

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



GLOUCESTER RUGBY

VERSUS
BATH RUGBY

ISSUE 4 || AVIVA PREMIERSHIP RUGBY
SATURDAY 1 OCTOBER 2016 || £3



CAPTAIN'S CORNER

GREIG LAIDLAW



GOOD AFTERNOON AND WELCOME TO KINGSHOLM FOR THE WEST COUNTRY DERBY MATCH WITH BATH RUGBY.

This week has been a tough one for the squad, as we know that last time out we let ourselves and our supporters down and there has been a real determination and steel this week to put things right when we pull this jersey on.

Rightly so, supporters were disappointed with last weekend's showing against a Newcastle side who executed their game plan well on the day. For our part, the biggest frustration is that we created chances but we just weren't accurate and clinical enough.

We feel, however, that this squad is capable of great things, and as captain I am excited to lead us as we strive to fulfil our potential and find the consistency in performance to improve and help us climb up the table.

It is a real squad effort and I have been pleased with the reaction that the boys have shown since last weekend, and there is a definite drive and passion within the group to show our true colours.

The way the game is analysed now, every result and performance is put under the microscope, and we are fully aware of the areas where we were below par last weekend, and the training pitch this week has been a busy place with every single member of the squad

getting everything they can from each session.

The coaching team put a lot of belief in us as players, and we are the ones who pull the shirt on and run out at the weekend. But, that said, one bad result doesn't make us a bad team. We have to look at the elements of the game that saw us progress at Sale a fortnight ago, and bring them into this weekend.

This weekend sees us preparing for possibly the highlight of the fixture calendar, the West Country derby, and what an exciting challenge lies ahead this afternoon.

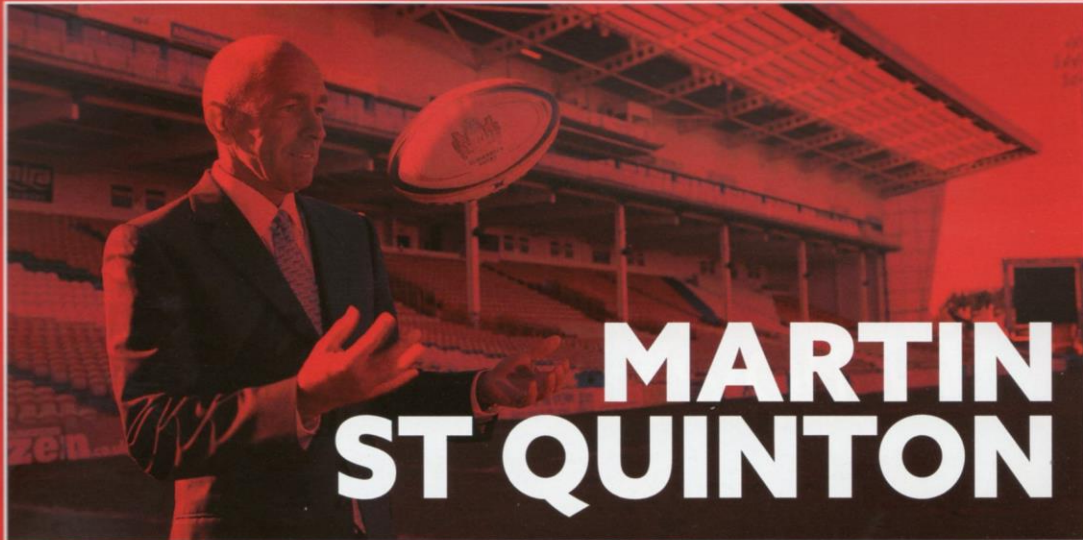
Todd Blackadder has come in at The Rec, and Bath have had a bright start to the season and will come to Kingsholm full of confidence. But that excites us as a squad, we have to stand up tall, dust ourselves off and meet the challenge ahead of us. We have to find the confidence that has seen us play some excellent rugby at times this season, and do everything we can to get our fans on our side and roaring us on.

The backing that we receive from our supporters is second to none, we have to provide the exciting, passionate and drive in our performance to give our supporters belief in us.

So, it goes without saying, your support is massive and this weekend we need a wall of noise to drive us on to a positive result. This game means so much to all of us and we all want it to be a big week for the whole club.

Enjoy the game!

Greig



Good afternoon and welcome to Kingsholm for what is always one of the most keenly anticipated fixtures of the season.

We are very fortunate that the matchday atmosphere here at Kingsholm is always fantastic, but it always goes up a notch when Bath come to town.

Like everyone else, I was desperately disappointed with the performance and result against Newcastle last weekend. Coming off the back of such a good win at Sale the week before, we were well positioned to cement a place in the top six.

But it just didn't happen. We didn't perform anywhere near our best and in the Aviva Premiership if you put in a below par performance then you get punished.

I listened to David Humphreys and the players after the game. They made no excuses, they knew it wasn't good enough and I know that they've been working hard on the training ground to put things right.

And there would be no better

timing to put things right than a home game against one of our oldest rivals to deliver a complete performance.

One aspect of matchday last weekend that I was happy about, however, was the opening of the new Fanzone next to the Lion's Den.

We are always looking at ways to improve the matchday experience for our supporters, and it was terrific to see the Fanzone open after a lot of work over the summer to get it ready.

I was especially pleased to see the old goal posts again. Since we took the posts down last year ahead of Rugby World Cup, I've been asked many times what we're planning

to do with them and I've had to maintain a discrete silence.

I think they make a real focal point over there, certainly judging by the number of supporters who were having their pictures taken next to them on matchday. The posts form an important part of the Kingsholm heritage and I'm delighted that we could incorporate them into our plans.

Overall it was very heartening to see so many people responding positively to the new development and I'm sure it will be even busier today - hopefully, full of our supporters after the game toasting a Gloucester win!

Martin



GOOD AFTERNOON AND WELCOME BACK TO KINGSHOLM FOR ONE OF THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE AVIVA PREMIERSHIP FIXTURE CALENDAR - THE GLOUCESTER VS BATH DERBY.

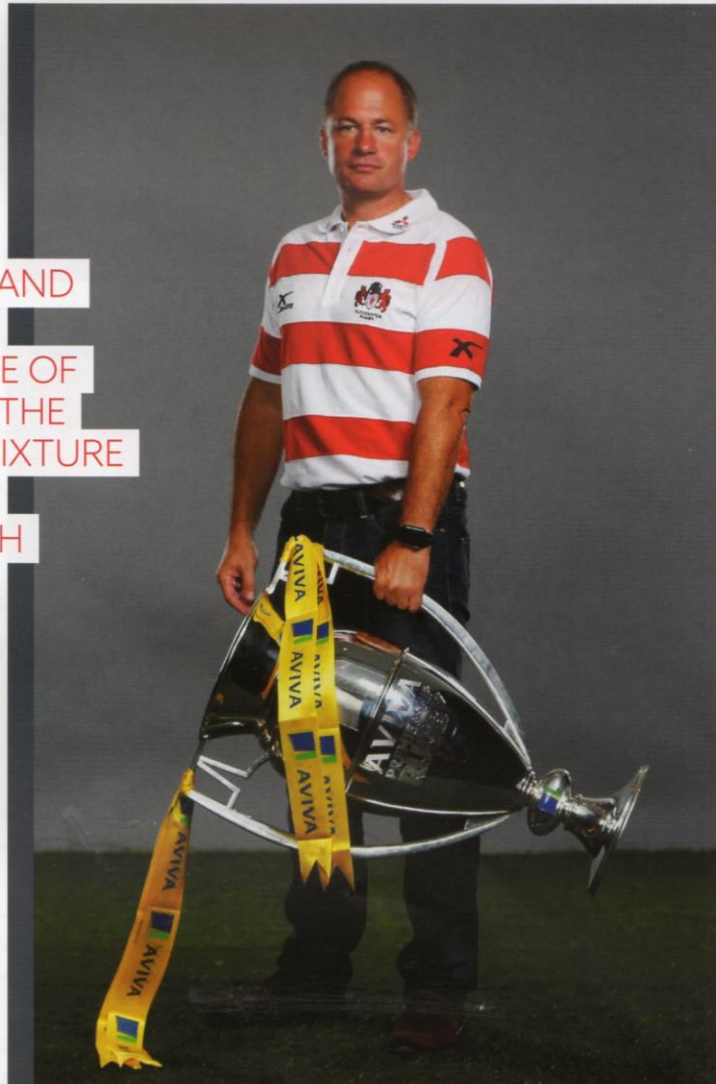
I was well aware of the history and importance of this derby long before I arrived at the Club, but the past couple of seasons have shown me how much every Gloucester supporter looks forward to Bath coming to Kingsholm.

It's something that Todd Blackadder is going to experience for the first time this afternoon and I'd like to wish him, the Bath players, staff and supporters a warm welcome.

Today's game is even more significant after the disappointing result against Newcastle last week. After a really good win in Sale the previous weekend, we let everyone down with our performance back at Kingsholm. There are no excuses, we played poorly and lacked a physical edge in every aspect of our game.

Having dominated possession and territory throughout the match, we should still have won the game, but Newcastle deserve real credit for their defence and the ability to take the two try scoring opportunities they created in 80 minutes.

It was a tough couple of days training back at Hartpury College but the beauty of sport is that we get another chance today to move on from last weekend.



On derby day, form goes out the window to a certain extent but I can guarantee that you will see a massively committed Gloucester team determined to bounce back from an inconsistent start to the season.

Like every club in the Premiership, the depth of our squad is being tested at this early stage of the season due to injuries. The good news is that some of our international players are on course to return over the next few weeks which will be important as other players head

away to play international rugby during the November window.

Today, victory will have to be earned. Against a very good Bath team, we will have to be at our best for 80 minutes to give you something to celebrate at the final whistle but a loud, passionate and intimidating Kingsholm for the visit of our biggest rivals is a good starting point!

Thank you for your support and enjoy the game.

David



VIEW FROM THE

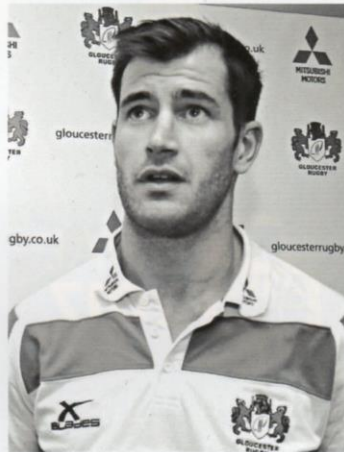
GLOUCESTER Citizen



Mark Atkinson has said Gloucester can't put their derby-day clash with Bath up on a pedestal despite two home defeats from two so far this season.

Gloucester are without a victory at Kingsholm in their past three competitive fixtures on home soil – including their final-day defeat to Northampton in the Premiership last term – and are now preparing for a mammoth test against their in-form rivals.

They have been in this position before, however – having gone



through a run of inconsistent performances and results before peaking when the big occasions call for it.

Gloucester defeated Bath away last season. Despite Bath's defeat at Welford Road on Sunday, Gloucester's recent defeats to Leicester and Newcastle Falcons does give this week's latest West Country instalment added an unavoidable expectation.

"We have had some good performances and everyone has been happy in parts," Atkinson said. "We thought we had built on



that for two weeks and, as a squad, we just have to put this defeat (against Newcastle) behind us.

"There is no point lingering on what's happened now. We will analyse it and be critical of ourselves but, by Monday, we only have four more days to prepare for Bath.

"The frustrating thing is that we know we can beat anyone in the league. We know where we need to get to and need to keep building. Performances like the one (against Newcastle) don't really help with that."

Atkinson has been preferred instead of Billy Twelvetrees during the past fortnight, partnering Matt Scott from 12 first in the victory away to Sale before the nightmarish disappointment at home to Newcastle.

While centre signing Andy Symons has been sidelined with an injury, Atkinson says he has no issue



with the midfield chopping and changing although recognises the team needs to find a better way of turning gilt-edge opportunities into points.

"We did loads of good stuff with the ball and went through the phases but it's about that bit of top-end skill required to beat anyone in this league," Atkinson said of the defeat to the Falcons.

"You take one chance in that game and we are all stood here saying that we have got away with a win.

"You have a lot of tactics going into the game and the key message was to stay calm while, at times, we made a few uncharacteristic

errors. In the end, we simply ran out of time.

"That's the major frustration in that, of all the chances we had, all we needed to do was take one and the game would have been ours.

"We put ourselves under pressure at times when we possibly didn't need to. Those are things we will take into next week and everyone is looking forward to the challenge.

"There's no bigger game than against Bath at home. But we have to see it as just another game for us really. While Bath are a good side, we know there will be high expectations from the crowd."

GREAT PLAYERS FROM THE GLOUCESTER BACK ROW

PART TWO

The Thirties and Forties



JACK HEMMING

Jack played his local rugby for a team called Gordon Wanderers, and made his debut for Gloucester on 8 December 1923 against Clifton. He only appeared in two more games for the firsts that season, but played 23 games for the 'A' team. However, from the start of the following season he was a regular in the back row appearing 34 times and scoring eight tries.

In October 1925, Jack had an outstanding game against Bristol, which seemed to impress the county selectors, and he made his first Gloucestershire appearance against Cornwall in December. He held his place and the county had a good run through to the semi-final but lost to Hampshire at Southampton.

On 19 October 1929 Jack was a member of the Gloucester team which won at Cardiff for the first time since 1898. By this time he had lost his place in the county team but was recalled during the

1931-32 campaign, and played in the Championship final against Durham played in poor conditions on a windy day. Gloucestershire won 9-3.

The following season saw Jack lose some form, and by the end of it he was playing several games for Cinderford. He had played 267 times for Gloucester.

PETER HORDERN

Peter, although a flanker or number 8, was very versatile and could also play at prop, and on a couple of occasions in an emergency turned out at full-back for the Barbarians. He gained four England caps, and played his county rugby for Devon, North Midlands and Hampshire. For Gloucester he made 91 appearances and scored 20 tries. He played a remarkable 19 times for the Barbarians.



Peter Hordern was born on 13 May 1907, and was the brother of the actor Michael Hordern. In 1928 he won an Oxford blue in his final year. A teacher, he obtained a post at

Monmouth High School, and played for Newport from 1929 to 1932. In the 1931-32 season he appeared for the club against the South African tourists and for the Barbarians against Leicester.

He won the first three of his England caps in 1931, and did not join Gloucester until the start of the 1932-33 season, after moving to teach at Bromsgrove School, although he had appeared as a guest player twice in the 1929-30 season.

His final cap was gained against Wales in 1934. From 1935 to 1937 he was the Gloucester pack leader. By now he was playing county rugby for Hampshire and was a member of the team which won the Championship in 1936.

At the end of the 1936-37 season Peter retired and was for some years a referee. In WW2 he was squadron leader and in 1954 was promoted to Wing Commander. He died on 22 June 1988.

LES SAXBY

Les Saxby was born on 19 May 1900, and from 1921 to 1926 played for and captained Hereford. Whilst there he played county rugby for North Midlands in the centre. Although still a Hereford player, he guested for Gloucester against Cheltenham in April 1924, and then played three games on the annual tour.

He appeared in a few more games the following two seasons before fully committing to Gloucester in 1926. By now he was playing in the back row. He was so impressive in those early games that he was soon selected for the county against Somerset in November.

Les was a born leader. He captained Gloucester from 1927 to 1930 and again in 1931-32. In addition, he captained Gloucestershire in 1931-1932. The county won the championship three seasons running from 1930 to 1932, and Les appeared in all three finals, scoring a try against Warwickshire in the final of 1931.



Indeed, the 1931-32 season was a season of triumph for Les. Not only did he lead the county to success, he also captained Gloucestershire and Somerset against the Springboks. His performance in this game was such that he was selected to play, and captain, the Rest against England in the final trial game. The Rest won 16-6, and Les won his first cap as the England pack leader against South Africa. He also played against Wales, and went on the Easter tour of Wales with the Barbarians.

He retired at the end of the season, having played 169 times for the club and scored 30 tries.

When war broke out in 1939 Les joined the RAF and was attached to the South African Air Force. He decided to stay on after the war and died there at the age of 58.

JOHN THORNTON

If ever there was a player whose career was ruined by the war, John Thornton was that man. He was an

aggressive, fast and mobile flanker who broke into the Gloucester team in the second half of the 1938-39 season. He was recognised as a great prospect for the future, but the war cruelly ended the dream.



However, he did play in war-time internationals against Scotland, Wales, New Zealand and Australia, and three "Victory" internationals in 1946, against Scotland twice and Wales. In addition, he played for the RAF & Combined Services team against New Zealand.

He appeared in all Gloucestershire's games in 1946-47, where they reached the final against Lancashire which proved to be a draw, but perhaps surprisingly in the replay at Kingsholm, Lancashire triumphed 13-3.

In 1947 he stopped playing for Gloucester due to business commitments, but did re-appear for just one game against Moseley in November 1949.

He later became the landlord of the "Marquis of Granby" pub in Eastgate Street. John died aged 75 in September 1992.

CHARLIE DUNN

Charlie made his debut for Gloucester on 29 September 1945, in the first game played after the war, against old rivals Bristol. He

had pace and his first try was not long coming against Stroud on 27 October, and followed that up with a brace against Moseley in December.



He was a versatile player who could play at fly-half, on the wing or even at prop, but he was first and foremost a flanker. He was a character and known as "Jigger" Dunn.

Charlie played five full seasons for the club and in all made 157 appearances and scored 31 tries. It is perhaps surprising that he only played four times for the county. In his first game against Somerset in December 1948 he scored a try showing great pace, and then was in the team which beat Middlesex in the semi-final, only to be dropped for the final!

On leaving Gloucester in 1951, Charlie went on to play for Coney Hill.

GLOUCESTER RUGBY
HERITAGE

www.gloucesterrugbyheritage.org.uk



NOW IN HIS THIRD SEASON IN CHERRY AND WHITE, JOHN AFOA HAS PROVED TO BE A REAL CORNERSTONE IN THE GLOUCESTER PACK, BUT THE KIWI STAR REVEALS HE IS ALWAYS LOOKING FOR IMPROVEMENTS IN ALL AREAS.

BRING IT ON





No matter which corner of the globe you come from, the West Country derby is a major week for those that are fortunate enough to pull on the Cherry and White hoops, and for Afoa it is no different.

"I think playing Bath gets a lot of attention from the fans, and a lot of time for the players, it is where we are looking to concentrate on the week, no matter who the opponents are.

"But when we play Bath and the local teams, there is always a little bit more about our week."

Afoa has had a strong personal start to the new campaign, with the team stuttering slightly to sit in seventh after four tough encounters to date and, after a disappointing defeat to Newcastle at Kingsholm last time out, he knows that Gloucester have to show their true class this weekend.



"We played far from our best, and we were bitterly disappointed to lose, we did so well in the fight up at Sale, we wanted to go for back to back wins and we didn't do that."

"We now really need to pick up points over the next so many weeks just to see us shoot up the table."

After a number of years representing the Blues in Super Rugby, Afoa knows the quality of coach that Bath now possess from his time in Auckland taking on Todd Blackadder's Crusaders outfit.

"Todd is a great coach, and a good manager of the coaches, and he will have a good understanding of how he wants his side to play and it will be very similar to how they were playing last year."

"Todd will bring a bit of finer detail around that and it has showed this year that they have had a lot of big wins."

"I don't see the game being a massive scoring one, but we have to make sure we are good in and around the tight stuff and really choke their game out."

The all-court game that Afoa has in his arsenal has been evident in the recent weeks, even picking up a well-deserved try in the win at Sale, and the new approach to attack is suiting Afoa's game in the loose.

"We're playing with a bit more width



"The key for us is to make sure that the scrum stays really high and we have equality and we can really lift the line out. Our tackle work and our clean-outs work is in the top tier of our ability."

in our game, and we are spreading the field with players. We have got a good skillset around the forwards and we hope that this could be our point of difference at times.

"We have just got to make sure that our core jobs are done properly, so the scrum and lineout are key and we didn't quite do that well enough against

Newcastle and this effects the way we play around the phases.

"For us this weekend, going into Bath, our core jobs have to be on point in the forwards and it's going to be a big scrum battle, a big lineout drive battle and our defence around the fringes is going to be tough."

"We've got to make sure we do that well first, and if the space opens up then we have to earn the right to play."

The Gloucester scrum is obviously Afoa's main focus, and the set piece is showing a steady improvement.

"I think on our ball, the work at the scrum has been very good. We've been able to get the ball in, get a good strike in and get it at the number eight's feet and we can try and work afterwards."

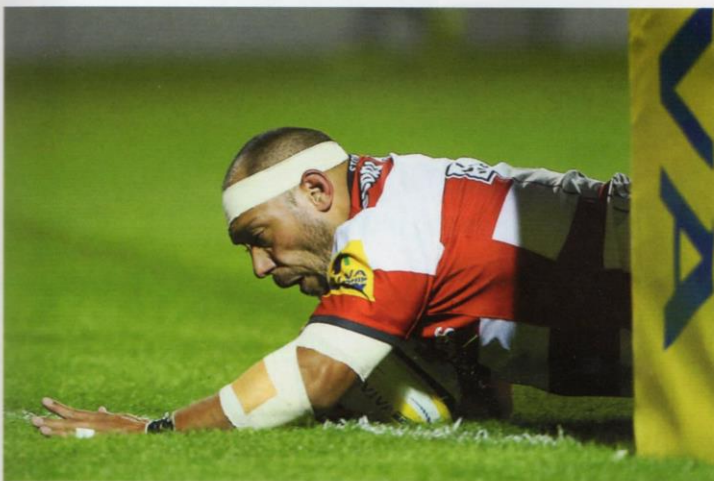
"We did have a slight hiccup against Worcester on opposition ball, but we've been reasonably happy with it."

"The key for us is to make sure that the scrum stays really high and we have equality and we can really lift the line out. Our tackle work and our clean-outs work is in the top tier of our ability."

It's often never easy to know the right way to react after a difficult defeat, but the disappointment in the squad is clear to see. However, the beauty of rugby is that there is always a chance to put things right the following week, as Afoa knows well.

"You can't get dragged down by any game. If it is a loss like the game against Newcastle, or a good win, you can't get too carried away. We grabbed what we needed to do out of that game, had a look at how we played and turned our focus to Bath."

"We looked at what they will bring, and then a lot on what we can bring to put us in the best possible position to get a result on Saturday."





KINGSHOLM NEWS

with

Bob Fenton

So I missed last weekend's run around here at Kingsholm, I was down at the Eden Centre in Cornwall at a friend's - and a fellow Gloucester fan - wedding. Twitter is a wonderful medium for keeping up with things though. As every one assembled for the ceremony I thought I was managing to be reasonably discrete with the occasional glance at my phone.

Things overran a bit, and a few seconds before the bride arrived, I had the groom wandering over to check the score. I think he wished he hadn't asked... But then his brother is a Bristol fan - we think we've got problems!

Not having been here I can't really comment on the performance, so asked a few people for a few words on the high spots, it kind of went like this:

1. Ross Moriarty's try
2. Errr...
3. That's it.

For all sorts of reasons, games do not come bigger than this one today. Leaving aside the traditional rivalry between Bath and Gloucester, ours is a team in need of a home win. Two games played at Kingsholm and both ending in a defeat for the home side is not what we - players, supporters, management, programme copy writers - signed up for.

But that's the way sport goes isn't it - you can take nothing



for granted - who would have tipped Harlequins to overturn Saracens last weekend? Bath have been in a rich vein of form but got a bit of a thumping at Leicester last week. They'll be wanting to bounce back and many experts will no doubt be tipping them to leave here with the spoils.

But this is sport, and you can't take anything for granted. Our boys will be equally fired up and will be wanting to right the wrongs of last week - and like I said earlier, this is THE big game, and what better in which to show what we are capable of?

Those same experts, and their predecessors have consistently tipped Bath to beat us every time we played them in recent times. We've seen some great 'backs to the wall' performances that have upset the odds. We could do with some of that today, heaven knows we all need a bit of a lift, especially going into a couple of tough away games.

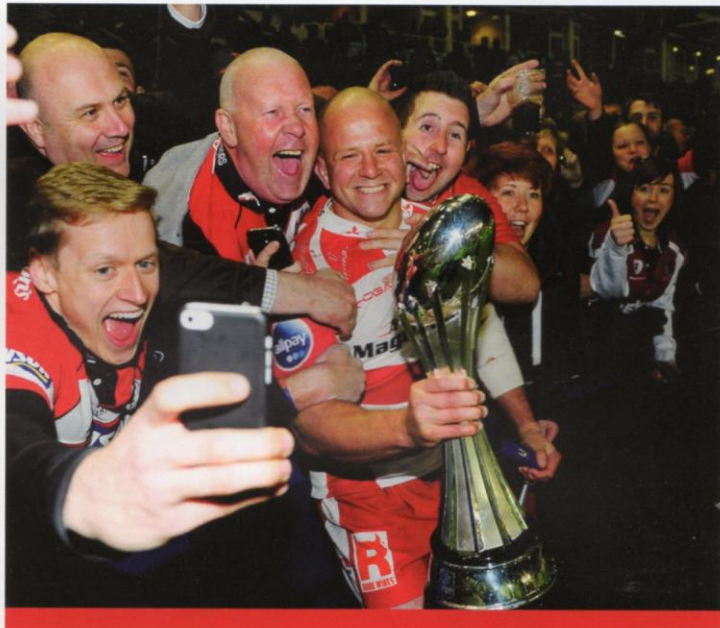
While the first team may be away from holm for a bit, we do have some interesting rugby to look forward to next weekend with this Hybrid Cup thing taking place as part of the Kingsholm 125 celebrations.

It should be a bit of fun, unless my memory is playing tricks on me the last time a game like this happened involved our opponents today playing Wigan in a 'half-and-half' game.

We've got some great names from the past who will be turning out for us - hopefully we will see Sinbad pulling on a Gloucester jersey again, along with Nick Wood. With Nick leaving the club during the summer this will be a great chance for supporters to give him a bit of a send off that he otherwise wouldn't have got. Having been such a terrific servant to the club, if anyone deserves a good send off, it's him.

Also coming back to stride the Kingsholm stage like a visiting colossus, is a real life visiting colossus - Olivier Azam. Olly was a massive cult hero at Kingsholm, turning up after being plucked from obscurity by Philippe Saint-Andre.

Back then the good old Shedhead fanzine was in full flow, so we sent someone who could speak a little French along to ask him a bunch of questions. I have vivid memories of one of his answers getting a bit lost in translation - we quoted him saying that he '... wanted to be the best hooker in the world...' Accuracy was not one of our strong points, to be fair!



"With Nick leaving the club during the summer this will be a great chance for supporters to give him a bit of a send off that he otherwise wouldn't have got."

It would have been a game like today's that would have got Olly firing on all cylinders and ripping into the opposition. Sometimes they might have even had the ball when he hit them! We could do with some of the Azam spirit today - he would get everyone fired up and taking a backward step was something that he would never do.

Finally, a bit of family news... A couple of weeks ago my number one son was home for a weekend, all good - great to see my grandson and all that. We're sitting watching some rugby on the TV, having a beer and a chat. Then, out of the blue he comes out with something that was beyond anything that I might have expected.

"I think I am becoming something of a Leicester Tigers fan," he says. Now I know that the company he works for is the main sponsor of said Tigers, I know he went to University in Leicester and still lives in the area. So, I took all of this into consideration before I did anything else. And then I did exactly what you would expect - took him out of my will, chucked him out of the house etc etc.

To be fair though, it could have been worse: he might have told me that he was becoming a Bath fan!



RANDALL on RUGBY



WELCOME BATH.

The sharp witted banter between supporters will have gone up a notch this week ahead of one of the most eagerly anticipated fixtures of the season, and unlike some other sports where draws are far more commonplace, emotions here tend not to occupy any middle ground. Victory is triumphantly celebrated, defeat painfully received, literally so in the case of Gareth Evans on April 12th 2014.

"The game was almost at half time and I was out wide" he explained.

"Matt Garvey was in front of me, and I tried to go on his outside. Where I was trying to stay in play all the weight was through my right

leg as he tackled me into touch. I felt a tweak, the referee blew up and I hobbled into the dressing room. I was a bit sore and so did various tests, the last one of which was hopping on one leg. It hurt but I didn't feel it was that bad. Bob Stewart looked at me and said he didn't want to risk me going out again, so I stayed in the physio room with ice on my knee and watched the chaos unfold in the second half. By the end the knee had blown up, so it was just as well I didn't continue."

"WHERE I WAS TRYING TO STAY IN PLAY ALL THE WEIGHT WAS THROUGH MY RIGHT LEG AS HE TACKLED ME INTO TOUCH."



The chaos Gareth referred to was the indiscipline way in which the game ended. Sila Puafisi and Tavis Knoyle were sent off and Mike Tindall and Huia Edmonds had been yellow carded. His ACL injury put the tin hat on things from a Gloucester perspective, and Evans is keen to be involved in a first win over Bath after four previous defeats.

"I played my mini's rugby at Wootton Bassett with Jonny May," the 25 year old explained.

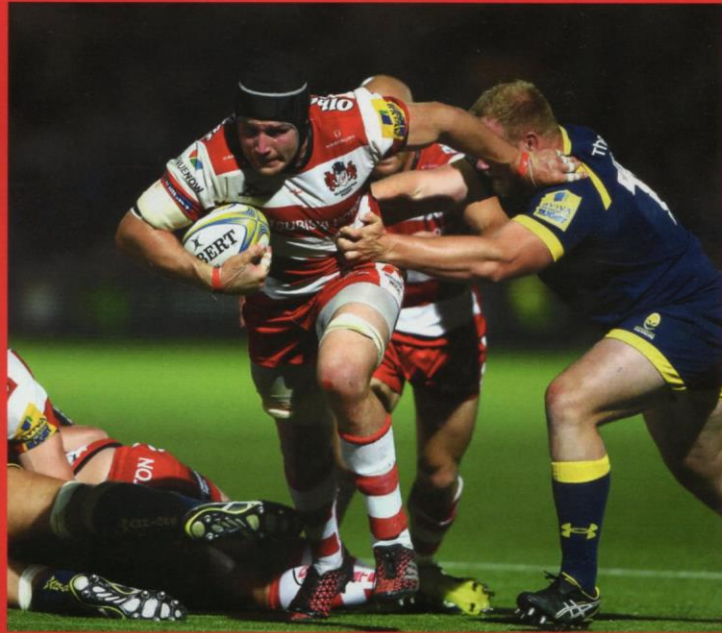
"There are two school years between us but I played in higher age groups. Because there isn't much rugby in the Swindon area as you get older, my parents would take me training in tandem to Bath and to the Dragons. Any sessions for Wales schoolboys were two hours each way in the car. When I reached 16 some of the lads at Bath said they had told the coach at Hartpury about me and I had to go there. The rest is history."

Evans speaks warmly about his parents. It's poignant, as his mother passed away earlier this year. Now in the last season of his current contract, Gareth knows it is an important time as he tries maintain his USP in the Gloucester squad.

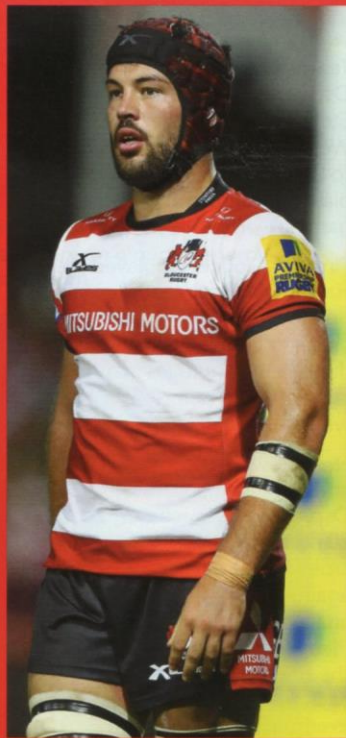
"It's a big year because the more I can play and perform, the more bargaining chips I have," Evans went on.

"If you compare Ben Morgan and I, he's more than a stone heavier, and in those close quarter carries he is going to have an advantage. He is seriously strong, and a power athlete, so purely in terms of physics he has the edge but with that comes a limit on how often you can repeat skills.

"I would like to think I'm a bit more agile and with more pace, so my selling point has to be using that agility over a longer period. I have to offer an alternative while ticking all the boxes that someone in my position must do when playing in the Premiership."



"IF YOU COMPARE BEN MORGAN AND I, HE'S MORE THAN A STONE HEAVIER, AND IN THOSE CLOSE QUARTER CARRIES HE IS GOING TO HAVE AN ADVANTAGE."



As for a form guide, Bath's defeat at Leicester was their worst away from home in the Premiership for nearly four years, while Gloucester spluttered their way through the game here against Newcastle and finished with a solitary point. Watching the television highlights there was audible disquiet at full time, but then Gloucester have lifted themselves from disjointed displays in short order before for games like this, and Evans knows an improvement is needed.

"Even when I started there were a handful of games in a season that you would back yourselves to win comfortably, but now the margins are getting much smaller," he concluded.

You only have to see Northampton languishing in 10th place in the table to understand that, and to see Harlequins overturn the seemingly imperious Saracens. Last week's results make today's game no easier to call than usual.

Harlequins 22 Gloucester United 8



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A week after dogging out an excellent A League victory over Saracens Storm, Gloucester United were brought back to earth with a bump following a 22-8 defeat against Harlequins at the Twickenham Stoop.

A young United side battled valiantly on the night, but were facing an opponent who boasted a wealth of first team experience with a British & Irish Lion in the front row and two internationals in the backs.

Even when reduced to 14 men following the dismissal of Lloyd Evans, Gloucester dug deep and actually scored their only try of the evening following the red card, but Quins had just too much quality on the night.

The Cherry and Whites were able to keep the home side at bay for the first quarter, but then fell behind to a James Lang penalty. The Quins fly-half then converted Joe Gray's try after a well-worked catch and drive.

The same tactic led indirectly to the second try. Gloucester infringed as they brought the maul down and experienced scrum-half Karl Dickson caught the defence napping with a quickly taken tap penalty to slide over.

Evans got the scoreboard moving with a penalty just before half-time but was shown the red card on 50 minutes following an off the ball scuffle with Lang.

Gloucester showed great spirit while down to 14 men and Elliott Creed provided a brief glimmer of hope when he scored following several phases of play.

However, the door was slammed well and truly shut when replacement Harry Hudson scored Quins' third try following a quick tap by skipper Matt Hopper.



GLOUCESTER UNITED:

15. Mat Protheroe; 14. David Halaifonua, 13. Tom Hudson, 12. Elliott Creed, 11. Ben Vellacott; 10. Lloyd Evans, 9. Callum Braley (capt); 1. Cameron Orr, 2. Greg Jackson, 3. Nicky Thomas; 4. Joe Batley, 5. Tom Denton; 6. Freddie Clarke, 7. Dan Thomas, 8. Charlie Beckett

Replacements: 16. Will Haly, 17. Ciaran Knight, 18. Josh McNulty, 19. Alex Craig, 20. Harry Wilson, 21. Harry Randall, 22. Tom Seabrook, 23. Will Safe

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13

Gloucester Rugby

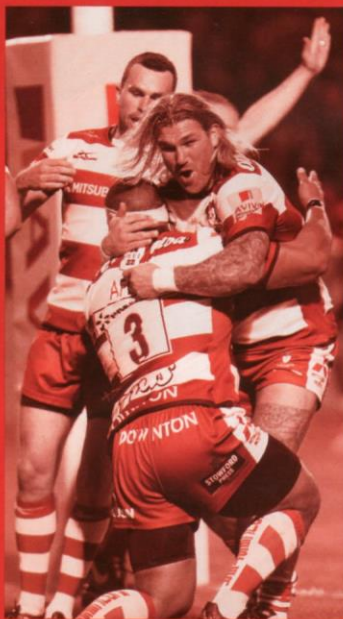
Tries: Sharples, Afoa. Conversions: Laidlaw (2). Penalties: Laidlaw (4)

26

Sale away was Gloucester's bogey fixture for years. Whether it be Heywood Road or, more recently, the AJ Bell Stadium, the Cherry and Whites just couldn't get a result in the North-West.

That was until April 2016, when Gloucester dogged out a 12-11 triumph, the first win away at Sale since 2001. Then, wouldn't you believe it, they went and made it two in a row with a 26-13 victory a fortnight ago.

Thankfully, this one was a bit less stressful than last season's affair, Gloucester taking a first half lead and, despite a second half fightback from the home side, keeping their noses in front until the final whistle.



- 15 McGuigan
- 14 Addison 1P
- 13 James 1T ▼
- 12 Leota
- 11 Odogwu
- 10 Mugford ▼
- 9 Phillips
- 1 Lewis-Roberts ▼
- 2 Briggs
- 3 'Aullka ▼
- 4 Evans ▼
- 5 Mills ▼
- 6 Neild 1T
- 7 Seymour ▼
- 8 Beaumont

Replacements used:
Harrison,
Longbottom,
Ostrikov, Lund,
Pearce, Stringer,
Edwards.

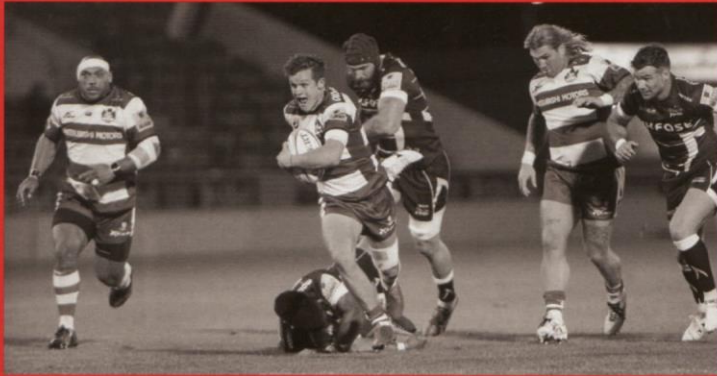
- 15 Marshall
- 14 Sharples 1T
- 13 Scott
- 12 Atkinson ▼
- 11 Purdy
- 10 Burns
- 9 Laidlaw 2C, 4P
- 1 Y Thomas ▼
- 2 Hibbard ▼
- 3 Afoa 1T ▼
- 4 Savage ▼
- 5 Latta
- 6 Ludlow
- 7 Kvesic
- 8 Morgan

Replacements used:
Dawidiuk, Orr, Doran-
Jones, Evans, Rowan,
Twelvetrees.

It was an important result for Gloucester who came into the game thinking that they should have won their first two fixtures of the Aviva Premiership season, but only had a draw and narrow defeat to show for their efforts.

Two excellent first half tries set them on their way, and then it was over to the ultra-reliable goal-kicking of Greig Laidlaw to keep the Sharks at arms length and secure the win.

Gloucester made light of the absences of Mariano Galarza and Ross Moriarty and got off to a flyer. Billy Burns spotted a prop in the defensive line, jinked around him and offloaded to the supporting John Afoa for the game's opening try.



Sale hit back with a try of their own after some good continuity, and the respective kickers swapped penalties before Gloucester struck with a peach of a try just before half time.

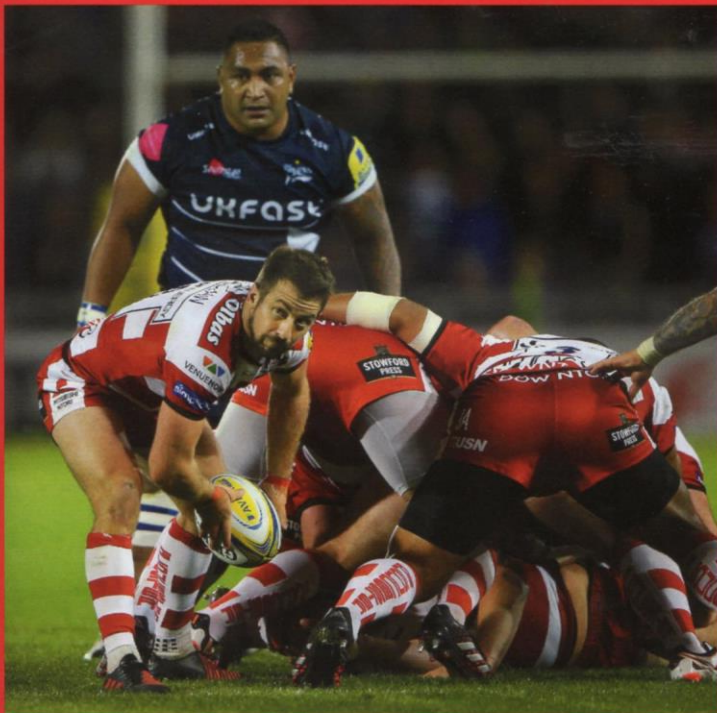
Ben Morgan made the incisive break, Gloucester stayed patient for a couple of phases before Tom Marshall rolled a perfectly weighted grubber through for Charlie Sharples to dot down.

So, a decent 17-8 lead for Gloucester at half time and they looked to be coping well with the

anticipated Sale comeback until a well-executed catch and drive resulted in a try for Cameron Neild.

Gloucester could have wobbled but that was as close as the Sharks got. The Gloucester playmakers made the right decisions at the right times, kept Sale pinned back and eventually forced penalties as the home team's desperation grew.

Greig Laidlaw had three kickable chances and took the lot. 26-13 the final scoreline and a very happy coach ride back to Kingsholm!



APPLYING THE LAW WITH



Official Legal Partner

Very few contentious issues for referee Ian Tempest to deal with on the night, not even a TMO referral or need to check an incident on the big screens.

Gloucester were penalised a few times in the first half, Sale were under more pressure in the second and conceded a few kickable ones.

They say a referee's had a good game when you don't notice him, and that seemed to be the case in Salford.



DIRECTOR OF RUGBY

DAVID HUMPHREYS

"I was delighted to come somewhere as tough as this and get a win.

"People forget we've 12 players unavailable - we talk a lot about the depth of the squad, we know the depth of the squad is going to be tested across the course of the season.

"Tonight the players that came up did a fantastic job, and came away with what is, obviously in this competition, a hugely important win - especially in light of the last two weeks."

ACTION REPLAY || SATURDAY 24 SEPTEMBER || KINGSHOLM || ATT 12,050

Gloucester Rugby 13

Tries: Moriarty. Conversions: Burns. Penalties: Burns, Laidlaw

Newcastle Falcons 18

Tries: Waldouck, Tait. Conversions: Delany. Penalties: Delaney (2)



Having taken a draw and a win from their two games on the road leading into this game, Gloucester were well positioned to cement a place in the top 6 of the Aviva Premiership table.

However, Newcastle hadn't read the script and produced a performance of real resilience, soaking up a ton of early pressure before swooping in the second half to snatch a vital win on the road.

It was a deeply frustrating afternoon for a Gloucester side who, in hindsight, will feel that they very much contributed to their own downfall.

The Cherry and Whites overcame the concession of a relatively soft early try to get back on the



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

Replacements used:

Orr, Doran-Jones, Latta, Evans, Laidlaw 1P, Hook, Twelvetrees.



- 15 Hammersley ▼
- 14 Tait 1T
- 13 Waldouck 1T
- 12 Socino
- 11 Sinoti
- 10 Delany 1C, 2P
- 9 Takulua ▼
- 1 Vickers ▼
- 2 Lawson
- 3 Welsh
- 4 Green ▼
- 5 Olmstead
- 6 Wilson
- 7 Welch
- 8 Hogg

Replacements used: Rogers, Witty, Young, Hodgson, Agulla.

front foot and take a deserved lead. However, crucially, they couldn't add to the lead in the second quarter of the first half despite enjoying the majority of possession and territory.

This was also the name of the game in the first 20 minutes of the second half. Gloucester laid siege to the Newcastle line, but the men in black defended gallantly. Their defence buckled but simply refused to break.

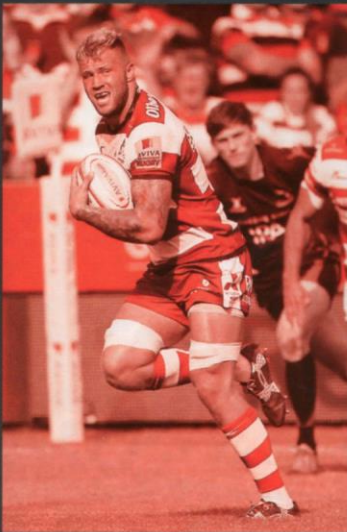
The longer this state of affairs continued, the more the feeling grew that Newcastle would, having absorbed so much pressure, move downfield and nick a vital score. They duly did so. Mike Delany kicked a penalty after a collapsed scrum before, with Gloucester



visibly rocked, Alex Tait pounced for a vital try.

Gloucester regrouped in the latter stages and Greig Laidlaw provided a ray of hope with a late penalty, but Newcastle managed the latter stages efficiently to run out the clock and close out the win.

The Cherry and Whites started well, but found themselves trailing when they turned over possession in their own 22 and quick hands put Dominic Waldouck in for the game's opening try.



Lovely hands from Billy Burns sent Ross Moriarty steaming through to level matters, before Burns nudged Gloucester in front with a penalty. From that moment on though, it was a case of missed opportunities as Gloucester created chances but either fumbled or kicked away possession.

Delany contributed penalties for Newcastle either side of half time to edge Newcastle in front, and Tait's good finish was a body blow.

Club captain Greig Laidlaw got Gloucester into losing bonus point range with a late penalty, but it was as close as Gloucester got as they were left to reflect on what might have been.

APPLYING THE LAW WITH



Official Legal Partner

The cynical amongst us, or those with a sense of humour, would have thought Gloucester would be against it with a referee sharing the same name as the Newcastle DoR.

However, Dean Richards had a fairly quiet and uneventful day. No cards, only one referral to the TMO and no controversial incidents.



DIRECTOR OF RUGBY

DAVID HUMPHREYS

"Today, we dominated territory and possession but then we dropped the ball and kicked the ball away. I'm bitterly disappointed.

"In this competition, these opportunities have to be taken and credit to Newcastle, they took their opportunities.

"At key moments in the game, we lost line-outs when we could have put Newcastle under pressure. They defended and absorbed brilliantly."



TEAM LINE-UPS



SATURDAY 1 OCTOBER
AVIVA PREMIERSHIP
RUGBY ROUND FIVE

T P C D							T P C D					
				JAMES HOOK	15	FULLBACK	15	TOM HOMER				
				CHARLIE SHARPLES	14	RIGHT WING	14	SEMESA ROKODUGUNI				
				BILLY TWELVETREES	13	OUTSIDE CENTRE	13	ALED BREW				
				MARK ATKINSON	12	INSIDE CENTRE	12	MATT BANAHAN				
				HENRY PURDY	11	LEFT WING	11	ANTHONY WATSON				
				BILLY BURNS	10	FLY-HALF	10	GEORGE FORD				
				GREIG LAIDLAW (C)	9	SCRUM HALF	9	KAHN FOTUALI'I				
				PADDY MCALLISTER	1	LOOSEHEAD PROP	1	NATHAN CATT				
				RICHARD HIBBARD	2	HOOKER	2	TOM DUNN				
				JOHN AFOA	3	TIGHTHEAD PROP	3	HENRY THOMAS				
				TOM SAVAGE	4	LOCK	4	CHARLIE EWELS				
				MARIANO GALARZA	5	LOCK	5	ELLIOTT STOOKE				
				ROSS MORIARTY	6	BLINDSIDE FLANKER	6	MATT GARVEY				
				JACOB ROWAN	7	OPENSIDE FLANKER	7	TOM ELLIS				
				BEN MORGAN	8	NUMBER 8	8	LEROY HOUSTON				
				REPLACEMENTS				REPLACEMENTS				
				DARREN DAWIDIUK	16		16	ROSS BATTY				
				YANN THOMAS	17		17	NICK AUTERAC				
				PAUL DORAN-JONES	18	MATCH OFFICIALS	18	MAX LAHIFF				
				JOE LATTA	19	REFEREE:	19	DAVE ATTWOOD				
				MATT KVESIC	20	JP Doyle	20	ZACH MERCER				
				WILLI HEINZ	21	ASSISTANT REFEREES:	21	CHRIS COOK				
				MATT SCOTT	22	Ross Campbell	22	RORY JENNINGS				
				DAVID HALAIFONU	23	& Roy Maybank	23	JEFF WILLIAMS				