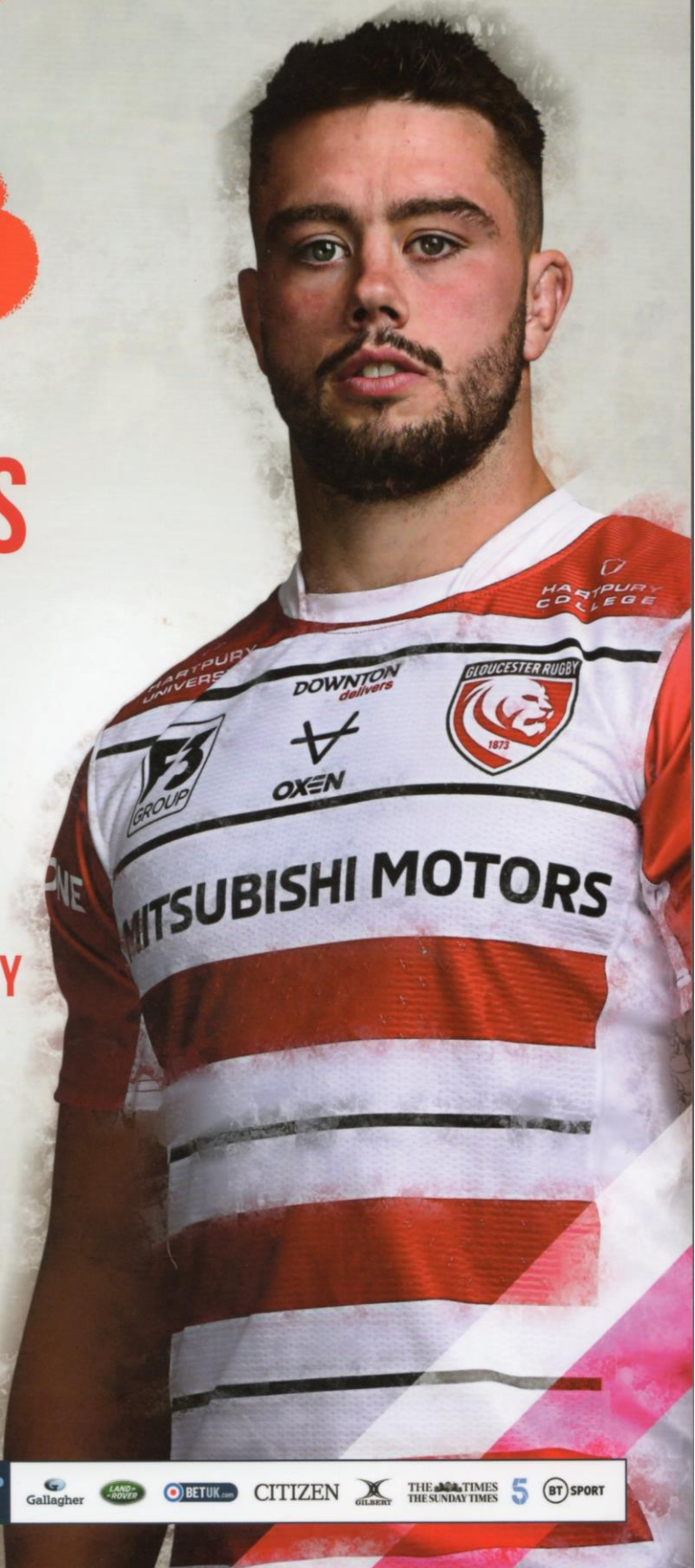




CHERRY & WHITES



SARACENS


GLOUCESTER RUGBY v SARACENS

GALLAGHER PREMIERSHIP
9 NOVEMBER 2019
3.00PM | £3.50

 **MITSUBISHI MOTORS**
MAIN CLUB PARTNER



MATCH SPONSOR

 Gallagher	PREMIERSHIP RUGBY				CITIZEN		THE SUNDAY TIMES	5	BT SPORT
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CEO

LANCE BRADLEY



GOOD AFTERNOON AND WELCOME BACK TO KINGSHOLM FOR THIS AFTERNOON'S GALLAGHER PREMIERSHIP FIXTURE AGAINST SARACENS.

My notes this week couldn't pass without mention of the news that our guests today have been handed a 35 point deduction and a £5.4m fine for breaches of the Premiership Rugby salary cap (a sanction against which they are appealing).

This is clearly a very serious matter, and we have full confidence that it will continue to be handled appropriately by Premiership Rugby Limited. It is essential that every team in a competition knows that they are competing on a level playing field, and we hope that once this matter is settled that we can all have confidence that that is the case.

I'm sure that this issue won't stop you giving the Saracens fans, players and officials a traditional Kingsholm welcome.

This week has also seen the conclusion of surely one of the best Rugby World Cup tournaments ever. I was lucky enough in my previous role at Mitsubishi Motors to spend a lot of time in Japan, so I know what a fabulous country it is and just how welcoming the Japanese people would be.

I think they truly surpassed themselves with this tournament, though, and the Japanese team did themselves very proud indeed in beating Ireland and Scotland to top their group.

Although the tournament ultimately ended in disappointment for England,

“ WE KNOW THAT A VOCAL FULL HOUSE FEELS LIKE WE'VE GOT A SIXTEENTH MAN PLAYING, SO DO PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU PLAY YOUR PART ”

we have to congratulate the South African team on a fine performance.

I also want to make special mention of the five Gloucester players who represented their countries in Japan; Callum Braley and Jake Polledri for Italy, Chris Harris for Scotland, Willi Heinz for England and Franco Mostert, who was a winner with South Africa.

As a Club we are incredibly proud of each and every one of them. It's a tremendous achievement to represent your country at all, and especially at a World Cup finals.

I'd like to remind you that we have international rugby of our own next Friday when we take on Toulouse in the opening game of the Heineken Champions Cup. It's a great honour to be selected to host the opening game of this tournament, and if you haven't got your ticket yet I'd urge you to get one and help us win the game under the Friday Night Lights. We know that a vocal full house feels like we've got a sixteenth man playing, so do please make sure you play your part.

Finally, next week we'll be holding the latest of our Fans' Forums. It will take a somewhat different format than they have in the past, and more details are available in Club News in this programme and on the club website.

I look forward to seeing you there!

Lance



CHAIRMAN

MARTIN ST. QUINTON



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

The 2019-20 season seemed to take a little while to get going, what with the extended preseason and then the Premiership Rugby Cup taking centre stage for the first four weekends. However, I think we can certainly say that we're up and running now!

After the first three weeks of Gallagher Premiership action, it looks as though this season is going to be as closely fought as last season! It's difficult to assess of course just how every team is shaping up, as so many players have been away at Rugby World Cup, but the early signs are that it's going to be a very competitive league.

We have two incredibly exciting matches at Kingsholm coming up, as we entertain Saracens today and Toulouse next Friday evening. In terms of top-quality opposition, they don't come much better and I am excited to see how we fare against them both. Saracens are obviously a force to be reckoned with on any day, even without their players who were involved in the World Cup Final.

Away from the rugby side of things, we were delighted last week to announce the first of the 2020 concerts here at Kingsholm with the news that Westlife will perform here next July.

Over the past few years, everyone has worked very hard to establish the stadium as a bona fide concert arena. We can obviously only stage a certain number of events every year due to necessary pitch renovations, but they have become a regular occurrence in the close season and have always attracted sell-out audiences.

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

Martin

“ IN TERMS OF TOP-QUALITY OPPOSITION, THEY DON'T COME MUCH BETTER AND I AM EXCITED TO SEE HOW WE FARE AGAINST THEM BOTH ”

LAST TIME WE MET

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THE TWO TEAMS LAST MET EARLIER THIS YEAR, BACK IN THE GALLAGHER PREMIERSHIP PLAY-OFF SEMI-FINALS AS THE CHERRY AND WHITES TRAVELLED TO ALLIANZ PARK IN THEIR FIRST APPEARANCE IN THE KNOCK-OUT STAGES SINCE THE 2010-11 SEASON.

And Gloucester Rugby got off to a dream start on the day as lovely handling from Tom Marshall and Jason Woodward combined to send Ben Morgan over for an early try, Billy Twelvetrees converting for an 0-7 lead.

However, thoughts of Twickenham were quickly quashed as Saracens, using a brutally efficient kicking game, shrugged off the early setback and took control of the match. Tries from Maitland, Spencer and Williams, plus the unerring boot of Farrell, opened up a 23-7 lead at the break.

The Cherry and Whites badly needed the next score, but it went Saracens' way. Nick Tompkins was the scorer, and the centre went on to add two more in the second half. Gloucester Rugby did dig deep to show some pride and scored tries through Ruan Dreyer and Lewis Ludlow, but it wasn't enough.

It was a day when little went right, the bounce of the ball seemed to go the way of the home side on several occasions and Saracens needed no second invitation. Gloucester Rugby did have chances but couldn't quite execute at the key moment.

However, despite the immediate disappointment, the defeat didn't take the gloss off what had been a terrific season for Gloucester Rugby.



WHAT THEY HAD TO SAY



Head Coach
Johan Ackermann



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

FIFTY YEARS OF BATTLES AGAINST THE SARACENS

The Saracens club was founded as long ago as 1876, by the Old Boys of the Philological School in Marylebone, London. They played home games at several grounds until taking up residence at Bramley Road, Southgate, just after WW2. For six seasons they ground shared at Vicarage Road, Watford, with the football club, before moving to Allianz Park, Hendon in 2013.

Gloucester and Saracens did not play each other until March 1968 at Kingsholm. The result was a 3-3 draw, Gloucester's points coming from a Don Rutherford penalty.

To date the two clubs have met 76 times, with Gloucester winning 45, losing 27, with four games drawn. However, of the last twenty encounters, Saracens have won 13!

Down the years there have been some memorable battles.

27 APRIL 1996: LEAGUE GAME: GLOUCESTER 17 SARACENS 10

The 1995-96 season had been a poor one for both clubs. By the time Gloucester and Saracens met in the last game of the season, the situation was that West Hartlepool were already doomed to relegation having lost all their matches. Gloucester

and Saracens were both on ten points having won five games each. This game, before a sell-out crowd of 12,000, was therefore a relegation shoot-out to decide which team would go down. In the autumn of 1995 Richard Hill had taken over as Director of Rugby, and his influence had turned a situation which had looked doomed, to one of hope.

Gloucester were captained by Dave Sims, and his powerful line-out work was invaluable throughout the game. The forwards got on top and scrummage power gave fly-half Martin Kimber the opportunity to dictate proceedings with some astute kicking. Despite an outstanding game by Saracens' Richard Hill, the Gloucester forwards were well in command, with Pete Glanville and Andrew Stanley putting in fine performances. Of Stanley, the Times reported, "His form had persuaded Richard Hill to omit Ian Smith, the Scotland flanker, but the move was justified by Stanley's tireless foraging."

Mark Mapletoft kicked two early penalties, and Martin Kimber dropped a goal, but the game was settled either side of half-time. Tony Windo ploughed through for a classic Gloucester forward's try, and then early in the second half Mapletoft added another penalty for a 17-3 lead. Richard Hill's late try for Saracens was too little too late.

As things turned out Saracens were not relegated, as the league was extended by two, and even West Hartlepool survived.

25 JANUARY 2003, PILKINGTON CUP: GLOUCESTER 51 SARACENS 20

Only a week before this game Gloucester had lost to Munster in the "miracle game", where all the Cherry & Whites had to do was lose by no more than 26 points to proceed from the group stage of the Heineken Cup. Munster won by 27 points. The team needed to restore shattered morale.

After only three minutes James Forrester, as the Times put it, "...driving low on the narrow side, crashed a couple of tackles and dived over in the corner." Gloucester were up and running. After ten minutes, Thinus Delport chased an Andy Gomarsall grubber kick, caught the ball and streaked home. For Saracens Adryan Winnan, following a good run, kicked ahead, and regathered to score. This merely



seemed to encourage Gloucester more, and Terry Fanolua, with little room weaved his way in. Delpont added another before half-time when Gloucester led 23-8. In the second half with the wind at their backs, Gloucester ran riot scoring tries through Gomarsall, Adam Eustace, Rodrigo Roncero, and another from Forrester.

Wayne Shelford, the Saracens coach said, "I don't think anyone would have stopped Gloucester today."

That was the season Gloucester went on to win the Pilkington Cup, defeating Northampton 40-22, before 75,000 spectators at Twickenham.

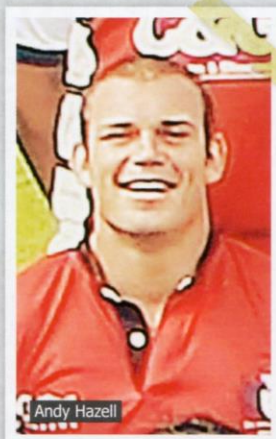
2 FEBRUARY 2003, PREMIERSHIP: SARACENS 22 GLOUCESTER 29



Only a week later the two teams met again at Vicarage Road, Watford. This time Sarries provided much sterner opposition. Richard Hill scored a try after three minutes, and Nicky Little converted. Ludovic Mercier started the score-board for Gloucester with a penalty, but Saracens were well on top at this point. Little kicked two more penalties, one of which was for a high tackle by Robert Todd on Kyran Bracken. Sarries were now 13-3 up, but Gloucester upped their game. First, Andy Gomarsall kicked ahead and regathered after the ball hit a Saracens heel, and he was able to send Terry Fanolua over unopposed. Then Mercier intercepted a Kevin Sorrell pass to run in from 40 metres. Suddenly Gloucester were leading 17-13. Little pulled back a penalty before half-time.

In the second half Gloucester's forwards got right on top and pinned Saracens back. Despite two more penalties from Little, Mercier went one better with three. He also kicked a drop-goal to total 24 points in the game.

Gloucester went on to top the league by 15 points. But in the inaugural



Premiership play-off season, they were hammered 36-3 by Wasps in the final.

5 MAY 2007, PREMIERSHIP PLAY-OFF SEMI-FINAL: GLOUCESTER 50 SARACENS 9

Saracens supporters will contend, quite correctly, that the last two times Gloucester qualified for the play-offs, Sarries put them out both occasions, 12-10 in 2011, and 44-19 in May this year. However, it was a different story in 2007. Gloucester had once again topped the Premiership, narrowly from Leicester.

Andy Hazell, who had just been voted "player of the season", had an outstanding game, making one wonder, not for the first time, why he had not won more England caps. He suffered an injured leg after only three minutes, but soldiered on, only in the second half, to injure a swollen arm that left him nauseous. Undeterred, he was instrumental in setting up a try for Luke Narraway.

Gloucester had taken the lead early on through a penalty try, awarded because Thomas Castaignede, tackled Mark Foster without the ball, when the latter was winning the race to the touch-down. Just before half-time Kameli Ratuvou was yellow carded for upending Iain Balshaw, as he chased a Ryan Lamb cross-kick. Gloucester quickly took advantage, when from a driving maul, Narraway fed Peter Richards on the blindside who scored. Willie Walker made his second conversion, and the Cherry & Whites led 14-3 at the break.

Saracens had little option but to attack in the second half, and Jackson kicked his second penalty of the game. But almost straight away, James Simpson-Daniel made a break, and eventually Ryan Lamb found Hazell with a beautiful pass, and he in turn sent Narraway away for the try.

Jackson kicked another penalty, but from the restart, Anthony Allen streaked away for a brilliant try. The game was effectively over, but Gloucester scored further tries through Mark Foster and Hazell.

Just before the end Simpson-Daniel and Balshaw moved the ball between them into Saracens territory. Ryan Lamb found Pete Buxton with a long pass, who in turn passed to the wing, where he found the unlikely form of Christian Califano, and the prop dived over. Gloucester had scored five second half tries in an exhilarating display. In all Willie Walker kicked six conversions and single penalty.

A week later Gloucester met Leicester in the Premiership Final, who with the considerable help of Alesana Tuilagi, hammered Gloucester 44-16!

“ THE CLUB MEANS SO MUCH TO ME THAT, TO GET THAT 100TH CAP, WAS A MASSIVE THING AND TO LEAD THE TEAM IN THE RUN PAST THE SHED AND THEN RUN OUT FIRST WAS AMAZING ”



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LEWIS LUDLOW

THERE ARE CERTAIN PLAYERS IN EVERY SQUAD WHO YOU CAN CATEGORISE AS THE HEARTBEAT OF THE SIDE. THEY DON'T ALWAYS HAVE TO BE A MULTI-CAPPED INTERNATIONAL, A MARQUEE PLAYER. BUT THEY HAVE A LITTLE SOMETHING EXTRA ABOUT THEM.



Gloucester Rugby have been fortunate enough to have had quite a few over the years, players who endear themselves to the Kingsholm faithful, and Lewis Ludlow has certainly picked up the mantle in recent times.

As a result, it was fitting that Ludlow marked the club's first Gallagher Premiership outing of the season by making his 100th competitive appearance for the club, a memorable moment he admits.

"I was amazed that it had come around so fast to be fair. It seems to have come around in the blink of an eye. You don't realise just how much time you've had at the club until someone makes you aware of it.

"The club means so much to me that, to get that 100th cap, was a massive thing and to lead the team in the run past the Shed and then run out first was amazing. It was such a great feeling, real hairs on the back of the neck stuff.

"It was so nice to feel that the crowd appreciated me, and that's the amazing thing about playing for Gloucester Rugby – the crowd is so amazing – it will live with me for a very long time. And to get the win was just perfect. I just loved it from start to finish."

Although he seems to have been around for a long time, and the 100 plus appearances reflects that, Ludlow only turned 25 back in September. He reflects that plenty has changed in his time in Cherry and White.

"A lot has changed. There was a huge turnover of players, especially in the first couple of years, and we've been through a few coaches! But now, we do really seem to have a settled group – players and coaches alike – and that's the best thing for us going forward.

"When you look at the top teams in recent seasons, the likes of Exeter and Saracens, the teams we're trying to match up to, they've had stability for quite some time. And I think that's what helped us last year and will help us to kick on this season."

Despite still arguably having his best years ahead of him, Ludlow has quickly developed into a leader, captaining the side on numerous occasions, and confesses it's something he enjoys.

“ I GET SO MUCH PRIDE FROM IT, AND WHEN I SPEAK TO MY DAD AND GRANDAD, WHO COME TO EVERY GAME, I CAN SEE THEIR PRIDE AS WELL ”

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"A couple of years ago, in Johan's first year, I was named in the Senior Player Group and it's an amazing feeling to captain the side, whether it's the Premiership Rugby Cup or the Heineken Champions Cup.

"I've been lucky enough to skipper the team in some great games. My first one was the Anglo-Welsh win over Saracens when we were 25-5 down at half-time and came back to win and away in Castres earlier this season was memorable.

"I get so much pride from it, and when I speak to my Dad and Grandad, who come to every game, I can see their pride as well. It makes you feel your worth to the club."

And back to that recent milestone, the number of appearances he has made is even more impressive given the competition for places in the back row, in what is probably the strongest area of the squad.

"I love the competition. We all have different qualities and everyone brings something different to the table. It's up to the big man to decide what combination he wants to field that week, and that might mean that you sit out a couple of weeks but you have to be ready to go when called upon.

"And when you do get the nod, it's down to you to put in the type of performances that keep you in the side and make it as difficult as possible for anyone to consider leaving you out."

Finally, with back to back home games against two big teams in Saracens and Toulouse, he wouldn't have it any other way?

"Definitely not. You love playing the best and you love beating the best. We've had some great wins over Saracens during my time at the club and we look forward to playing them and testing ourselves against them.

"And then a Friday night Champions Cup game under the lights at Kingsholm. They are the best nights in rugby terms and we're really looking forward to both of them."



GLOUCESTER RUGBY HOLD ON FOR DRAMATIC 16-18 WIN AT SALE SHARKS

Having battled their way bravely back into the game at Sale Sharks, Gloucester Rugby looked as though the win would slip away from them as Rob du Preez lined up a last minute penalty. But the Sale fly-half hit the post and the Cherry and Whites hung on for a 16-18 victory.

WHAT HAPPENED

Such a turnaround looked unlikely at half-time. The Sharks led 10-0 at half-time at the turnaround and were good value for it. The Cherry and Whites had defended valiantly, but the home team could have been further ahead.

There had only been one defensive lapse, a slight gap left around a ruck leading to a try from Byron McGuigan, Rob du Preez converting and then adding a penalty. When du Preez added a 48th minute penalty, things looked grim.

But, crucially, Gloucester Rugby hit back quickly. Danny Cipriani's cute chip over the top led to a try for Mark Atkinson and the Cherry and Whites had self-belief and a spring in their stride.

Another key contribution from the fly-half, this time with ball in hand, resulted in Tom Marshall diving over for the second try and it was game on at 13-12.

The final quarter though was a nervy affair. Twelvetrees nudged his team in front, 13-15, with a 64th minute penalty only for du Preez to respond in kind three



minutes later. Twelvetrees then added his second penalty, but missed a subsequent attempt with two minutes left to play.

It led to a thrilling last minute of action. Freddie Clarke was sinbinned for a deliberate knock-on and the Cherry and Whites then had to defend a five metre lineout and a five metre scrum.

A penalty was awarded and du Preez had the chance to be a hero. It's a game of fine margins and, on this occasion, Gloucester Rugby had luck on their side. His kick hit the post and stayed out, Joe Simpson cleared and the Cherry and Whites were able to celebrate a fine win on the road.

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



16-18



HOW IT HAPPENED

See how the game at the AJ Bell Stadium unfolded in our play by play commentary.



IN PICTURES

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



TIMELINE

- 16'** Byron McGuigan
- 17'** Robert du Preez
- 30'** Robert du Preez
- 48'** Robert du Preez
- 50'** Mark Atkinson
- 52'** Billy Twelvetrees
- 56'** Tom Marshall
- 64'** Billy Twelvetrees
- 67'** Robert du Preez
- 70'** Billy Twelvetrees
- 78'** Freddie Clarke

WHAT THEY HAD TO SAY



Johan Ackermann, Gerbrandt Grobler and Billy Twelvetrees were on post-match media duties.



GLOUCESTER RUGBY CONQUER CONDITIONS TO EARN BONUS POINT WIN OVER WASPS

It was hard work in tough conditions at Kingsholm, but Gloucester Rugby eventually ground down a resolute Wasps side, Joe Simpson enjoying a day to remember against his former team as he scored two tries in a 25-9 Gallagher Premiership victory.



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WHAT HAPPENED

It was an incredibly professional performance in testing weather conditions at Kingsholm. Heavy rain fell for a good 24 hours before the game and carried on falling throughout. Ball handling was treacherous even though the Kingsholm pitch held up magnificently.

The Cherry and Whites took the

game to Wasps in the opening stages, but could only muster a 10th minute penalty from Billy Twelvetrees, before superb work from Jason Woodward put Tom Marshall in at the corner.

Simpson then benefitted from loose handling by Wasps to hack on and aquaplane his way over for Gloucester Rugby's second

try, but Lima Sopoaga got Wasps on the scoreboard with a penalty with the last kick of the half. 13-3 at half time.

And Wasps started the second half in positive fashion. Sopoaga added two penalties and alarm bells started to ring ever so faintly. However, the turning point of the game came when Malakai Fekitoa was yellow carded when the visitors were camped on the Gloucester Rugby line.

The Cherry and Whites didn't look back as Simpson ran a great supporting line to finish off a fine break from Ruan Ackermann and Marshall went over for his second after a powerful burst from Ben Morgan who ran onto a deft offload from Mark Atkinson.

25-9 to the good, Gloucester Rugby could have switched off in the last couple of minutes, but kept battling to the end to keep their line intact and their unbeaten start to the Gallagher Premiership season going.



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



25-9



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.



TIMELINE

10' Billy Twelvetrees

23' Tom Marshall

37' Joe Simpson

40' Lima Sopoaga

42' Lima Sopoaga

47' Malakai Fekitoa

53' Lima Sopoaga

55' Joe Simpson

56' Billy Twelvetrees

71' Tom Marshall

WHAT THEY HAD TO SAY




Jonny Bell and Joe Simpson were on post-match media duties.



VS



SARACENS

T P C D				POSITION	T P C D						
				Jason WOODWARD 15	FULL BACK	15	Matt GALLAGHER				
				Tom MARSHALL 14	RIGHT WING	14	Sean MAITLAND				
				Chris HARRIS 13	OUTSIDE CENTRE	13	Nick TOMPKINS				
				Mark ATKINSON 12	INSIDE CENTRE	12	Duncan TAYLOR				
				Ollie THORLEY 11	LEFT WING	11	Alex LEWINGTON				
				Danny CIPRIANI 10	FLY-HALF	10	Manu VUNIPOLA				
				Callum BRALEY 9	SCRUM-HALF	9	Ben SPENCER				
				Josh HOHNECK 1	LOOSEHEAD PROP	1	Richard BARRINGTON				
				Franco MARAIS 2	HOOKER	2	Tom WOOLSTENCROFT				
				Fraser BALMAIN 3	TIGHTHEAD PROP	3	Titi LAMOSITELE				
				Freddie CLARKE 4	LOCK	4	Will SKELTON				
				Gerbrandt GROBLER 5	LOCK	5	Callum HUNTER-HILL				
				Lewis LUDLOW 6	BLINDSIDE FLANKER	6	Nick ISIEKWE				
				Jaco KRIEL 7	OPENSIDE FLANKER	7	Ben EARL				
				Ben MORGAN (C) 8	NUMBER 8	8	Jackson WRAY (C)				
REPLACEMENTS					REPLACEMENTS						
				Corné FOURIE 16	 MATCH OFFICIALS Referee: Craig Maxwell-Keys Assistant Referees: Adam Leal Philip Watters	16	Jack SINGLETON				
				Val RAPAVALA RUSKIN 17		17	Rhys CARRE				
				Jamal FORD-ROBINSON 18		18	Vincent KOCH				
				Ruan ACKERMANN 19		19	Joel KPOKU				
				Jake POLLEDRI 20		20	Sean REFFELL				
				Joe SIMPSON 21		21	Richard WIGGLESWORTH				
				Billy TWELVETREES 22	22	Max MALINS					
				Matt BANAHAN 23	23	Alex LOZOWSKI					

