



MATCH
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INTERNATIONAL

BATH RUGBY VS GLOUCESTER

ZURICH PREMIERSHIP
SATURDAY 8 MAY 2004
KICK-OFF 3.00pm

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VIRGIN MOBILE MAN OF THE MATCH

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VOLUME 4 ISSUE 16

CONNECTIONS

Gloucester

By Russ Gibbs



Traditionally one of Bath Rugby's biggest and fiercest rivals, Gloucester make the short trip across the West Country this afternoon for this vital Zurich Premiership fixture, bringing with them a number of players who once called the Recreation Ground home.

Andy Gomarsall, who has seventeen caps for England and six tries to his name for his country, had the briefest of Bath Rugby careers answering a call from the club during the scrum half crisis of 1998/1999. The energetic, bustling half back arrived on loan from London Wasps and proceeded to make just three appearances in the Blue, White and Black during a short spell. Indeed he only ever started one match for the club, with the other two appearances coming as a replacement. Gomarsall made his Bath Rugby debut as a replacement for Steve Hatley in a comfortable 30-17 win over the Bedford Blues at Goldington Road.

Andy went on to play further matches against London Wasps (as a replacement) and his one and only start came in the 30-13 home win in a friendly against Bristol. After his loan period had expired, Andy returned to Loftus Road, but spent most of the rest of the season on loan at, ironically, the Bedford Blues. After failing to establish himself with London Wasps, and following Bedford's relegation, Andy moved to Gloucester, where he enjoyed an excellent spell. Andy is also a Barbarian having donned the famous jersey on eleven occasions, scoring three tries.

Henry Paul arrived at Bath in September 1996 heralded, as he still is now, as one of the greatest rugby talent's around. Henry made his rugby league international debut at 19 while playing for Te Atatu and played for Wakefield Trinity, before signing for Wigan. The Kiwi international had starred for Wigan in the challenge matches against Bath in the summer preceding the first season of

professionalism as Bath Rugby had broken new ground again, playing the League champions at Maine Road and Twickenham. Indeed, he crossed for a try in the 82-6 Wigan win at Maine Road. From these unusual matches a bond was initiated between the two clubs and Bath 'loaned' Paul and club mate Robinson until the new Super League campaign started. Paul made a sparkling debut for Bath crossing for a brace of tries and being involved in several others as Bath romped to a 13-try 87-15 thrashing of Swansea in an Anglo-Welsh encounter. His ball skills and angles of running brought a new dimension to an already star studded Bath backline. He went on to complete nine matches for Bath, starting all bar one and playing at full back, centre and wing. Indeed he covered almost all the back positions with his replacement appearance being at fly half for Mike Catt in the Heineken Cup win in Treviso. Paul scored three more tries in his spell at the club, one against Dax in Europe and another brace, this time against Bristol in the spectacular 76-7 victory. His final match for Bath was in the Heineken Cup Quarter Final defeat at Cardiff where he played on the wing. He returned to Wigan before signing for Bradford Bulls and then joining Gloucester in the summer of 2001. After a successful start to the year with the Cherry and Whites, Paul was selected for England 'A' in their initial match in the 'A' Six Nations Championship, a 6-6 draw with Scotland. He retained his place for the subsequent home defeat to Ireland at Northampton Saint's plush Franklin's Gardens venue and went on to play a huge role in the England success at the 2002 Hong Kong Sevens. Henry made his debut for the full England side as a replacement in the defeat in Paris in 2002.



Gloucester's Andy Gomarsall



Bath Rugby

Gloucester



LINEUPS

- Matt PERRY 15
- Wylie HUMAN 14
- Spencer DAVEY 13
- Robbie FLECK 12
- Simon DANIELLI 11
- Chris MALONE 10
- Martyn WOOD 9
- David BARNES 1
- Jonathan HUMPHREYS (C) 2
- Duncan BELL 3
- Steve BORTHWICK 4
- Danny GREWCOCK 5
- Andy BEATTIE 6
- Michael LIPMAN 7
- Isaac FEALUNATI 8

REPLACEMENTS

- Hentie MARTENS 16
- Lee MEARS 17
- Alex CLARKE 18
- Olly BARKLEY 19
- Mike CATT 20
- James SCAYSBROOK 21
- Rob FIDLER 22

HEAD COACH
John CONNOLLY



LINEUPS

- Blaen VAN DER BERGH 15
- Marcel GARVEY 14
- Terry FANOLUA 13
- Henry PAUL 12
- James SIMPSON-DANIEL 11
- Duncan MCRAE 10
- Andy GOMARSALL 9
- Trevor WOODMAN 1
- Chris FORTEY 2
- Andy DEACON 3
- Mark CORNWELL 4
- Alex BROWN 5
- Peter BLIXTON 6
- Jake BOER (C) 7
- Junior PARAMORE 8

REPLACEMENTS

- Delarey DU PREEZ 16
- Rodrigo RONCERO 17
- Nick WOOD 18
- Adam EUSTACE 19
- Andy HAZELL 20
- Simon AMOR 21
- Robert TODD 22

DIRECTOR OF RUGBY
Nigel MELVILLE

MATCH SPONSOR



TODAY'S OFFICIALS
REFEREE Steve LANDER
TOUCH JUDGES Ashley REAY, How JONES-WILLIAMS





TODAY'S VISITORS

Gloucester

By Dom Rumbles

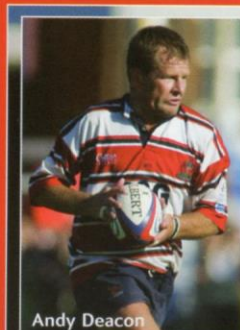
Having beaten in form London Wasps at Kingsholm last weekend, Gloucester arrive at the Rec with a shot at being able to secure a place in the Zurich Premiership semi-final ahead of Northampton Saints.

If the Saints fall at home to an NEC Harlequins side that are pushing hard to secure a place in next season's Heineken Cup, then a win is likely to be enough to send Gloucester through to the Zurich Premiership semi-finals next Sunday when either Bath Rugby or London Wasps will be the opposition.

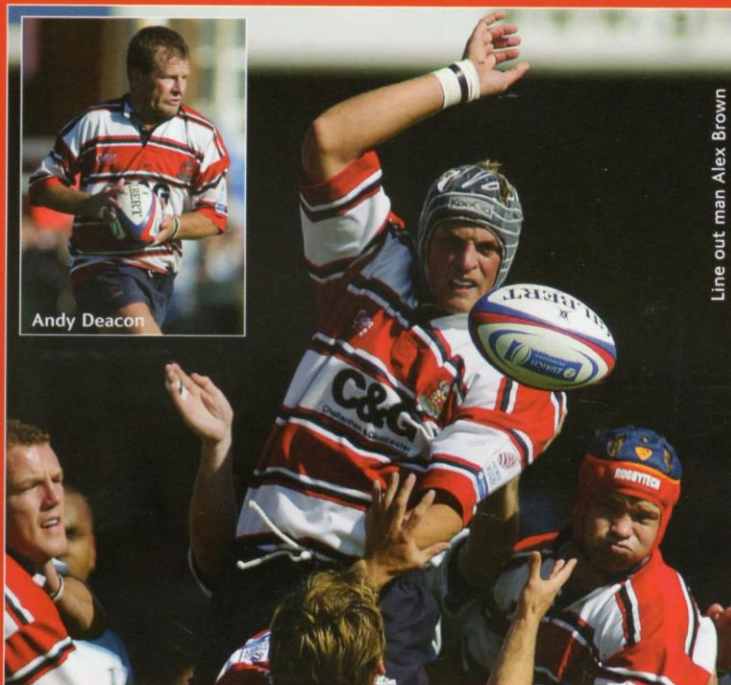
For the Cherry and Whites this rediscovery of form could not have come at a better time. Last weekend's victory over London Wasps will not only have served to boost confidence but also quash all memories of that disappointing Heineken Cup quarter final defeat at the Causeway Stadium last month. Indeed, Gloucester, who have won their last two matches convincingly, will feel that they can now go on and beat anyone in the Zurich Premiership—including Bath Rugby and London Wasps.

The turn around can be attributed by and large to what has been a tremendous amount of soul searching amongst the players since that defeat at the Causeway Stadium. There is plenty of team spirit within the Gloucester camp and the side have the uncanny ability to be able to deliver when they are in 'backs against the walls' situations.

They have one of the best attacking and defensive lineouts around and last weekend Alex Brown was outstanding in this area. The Gloucester pack was in complete control of the Wasps eight for seventy minutes at Kingsholm and it is in the set pieces where they will look to establish an edge this afternoon.



Andy Deacon



Line out man Alex Brown

Playing in tricky conditions last weekend the pick and go was particularly impressive. In Junior Paramore, Alex Brown, Chris Fortey, Jake Boer and Trevor Woodman, Gloucester have very good ball carriers and they will be looking to work them into the game. Noteworthy was the performance of Woodman who seems to be back to his rampaging best after a quiet couple of months.

Phil Vickery may well be missing from the front row, and that might be a worry for Nigel Melville's side against what is a strong Bath Rugby eight. However, the Cornishman's understudy this afternoon is no mean replacement. Andy Deacon, who hangs his boots up at the end of the season, has played in plenty of derby matches in over a decade of competition. He is a strong scrummager and a true team man and will be looking to bow out in what will be his last big derby game.

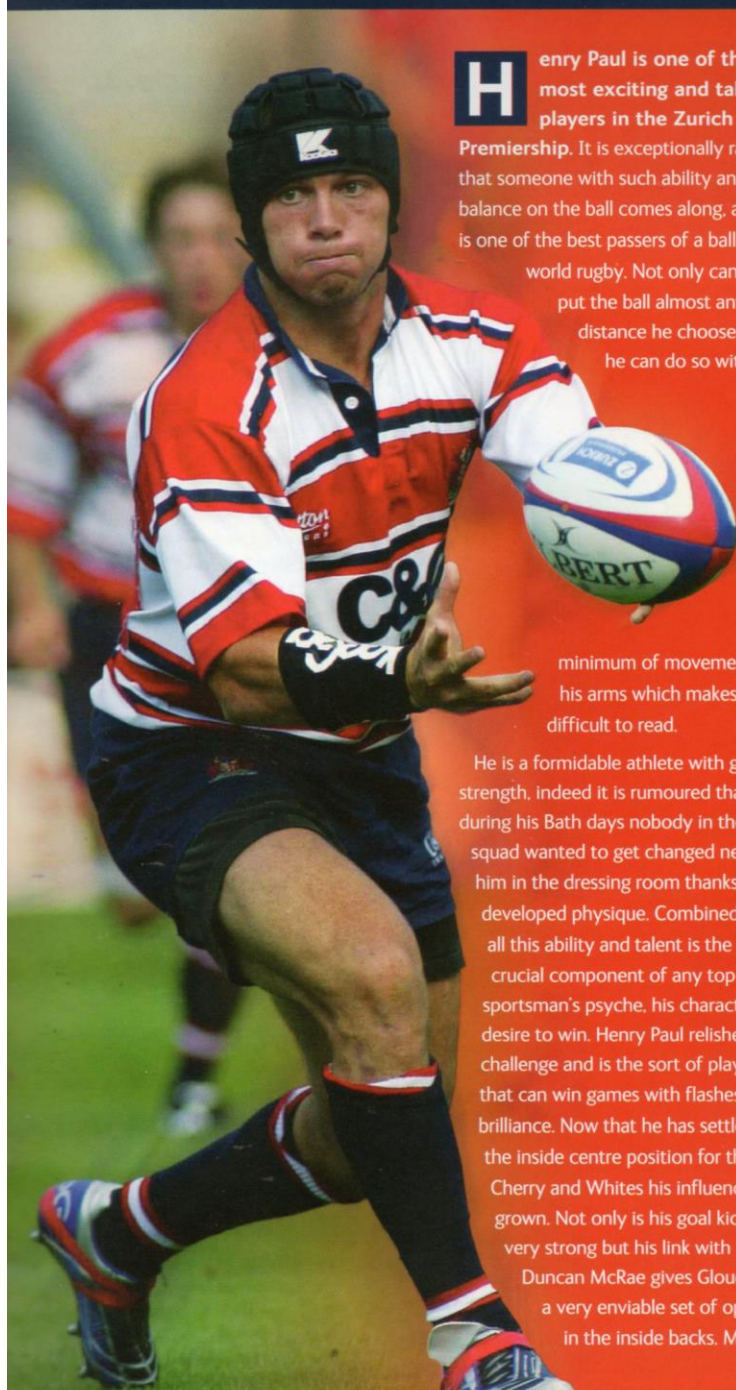
Behind the scrum there is also class aplenty. Henry Paul is an outstanding playmaker and is one of those players who is able to conjure something out of nothing. Paul combines well with Australian fly half Duncan McRea and the pair are able to get Gloucester moving around the park extremely well, bringing the likes of James Simpson-Daniel and Marcel Garvey into the game at every opportunity. The wingers are currently riding high in the top try scorers table and are two of the most devastating finishers in the Zurich Premiership.

Both coaches have been keen to play down the impact of the derby game in the professional era, but tell that to the 44 players who will be involved in what is likely to be a real belter of a contest this afternoon!

SPOTLIGHT

Henry Paul

By Tony Ashton



Henry Paul is one of the most exciting and talented players in the Zurich

Premiership. It is exceptionally rare that someone with such ability and balance on the ball comes along, and he is one of the best passers of a ball in world rugby. Not only can Paul put the ball almost any distance he chooses, but he can do so with a

minimum of movement in his arms which makes it very difficult to read.

He is a formidable athlete with great strength, indeed it is rumoured that during his Bath days nobody in the squad wanted to get changed next to him in the dressing room thanks to his developed physique. Combined with all this ability and talent is the most crucial component of any top sportsman's psyche, his character and desire to win. Henry Paul relishes a challenge and is the sort of player that can win games with flashes of brilliance. Now that he has settled in the inside centre position for the Cherry and Whites his influence has grown. Not only is his goal kicking very strong but his link with

Duncan McRae gives Gloucester a very enviable set of options in the inside backs. McRae

is a very good player in his own right but it is Paul's ability to read the game and his quick accurate assessment of where attacks should be directed that make him such a vital player for Gloucester.

Paul is the perfect foil for the outside backs such as Garvey, Simpson-Daniel and Goodridge. He will make space and he will put those guys clear into the space in a similar way that Mike Catt does for Bath Rugby. He has achieved wonders in the England Sevens jersey and I have no doubt that we will see some inspirational performances from Henry Paul in the full England team before long. The combination of Paul and McRae will have to be countered if Bath Rugby are to finish the regular season on a high but that will be a high impossible job.

Henry Paul's performance today could have a massive say in which team is to come out on top.

