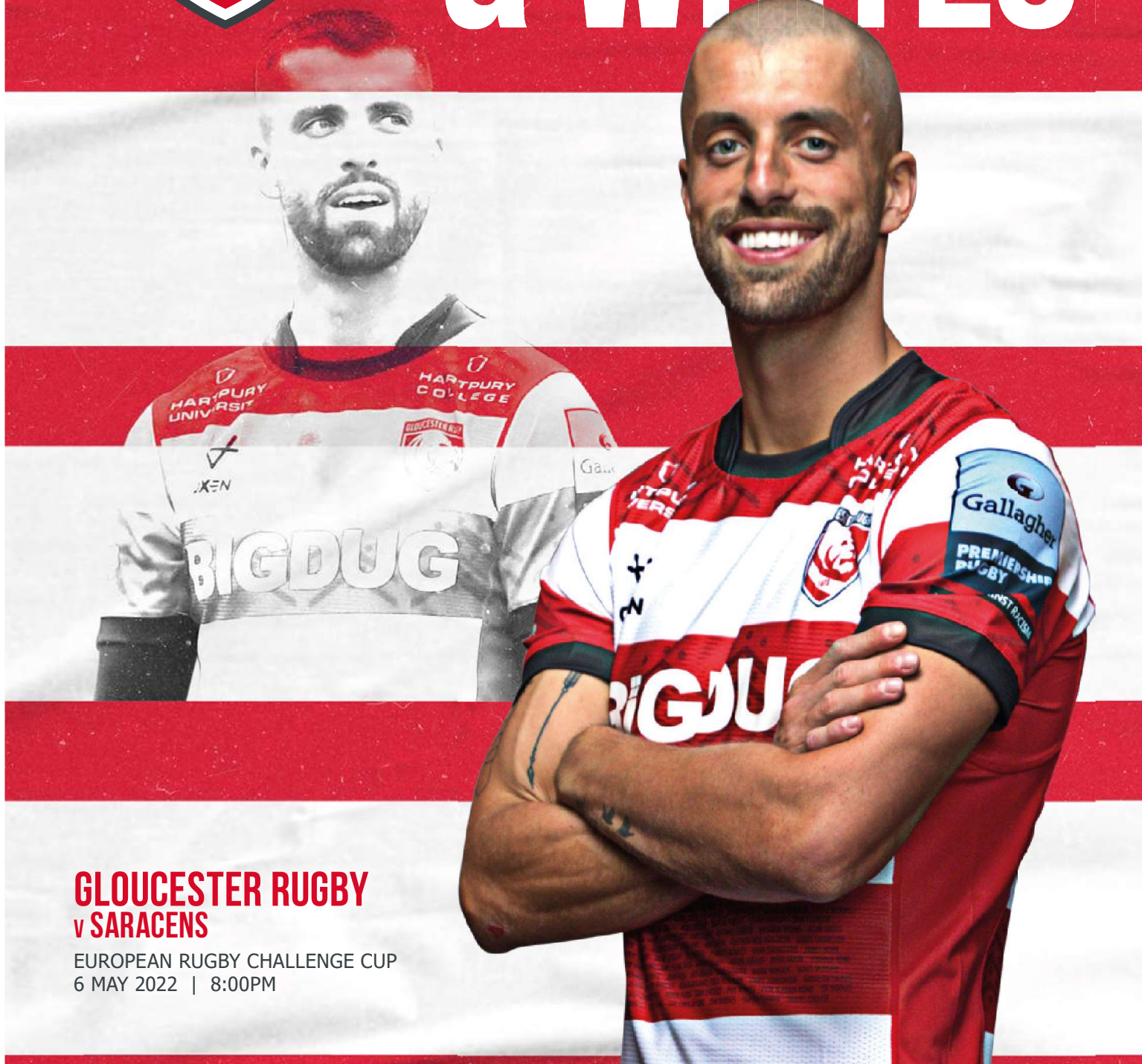




CHERRY & WHITES



GLOUCESTER RUGBY v SARACENS

EUROPEAN RUGBY CHALLENGE CUP
6 MAY 2022 | 8:00PM





GLOUCESTER RUGBY

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LANCE BRADLEY

CEO

WELCOME TO KINGSHOLM, AND ANOTHER FRIDAY NIGHT UNDER THE LIGHTS. THIS EVENING WE WELCOME SARACENS, FOR OUR EUROPEAN CHALLENGE CUP QUARTER-FINAL.

We're now very much at the business end of the season, with every game taking on significant importance. Tonight's game is no exception.

As you will have seen, we've named a strong squad, with few changes from the one which recorded that fantastic, and record-breaking, 64-0 win over Bath last weekend. The atmosphere around the Club has been great this week, as you would expect when you put one over your longest-standing rivals in that way.

But while everyone is full of confidence, no-one is in any doubt that tonight's game presents a very different challenge. We know that we will have to put in another top performance to beat Saracens, as we did when we went to their StoneX stadium in January.

We're really looking forward to the game.

If you've enjoyed games like the one last weekend, can I remind you that it's not too late to get your season ticket for the 22/23 season, and still take advantage of our interest-free direct debit offer? For an adult that could mean as little as £40 per month for the Speedy Skips Stand, £55 in the Compeed Shed, £65 in the Stowford Press Stand and £80 in the Malvern Tyres Stand.

For Juniors the monthly pricing works out at £15 - £30.

Full details, including detailed pricing, are **on our website here**.

We've had a great season so far, and next year promises to be even better. We'd love you to share it with us.

Together, we are a squad of thousands.

**Best wishes
Lance**



“THE ATMOSPHERE AROUND THE CLUB HAS BEEN GREAT THIS WEEK, AS YOU WOULD EXPECT WHEN YOU PUT ONE OVER YOUR LONGEST-STANDING RIVALS IN THAT WAY”

DOMINIC McKAY

EPCR WELCOME MESSAGE



A WARM WELCOME TO THIS EPCR CHALLENGE CUP QUARTER-FINAL MATCH AS THE QUEST FOR COVETED SILVERWARE AT THE MARSEILLE FINALS LATER THIS MONTH FURTHER INTENSIFIES.

Ten clubs from the EPCR Challenge Cup, as well as six qualifiers from the Heineken Champions Cup, initially booked their places in the knockout stage, and now we're down to the last eight who have a total of 11 European titles between them.

We are guaranteed another series of high-stakes matches before we look forward to the semi-finals and then the 2022 decider at the Stade Vélodrome on Friday, 27 May.

More than 60,000 tickets have already been snapped for the Marseille finals weekend, and with demand increasing by the day, you can book your place at epcrugby.com/finals/

The EPCR Challenge Cup has undergone a dynamic rebrand for this season, and with the support of our innovative digital platforms, we are already engaging with a new generation of fans while at the same time acknowledging the established supporters of the tournament since its inception in 1996.

As in previous years, there is the incentive of direct qualification for the Heineken Champions Cup if the tournament winner happens not to have secured a place via its own league.

We are delighted to be joined this season by our official partner, DHL, who provide customised logistics solutions for both the EPCR Challenge Cup and the Heineken Champions Cup, and we would like to thank our other official partner, Tissot, as well as the Financial Times, Gilbert and Kappa for their continuing support.

We also acknowledge the superb coverage provided by our TV partners BT Sport, beIN SPORTS, France Télévisions, S4C and Sky Italia whose output is complemented by the wide range of linear and OTT platforms which broadcast our fixtures globally.

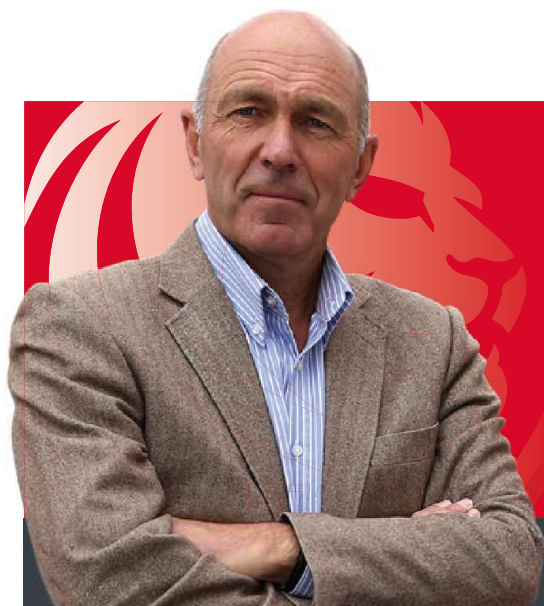
It was hugely positive to see fans back at venues across Europe during the Round of 16 and we are anticipating even more top-class rugby in the coming weeks.

On behalf of all at EPCR, enjoy the match and best wishes to you, the supporters, as well as to your club's players and staff for what promises to be a thrilling EPCR Challenge Cup quarter-final.

Yours in rugby,

Dominic McKay
EPCR Chairman (interim)





MARTIN ST. QUINTON

CHAIRMAN

GOOD EVENING AND WELCOME TO THE QUARTER-FINAL OF THE EUROPEAN CHALLENGE CUP. WHAT A GREAT OCCASION FOR GLOUCESTER RUGBY AS WE HOST OUR PREMIERSHIP RIVALS SARACENS IN THIS KNOCKOUT FIXTURE AT KINGSHOLM.

Speaking of great occasions, last weekend is one that will go down in the history books. To beat Bath 64-0 at home is truly memorable and something I am sure everyone who was there will cherish for a very long time.

It was a great performance and a true team effort from our players and coaches, roared on by the fans. We have kept our top four hopes alive and will look forward to our final two Premiership games against Harlequins and Saracens.

Turning our attention back to the Challenge Cup, this is a really exciting fixture as we look to progress to the semi-final. European evenings under the Friday night lights are special and I do not expect this to be any different.

Knockout rugby is unique, any side can win on the day. Saracens are one of the best teams in Europe and it will be a great marker for us as a club to go up against them.

There is an added tension to a quarter final. We will have to be at our best tonight, but playing here at Kingsholm with your support could make all the difference.

Thank you for that. Enjoy the game!

Martin




 CLICK HERE
TO WATCH
HIGHLIGHTS


LAST TIME WE MET

CHERRY AND WHITES VICTORIOUS IN 25-24 WIN OVER SARACENS

Gloucester Rugby beat Saracens 25-24 to claim their first victory at the StoneX Stadium.

The Cherry and Whites scored three tries with Adam Hastings keeping the scoreboard ticking with two further penalties.

What happened?

It was a tight and physical 80 minutes and it went down to the wire.

Gloucester Rugby were first to get on the scoreboard through a Fraser Balmain try. The prop powered over from the lineout drive as the Cherry and White maul proved powerful again.

The competitive nature of the game continued as Dom Morris and Rotimi Segun got over for the hosts and Saracens built a good lead.

The Cherry and Whites hadn't helped themselves. Both Santiago Carreras and Lewis Ludlow were yellow carded in desperate attempts to stop the Sarries attack and it was with this two man advantage that the home side capitalised.

However, the score was tight at half time thanks to a try from Jack Singleton. Jordy Reid made an electric break and

the hooker was there to collect the pass and get over to score making the score 14-12 to the hosts at the break.

In the second half, Hastings kept the scoreboard ticking with a penalty goal but Saracens were quick to get back in the lead from an Andy Christie try from the following restart.

Gloucester Rugby refused to stay behind and used the maul to get over for a further try. The driving push went over and it was Lewis Ludlow who was credited for the try, although the captain informed the media afterwards that it wasn't him who scored! It was in fact Jack Clement who went over for the try.

Nailing the conversion, Hastings put us in front and another penalty kick at goal gave the Cherry and Whites some breathing room.

It looked like Saracens were going to snatch the victory when Alex Lewington went over for a late try but Alex Lozowski's failed conversion left the score 25-24 with just minutes on the clock.

It was a tense final few moments as Saracens fought back up the pitch but getting the turnover, Gloucester Rugby secured the narrow victory over the London club.



GLOUCESTER RUGBY
HERITAGECUP GAMES
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.

The first time Gloucester and Saracens met was in March 1968 at Kingsholm. The result was a 3-3 draw, Gloucester's points coming from a Don Rutherford penalty. With regard to cup games, there have only been five encounters with Saracens and, so far, (this might be putting the kiss of death on it) Gloucester have won the lot!

**23 FEBRUARY 1985, JOHN PLAYER CUP:
GLOUCESTER 29 SARACENS 3**

This was a game dominated by the Gloucester forwards. Early on Marcus Hannaford got his three-quarters running, Richard Mogg chipped the ball through for Tim Smith to collect and put Nick Price over for a try. Smith converted and added a penalty



Damian Cummins



Marcus Hannaford

for a 9-0 interval lead. After further forward pressure Ian Smith touched down and Tim Smith converted. Saracens replied with a penalty, but another try resulted after a run from John Brain, and Paul Taylor scored. Derrick Morgan added another, before - just before the end - a glorious try was scored after Hannaford broke from his own 22. Mogg, Tim Smith and Morgan all handled before Damian Cummins burst over the try-line, for Tim Smith to convert.

**8 MARCH 1986, JOHN PLAYER CUP:
SARACENS 6 GLOUCESTER 13**

Sarries and Gloucester met in the cup for the second season running. It was an edgy and error-strewn game, with the referee issuing several penalties. As a result, the first half produced no tries, but two penalties from Tim Smith to one from Laurence Smith. The dour fare continued after the break, with further penalties from the two Smiths, before in the last minute Mike Teague broke from a scrum, handed on to Mike Longstaff, who fed Tim Smith, who in turn handed on to Marcus Hannaford who scored a fine try.

25 JANUARY 2003, POWERGEN 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 Delpont chased an Andy Gomersall 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 Gomersall, Adam Eustace, Rodrigo Roncero, and another from Forrester.

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



Henry Trinder

13 NOVEMBER 2010, LV CUP: GLOUCESTER 36 SARACENS 10

After only a few minutes Gloucester opened up, playing through several phases before Charlie Sharples scored a corner try. Tim Taylor converted. Eliota Fuimaono-Sapolu fielded a Sarries clearance kick, broke through mid-field to send in James Simpson-Daniel for the second try, which Taylor also converted. Taylor and Owen Farrell exchanged penalties, then, just before half-time, Henry Trinder intercepted from his own 22 to streak home. The lead was 24-3 at the break. Fuimaono-Sapolu passed to Simpson-Daniel who made 50 metres before slipping the ball to Trinder to score. The pack produced a try for Ollie Azam, before Saracens scored a consolation try through Short.

5 NOVEMBER 2016, ANGLO-WELSH CUP: GLOUCESTER 36 SARACENS 32

Eight Gloucester players were making their first appearance. The debutants were soon put to the test as Sarries attacked and eventually scored through Griffiths. Gloucester replied with a try from Joe Mullis. But it was one-way traffic for the rest of the half as Saracens scored two more tries and penalties for a lead of 25-5 at the interval. In the second half the Cherry and Whites played with great fire and scored tries through Dan Thomas, Henry Purdy and David Halaifonua. Lloyd Evans converted two so that the score was now 25-24 for Saracens. However, Saracens responded with a try by Whitely and a conversion to open up the gap to eight points. Back again came Gloucester, and a pulled-down maul resulted in a penalty try. In the last minute, Lloyd Evans hit the post with a penalty attempt, but the Gloucester forwards following up regained possession. Ben Vellacott passed to Halaifonua who scored the winning try amid wild rejoicing. It was a remarkable come-back.



David Halaifonua

ADAM HASTINGS

ON HIS FIRST SEASON IN GLOUCESTER AND THE WEST COUNTRY WIN



Adam Hastings is really enjoying his first season in Cherry and White. It was his first West Country derby last weekend, something that the Scottish fly-half won't be forgetting any time soon!

"It was awesome! I don't think anyone saw that result coming. For us, it was good because we've been building over the past few weeks and playing some much better rugby. Even though we didn't get the result against Bristol, I think we've seen a different side to what has been for the rest of this season."

Gloucester Rugby scored 10 tries to beat their local rivals Bath 64-0 and the result sent the Kingsholm crowd to another level.

"It feels like an international every time you get out there. Especially when it's close to being sold out. They are so loud! The singing and the chanting is brilliant and you can hear them all game. You can't underestimate how big of a lift they give us and how much we look forward to these home games."

The Gloucester crowd is famous worldwide and is something that Adam believes is truly unique to Kingsholm.

"It creates a good pressure because they just want to see us working extremely hard for 80 minutes. When you do, you feel the love from them and having a fan base like that is absolutely brilliant and it's a testament to the club and the way that the fans feel about the club. It's my first year here and coming in, it's definitely the best fan base in the Premiership. I'm quite thankful that they are our home crowd and that I don't have to travel away and play Gloucester Rugby here! That would be pretty terrifying."

There is a big focus from the players about working hard for the city and also using the city as motivation when they are out on the pitch.

"Skivs wants a group of lads out on that pitch who will work. It's almost like a brotherhood or a family. He wants boys who will go out there and put everything on the line for the team. It's a very team-based mentality. There's no individuals. You do your bit for the collective and I think he's brought that in brilliantly."

"We actually speak about the Shed a lot in training and what they can give us as that 16th man but also about how they want to see a team performing on the pitch, putting in good performances."

It was a dominant display last Saturday. The attack was firing but

what was perhaps most pleasing was keeping them scoreless.

"We've started to really click in the attack which was pleasing and then at the weekend the opportunity presented itself and we really kicked on and took our chances. I think we put in a full 80-minute performance which is what we strive to do every week."



"IT'S MY FIRST YEAR HERE AND COMING IN, IT'S DEFINITELY THE BEST FAN BASE IN THE PREMIERSHIP. I'M QUITE THANKFUL THAT THEY ARE OUR HOME CROWD"

"Dom Waldouck has been brilliant this year. I obviously wasn't here last time but I think he's been building what he wants from the defence. To nil a team is pretty special. I don't think I've ever done it before."

As a young lad, Hastings was part of the Bath academy and having played for both sides, now knows how much a derby day win means.

"I was there for two years in the Academy and I didn't really play. I obviously experienced a couple of derby days from the dark side! I know how special it is to both sides. It was cool for me to be on the Gloucester side and be really involved in the team.

"Derby games are always tough. It was just great to be on the winning side on that day. It means so much to the fans. Boys who have come through the Gloucester academy and then ended up playing, there were a handful of them last Saturday and they spoke about how much it meant to them. I probably underestimated the gravity of the situation until I got out onto that pitch with the crowd and how switched on the boys were in the dressing room."

There are just a few fixtures left this season and each game coming up is being viewed as a must win.

"We're all aware of the challenges that are facing us to get to that top four and potentially kick on in Europe. It's



just about taking it week by week at the moment. We're not focusing on too much else. We've just got to focus on us and play it minute by minute. If we do that and play to our potential, then there's no reason why we can't finish this season with success."

In his first year at Gloucester Rugby, Hastings is loving life.

"It's been an awesome first season. It's been a really tough season, it's my first real test in the Premiership, obviously I was at Bath for a bit but didn't really play. It's been brilliant to be involved week in week out with this squad. It is a really special group of players and I don't say that lightly. The group we've got here, everyone is very tight knit and we're all working towards the same goal.

"It's been a great start and a great new experience for me and something that I've thoroughly enjoyed and am relishing."

Up next, Gloucester Rugby host Saracens in the Challenge Cup quarter-final. Hastings is looking forward to getting back out there at Kingsholm.

"These are the games you want to be part of as a player. High pressure games. It's knockout rugby so anything can happen. We're really looking forward to being at home. Friday nights under the lights is always something to look forward to. Everyone is raring to go and wanting to put on a show."



STATS CORNER



Santiago Socino is the top try scorer



Callum Hunter-Hill has made 24 tackles

- This will be the first meeting between Gloucester Rugby and Saracens in European competition; Gloucester Rugby have won their last six home matches against Premiership opposition in the EPCR Challenge Cup, while Saracens have lost their three away games against English opposition in the competition.
- Gloucester Rugby have won their last five matches against Premiership opposition in the EPCR Challenge Cup; they have not lost at home to an English club in the competition since a one-point defeat to Sale Sharks in the 2001/02 semi-final (27-28).
- Gloucester Rugby have won their last three home knockout stage matches in the EPCR Challenge Cup, with their last two such victories coming against Premiership opposition; they have also won three of their last four quarter-final ties in the competition.
- Saracens have won seven of their last eight games in the EPCR Challenge Cup (L1), including each of the last three in a row, scoring at least 40 points in each of those three matches.
- Saracens have won four of their last five quarter-final fixtures in the EPCR Challenge Cup; however, they have lost all five of their previous knockout fixtures away from home in the competition.
- Gloucester Rugby have made more kicks from open play than any other side in this season's EPCR Challenge Cup (167); consequently, they have also made more kicking meters than any other team in this season's competition (5,020m).
- Saracens have recorded the most possession (56%) and the most territory (62%) of any team to play more than once in this season's EPCR Challenge Cup.
- Gloucester Rugby's Freddie Clarke has claimed the second most lineouts of any player in this season's EPCR Challenge Cup (30, behind Federico Ruzza - 39); teammate Lewis Ludlow has stolen three opposition lineouts this season, only Federico Ruzza (5) has stolen more.
- Gloucester Rugby hooker Santiago Socino is the top try scorer in this season's EPCR Challenge Cup (5); averaging a try every 55 minutes this season; his teammate Jordy Reid is also tied as the fourth top try-scorer in the competition this term (3).
- Saracens' Callum Hunter-Hill has made 24 tackles without missing in the EPCR Challenge Cup this season, one of just three players to make 20+ tackles without missing any in the competition in 2021/22 (Ben Carter - 27, Andrew Kitchener - 26).



GLOUCESTER RUGBY WIPE THE BOARD CLEAN WITH A RECORD 64-0 WIN OVER BATH

Gloucester Rugby beat Bath 64-0 in a record victory in the West Country derby, scoring 10 tries against the Blue, Black and Whites.

What happened?

It was a phenomenal and historic afternoon with Gloucester Rugby claiming the bonus point win over Bath.

Gloucester Rugby had in fact secured the bonus point by half time and took a 24-0 lead into the break thanks to scores from Chris Harris, two from Louis Rees-Zammit and a phenomenal finish from Santiago Carreras to end the first half.

The derby started with Bath's Valeriy Morozov getting yellow carded for a high tackle and it wasn't long before they had a second yellow when Max Clark was yellow carded for tripping Charlie Chapman in the build up to our first score.

Chris Harris managed to get over the line after a few false starts from the Cherry and Whites.

Louis Rees-Zammit then got over for two scores with the second being a true classic. The winger chipped the ball through twice, placing a hand on it as it bounced over the line to secure the try.

To finish the first half, Santiago Carreras picked up a Mark Atkinson offload to race over in the corner.

In the second half, Ben Morgan got over the line immediately thanks to a inside ball from Louis Rees-Zammit.

Mark Atkinson, Lewis Ludlow, Ben Meehan, Jamal Ford-Robinson and Matias Alemanno all got over for tries, cementing the historic win over Bath.

KEY MOMENT: JAMAL FORD-ROBINSON'S SCORE

Fan favourite Jamal Ford-Robinson scored a fantastic try which any winger would be proud of. The replacement prop received the ball in space and showed true pace to get over the line to finish it off, much to the delight of the Kingsholm crowd.



CLICK HERE
TO WATCH
HIGHLIGHTS



THE TEAMS



VS



SARACENS

T P C D

T P C D

				Santiago CARRERAS	15	Alex GOODE				
				Louis REES ZAMMIT	14	Rotimi SEGUN				
				Chris HARRIS	13	Elliot DALY				
				Mark ATKINSON	12	Nick TOMPKINS				
				Ollie THORLEY	11	Sean MAITLAND				
				Adam HASTINGS	10	Owen FARRELL (C)				
				Charlie CHAPMAN	9	Aled DAVIES				
				Val RAPAVA RUSKIN	1	Eroni MAWI				
				Jack SINGLETON	2	Jamie GEORGE				
				Fraser BALMAIN	3	Vincent KOCH				
				Freddie CLARKE	4	Maro ITOJE				
				Matias ALEMANNO	5	Tim SWINSON				
				Ruan ACKERMANN	6	Theo MC FARLAND				
				Lewis LUDLOW (C)	7	Ben EARL				
				Ben MORGAN	8	Billy VUNIPOLA				

REPLACEMENTS

				Santiago SOCINO	16	Kapeli PIFELETI				
				Harry ELRINGTON	17	Richard BARRINGTON				
				Jamal FORD ROBINSON	18	Alec CLAREY				
				Andrew DAVIDSON	19	Nick ISIEKWE				
				Jordy REID	20	Andy CHRISTIE				
				Ben MEEHAN	21	Ivan VAN ZYL				
				Billy TWELVETREES	22	Duncan TAYLOR				
				Tom SEABROOK	23	Alex LOZOWSKI				

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: Frank Murphy (Ireland)
Assistant Referees: Adam Jones (Wales) and Eoghan Cross (Ireland)
TMO: Brian MacNeice (Ireland)

