



CHERRY & WHITES



GLOUCESTER RUGBY v WASPS

GALLAGHER PREMIERSHIP
26 OCTOBER 2019
3.00PM | £3.50





COLUMN SPONSORED BY



CEO

LANCE BRADLEY



GOOD AFTERNOON AND WELCOME TO KINGSHOLM FOR OUR OPENING GALLAGHER PREMIERSHIP FIXTURE OF THE SEASON. IN PARTICULAR, A VERY WARM WELCOME TO THE PLAYERS, STAFF AND SUPPORTERS OF WASPS RUGBY.

It seems we've been waiting ages for Premiership rugby to return to Kingsholm, and it's great that it's finally here.

Our league season got off to a good start last weekend with a close-fought victory at Sale. If you were one of the hundreds of Gloucester fans who made their way up to Manchester to watch the game, I'd like to say a really big thank you to you – for much of the game it was your voices that could be heard much louder than the home fans, and I know that helped spur the team on.

I thought it was great to see the team fight back from being down at half-time to score a couple of tries and a couple

of penalties in the second half to put us in the lead. People will say we were lucky that Sale missed what seemed an easy kick in front of the posts as the clock went red, but as Gary Player famously said "... the harder you work, the luckier you get."

Our visitors this afternoon endured a disappointing start to their season, losing at home to London Irish, and I'm sure they'll be desperate to make amends this afternoon. It should all make for a cracking contest.

I would also like to take this opportunity to let you know that we will be holding a Fans' Forum in November. It will be a bit different to previous events, as I would like to tell you about the plans we have for the Club over the coming months and years, both on and off the pitch, and the part that you can play in those. There will also be some insight into how we do things, which I hope you'll find fascinating. And, of course, there will be the opportunity for you to ask questions. Full details will be on our website shortly.

I hope you enjoy the game today.

Lance

“ IF YOU WERE ONE OF THE HUNDREDS OF GLOUCESTER FANS WHO MADE THEIR WAY UP TO MANCHESTER TO WATCH THE GAME, I'D LIKE TO SAY A REALLY BIG THANK YOU TO YOU ”



CHAIRMAN

MARTIN ST. QUINTON



GOOD AFTERNOON AND WELCOME ONCE AGAIN TO KINGSHOLM AS WE CONTINUE OUR GALLAGHER PREMIERSHIP CAMPAIGN AT HOME TO WASPS RUGBY.

I was delighted to be up in Manchester last weekend, when we got our Premiership season off to a winning start away at Sale Sharks.

It was a terrific performance, one full of real character, at a venue where victories are notoriously difficult to come by. Sale have recruited heavily over the summer and would have been looking to get off to a winning start in front of their own supporters.

So, for us to prevail, having trailed 13-0 at one point in the second half, was a fantastic effort and a fitting reward for the team's efforts and their

character. Not many teams will win at the AJ Bell Stadium this season.

However, as I'm sure the coaches will have been stressing this week, a victory like that one counts for little unless it is backed up the following week. So, I'm hoping that we will see a similarly committed performance this afternoon, a victory and perhaps a slightly less stressful final few minutes!

From a club perspective, it's been good to welcome back Callum Braley, Chris Harris and Jake Polledri this week after their World Cup endeavours. They all did themselves proud representing their countries and will be better players for the experience I'm sure.

But, at the same time, it's also great that we still have two players out in Japan for the semi-finals in Willi Heinz and Franco Mostert. We wish them both well this weekend.

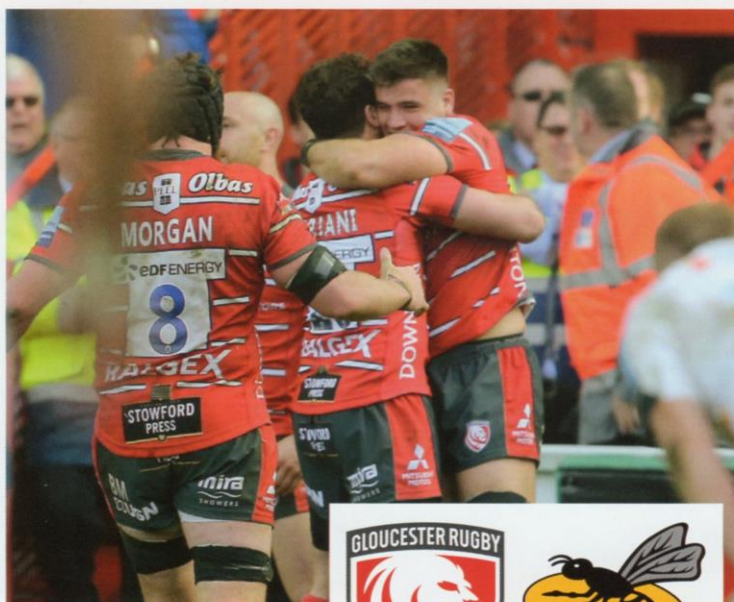
Enjoy the game this afternoon, and here's hoping that we're celebrating a Gloucester Rugby victory at the final whistle.

Martin

“ I'M HOPING THAT WE WILL SEE A SIMILARLY COMMITTED PERFORMANCE THIS AFTERNOON, A VICTORY AND PERHAPS A SLIGHTLY LESS STRESSFUL FINAL FEW MINUTES! ”

LAST TIME WE MET

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THE TWO TEAMS LAST MET EARLIER THIS YEAR, BACK IN MARCH WHEN THE CHERRY AND WHITES CLINCHED A PREMIERSHIP DOUBLE OVER WASPS.

The home team had to overcome a sluggish start, when two penalties from Rob Miller and a try from Marcus Watson opened up an 0-11 lead.

However, Gloucester Rugby finally clicked into gear just after the half hour mark with tries from skipper Willi Heinz and Ruan Ackermann, both converted by Billy Twelvetrees, to take a 14-11 lead into half-time.

Twelvetrees added two more second half penalties, Miller responding with one for Wasps, and the game was still in the balance when Franco Mostert was yellow carded on 60 minutes.

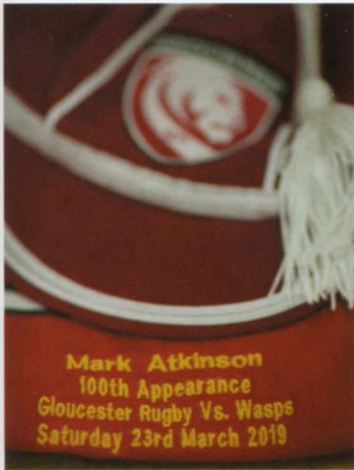
But a late try from Jake Polledri sealed the win and calmed the nerves.

WHAT THEY HAD TO SAY



Head Coach
Johan Ackermann





*To utilise the QR codes, download a QR app to your smartphone

THE HIGHS AND LOWS OF GLOUCESTER AND WASPS

A BIT OF HISTORY

Wasps were founded in 1867, six years before the foundation of the Gloucester club and four years before the foundation of the RFU itself. Legend has it that they failed to become founder members of the RFU in 1871 because, although they were invited to send a representative to the meeting, their man went to the wrong pub! However, by March 1872 they had become one of the 12 member clubs.

For many years, Wasps led a nomadic existence, playing a restricted fixture list on rented pitches, and it was not until 1928 that the club were able to purchase their own ground at Sudbury with help from the RFU. During the thirties they strengthened their fixture list and were running as many as ten sides. They were one of the clubs fortunate enough to be able to play throughout WWII, and their sides featured many overseas servicemen. It was after the war when, seeking to improve their fixture list still further, they first visited Kingsholm. Gloucester won that first fixture between the two clubs, 8-5, on 19th October 1946.

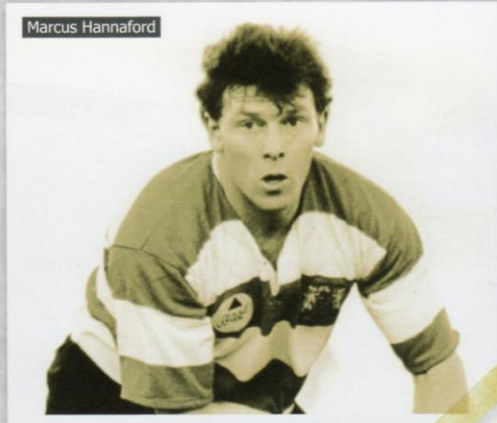
The following season Gloucester won 17-0 on their first visit to Sudbury and, from then on, the clubs played once a season, alternately home and away.

Gloucester had much the better of the results for some 40 years but, since the introduction of leagues and professional rugby, the boot has been on the other foot, so much so that Wasps have come to be regarded as Gloucester's Nemesis. This fact made the Premiership double over Wasps last season all the more satisfying for Gloucester supporters!



John Gadd

Marcus Hannaford



GLOUCESTER'S NEMESIS

In the 32 seasons since the introduction of the national league structure in 1987-88, Gloucester have never been champions, although they have come desperately close on several occasions. Twice, during the years before the downgrading of the domestic cup competition, they came within an ace of completing the coveted league and cup double. On both occasions it was Wasps who finished the season as league champions.

1989-90

This was the third season of the John Courage league. Gloucester had responded to the new challenges of league rugby from the off, finishing 5th and then 3rd in the first two seasons and were expected to be contenders for the title.

The Gloucester side was built around a formidable pack, which featured a rampant back row of Mike Teague, Ian Smith and John Gadd at the peak of their form. Outstanding half backs Marcus Hannaford and Mike Hamlin, a prolific three-quarter line featuring the evergreen brilliance of Richard Mogg and the pace of Derrick Morgan, and the goal kicking and counter-attacking skills of full back Tim Smith completed a winning combination.

Coming into their last game, at Beeston against Nottingham, Gloucester the strong favourites for the title, had only lost once in the league, to Wasps at Adams Park, and had already won at Beeston that season in the quarter final of the Pilkington



Sinbad

Cup. Wasps were one point behind Gloucester, and were playing at home to Saracens, who were lying fourth. Nottingham played superbly and were unrecognisable from the team that had lost to Gloucester in the cup two months before. Wasps, who had not topped the table all season, turned in their best performance when it most mattered to beat Saracens 24-6 and the title was theirs by one point. A week later Gloucester were unable to pick themselves up and were soundly beaten by Bath in the Pilkington Cup Final at Twickenham.

Perhaps Gloucester's most memorable match of that season was their third round Pilkington Cup victory over Wasps at Adams Park. A weakened Gloucester had lost the league match three months before by 29 points to 4, but now at full strength they took the game to the opposition. The Times correspondent said of Gloucester, "Their red-blooded assaults, launched from almost every corner of the pitch, helped produce one of the most exciting cup games seen at Sudbury for years." In the first half Tim Smith, who had a superlative game, kicked two penalties, and John Gadd and Jim Breeze scored tries, but Gloucester found themselves 19-14 down at half time, against the run of play. With the wind behind them the Gloucester half backs bombarded the Wasps defence. Wasps went offside to concede a penalty kicked by Tim Smith but somehow held out until the dying minutes when Richard Mogg went over in the corner for the match winning try which was converted by Tim Smith from the touchline to seal a magnificent victory 23-19.

2002-03

Gloucester had won the Powergen Cup in a magnificent 40-22 victory over Northampton at Twickenham in which their young stars James Simpson-Daniel (2), Marcel Garvey and James Forrester had all scored tries. At the end of the regular season they topped the Zurich Premiership table, 15 points ahead of the runners-up Wasps, and in previous years would have taken the title. However, this was the first year of the Premiership play-offs, and the only season in which the runner-up played the third-placed team for the right to play the leaders in the Premiership Final. In subsequent

seasons full semi-finals (1st v 4th and 2nd v 3rd) have been played.

When Gloucester took the field in the Premiership Final at Twickenham, they had been assured of their place as unassailable league leaders for five weeks and had not played for three. Their opponents Wasps, on the other hand, had spent the previous two weeks playing in the Premiership play-off and the European Challenge Cup Final.

This 39-3 defeat was a game which Gloucester supporters will never forget, however hard they try. Gloucester, disorganised behind the scrum and sluggish in the forwards, played as though they were already on their summer holidays, and Wasps thoroughly deserved their win. Alex King at outside half controlled the game and Simon Shaw and Lawrence Dallaglio dominated up front.

Earlier in the season at Kingsholm in January, Gloucester, who were already nine points clear in the Premiership, took on Wasps who were then in 4th place. Eyebrows were raised when a full-strength Wasps team took the field, bearing little resemblance to the team announced to the press by Warren Gatland two days before, when he suggested that the trip to Kingsholm was unwinnable and that he was resting players for the Stade Francais game the following week.

When the mind games were over, a tense battle ensued. Wasps, with their back row of Dallaglio, Worsley and Volley outstanding and Shaw dominating the line-outs, clearly had no thoughts that Gloucester were unbeatable and for long periods the home side were on the back foot. They were not helped by some uncharacteristically poor kicking by Mercier and, when Waters scored a try early in the second half to give Wasps an 11-8 lead, things looked precarious indeed. Todd's pass off the ground gave Cornwell his second try to make the score 13-11 but when Mercier failed again with the conversion, Henry Paul took over the kicking duties. Gradually Gloucester gained the upper hand and two Paul penalties, plus a Paul try which finished a move started with a Junior Paramore charge down the wing, sealed the victory 24-17. To quote Nigel Melville, "It was not pretty but it was the right result."



Tim Smith

**“ I’VE ALWAYS KNOWN
THAT GLOUCESTER
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THE BEST GROUNDS
AND ONE OF THE BEST
FAN BASES AROUND.
AND THOSE FIRST
TWO EXPERIENCES
CERTAINLY DIDN’T
DISAPPOINT ”**



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JOE SIMPSON

FINALLY, AFTER THE LONGEST PRE SEASON IN MEMORY AND THREE APPEARANCES ON THE ROAD, JOE SIMPSON WILL GET HIS FIRST COMPETITIVE OUTING AT KINGSHOLM THIS AFTERNOON – SUBJECT TO SELECTION OF COURSE!



GLOUCESTER RUGBY TRAINING CENTRE



HARTPURY



In fact, it will also be the first time that the summer signing from Wasps gets to pull on the famous Cherry and White shirt, all of his appearances to date being in the club's change kit.

Speaking at the club's training base at Hartpury this week, Simpson reflected on an eventful few weeks of action.

"There's a different slant to the Premiership Rugby Cup with it being played right at the start of the season. It is a competition with a trophy at the end of it, of course, but the way this season is formatted, it became a part of our preparations for the season.

"The Premiership has to be our number one target, and that's what we've had to focus on. That was reflected in our team selections for the Premiership Rugby Cup and that applied to most of the teams in the Premiership.

"So, it was good to have our first serious hit out of the season last weekend up at Sale. We were missing a couple of boys, but had a pretty strong team out. We were perhaps a little lucky to get the win, and we do appreciate that.

"But I don't think we should underestimate who we were up against last weekend, a Sale team that many have been tipping as top four contenders and they may well end up there. They actually went quite strong in the Cup games so were, as Shaun Edwards used to say, pretty battle-hardened. In contrast, we may have been a bit under-cooked but it paid off for us."

It's been a while coming, and he's experienced most things in the Premiership across a distinguished career, what's he looking forward to this afternoon?

“ YOU KNOW THAT THE CROWD ARE GOING TO BE REALLY UP FOR IT AND RIGHT BEHIND THE TEAM, SO I JUST CAN'T WAIT ”





"I've watched the two matches that we've played here so far this season and, for Premiership Rugby Cup matches where a lot of the first team weren't playing, the atmosphere has been amazing and the attendances fantastic.

"I've always known that Gloucester Rugby have one of the best grounds and one of the best fan bases around. And those first two experiences certainly didn't disappoint. It was actually quite nice to be able to look around and take it in before being thrust into matchday action.

"So, I'm really looking forward to having that kind of support behind myself and the team. You know that the crowd are going to be really up for it and right behind the team, so I just can't wait."

As a one club man up to this point, the 31-year-old will be coming up against a former team for the first time in his career. Will it be any different on an emotional level?

"I think it will be. But it's something that I have to deal with and put on the back burner, to trust my processes and not let emotions get the better of me.

"I will probably know the opposition players and their abilities a bit more than usual, but that's something that I have to forget about in a way and make sure that I focus on the team first and my personal performance second rather than looking to secure any personal bragging rights."

So, although he may wish Wasps and his former team-mates well for the rest of the season, today it's all about the Cherry and White of Gloucester?

"Exactly. I will obviously follow Wasps keenly throughout the season but, make no doubt about it, my complete soul and energy will be making sure that we have a good performance at the weekend and that Gloucester Rugby goes as well as it possibly can this season."

GLOUCESTER RUGBY RUE FIRST HALF LAPSES AS THEY COME UP JUST SHORT AGAINST HARLEQUINS

Gloucester Rugby more than played their part in an entertaining Premiership Rugby Cup encounter at the Stoop, and were still in the game at the death. But, trying bravely to snatch a dramatic win, a late Quins score sealed a 40-31 victory.

WHAT HAPPENED

It was the second week in a row when the Cherry and Whites left themselves just too much to do in the second half. The following week's analysis session will have pinpointed the handling errors and moments of indiscipline which proved to be key, but the team's desire to win kept them in the fight right up until the game's very last moments.

It was an inauspicious start as a loose pass led to a second minute try from full-back Mike Brown, but the Cherry and Whites hit back as Matt Banahan's powerful run led to Joe Simpson scoring his second try in Gloucester Rugby colours.

Martin Landejo darted over from close range to extend Quins' lead, but a fine break from Jamal Ford-Robinson put Billy Twelvetrees over to narrow the gap. However, Lewis Ludlow was sinbinned shortly afterwards and two tries were scored in his absence.

Aaron Hinkley then touched down after Ludlow charged down a clearance kick, but Ben Tapuai immediately crossed for the hosts for a half-time score of 35-19.



The second-half was far more cohesive for the Cherry and Whites as they held onto possession much better and Tom Seabrook's try got them back within striking range, and they were well and truly back in it when Matt Symons was sinbinned for sacking a maul and Gerbrandt Grobler went over.

Trailing just 35-31 with 20 minutes to play, there was real hope of a memorable comeback but, despite several visits to the Quins 22, the home team held firm and then clinched the game as another turnover saw Renaldo Bothma score with the game's last play, 40-31 the final score.



Harlequins

40-31



HOW IT HAPPENED

See how the game at The Stoop unfolded in our play by play commentary.



IN PICTURES

View the best of the match action as captured by the club photographer.



WHAT THEY HAD TO SAY



Tim Taylor and Joe Simpson were on post-match media duties.

TIMELINE

- 2' Mike Brown
- 4' Marcus Smith
- 12' Joe Simpson
- 16' Martin Landajo
- 17' Marcus Smith
- 19' Billy Twelvetrees
- 20' Billy Twelvetrees
- 24' Scott Baldwin
- 24' Lewis Ludlow
- 26' Marcus Smith
- 31' Aaron Morris
- 33' Marcus Smith
- 35' Aaron Hinkley
- 36' Billy Twelvetrees
- 38' Ben Tapuai
- 39' Marcus Smith
- 55' Matt Symons
- 47' Tom Seabrook
- 56' Gerbrandt Grobler
- 57' Billy Twelvetrees
- 61' Scott Baldwin
- 61' Ruan Ackermann
- 79' Renaldo Bothma

BATH FORWARD POWER PROVES PIVOTAL AS VISITORS TAKE THE SPOILS AT KINGSHOLM

Gloucester Rugby signed off their 2019-20 Premier-ship Rugby Cup campaign on a disappointing note, as Bath Rugby overturned a 24-0 deficit to pip the Cherry and Whites by 26 points to 24 at Kingsholm two weeks ago.



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WHAT HAPPENED

For 25 minutes, the Cherry and Whites were on fire, scoring four tries and arguably leaving several other chances out there. Bath Rugby looked distinctly second best and wishing they were somewhere else.

However, the game then turned on its head as Bath started to keep the ball tight as conditions worsened. Several penalties followed and the visitors battled their way back into the game with two tries before half-time.

Perhaps the key moment of the game though occurred early in the second-half when Bath fly-half Alex Davies was forced out of the game with an arm injury. Former Kingsholm favourite Freddie Burns entered the fray and played a key role in what followed.

The Cherry and Whites found it difficult to get out of their own half in the first 20 minutes of the second half, but were defending reasonably comfortably until

Burns, as he did so many times in Gloucester Rugby colours, snaffled an interception and went under the posts.

The lead was now down to 24-19, and the visitors started to sense a memorable comeback. The Cherry and Whites didn't help themselves with some set-piece malfunctions whereas the visitors were efficient in this regard, and it came as no surprise when a catch and drive resulted in their fourth try, Burns' conversion edging his team in front at 24-26.

Ball handling was now difficult as the persistent rain took its toll, and there were only a couple of fleeting chances for Gloucester Rugby to try and launch an attack to regain the initiative.

Sadly, none came to fruition and a disappointing evening came to an end with Bath Rugby holding on and actually looking the more likely to extend their lead.



*To utilise the QR codes, download a QR app to your smartphone



24-26



TIMELINE

4' Louis Rees-Zammit

5' Lloyd Evans

12' Jaco Kriel

17' Charlie Chapman

18' Lloyd Evans

20' Jacob Morris

33' Ross Batty

34' Alex Davies

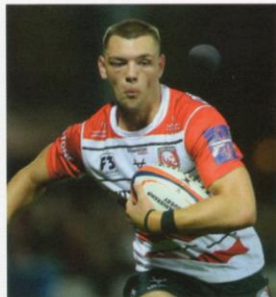
40' Will Stuart

53' Freddie Burns

53' Freddie Burns

62' Jack Walker

63' Freddie Burns



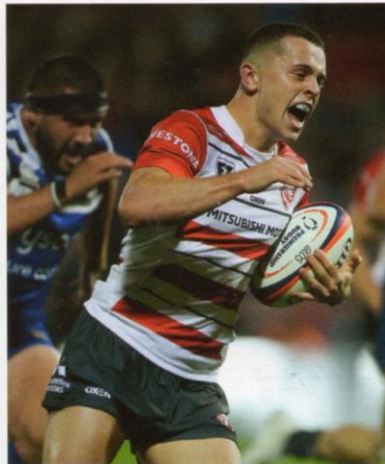
HOW IT HAPPENED

See how the game at Kingsholm unfolded in our play by play commentary.



IN PICTURES

View the best of the match action as captured by the club photographer.



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WHAT THEY HAD TO SAY




Trevor Woodman and Jaco Kriel were on post-match media duties.



VS



T P C D				POSITION	T P C D						
				Jason WOODWARD 15	FULL BACK	15	Marcus WATSON				
				Tom MARSHALL 14	RIGHT WING	14	Zach KIBIRIGE				
				Billy TWELVETREES 13	OUTSIDE CENTRE	13	Malakai FEKITOA				
				Mark ATKINSON 12	INSIDE CENTRE	12	Michael LE BOURGEOIS				
				Ollie THORLEY 11	LEFT WING	11	Josh BASSETT				
				Danny CIPRIANI 10	FLY-HALF	10	Lima SOPOAGA				
				Joe SIMPSON 9	SCRUM-HALF	9	Dan ROBSON (C)				
				Val RAPAVA RUSKIN 1	LOOSEHEAD PROP	1	Zurabi ZHVANIA				
				Franco MARAIS 2	HOOKER	2	Tom CRUSE				
				Jamal FORD-ROBINSON 3	TIGHTHEAD PROP	3	Kieran BROOKES				
				Ed SLATER (C) 4	LOCK	4	James GASKELL				
				Gerbrandt GROBLER 5	LOCK	5	Charlie MATTHEWS				
				Lewis LUDLOW 6	BLINDSIDE FLANKER	6	Brad SHIELDS				
				Jaco KRIEL 7	OPENSIDE FLANKER	7	Jack WILLIS				
				Ruan ACKERMANN 8	NUMBER 8	8	Sione VAILANU				
REPLACEMENTS					REPLACEMENTS						
				Corné FOURIE 16	 MATCH OFFICIALS Referee: Christophe Ridley Assistant Referees: Simon Harding Roy Maybank	16	Gabriel OGHRE				
				Josh HOHNECK 17		17	Ben HARRIS				
				Fraser BALMAIN 18		18	Jeff TOOMAGA-ALLEN				
				Freddie CLARKE 19		19	Thibaud FLAMENT				
				Aaron HINKLEY 20		20	Nizaam CARR				
				Charlie CHAPMAN 21		21	Sam WOLSTENHOLME				
				Lloyd EVANS 22		22	Jacob UMAGA				
				Matt BANAHAH 23		23	Juan DE JONGH				

