MARIANO GALARZA	5	LOCK	5	EVAN OLMSTEAD				
				ROSS MORIARTY	6	BLINDSIDE FLANKER	6	MARK WILSON				
				JACOB ROWAN	7	OPENSIDE FLANKER	7	WILL WELCH (C)				
				BEN MORGAN	8	NUMBER 8	8	ALLY HOGG				
				REPLACEMENTS				REPLACEMENTS				
				DARREN DAWIDIUK	16		16	BEN SOWREY				
				YANN THOMAS	17		17	ALEX ROGERS				
				PAUL DORAN-JONES	18	MATCH OFFICIALS	18	PADDY RYAN				
				JOE LATTA	19	REFEREE: Dean Richards	19	WILL WITTY				
				GARETH EVANS	20	ASSISTANT REFEREES: Andrew Jackson & Jonathan Healy	20	DANIEL TEMM				
				GREIG LAIDLAW	21		21	MICHAEL YOUNG				
				JAMES HOOK	22		22	JOEL HODGSON				
				BILLY TWELVETREES	23		23	BELISARIO AGULLA				