



CHERRY & WHITES



GLoucester RUGBY v MONTPELLIER

HEINEKEN CHAMPIONS CUP
11 JANUARY 2020
5.30PM | £3.50





CHAIRMAN

MARTIN ST. QUINTON



GOOD EVENING AND WELCOME TO KINGSHOLM FOR OUR FINAL HOME GAME IN THE POOL STAGES OF THIS SEASON'S HEINEKEN CHAMPIONS CUP.

Things are certainly hotting up in terms of qualification for the knock-out stages, and there is still plenty to play for as it's technically only Leinster who are guaranteed a home quarter-final spot at the moment.

We are obviously still pushing hard for a place in the last eight. It's been a case of fine margins in our first four matches. We have been competitive in all four outings, and could easily have come away with four wins.

As it is, we can still catch Toulouse at the top of pool 5, or capture one of the three best second placed spots. All we can do is try and win our two remaining games, starting today!

I'm sure, like myself, you were delighted with last weekend's victory over Bath. There really is nothing to compare with a local derby atmosphere at a packed Kingsholm. The support we received was incredible and means so much to the squad.

And, importantly, the five points secured keeps us well and truly in the chase for an end of season play-off slot. There is a lot to play for over the next few months.

Finally, we received terrific news this week with the announcement that Louis Rees-Zammit has been named Gallagher Premiership Player of the Month, for December, a richly deserved award.

Sometimes in professional sport, it's all about taking your chances. Louis has been given an opportunity to show what he can do at first team level, and he's certainly made the most of it.

Our Academy does a great job developing the next generation of talent, and Louis is the latest example of that.

I hope you all enjoy the game this evening.

Martin

“ OUR ACADEMY DOES A GREAT JOB DEVELOPING THE NEXT GENERATION OF TALENT, AND LOUIS IS THE LATEST EXAMPLE OF THAT ”



COLUMN SPONSORED BY



CEO

LANCE BRADLEY



HELLO AND WELCOME TO KINGSHOLM FOR OUR FINAL HEINEKEN CHAMPIONS CUP GROUP GAME OF THIS SEASON, ESPECIALLY TO OUR FRIENDS FROM MONTPELLIER, WHO MADE US ALL FEEL SO WELCOME WHEN WE VISITED THEM IN THE SOUTH OF FRANCE IN NOVEMBER. AND, OF COURSE, IT'S A BIG THANK YOU TO YOU GLOUCESTER RUGBY FANS WHO HAVE COME TO SUPPORT OUR CLUB TODAY.

We know we have a lot of people visiting us from local schools, colleges and universities today, many for the first time. We hope you enjoy the game and your experience here, and that we'll see you again soon.

There's been a real buzz around the Club this week – isn't it amazing what a bonus point win over your local rivals can do? We'd be the first to admit we got off to a bit of a slow start last weekend against Bath, but in the second half I thought we produced some of our best rugby of the season so far. Outscoring your opponents by four tries to nil is a great result.

In the Gallagher Premiership we've now scored the second highest number of tries, and conceded the fewest number, leaving us third in the table and very well placed to kick on when we return to league action in a couple of week's time.

But today it's all about the Champions Cup. Today's game against Montpellier is a crucial one for our Champions Cup campaign. As I'm sure you know, the winners of each

group, plus the three best runners up, qualify for the quarter finals. Going into this weekend we were in one of those three best runners up slots.

A good result today could mean that we'd go into next weekend's game away at Toulouse (who may well have qualified by then) needing only a couple of points to qualify.

We came within a whisker of winning in Montpellier, eventually going down 30-27, so we feel confident of a good result today. I know Johan has picked the strongest team we have available to make sure we give it our very best shot.

“ THERE'S BEEN A REAL BUZZ AROUND THE CLUB THIS WEEK – ISN'T IT AMAZING WHAT A BONUS POINT WIN OVER YOUR LOCAL RIVALS CAN DO? ”

And as I've said before, you can make a big difference by being our 16th man, cheering the boys on from the stands.

Off the field it's been a busy week. Club Membership renewals for next season are up 44% at the time of writing, for which we are really grateful. We never take your support for granted, and it's great to see so many of you sharing our confidence in the team and the Club.

We've also been finalizing plans for another of our exclusive Club Member events next week – An Evening with the Forwards. There are still a few tickets left for what should be an epic evening. Details are on our website. We have events running every month for Club Members, so keep your eye out for the announcements.

In closing, I hope you have a great evening today, and we look forward to welcoming you back again soon.

**Best wishes,
Lance**

HUGE EFFORT FROM GLOUCESTER RUGBY COMES UP JUST SHORT IN MONTPELLIER

WHAT HAPPENED

A magnificent second half comeback from Gloucester Rugby wasn't quite enough in Montpellier back in round two, the home team hanging on for a 30-27 Heineken Champions Cup win despite the Cherry and Whites pushing them all the way to the final whistle.

The Cherry and Whites looked out of it at half-time. However, Gloucester Rugby, aided somewhat by a red card for the home team's Jacques Du Plessis, battled back bravely and were pushing for the go ahead score when time ran out on them.

The opening quarter was actually fairly even. Montpellier featured some massive players in their side, but the Cherry and Whites fronted up bravely and looked to play with ball in hand whenever they were in possession.

Benoit Paillaugue opened the scoring with a penalty before, almost out of nothing, Jan Serfontein latched on to a kick ahead for the game's first try.



The centre may have been in front of the kick, but the score stood and Paillaugue converted for 10-0.

Billy Twelvetrees kicked a penalty to get the Cherry and Whites off and running, but some over-ambition in their own 22 saw the ball turned over and Montpellier took full advantage as Caleb Timu went over from close range.

Gloucester Rugby hit back with a great try, Lloyd Evans darting through before finding Callum Braley with an inside pass for the scrum-half to slide over.

However, a key phase of play just before half-time, following another turnover, saw the home team turn the screw up front and Nemani Nadolo powered his way over.

The Cherry and Whites hit back in the second half, Matt Banahan going over from close range. Du Plessis was sent off for elbowing Gerbrandt Grobler and two penalties from Paillaugue and one from Twelvetrees made it 30-20.

Another beauty of a try then got Gloucester Rugby back into it. Rees-Zammit went down the right and kicked ahead, Thorley gathered only to be brought down just short but Joe Simpson was on hand to pick up and dive over.

Lloyd Evans held his nerve to convert to narrow the gap to 30-27 but, despite a couple of half-chances, time ran out on the Cherry and Whites as the home team held on for a nervy victory with their fans nervously biting their nails.



30-27



TIMELINE

- 13' Benoit Paillaugue
- 21' Jan Serfontein
- 22' Benoit Paillaugue
- 27' Billy Twelvetrees
- 32' Caleb Time
- 33' Benoit Paillaugue
- 35' Callum Braley
- 36' Billy Twelvetrees
- 40' Nemani Nadolo
- 40' Benoit Paillaugue
- 45' Matt Banahan
- 46' Billy Twelvetrees
- 52' Benoit Paillaugue
- 55' Jacques du Plessis
- 59' Billy Twelvetrees
- 64' Benoit Paillaugue
- 74' Joe Simpson
- 76' Lloyd Evans

HOW IT HAPPENED

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



IN PICTURES

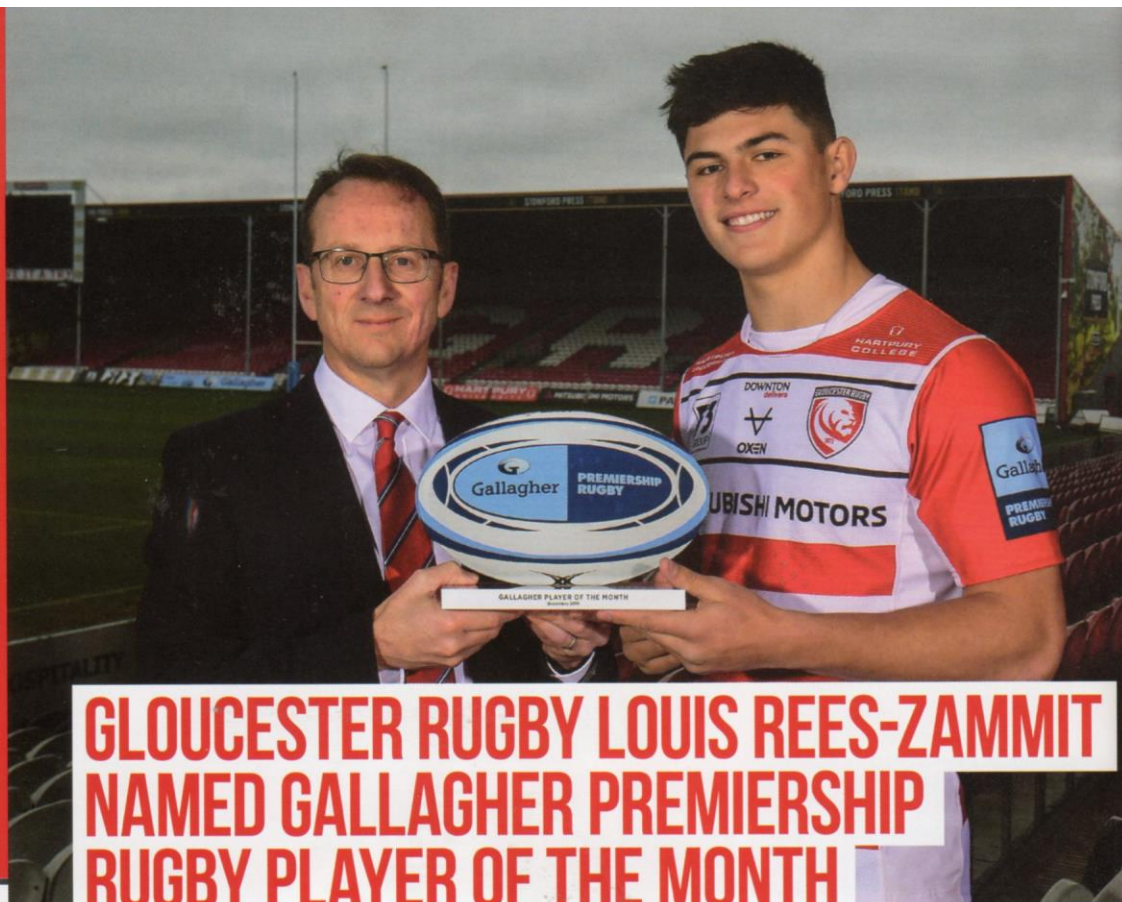
View the best of the match action as captured by the club photographer.



WHAT THEY HAD TO SAY



Head Coach Johan Ackermann and second row Gerbrandt Grobler were on media duties after the game.



GLOUCESTER RUGBY LOUIS REES-ZAMMIT NAMED GALLAGHER PREMIERSHIP RUGBY PLAYER OF THE MONTH

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GLOUCESTER RUGBY WING LOUIS REES-ZAMMIT CROWNED AN "UNBELIEVABLE MONTH" THIS WEEK BY BEING NAMED GALLAGHER PREMIERSHIP RUGBY PLAYER OF THE MONTH FOR DECEMBER 2019.

The flying teenager made a major breakthrough in the month of December, scoring five tries, which included a new record when he became the youngest player to score a hat-trick in a Premiership Rugby match.

Rees-Zammit's performances in December were praised by Ugo Monye, the former England and Lions wing who is now a BT Sport pundit, covering Gallagher Premiership Rugby, and Gallagher brand ambassador.

Monye said: "It's been an unbelievable month for Louis. Normally the competition is pretty tight when it comes to Gallagher Premiership Rugby Player of the Month but he was head and shoulders above any other player in December.

"The month we've had in terms of rugby and the competition has been exhilarating but his performances have just been incredible especially considering this is his first year in the Premiership.

"In a league which is so tight, and where defences are often on top, you're looking for a spark and he has been that. He's turning the momentum in matches with his try scoring ability, his searing pace is something that stands out, but he's got really nice deft touches as well."

Rees-Zammit was presented with his award by Antony Carlile, account director for Gallagher in Gloucester, where the local insurance broker has a 40-strong team as part of a UK-wide network of more than 70 branches.

Monye added: "You often look to your senior players for those contributions to change momentum but Louis is doing it at 18. It's a winger's job to score tries and he's clearly doing that but to change the course of a match, that takes something really special, and he's quite clearly got a very special talent.

"You see a lot of quick wingers that score tries, but you wonder if they've got an all-round game and an understanding of the game, but that's something that he's grasped in a very short period of time.

"For every supporter, not just Gloucester Rugby supporters, they get excited about watching him play, he's an absolute pleasure and joy to watch.

"If he has the hunger to learn, and speaking to Gloucester Rugby players he's a very coachable player, there's no reason as to why his development won't continue in a similar trajectory to what it is currently.

"He already looks ready-made at the age of 18 and I think he is showing all the hallmarks of what could be a promising career, not just at Gallagher Premiership Rugby level but potentially at international as well."

Gallagher's Antony Carlile added: "With a lifelong involvement in the game and as a Gloucester Rugby supporter, it's an absolute pleasure to present the Player of the Month award to the record-setting Louis Rees-Zammit. To be making such a huge impact in his first year in the competition is incredible and his stunning hat-trick in December was something to behold.

"As a locally based business, we're really enjoying seeing Gloucester Rugby sit so high in the table and Louis' fantastic pace and try-scoring hunger is already proving a major contributor to the team's success."

Rees-Zammit – as part of his prize for being named Gallagher Premiership Rugby Player of the Month – wins a Gloucester Rugby shirt signed by the whole squad and framed by Gallagher which he has donated to the Velindre Cancer Centre.

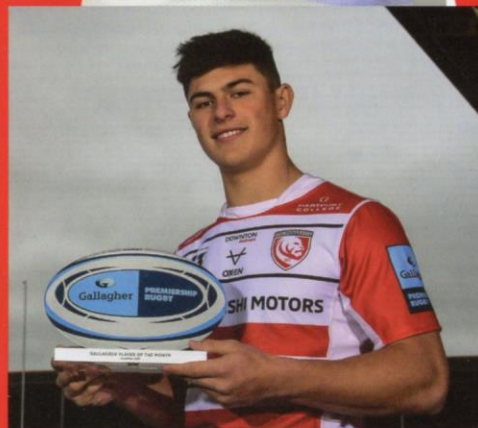
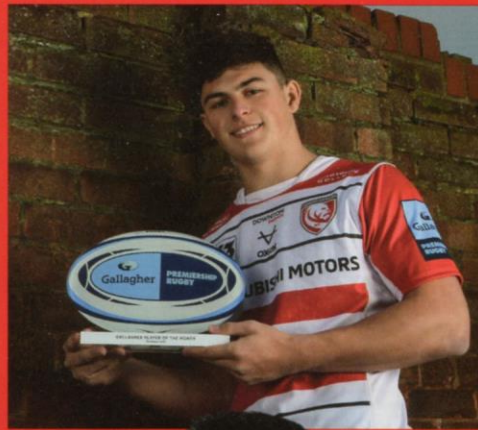
Since it became the proud title partner of Premiership Rugby in 2018, local insurance broker Gallagher has embarked on a series of community initiatives that champion the positive contribution of grassroots rugby – the lifeblood of the professional and elite game – as part of its ongoing commitment to supporting the wider rugby community and its values.

Rees-Zammit was judged by a panel of experts as the player who made the biggest impact in Gallagher Premiership Rugby over the month of December 2019.

He was involved in a three-way battle to win the award eventually beating brothers Joe and Sam Simmonds who'd enjoyed stunning months for the Exeter Chiefs.

Rees-Zammit was voted for by a panel of media professionals based on his performances in December, alongside a public poll which drew more than 3,500 votes on the Premiership Rugby app.

The judges were: Nick Mullins (BT Sport), Alastair Eykyn (BT Sport), Mick Cleary (The Daily Telegraph), Sarah Mockford (Rugby World), Jonny Fordham (The Sun), Jill Douglas (Broadcaster) Robert Kitson (The Guardian), Chris Jones (BBC 5 Live), David Rogers (Getty Images) and Tom Hamilton (ESPN). The panel was chaired by Paul Morgan, Premiership Rugby's Communications Director.



MONTPELLIER AND OTHER FRENCH CONNECTIONS

A LOOK AT OUR VISITORS TODAY AND FRENCH HEROES OF THE NOUGHTIES.

A BIT OF MONTPELLIER HISTORY

When Gloucester took the field against today's visitors at Montpellier's GGL Stadium in November, it was the first-ever meeting between the two clubs. This is less surprising than it might appear.

Unlike other cities on the Mediterranean coast, notably Toulon, Perpignan, Narbonne and Béziers, Montpellier has been first and foremost a football town with a famous football club who were founding members of the French Ligue 1, and who have never been relegated (Eric Cantona played a season for them in 1989-90, scoring 10 goals).

The rugby club, Montpellier Hérault RC, founded in 1986 through the merger of two local clubs, has only been a force in French rugby since 2003, when they won promotion to the Top 14 for the first time and the following season won the European Shield. Despite that, the city has produced some outstanding players in recent years, notably Louis Picamoles, Francois Trinh-Duc, Julien Thomas and Fulgence Ouedraogo and are now a major force in both the Top 14 and European rugby.

GLOUCESTER'S FRENCH PEDIGREE

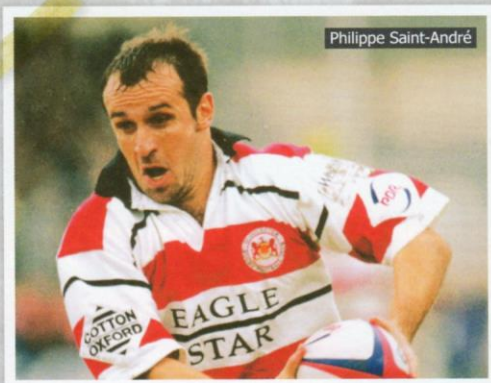
With no previous encounters to look back on, there's the opportunity instead to take another look at the great Gloucester teams of the noughties and the great French players (and great French characters) who contributed to the club's success in a decade when they only once finished outside the top 6 and topped the table at the end of the regular season three times.

PHILIPPE SAINT-ANDRÉ (1997-2002)

Philippe Saint-André, at the time France's most capped wing, was Gloucester's first major signing of the professional era. His debut at Kingsholm against Bristol in 1997 was greeted with berets and Breton jerseys and the singing of the Marsellaise, as only the Shed could sing it.

He did not let them down, scoring two tries, one of them a brilliant solo effort, and went on to score 12 tries in 19 appearances and to add to his total of French caps.

In February 1999, after a patchy start to the following



season, Director of Rugby Richard Hill was dismissed and replaced by Saint-André. Initially Philippe was to be player-coach, but he quickly realised the difficulties involved and played the last of his 41 games in April.

His first full season in charge was very encouraging, the club finishing third. Notable signings were All Black legend Ian Jones and formidable back row Junior Paramore. In his second season the club managed only seventh place but reached the semi-final of the Heineken Cup for the only time in their history, losing narrowly to Leicester. Ludovic Mercier and Henry Paul were further good signings, outstanding young players such as Simpson-Daniel and Forrester were coming to the fore and the future looked bright.

However, success was not coming quickly enough and, in February 2002, Saint-André was replaced by Nigel Melville. Philippe went on to win the Premiership with Sale and manage the French national team for four years.

SERGE SIMON (1999-2001)

Prop Serge Simon only played 18 games for Gloucester between 1999 and 2000 but in that short space of time became a folk hero (especially in the Shed) for his tough uncompromising style and obvious enthusiasm for the game.

Whether coming off the bench, punching the air (apparently a red card waiting to happen) or waltzing an opponent round the field in a successful attempt to defuse an ugly situation, he was always good value for money.

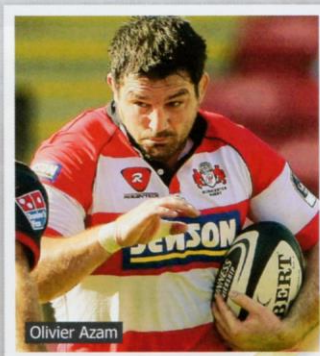
After a stint with Gloucester in 1999-2000, he received

a hero's welcome in August 2000 when he returned in answer to a front row crisis. A true character, his shambling appearance belied the fact that he was a doctor working for the French government and a talented artist. His two international caps were won in 1991, the year he helped Begles win the French Championship.

OLIVIER "OLLIE" AZAM (2000-2011)

When Philippe Saint-André recruited French international hooker Olivier Azam from Montferrand in the summer of 2000, it was the start of a Gloucester legend.

Saint-André knew Azam well as they had played alongside each other for Montferrand (now Clermont Auvergne). Gloucester's success in the three years 2000-01 (Heineken Cup semi-finalists), 2001-02 (third in the Zurich Premiership and Zurich Championship winners) and 2002-03 (Zurich Premiership table toppers and Powergen Cup winners) owed much to the power of "Ollie" Azam who was in the form of his life.



After a break in 2003-04 when he returned to his old club Montferrand where he won Man of the Match in the European Challenge Cup Final, he returned to Kingsholm to the delight of his many supporters and the cries of "Ollie, Ollie" rang out once more in the Shed, whenever he got the ball. He played 240 games for Gloucester and will always be remembered as part of the greatest-ever Gloucester front row of Phil Vickery, Trevor Woodman and Ollie Azam.

DIMITRI YACHVILI (2001-2002)

Brive-born scrum half Dimitri Yachvili, son of French international forward Michel, made 26 appearances for Gloucester, his first senior club, in 2001-2002, playing in the Zurich Championship Final victory over Bristol at Twickenham.

Aged 20 on arrival at Kingsholm, he showed huge promise and, on moving to Biarritz where he made 289 appearances, gained his first French cap in November 2002. He went on to win 60 caps for France and play in the 2011 World Cup Final.

LUDOVIC "LUDO" MERCIER (2001-2007)

Although he had played French Top 16 rugby for Beziers, Ludovic Mercier was at tier 2 side Aurillac when signed by Saint-André in 2001 and was still relatively unknown.

This all changed in his first season at Kingsholm, when he scored



508 points, including 17 dropped goals. His prodigious place kicking (the posts at Kingsholm had to be extended to accommodate it), immaculate line kicking and sound positioning (which more than compensated for any lack of pace) made him a match-winner and he quickly became a cult hero.

The following season he scored 101 points in Gloucester's six Heineken Cup games and was outstanding in the magnificent Powergen Cup win over Northampton at Twickenham. Returning after a two year break, he played in the 2006 European Rugby Challenge Cup win over London Irish at The Stoop. In all he played 105 games for Gloucester, scoring 1325 points.

PATRICE COLLAZO (2001-2008)

Prop Patrice Collazo played for Begles against Gloucester at Kingsholm in the 1996 European Conference game, as a promising 22-year-old. He joined Gloucester from Begles in 2001, playing 78 games for the club in 2001-03 and 2005-08, with two seasons at Toulouse in between.

Accomplished in tight and loose, he won an international cap while with Begles and, but for the strength of the French front row at the time, could have won many more. Collazo played for Gloucester in both the Zurich Championship Final victory against Bristol in 2002 and in the European Rugby Challenge Cup Final victory against London Irish in 2006.

CHRISTIAN CALIFANO (2006-2008)

Like Saint-André, Christian Califano was one of the great names of French rugby, when he joined Gloucester from Agen in September 2006. The tight head prop had won 69 caps for France and had a reputation as one of the most destructive scrummagers in the game, on either side of the scrum.

Although in the twilight of his career he made a major contribution in his first season when Gloucester topped the Premiership and reached the play-off final at Twickenham. He was a formidable opponent from the start of a match, but even more so when coming off the bench against a tiring pack.

His performances earned Califano one last recall for France and he played in the two autumn internationals against the All Blacks in 2007.

He played 36 games for Gloucester in his two seasons with the club, announcing his retirement in February 2008. A motorcycling enthusiast, he went on to compete for three successive years (2009-10-11) in the notorious Dakar Rally.

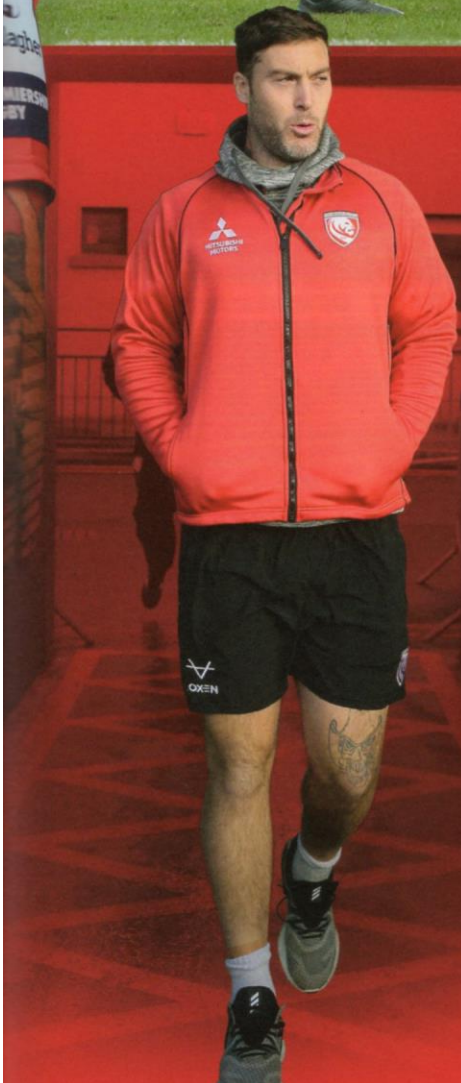
“ I ALWAYS THINK THE CRUNCH TIME IS IN THE SPRING, AROUND SIX NATIONS TIME, WHEN TEAMS LOSE PLAYERS TO INTERNATIONALS AND POINTS ARE AT A PREMIUM ”



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MATT BANAHAN

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN SAID THERE WERE ONLY TWO THINGS CERTAIN IN LIFE: DEATH AND TAXES. WE'D LIKE TO ADD A THIRD FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS FEATURE — THE PRESENCE OF MATT BANAHAN IN A MATCHDAY SQUAD.



After more than 300 senior appearances, at Bath and now Gloucester Rugby, his appetite for the game burns as brightly as ever, last weekend being the latest time he has faced his former team in the Premiership. Does it still feel odd, squaring off against the Blue, Black and White?

"Not any more. I've had a great 18 months here at Gloucester Rugby, playing in the Cherry and White. It's always funny playing against people you've known for a long time but, at the same time, a lot of faces have changed down there. It's the nature of the game. I probably know more of the supporters than the players!

"It was great to get the win. My mum texted me to say that I'm unbeaten in the three games I've played against Bath in the Premiership! But, as a team, it puts us in a great position at the start of 2020 and it's nice to be part of it.

"The league is so tight. It shows the quality of the teams and how hard it's going to be. I always think the crunch time is in the spring, around Six Nations time, when teams lose players to internationals and points are at a premium. You can open up a gap or lose ground at that time.

This season has been one of flexibility – he's appeared on both wings, in the centre add at full-back. He takes pride in offering options to the coaches when it comes to selection time.

"It's good to be able to offer that to the squad. We've got people like Louis Rees-Zammit, Tom Marshall and Ollie Thorley at different stages of their careers and in outstanding form on the wing. Jason Woodward at full-back as well.

**“ THE OLDER I’VE GOT,
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“They offer so much and they’re in the prime of their careers and, if I can offer something off the bench, or if someone has a niggle and I can do a job to contribute then I’m happy to do so.

“I still love playing rugby, even after 12 years, and I want to play every week. But, feasibly, you know you can’t because of the way the game is played nowadays. Especially this block of games that we’re in at the moment. Even if you don’t start, you still prepare for the game and it does all take a toll.

“But the older I’ve got, the more enjoyment I’ve got, because I have an opportunity to do something that so many people dream of. People are paying to be entertained. They’re passionate because it’s their club, it’s their city, they want to win but they do still want to be entertained.



"So, we owe it to them to smile, to interact, to give a little bit back. I even smile when I make a mistake, not because I've done it on purpose. I laugh at myself because I shouldn't make that mistake and just try and put it behind me and move on."

"The door that indicates the end of my career is edging open, so I'm going to try and enjoy every moment that remains. I've had some great times but, sooner or later, I'm going to be a spectator watching my friends play."

Away from the game, Matt is one of those who doesn't appear to have any bother filling a day off. If you follow his social media activity, the Banahan household is a busy one on a variety of fronts.

"My wife's got a beauty company as well as a candle company, Sacco Scent, which makes vegan candles, hand pouring them ourselves in a little warehouse area. We had people ordering them from all over Europe before Christmas.

"It's brilliant, it's another way of challenging ourselves and preparing for something after rugby. My wife's work ethic is unbelievable, if people follow me on social media, she's the one working hard! I joke that I'm a stay at home Dad!

"And with three kids and seven nieces and nephews, it's a big family and you're always kept



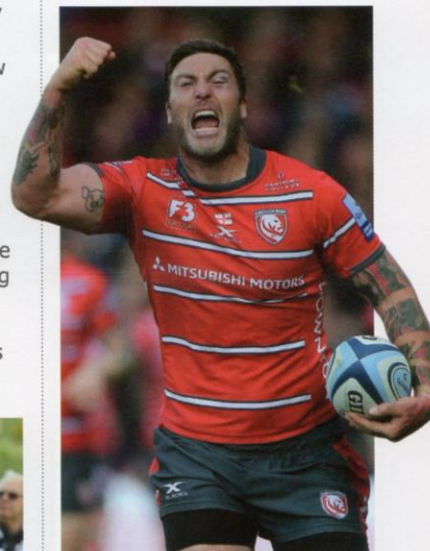
busy. Between my son's football and my daughter's dancing, there's always something going on but, whenever I get some time, you'll definitely find me on the golf course, whatever the weather.

"I think that's just the pursuit of excellence, I've tried to excel at rugby throughout my career and I'm the same with golf, trying to work my way down to scratch."

And there have also been a few media appearances, across the networks this season?

"Yeah, Channel 4, Channel 5 and BT Sport. I did them all at the start of the season! We always used to joke that the boys who do that are just trying to cash in at the end of their careers! And all three of them asked me, and I thought '...this is going to look so bad!'"

"But I enjoy everything about the gig. I come up here on Mondays and coach the U18s and enjoy seeing the next generation coming up. The U17s train afterwards and I help out with them sometimes. The buzz of this club and how the youth section is pushing through is amazing, there are some talented boys coming through."



Finally, he featured down in Montpellier earlier this season? We ran them close, can we turn it around today?

"Absolutely. We've had chances in all the games in Europe, we could have won them all, they've been one score games. We can still qualify, but we need to perform today and then go to Toulouse and do the same again."



BRAVE GLOUCESTER RUGBY EFFORT COMES UP JUST SHORT AT FRANKLIN'S GARDENS

Gloucester Rugby battled to the very last minute at Franklin's Gardens and will consider themselves unlucky to only take two points away for their efforts, a number of marginal calls going against them in a 33-26 away defeat at Northampton Saints, Louis Rees-Zammit scoring a hat-trick.



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WHAT HAPPENED

Not too many teams will come away from Franklin's Gardens with two points, but it always felt that the Cherry and Whites were very much in this game and could have nicked the result. However, they couldn't quite get back on terms in the second half.

Ultimately, Gloucester Rugby paid the price for a first 40 minutes when, in the words of Head Coach Johan Ackermann, they '...didn't fire any shots...' apart from Louis Rees-Zammit's try to open the scoring.

However, the second half was much better and the team played with real spirit. In fact, had it not been for a couple of 50-50 calls going against the Cherry and Whites, they could easily have taken the spoils.

Rees-Zammit's first half try was a little against the run of play, the winger running onto Mark Atkinson's well-judged grubber to score. But the remainder of the half saw the Saints pile on the

pressure and they went into half-time with a 13-7 lead courtesy of a Haywood catch and drive try and a conversion and two penalties from Dan Biggar.

Injuries forced a reshuffle at half-time and Northampton took full advantage as Cobus Reinach sneaked home under the posts.



But the response was immediate as Chris Harris crossed for the Cherry and Whites.

Then followed a key moment as there appeared to be a tip tackle on a Gloucester ball-carrier. Play went on, a pass went loose and Reinach pounced to hack downfield and then gather to score for his second.

Rees-Zammit added his second as the backs showed what they're capable of with ball in hand, and more chances followed but a yellow card to Josh Hohnock on the hour mark after an intervention from the TMO was a blow.

Cipriani was then denied a spectacular try, again as the TMO offered his input and ruled there to be a foot in touch, but Rees-Zammit completed his hat-trick to set up a potential grandstand finish. However, a penalty conceded at a maul allowed Piers Francis to slot a late penalty and make the final score 33-26.



NORTHAMPTON
SAINTS

33-26



HOW IT HAPPENED

See how the game at Franklin's Gardens 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



Head Coach Johan Ackermann and skipper Willi Heinz were on media duties after the game.

TIMELINE

- 6' Louis Rees-Zammit
- 7' Danny Cipriani
- 24' Dan Biggar
- 31' Mikey Haywood
- 32' Dan Biggar
- 37' Dan Biggar
- 42' Cobus Reinach
- 42' Piers Francis
- 46' Chris Harris
- 47' Danny Cipriani
- 49' Cobus Reinach
- 50' Piers Francis
- 54' Louis Rees-Zammit
- 55' Danny Cipriani
- 60' Josh Hohnneck
- 63' Piers Francis
- 74' Louis Rees-Zammit
- 78' Piers Francis

STRONG SECOND-HALF PROPELS GLOUCESTER RUGBY TO DERBY WIN OVER BATH RUGBY

Gloucester Rugby trailed 7-9 after a frustrating first 40 minutes at Kingsholm, but delighted the home crowd with a barnstorming second half to clinch a bonus point 29-15 Gallagher Premiership win over local rivals Bath Rugby last Saturday.



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WHAT HAPPENED

There's no sweeter victory than one over your biggest rivals, and this one was achieved over a very strong Bath side. But this was certainly a game of two halves!

After an ideal start, Jason Woodward forcing his way over for a fourth minute try after a fine break from Franco Mostert, the rest of the half was a frustrating one for the Cherry and Whites as possession was lost on a frequent basis.

Bath, on the other hand, took the points when they were on offer

and three penalties from Rhys Priestland gave the visitors a 7-9 lead at half time.

However, the momentum changed at the start of the second half and Gloucester Rugby, backed by a vociferous home crowd, started to tick over nicely.

Freddie Clarke powered his way over from close range to give Gloucester Rugby a narrow 12-9 lead, but Priestland promptly levelled the scores with his fourth penalty straight after the restart

and then nudged Bath in front 12-15 with his fifth after 55 minutes.

Jake Polledri chose that moment to demonstrate how powerful he can be with ball in hand, as his burst led to Gerbrandt Grobler crashing over and, two minutes later, Polledri was prominent again as Ruan Ackermann scored the bonus point try.

At 26-15, Gloucester Rugby had taken the game by the scruff of the neck and, although Bath threatened sporadically, the home defence was determined to keep its line intact and the only further score was a 77th minute penalty from Billy Twelvetrees to make the final score 29-15.

The win takes Gloucester Rugby back up to third place in the Gallagher Premiership table, and nicely sets up this evening's European home fixture against Montpellier and, it goes without saying, sent their supporters home in good spirits.





29-15



TIMELINE

- 4' Jason Woodward
- ⚔ 5' Danny Cipriani
- 9' Rhys Priestland
- 18' Rhys Priestland
- 22' Rhys Priestland
- 44' Freddie Clarke
- 48' Rhys Priestland
- 55' Rhys Priestland
- 57' Gerbrandt Grobler
- ⚔ 58' Billy Twelvetrees
- 61' Ruan Ackermann
- ⚔ 63' Billy Twelvetrees
- 77' Billy Twelvetrees

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.



WHAT THEY HAD TO SAY



Head Coach Johan Ackermann, plus Freddie Clarke and Ollie Thorley were on post-match media duties.



VS



82

T P C D				POSITION	T P C D						
				Jason WOODWARD 15	FULL BACK	15	Henri IMMELMAN				
				Louis REES-ZAMMIT 14	RIGHT WING	14	Gabriel NGANDEBE				
				Chris HARRIS 13	OUTSIDE CENTRE	13	Arthur VINCENT				
				Billy TWELVETREES 12	INSIDE CENTRE	12	Francois STEYN				
				Ollie THORLEY 11	LEFT WING	11	Nemani NADOLO				
				Danny CIPRIANI 10	FLY-HALF	10	Anthony BOUTHIER				
				Willi HEINZ (C) 9	SCRUM-HALF	9	Benoit PAILLAUGUE				
				Val RAPAVAL RUSKIN 1	LOOSEHEAD PROP	1	Mikheil NARIASHVILI				
				Franco MARAIS 2	HOKKER	2	Bismarck DU PLESSIS				
				Ciaran KNIGHT 3	TIGHTHEAD PROP	3	Levan CHILICHAVA				
				Gerbrandt GROBLER 4	LOCK	4	Nicolaas JANSE VAN RENSBURG				
				Franco MOSTERT 5	LOCK	5	Paul WILLEMSE				
				Ruan ACKERMANN 6	BLINDSIDE FLANKER	6	Kelian GALLETIER				
				Lewis LUDLOW 7	OPENSIDE FLANKER	7	Yacouba CAMARA				
				Ben MORGAN 8	NUMBER 8	8	Louis PICAMOLES (C)				
REPLACEMENTS					REPLACEMENTS						
				Todd GLEAVE 16		16	Youri DELHOMMEL				
				Alex SEVILLE 17	MATCH OFFICIALS	17	Gregory FITCHTEN				
				Josh HONECK 18	Referee: Frank Murphy (IRE)	18	Mohamed HAOUAS				
				Alex CRAIG 19	Assistant Referees: Andrew Brace (IRE) Rob O'Sullivan (IRE)	19	Martin DEVERGIE				
				Freddie CLARKE 20	TMO: Olly Hodges (IRE)	20	Kahn FOTUALI'I				
				Joe SIMPSON 21	Citing Commissioner: Peter Ferguson (IRE)	21	Johan GOOSEN				
				Owen WILLIAMS 22		22	Yvan REILHAC				
				Matt BANAHAN 23		23	Konstantin MIKAUTADZE				

