

GLOUCESTER RUGBY
HERITAGE

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GREAT PLAYERS FROM THE GLOUCESTER BACK ROW
PART 6THE EIGHTIES
TO NOUGHTIES

PAUL ASHMEAD

Paul Ashmead was a fast flanker, who knew how to score tries. In his Gloucester career he appeared 159 times, scoring 69 tries, a pretty good rate for a forward. Against Coventry in December 1994 he scored four tries, and for Gloucester United in October 1989 against Bedford Wanderers he scored six, all of them in the second half!

Paul Ashmead was born on 3 January 1966, in Gloucester, and attended Longlevens Secondary Modern School. He played for Gloucester Old Boys and Coney Hill, before making his first appearance for Gloucester on Boxing Day 1986 against Lydney.

All through his Gloucester career he had to compete for a back row place on either flank against John Gadd or Ian Smith and, in later years, Peter Glanville and Dave Sims appeared on the scene.

However, in 1991, following outstanding displays for Gloucester against England and Ireland in

successive weeks in World Cup warm up games, he was selected to play for the South West Division in games against London and the Midlands.

In May 1993 Paul was in the Gloucester team which won the inaugural Worthington National Tens competition played at Kingsholm. Gloucester won the cup, beating Harlequins 29-0 in the final, with Ashmead scoring a try.

Owing to the lack of first team opportunities, Paul decided to move to Rugby Lions in 1995, where he played a couple of seasons before an ankle injury ended his career.



IAN SMITH

Ian, son of the Cherry & White legend Dick Smith, was born on 16 March 1965, and educated at Sir Thomas Rich School.

Longlevens was his local club, from where he graduated to Kingsholm and made his first appearance as a replacement at Rosslyn Park on 15 September 1982. He had been

on the field for all of ten minutes before he was sent off for fighting! He must have learnt his lesson because he was never sent off again throughout his career.

He went on to make 336 appearances for Gloucester, scoring 55 tries. He was a speedy and dynamic open-side, who also gained 25 caps for Scotland.

Ian took some time to establish himself in the back-row because he had strong competition from Paul Wood and Mike Longstaff for the open-side berth but, by the 1984-85 season, he had made the position his own.

The 1989-90 season was a good one, and with just two games to play Gloucester contemplated a league and cup double. Ian was in the team which first lost to Nottingham to miss out on the league, and the following week was blown away by Bath in the Cup final. He captained Gloucester from 1991 to 1994.

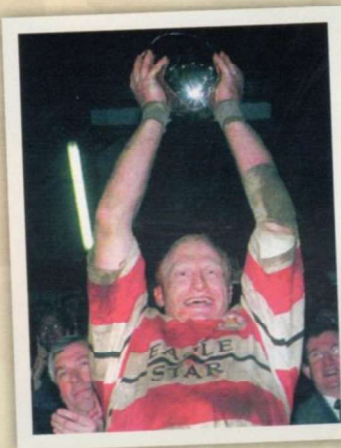
Early in his career Ian had aspirations to play for England and got as far as playing for England 'B' against Spanish Select in 1989. His opportunities were limited, however, and through a Scottish grandparent he qualified to play for Scotland.

In 1991 he played for Scotland 'B' against Ireland, and gained his first full cap against England in 1992. Further solid performances ensured a tour with Scotland to Australia that summer and two more caps.

He played in one game in the World Cup in 1995, toured New Zealand in the summer and played in both

tests. In the meantime he was more or less a permanent fixture for Scotland in the Home International Series in 1996 and 1997.

After Ian's playing career ended with Gloucester in 1996, he moved to Moseley for a couple of seasons. He then went into coaching, first at Newport then for a short spell back at Gloucester, before enjoying some success at Moseley, making much of limited resources. More recently he was Under 19 coach for the Georgia national team.



PETER GLANVILLE

Pete Glanville was a player who continually put his body on the line for the Club, and was much appreciated by the exacting Gloucester supporters. He was a blind side flanker, full of commitment and excellent at winning balls at the break-down.

Pete was born in Gloucester on 10 June 1971 and was yet another who played his early rugby for Longlevens. He was just over 20 years old when he made his debut for Gloucester against Stroud on the first day of the 1991-92 season.

The following season he became a regular in a team that found life difficult in the mid-nineties, sometimes flirting with relegation. In April 1996, Gloucester had to win the final game of the season to avoid the drop. It was a straight shoot-out for relegation between Gloucester and Saracens. Pete was in the team which won 17-10. A

couple of weeks later it was decided that there would be no relegation that season, as the league was to be extended!

So high was the regard in which Pete was held, he was made captain for the 1997-98 season, and he led Gloucester to victory in the final of the Cheltenham & Gloucester Cup against Bedford.

The latter days of his career were marred by injury and Pete played his last game against Orrell on 29 January 2000. He had made 147 appearances and scored 21 tries.

He went on to be Team Manager at Cinderford, guiding them to National League 1 status, only two levels below Gloucester.



JUNIOR PARAMORE

Junior Paramore was a dynamic, attacking, and extremely hard-tackling flanker. With his cousin Terry Fanolua, the pair were among the most popular players ever to pull on the Cherry and White jersey.

Junior played for Gloucester from 2000 to 2004, making 116 appearances and scoring 29 tries. After scoring, his face always carried a wide grin as he received the cheers of the Shed. He won 28 caps for Samoa, and played for them in the World Cups of 1995 and 1999.

Junior was born on 18 November 1968 in Apia, Samoa. At the age of 15 he moved to New Zealand and played for East Tamaki and Manurewa. He won his first cap for Samoa (then known as Western Samoa) in 1991 against Tonga. In the World Cup of 1995 he appeared

in wins against Italy and Argentina, and the losing quarter final against South Africa. In the 1999 World Cup he was part of a famous win over Wales.

In 1996 Junior had a brief flirtation with rugby league at Castleford, before he was recruited by Bedford, where he played for three seasons, and was voted their player of the season in 1996-97. He appeared at centre against Gloucester in the Cheltenham & Gloucester Cup Final in 1998, and the same teams contested the following year's final, where Junior was on the flank. Gloucester won both games.

Junior signed for Gloucester in April 1999, but due to injury did not make his debut until January 2000 against Bath in the Tetley's Bitter Cup.

The following season Gloucester qualified for the Heineken Cup for the first time and Paramore was in the team which lost to Leicester, the eventual champions, in the semi-final.

He was also in the Zurich Championship winning team of 2002 which beat Bristol at Twickenham, and he came off the bench in the Powergen Cup final in 2003, which Gloucester won handsomely against Northampton, again at Twickenham. That season the club topped the league by 15 points, but Junior was in the team which lost the league final to Wasps, to thwart a league and cup double.

Many supporters may remember, in his final days at Gloucester, Junior would often come off the bench after an hour and deliberately run a curve to take him near the opposition with a wide grin on his face, promising a fresh confrontation, which few opponents relished.

At the end of the 2003-04 season Junior took up a post as Bedford's player/coach, but in April 2006, the recurrence of a neck injury ended his playing career. Coaching posts followed at Luton, Bournemouth (together with ex-Gloucester player Robert Todd) and Basingstoke.