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NORTHAMPTON SAINTS OFFICIAL MATCH DAY PROGRAMME

REVIEW



PREMIER RUGBY
CLUB OF THE YEAR

SAINTS v GLOUCESTER

SATURDAY 1 NOVEMBER 2003

KICK-OFF 2.45PM



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Gloucester's 22-year-old flanker James Forrester is well-known to Saints fans - it was his try which eventually put the Powergen Cup final beyond Saints' reach last season. And it was that same try which video replays later showed had not been grounded properly.



DANGER MAN

JAMES FORRESTER

The score was deserved however, as Forrester had run an intelligent line at pace to bisect the Saints' defence - a trademark try by the young back row forward.

Despite a wrist injury which kept him out of action at the end of last term, Forrester was named Zurich young player of the season, an honour which recognised his outstanding play and his outstanding potential.

He is often compared to former French great Laurent Cabannes, who won 49 caps in the 1990s. Like Cabannes, Forrester is not the most physically imposing of rugby players, but has genuine pace, attacking vision and, perhaps most importantly, the ability to off-load a perfectly-timed pass to put a team-mate into space, making him an invaluable asset.

If effective back row play is all about balance, then Gloucester's loose trio would appear to be an almost perfect combination of differing footballing abilities with the close-quarter power of No.8 Junior Paramore and blindside flanker Jake Boer enabling Forrester to play the roaming, attacking role.

While he would appear to be a natural born openside, given the pace that has seen him excel on the international Sevens circuit, Forrester can cover all three back row positions, a priceless asset in these days of flexible squad systems.

The major surprise concerning Forrester, however, is that he has so far failed to make a big impression internationally. Many people expected him to figure in the 30-man England squad for the World Cup, but Clive Woodward stuck with his trusted old hands. With some of those 'Dad's Army' forwards likely to retire from international rugby in the not too distant future, though, there are likely to be a few vacancies opening up in the England squad.

Given his current form, you can bet that Woodward and his management team are keeping a close eye on Forrester who is rapidly making the transition from promising up-and-comer to fully-fledged star.



James Forrester

Position: Flanker

Weight: 15st 6lbs/99kg

Height: 6ft 5ins/1.95m

DOB: 09/02/81



SAINTS

PLAYER

- 1 Brett Sturgess
- 2 Dan Richmond
- 3 Chris Budgen
- 4 Matt Lord
- 5 Rob Hunter
- 6 MARK CONNORS
- 7 Darren Fox
- 8 ANDREW BLOWERS (C)
- 9 MARK ROBINSON
- 10 Shane Drahm
- 11 BRUCE REIHANA
- 12 JOHN LESLIE (C)
- 13 Chris Hyndman
- 14 JON SLEIGHTHOLME
- 15 NICK BEAL

REPLACEMENTS

- 16 Matt Miles
- 17 Jon Golding
- 18 Jon Phillips
- 19 Grant Seely
- 20 Johnny Howard
- 21 James Brooks
- 22 Mark Tucker

International players in CAPITALS



GLOUCESTER

PLAYER

- PAUL JOHNSTONE 1
- Chris Fortey 2
- Andy Deacon 3
- Alex Brown 4
- Mark Cornwell 5
- JAKE BOER 6
- Andy Hazell 7
- James Forrester 8
- Alex Page 9
- DUNCAN MCRAE 10
- JAMES SIMPSON-DANIEL 11
- HENRY PAUL 12
- Robert Todd 13
- Marcel Garvey 14
- Jon Goodridge 15

REPLACEMENTS

- Nick Wood 16
- STEVE BROTHERSTONE 17
- Adrian Oliver 18
- Adam Eustace 19
- Peter Buxton 20
- Simon Amor 21
- Josh Frape 22

International players in CAPITALS

REFEREE

Robin Goodliffe

TOUCH JUDGES & 4TH OFFICIAL

Stuart Terheege, Lloyd Jackson, David Rose