

OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME 2005/06 £3.00

GUINNESS PREMIERSHIP

WARRIORS

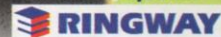


WORCESTER WARRIORS V GLOUCESTER

SEPTEMBER 4th KO 3.00



Matchday Sponsor



THE TIMES



www.guinnesspremiership.com



IT MIGHT not yet carry the same weight of history as a west country dust-up with Bath or Bristol, but Gloucester's little trips up the M5 to Sixways carry a significant level of importance these days.

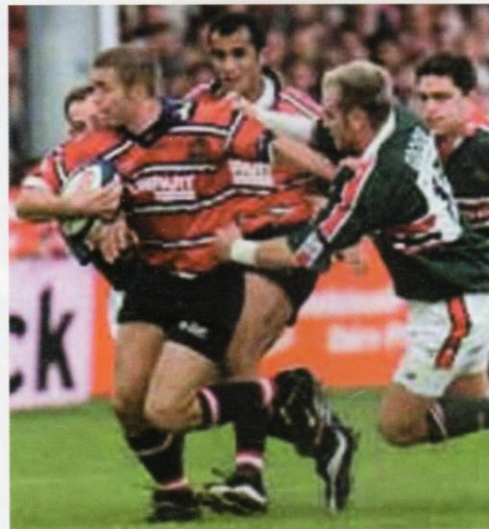
TODAY'S

The testosterone has been building ever since the opening fixtures to the Guinness Premiership season were announced, for a fixture that is rich in hostility and tribalism in the same traditions of the established derbies.

Gloucester won both matches last season – but not without a good deal of discomfort – and they will be guaranteed the same sort of treatment today. But plenty of water has passed beneath the Kingsholm draw-bridge since those encounters.

Dean Ryan is now head coach in place of Nigel Melville and has been busy this summer remoulding the side to his specifications.

One of the most forceful number eights to have been produced in the last decade, Ryan has made no secret of his desire to re-establish a more effective set-piece and has signed Patrice Collazo, the scrummaging expert who has spent the last two years at Toulouse and lock Quinton Davids, who will arrive from South Africa in November, to add experience and power to his forwards.



Ludovic Mercier has also re-signed and he will add power and direction to Gloucester's kicking game. He made an astonishing impact during his first spell in the Premiership and is already a darling of the Gloucester supporters.

There have been other new recruits – Peter Richards and Haydn Thomas – the scrum-halves who will battle it out to replace Andy Gomarsall, who should face his former club for the first time today and Rob Thirlby, the former Bath and Saracens full-back who signed on a two-year deal from Penzance.

But of the most significance has been the arrival of England centre Mike Tindall from Bath. He should provide the ideal foil for Henry Paul to

display his own game-shaping qualities in midfield. Tindall has recovered from shoulder and ankle injuries during the summer and is expected to make his competitive debut this afternoon.

However, Ryan has already made it clear it is not solely about the new signings this season. Winger Mark Foster impressed greatly during their pre-season Issoire Tournament in France, Olly Morgan has looked assured and cool at full-back, while youngsters Anthony Allen and Jack Adams have caused a considerable stir already with their mature approach in the midfield.



VISITORS



Ryan will not be shouting about Gloucester's chances from the roof-tops. He will ensure they go quietly but professionally about their business this season as they hunt down a place back in the Heineken Cup.

They can combine experience with youthful promise as they start the season in the newest derby in the Premiership.

Worcester scrum-half Andy Gomarsall insists he will have no split loyalties this afternoon - he is a Warrior now and is out to impress the Sixways faithful!

The high-profile England star made the short trip up the M5 from Kingsholm to Worcester during the summer.

Andy Gomarsall has already made an impact in his new surroundings, grabbing two tries in a dazzling home debut against Italian giants Benetton Treviso in pre-season.

The 31-year-old now has an immediate



Gomarsall, who also had previous spells with Bedford and Wasps, believes his decision to sign a three-year deal at Worcester has underlined his commitment to the club.

But he admits he is under no illusions about the task he faces to dislodge last season's hero Matt

ANDY GOMARSALL

opportunity to underline his new allegiances this afternoon with the visit of his former club.

Gomarsall spent four years at Gloucester, helping them win the Powergen Cup and reach the Premiership play-off final in 2003.

But the number nine will have no problem deciding which dressing room to walk into before the game - because Worcester already feels like home!

"I felt I needed a new challenge at this stage in my career and Worcester is the right place for me," said Gomarsall. "I wanted to join a club with hunger for success and stay in the area, as soon as I spoke to John Brain I knew I had to come here.

"I was lucky that before I arrived in I went away to the Churchill Cup in Canada with the Worcester captain Pat Sanderson and got to really pick his brains so I knew how the club worked.

"Before I jetted off I also came into the club for some extra one-to-one training for ten days.

"Just being around the place helped me settle in early, when I reported back for pre-season it already felt like home.

"Of course getting Gloucester first up in the league is a little strange, I don't want to build the game up too much but when the Gloucester press officer rang to tell me the fixtures it brought a smile to my face.

"There are plenty of situations like this in sport, I'm not the only guy in the Guinness Premiership who will come up against his old club this season.

"However, I'm a Worcester player now and the game is at Sixways so I want us to get the season off on the right foot, even if that means upsetting a few mates."

Powell from the starting line-up.

"I felt it was important to sign long-term, I want to be at Sixways to help build for the future," said Gomarsall, who has ditched his red boots from his Gloucester days in favour of some gold and white ones to match his new club.

"I also want to improve and become an even better player, I can see myself playing out my days with Worcester.

"I know it's going to be difficult to come in and make an immediate impact, when I joined Gloucester it took me a year to make a mark. But I'm more experienced now and don't expect to have a major problem.

"However, Worcester never suggested I was coming in as number one and I knew that wouldn't be the case, I'm here to fight for a place.

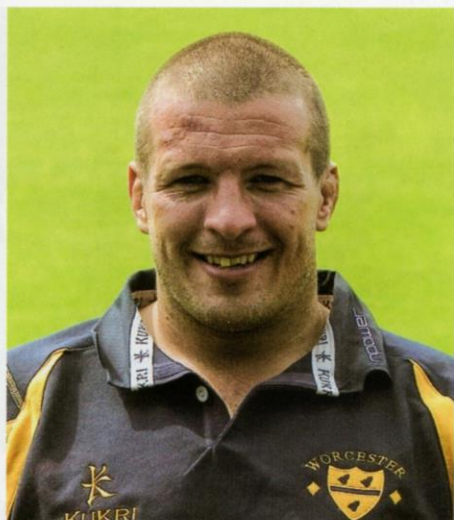
"The club will need all the scrum halves fit and battling, Matt had a fantastic season last year and we have got on really well in pre-season, we are here to better ourselves and provide competition."

While Gomarsall is focused on life at Sixways he concedes he hopes his move from Gloucester to Worcester will also lead to an England recall.

Gomarsall, who first played scrum-half for England back in 1996, was first-choice number nine last autumn but Harry Ellis and Matt Dawson got the nod in the Six Nations.

"In the back of my mind the England factor is always going to be there, I've made no secret that I want to play in the next World Cup," he said.

"But I'm not the only guy at Sixways who wants international recognition this season, we will all try and perform and hopefully we can get the results and credit we deserve."



The Cherry and Whites were on a different planet in rugby terms to Worcester who when Chris Fortey started his career the city would have been associated as playing third fiddle to the city's cricket and football teams.

But times have changed and Fortey will be expected to prove he is a key player for Worcester over the coming season.

His career at Kingsholm was adversely affected when he broke his ankle against Sale last November but he is fighting fit again and raring to go.

"The move has gone very well and I'm thoroughly enjoying it," he said.

"It's a bit of a turnaround getting back to full fitness and starting training again

CHRIS FORTEY

FORTEY EAGER TO MAKE HIS MARK

WHEN LEE Fortey lay flat on his back in the pre-season game against Benetton Treviso having just sustained a shoulder injury, one of the players in the gathered huddle around him had more reason than any other to be concerned.

His twin brother Chris may be 15 minutes younger than Lee but he still feels a natural urge to fulfil the big brother role.

The possibility of playing on the same pitch as Lee was one of the factors which influenced the hooker's decision to sign for Worcester, though it was not the only one.

The Sixways' atmosphere, a new challenge and working with John Brain as he did at Gloucester were also high up on the 30-year-old's list of reasons for making the short switch up the M5 from Kingsholm.

Not too long ago there was more than just 30 miles of motorway which separated Gloucester and Worcester.

"There is a good squad at the club and the lads have really welcomed me -"It's nice to get back in the mix.

"I'd be a liar if I said it didn't feel strange but I've been here six weeks now and I'm thoroughly enjoying it."

When Chris Fortey says he wants to get his teeth into the league campaign, opposition players should take note. He is similar to Worcester's other hooker Andre Van Niekerk in that he likes to get very physical on the field and can mix it with the best of them.

"Andre has been great and a true professional," he said.

"We've had chats and I think it's to the club's advantage and ours if we get on, we both push each other and perform well then hopefully that's to the success of the team."

"I've worked with John Brain before and it's good to get reacquainted with him.

Courtesy of the Worcester Standard

LINEUP

WORCESTER WARRIORS

GLOUCESTER

WORCESTER WARRIORS

	TRY	CONVERSION	PENALTY	DROP GOAL	
DELPORT	■	■	■	■	15
HYLTON	■	■	■	■	14
RASMUSSEN	■	■	■	■	13
LOMBARD	■	■	■	■	12
HINSHELWOOD	■	■	■	■	11
BROWN	■	■	■	■	10
POWELL	■	■	■	■	09
WINDO	■	■	■	■	01
VAN NIEKERK	■	■	■	■	02
HORSMAN	■	■	■	■	03
COLLIER	■	■	■	■	04
GILLIES	■	■	■	■	05
VAILI	■	■	■	■	06
SANDERSON	■	■	■	■	07
HICKEY	■	■	■	■	08
TAUMOEPEAU	■	■	■	■	16
C. FORTY	■	■	■	■	17
MURPHY	■	■	■	■	18
HORSTMANN	■	■	■	■	19
RUNCIMAN	■	■	■	■	20
DRAHM	■	■	■	■	21
LEROUX	■	■	■	■	22

REFEREE Ashley Rowden

LINESMEN Peter Huckle

Ashley Reay

GLOUCESTER

	TRY	CONVERSION	PENALTY	DROP GOAL	
FULLBACK	□	□	□	□	15
WING	□	□	□	□	14
CENTRE	□	□	□	□	13
CENTRE	□	□	□	□	12
WING	□	□	□	□	11
FLYHALF	□	□	□	□	10
SCRUMHALF	□	□	□	□	09
PROP	□	□	□	□	01
HOOKER	□	□	□	□	02
PROP	□	□	□	□	03
LOCK	□	□	□	□	04
LOCK	□	□	□	□	05
FLANKER	□	□	□	□	06
FLANKER	□	□	□	□	07
NO.8	□	□	□	□	08
REPLACEMENTS	□	□	□	□	16
	□	□	□	□	17
	□	□	□	□	18
	□	□	□	□	19
	□	□	□	□	20
	□	□	□	□	21
	□	□	□	□	22

Jon Goodridge

Marcel Garvey

Mike Tindall

Henry Paul

James Simpson-Daniel

Ludovic Mercier

Peter Richards

Patrice Collazo

Mefin Davies

Phil Vickery

Adam Eustace

Alex Brown

Jake Boer

Andy Hazell

Adam Balding

Olivier Azam

Gary Powell

Mark Cornwell

Luke Narryway

Haydn Thomas

Duncan Mcrae

Rob Thirlby



Moving with the Warriors

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