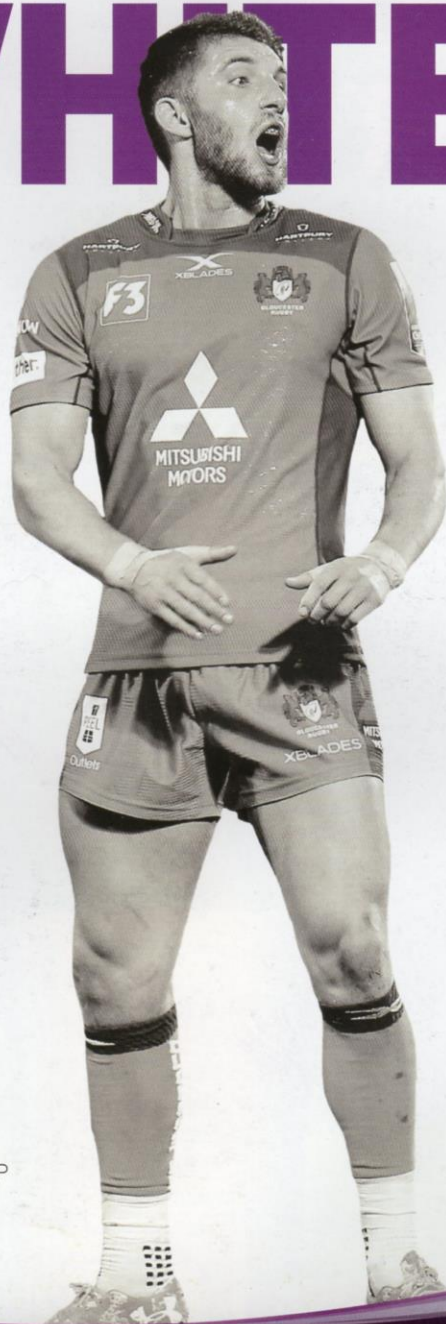


# CHERRY & WHITES



**GLOUCESTER  
RUGBY**

**V SU AGEN**

**GLOUCESTER RUGBY  
OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME**  
2017/18 SEASON / ISSUE 04  
EUROPEAN RUGBY CHALLENGE CUP  
THURSDAY 19 OCTOBER 2017  
KO 19.45 / £2.50

OFFICIAL PARTNERS

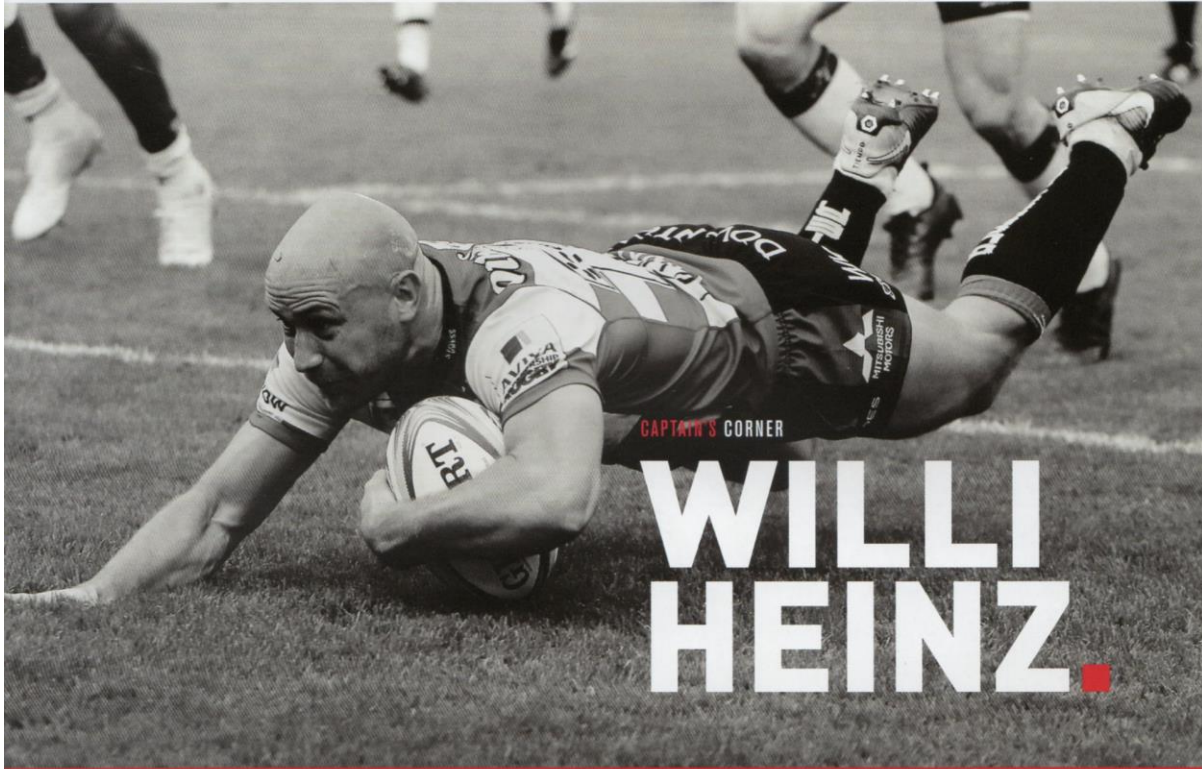


OFFICIAL SUPPORTER



OFFICIAL SUPPLIER





GOOD EVENING AND WELCOME TO KINGSHOLM FOR TODAY'S GAME, AND WELCOME TO ALL THE PLAYERS AND STAFF FROM AGEN.

**A** Thursday night kick off is a unique proposition. Last week, for example, we had such a short turnaround from the win over Northampton, with a day of travel and a three hour transfer from Toulouse to Pau.

It was awesome to see so many Gloucester supporters in Pau. The sun was out all day, but by the time the game came, we experienced tricky conditions, on a difficult surface with a greasy ball and disappointingly again we found ourselves chasing the game and trying to get back into it.

What was most frustrating was our error count. We defended so well, especially early, and forced Pau backwards, winning the ball back and putting ourselves in good field position. But we let ourselves down in terms of retaining possession and this has been a big work on for us this week.

Of course, we were disappointed to lose, but we were

happy to secure the point in the last minute, and come away with something from a tricky trip, and then try to build on it this week.

That said, we all know the fixes to that, and we are already excited to get back out there and put in a performance.

We know full well the challenge that French teams can bring. Agen had a big win last week, and will be full of confidence in pushing their individual claims for selection in the Top 14 next weekend.

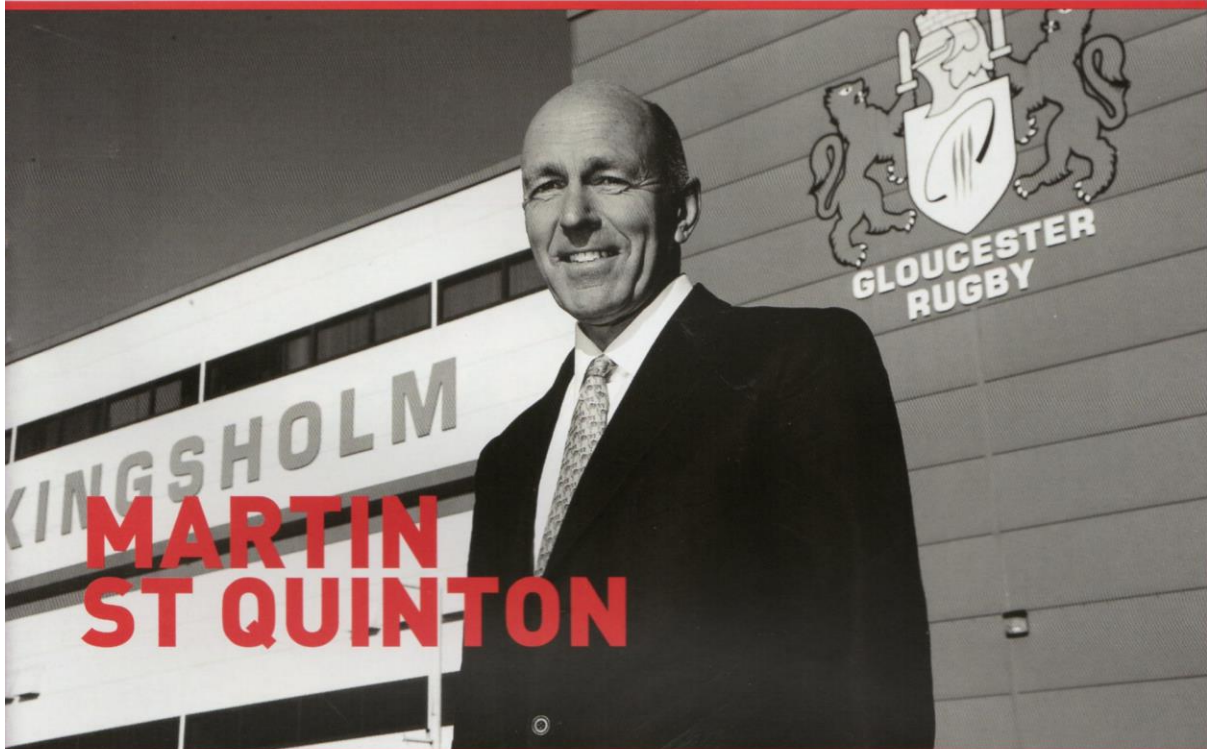
For us, the challenge is to play our best rugby, and control the game. We are happy with our form at home, and last time out against Northampton Saints we played some wonderful stuff and were full value for our victory against a team that came to Kingsholm confident of the win. That's what we are capable of.

We know the challenge that lies ahead of us when we return to Premiership action next weekend, and the game this week is a great opportunity to get our game in place against a good team.

European nights are always exciting at Kingsholm, and we are excited to get out there in front of our own fans.

Enjoy the game

*Willi*



## MARTIN ST QUINTON

**A**fter one game played this season in broad daylight (!), here we are again under the Kingsholm floodlights as we welcome the players, staff and supporters of SU Agen this evening.

Tonight is a significant game as, if we are to progress to the later stages of the European Rugby Challenge Cup, we very much need a win against Philippe Sella's side.

The game in Pau last Thursday shows that there are no easy fixtures in this competition. We had a terrific record going into the game, we had won 25 of our last 26 pool matches.

It was a frustrating result for us, as I felt that we had the winning of the game and were going to prevail in the final few minutes. But it wasn't to be and the French side made the most of their opportunities.

It certainly does not mean the end of our tournament ambitions. We have everything to play for tonight, and if we can perform in forthcoming fixtures as I know we can, then it could well come down to the return Pau fixture, here at Kingsholm – I certainly hope so!

Finally, as many of you will be aware, the Club has worked very hard in recent seasons, in partnership with Hartpur

College, to establish the Gloucester-Hartpur Women's side.

This team, under Head Coach Susie Appleby, are currently enjoying their first season in the Tyrrells Super 15s Competition, and acquitting themselves very well indeed.

In Women's Rugby there were a couple of interesting press releases last week – firstly, the announcement that five Gloucester-Hartpur players have been named in the England wider training squad for two games against South Africa, which is terrific news.

And secondly, that the Barbarians are launching a women's team for the first time in their long history. One of the first players selected for the Barbarians Women's team in their first ever match, against Munster at Thomond Park, was Megan Goddard of Gloucester-Hartpur. This is great news for Megan and everyone at the Club.

Congratulations to all those selected!

Now, let's get behind the team tonight .... we need 5 points!

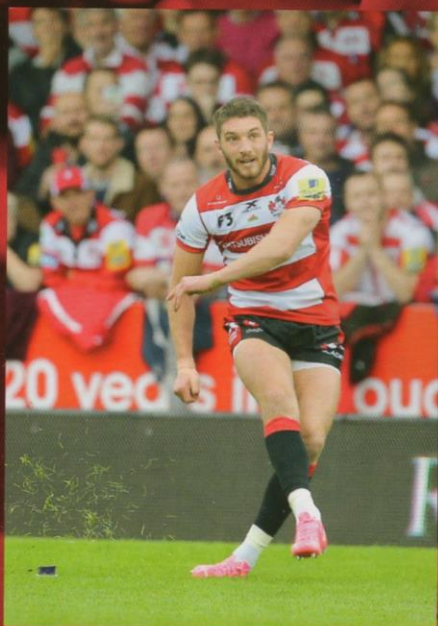
Enjoy the game.

*Martin*

# NEW AT 10

CAST YOUR MIND BACK TO 9PM LAST THURSDAY EVENING. I'M SURE I WASN'T THE ONLY ONE FOLLOWING THE GAME IN PAU CONCERNED BY A 20 POINT DEFICIT AND THE PROSPECT OF NO REWARD FROM WHAT LOOKED THE MOST AWKWARD LEG IN POOL 3 OF THE CHALLENGE CUP.

FEATURE INTERVIEW  
**Owen  
WILLIAMS**  
BY IAN RANDALL





**T**hankfully, a combination of French fatigue and the Gloucester replacements brought about a recovery of sorts, and Owen Williams' nerveless conversion of Henry Purdy's late try salvaged one precious point. If form stacks up throughout the remainder of the group games, the return fixture should decide top spot.

Tonight we welcome Agen, who have been here before but not since 2011, so there is little merit in going back that far. Suffice to say after a convincing win at home to Zebre, they may have restored some confidence after a poor start to the season in the Top 14.

At the time of going to press, tonight's team has not been named but after a delayed start to the season, I would think Owen Williams is likely to get another run out. He's got plenty of European experience with Leicester in the Champions Cup and this evening should offer an opportunity to add to that in a slightly less ferocious environment, although he concedes that is never easy to predict.

"I've played in Clermont and Toulon and faced Racing Metro in a semi-final," he told me at the Hartpury training base.

"French sides are strange because they can be average one week and outstanding the next (remind you of anyone? - Ed). So you have to assume they'll come at you all guns blazing.

"I do think you have to move them around a lot because they are sometimes not as fit as some of the Premiership sides. What we mustn't do is give away too many penalties, because if they kick into the corners and get driving mauls going against you they are difficult to stop."

Now 25, Williams scored nearly 600 points in four seasons at Leicester and although his move was announced last January, he hinted that even before that Gloucester were looking at the make-up of their coaching staff.

"I needed a new challenge and wanted to move out of the Welford Road bubble," Owen continued.

"I met David Humphreys a few times and when he spoke about this season he said '...we've got a good guy for the job...' which of course turned out to be Johan Ackermann, which was a bonus for me to add to the X factor players I knew Gloucester had.

"Richard Hibbard always flies out of the line and hits people hard and Henry Trinder stepped me in a game and scored a try in the season before last and he's never let me forget it!"

Trinder's two tries against Northampton meant Williams "shocking" kicking display from the tee - his word not mine - didn't stop his home debut ending with a third consecutive win. The defeat in Pau last Thursday followed Premiership reversals at 'Quins, Leicester and Sale and it's a sequence the fly-half finds hard to explain.

"The training isn't really any different in terms of time in sessions and metres covered during the week" Williams added.

"The only slight change here from Leicester is in the strength and conditioning and how we do our weights, but that's all. What I did feel against the Saints was the difference the fans made in being, as we say, the 16th man. At Sale in particular we didn't have that, we got caught cold with Solomona's early try, they got a couple of interceptions and in the end ran away with it."

Despite a third of the squad being unavailable, Gloucester will be optimistic about the potential, if everything clicks, of delivering another home win tonight, as they aim to sweep through the rest of their Pool 3 games without another hiccup. Williams was an interested observer of last year's final against Stade Francais, and although the defeat meant another season out of the Champions Cup he feels it may help Gloucester domestically as the rebuilt squad and new coach bed into their new surroundings.

"Of course the boys were gutted with how it turned out but you look at what Northampton faced after we beat them" he concluded.

"They played Saracens at home last weekend and then on Saturday they're away to Clermont. The Champions Cup, on top of the Premiership, is a tough schedule and for us it is probably a blessing in disguise as we try and get a bit higher up the table.

"I hope to play again tonight because the Northampton game was the first (nearly) full game since the Premiership semi-final last season at Wasps so it'll be nice to be out there."





# SALE SHARKS 57-10 GLOUCESTER RUGBY

**TRIES:**

James O'Connor, Byron McGuigan (3), Sam James, Denny Solomon (2), Francois de Klerk

**CONVERSIONS:**

Will Cliff, Alan MacGinty (6)

**PENALTIES:**

Alan MacGinty

**DATE:** Fri 29th Sep 2017

**KO:** 20:00

**TRIES:**

John Afoa

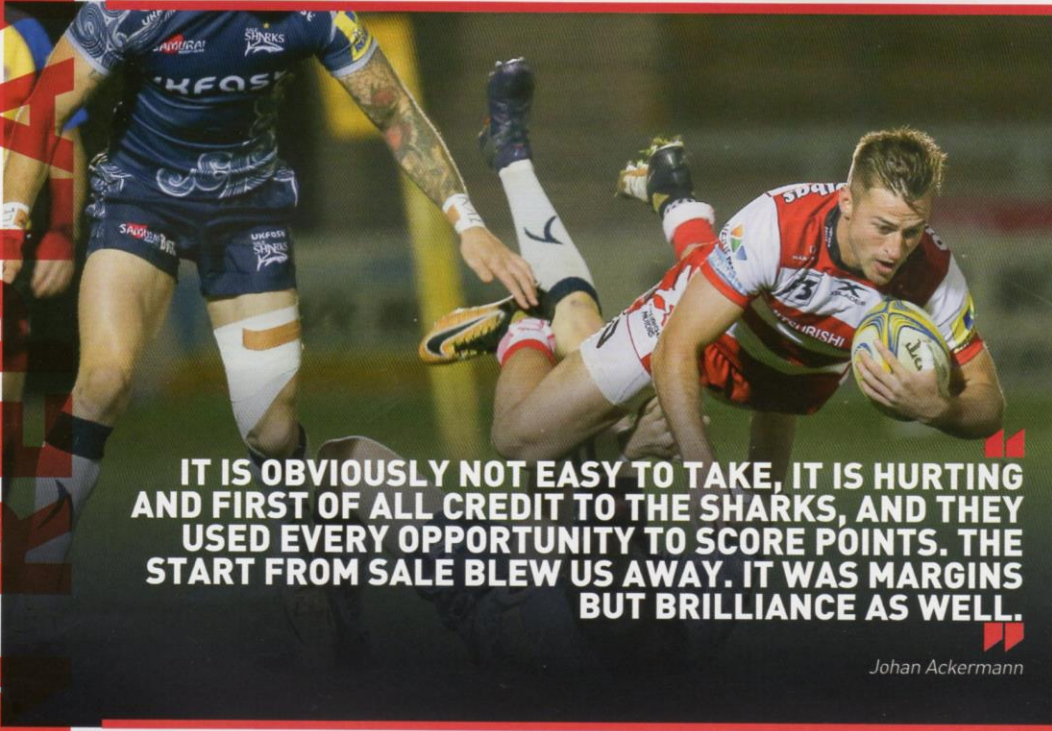
**CONVERSIONS:**

Billy Burns

**PENALTIES:**

Billy Burns

**ACTION PREVIEW**



IT IS OBVIOUSLY NOT EASY TO TAKE, IT IS HURTING AND FIRST OF ALL CREDIT TO THE SHARKS, AND THEY USED EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO SCORE POINTS. THE START FROM SALE BLEW US AWAY. IT WAS MARGINS BUT BRILLIANCE AS WELL.

Johan Ackermann





**The last two visits have been an exception, Gloucester triumphing at the AJ Bell Stadium in both the 2015-16 and 2016-17 seasons, but the trip to the North-West to take on Sale has often been a fruitless one for the Cherry and Whites.**

And the recent meeting between the two sides certainly turned out to be one of those occasions as Gloucester's hopes of making it three in a row were blown away inside the first minute.

Denny Solomona's solo try was brilliantly taken, but had a tiny bit of luck about it as his chip ahead stayed in the field of play and then bounced up perfectly for the winger. What it did, however, was set the tone for the 79 minutes that followed.

Despite ultimately going down to a 57-10 defeat, Gloucester could actually point out that the possession and territory stats were in their favour. But it's all about what you do with it, and Gloucester simply couldn't penetrate a watertight home defence, while the Sharks devoured every chance that came their way.

Especially so in the first half. Solomona's try was followed by a second moment of opportunism, this time from Faf de Klerk, and Gloucester were two scores down. The second try came after a length spell of pressure in the home 22 which went unrewarded.

And, as Gloucester poured forward with half-time approaching, Byron McGuigan picked off an errant pass and ran it all the way back for an interception try that came as a bitter blow.

The second half followed a similar vein but, in many respects, was even more painful. Gloucester's discipline has been excellent so far this season, but Billy Twelvetrees was yellow carded for pulling a man back off the ball and several tries followed in his absence.

And, just to rub salt into some already painful wounds, there was still time for two more interception tries from the Sharks as, with the outcome already secured, their defenders were able to throw caution to the wind and fly out of the line.

The Cherry and Whites did manage to get the final score of the evening as John Afoa picked up from a ruck near the Sale line and caught the fringe defenders napping for an opportune score.

But it was scant consolation on what was a sobering evening at the office for Gloucester. The next week would prove to be a test of character for the squad – how would they respond against table toppers Northampton the following week?



# GLOUCESTER RUGBY

# 29-24

# NORTHAMPTON SAINTS

**TRIES:**

Henry Trinder, Billy Twelvetrees, Jason Woodward, Willi Heinz

**CONVERSIONS:**

Owen Williams (2)

**DATE:** Sat 7th Oct 2017

**KO:** 15:00

**TRIES:**

Jamie Gibson, Harry Mallinder, Mike Haywood

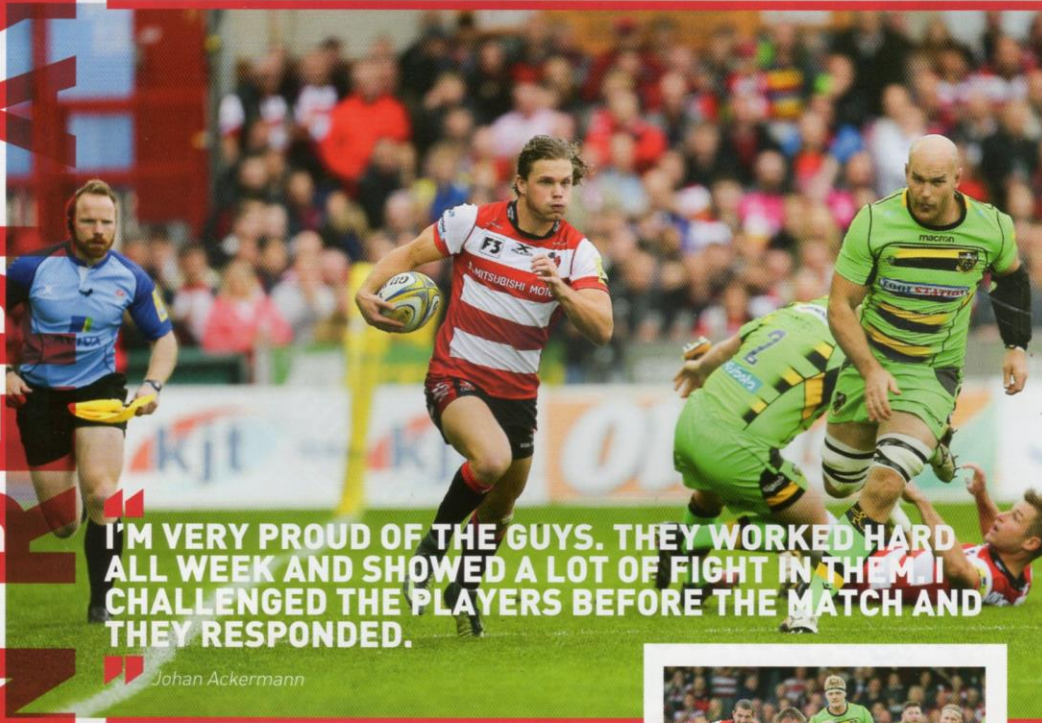
**CONVERSIONS:**

Stephen Myler, Harry Mallinder (2)

**PENALTIES:**

Harry Mallinder

**ACTION REPLAY**



**I'M VERY PROUD OF THE GUYS. THEY WORKED HARD ALL WEEK AND SHOWED A LOT OF FIGHT IN THE WEEK. I CHALLENGED THE PLAYERS BEFORE THE MATCH AND THEY RESPONDED.**

*Johan Ackermann*





**Much of the talk in the lead up to the game was whether the Cherry and Whites were going to be able to bounce back and respond to that heavy defeat in Sale, and league leaders Saints arrived as the bookies favourites to do the business at Kingsholm.**

But the coupons were busted, and the Cherry and Whites' rollercoaster start to the season continued as Johan Ackermann's side upset the odds.

It's probably fair to say that many home supporters were left scratching their heads at what they had seen. Just six days previously, the Cherry and Whites were thrashed at Sale, but they were professional, honest and proud in delivering a performance that showed what they were about and went a long way to banish those bad memories from the North West.

Injuries were beginning to subside in the squad, but Ed Slater was steered towards the treatment table during the warm up with a finger injury, with Jeremy Thrush coming in at the last minute. Jake Polledri was plucked from hospitality duties to take the lock's place on the bench.

Gloucester started well, showing a ferocity and physicality at the breakdown which yielded a penalty attempt for Owen Williams but, on his home debut, the kick was off target.

He soon had another attempt, this time a conversion shot following a sweeping score for Man of the Match Henry Trinder who ghosted past Luther Burrell, and despite an ankle tap from Cobus Reinach, the centre had enough momentum to find his feet again and dive over gleefully.

But Northampton were a side that had suffered a humbling loss in Round One, and were left searching for answers. Those answers came in the form of four wins on the spin and a surge to the top of the table, and the East Midlanders replied through Jamie Gibson's simple score in the corner from a Burrell break.

The first half was a cagey affair played between the two 22s, with the Gloucester defence dismissing any scares with organisation and a physical edge that had deserted them a week earlier.

And the first half ended with the hosts on top. Trinder again the man to inject the magic. Ruan Ackermann's strong carry burst the gain line, and Gloucester were patient allowing

Heinz to change direction and find Trinder who despite having a full shift still to do, stepped his way past Reinach, before spinning his way past the desperate cover to score, and with it, secure the first half lead.

Saints were first out of the blocks in the second half, Ahsee Tuala ghosting free and giving Harry Mallinder a simple finish. But Gloucester again were so quick with their response.

Jeremy Thrush, who had earlier been felled with an ankle injury, was strapped up and marauded into the 22 from a loose ball, and with an advantage being played, Willi Heinz floated a perfect kick for Jason Woodward to soar highest to grab and score.

The lead changed hands again through a Mallinder penalty, but Gloucester again struck in style. That man Trinder plucked the restart out of the sky and shimmied into the 22, where Gloucester worked the ball in field for Billy Twelvetrees to crash over under the posts. Williams adding his first conversion.

Heinz then added a fifth when he benefited from some lacklustre Saints tackling and scorched away. Surely game over?

Not to be, replacement Mikey Haywood bundled over from a maul, and all of a sudden it was a one score game.

Gloucester kept possession well, but with just two phases left to recycle, Saints won a penalty which was kicked to the corner. With the sucker punch ready to be thrown, Wayne Barnes spotted an obstruction as Saints set up the driving maul, and the game, the redemption, and the five points were Gloucester's.





# TEAM LINE-UPS



THURSDAY 19 OCTOBER // EUROPEAN RUGBY CHALLENGE CUP

T P C D		POSITION		T P C D	
		JASON WOODWARD 15	<b>FULLBACK</b>	15	CLÉMENT LAPORTE
		HENRY PURDY 14	<b>RIGHT WING</b>	14	LUCAS TOLOT
		HENRY TRINDER 13	<b>OUTSIDE CENTRE</b>	13	JOHANN SADIE
		OWEN WILLIAMS 12	<b>INSIDE CENTRE</b>	12	PIERRE FOUYSSAC
		DAVID HALAIFONU 11	<b>LEFT WING</b>	11	NICOLAS METGE
		BILLY BURNS 10	<b>FLY-HALF</b>	10	MATHIEU LAMOULIE
		BEN VELLACOTT 9	<b>SCRUM-HALF</b>	9	HUGO VERDU
		JOSH HOHNECK 1	<b>LOOSEHEAD PROP</b>	1	KAMALIELE TUFELE
		JAMES HANSON 2	<b>HOOKER</b>	2	PAULA NGAUAMO
		GARETH DENMAN 3	<b>TIGHTENED PROP</b>	3	VAKHTANGI AKHOBADZE
		TOM SAVAGE (C) 4	<b>LOCK</b>	4	DENIS MARCHOIS
		CHARLIE BECKETT 5	<b>LOCK</b>	5	CORENTIN BRAENDLIN
		JAKE POLLEDRI 6	<b>BLINDSIDE FLANKER</b>	6	YOAN TANGA
		LEWIS LUDLOW 7	<b>OPENSIDE FLANKER</b>	7	MARCO KOTZE
		BEN MORGAN 8	<b>NUMBER 8</b>	8	ANTOINE MIQUEL
REPLACEMENTS		MATCH OFFICIALS		REPLACEMENTS	
		RICHARD HIBBARD 16	<b>REFEREE</b> Dan Jones (Wales)	16	CLÉMENT MARTINEZ
		CAMERON ORR 17	<b>ASSISTANT REFEREES</b> Gareth John (Wales) & Kelvin Shorte (Wales)	17	FERNANDEZ CORREA
		JOHN AFOA 18	<b>TMO</b> Jon Mason (Wales)	18	CORENTIN CHABEAUDIE
		FREDDIE CLARKE 19	<b>CITING COMMISSIONER</b> Paul Thomas (Wales)	19	CHRISTIAAN VAN DER MERWE
		JACOB ROWAN 20		20	JESSY JEGERLHENER
		WILLI HEINZ 21		21	FLORIAN LANAVE
		BILLY TWELVETREES 22		22	ALBAN CONDUCHE
		CALLUM BRALEY 23		23	JÉRÉMY RUSSELL