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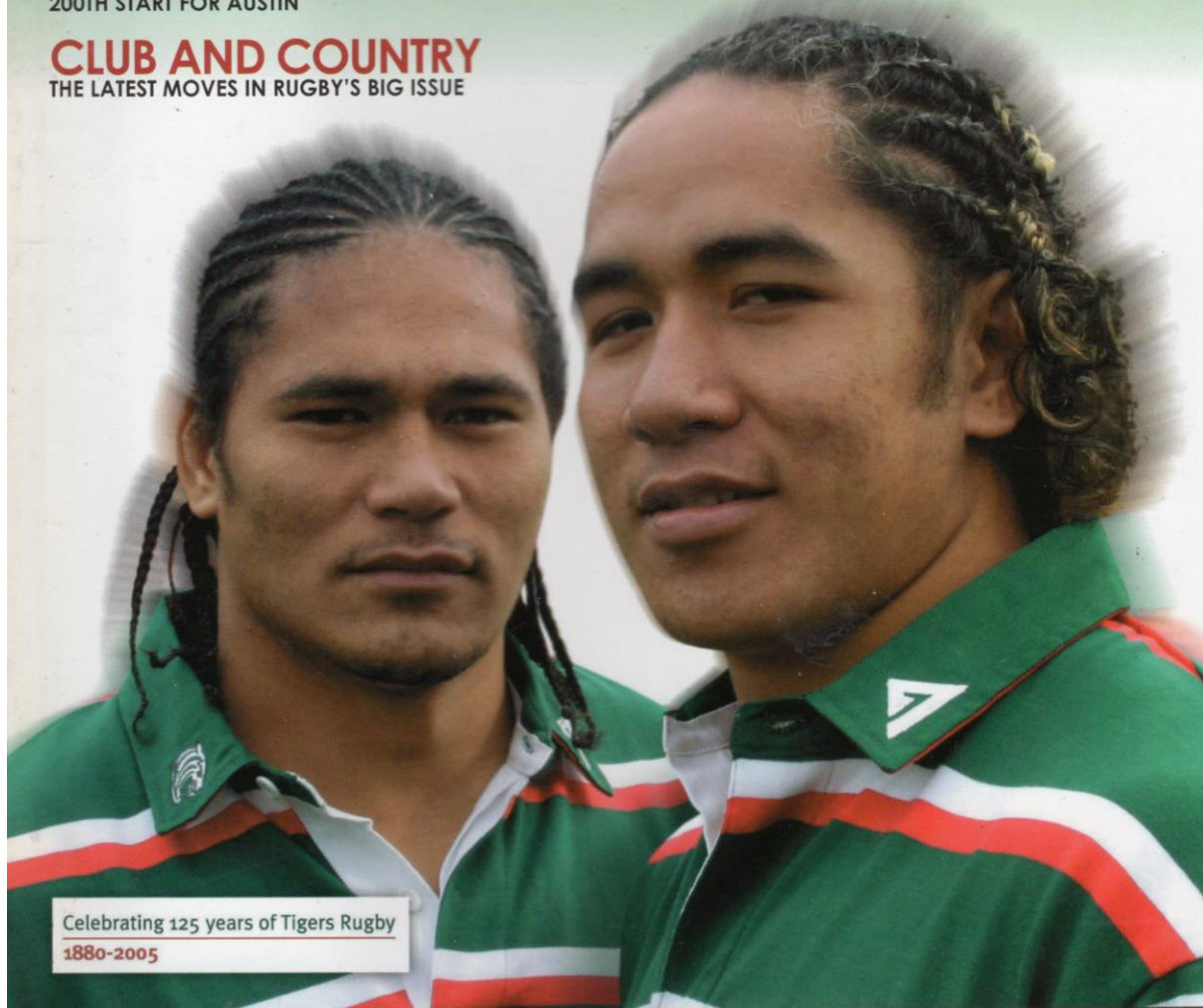
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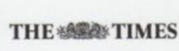
SATURDAY 12TH NOVEMBER 2005, 3PM
A GUINNESS PREMIERSHIP MATCH

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today's teams



SATURDAY 12TH NOVEMBER 2005, 3.00PM
A GUINNESS PREMIERSHIP MATCH



T G C

TIGERS

	SAM VESTY	15
	LEON LLOYD	14
	OLLIE SMITH	13
	DAN HIPKISS	12
	TOM VARNDELL	11
	ANDY GOODE	10
	AUSTIN HEALEY (C)	9
	MICHAEL HOLFORD	01
	GEORGE CHUTER	02
	DARREN MORRIS	03
	LEO CULLEN	04
	BEN KAY	05
	TOM CROFT	06
	SHANE JENNINGS	07
	BRETT DEACON	08

V

	FULL BACK	15
	RIGHT WING	14
	OUTSIDE CENTRE	13
	INSIDE CENTRE	12
	LEFT WING	11
	FLY HALF	10
	SCRUM HALF	9
	LOOSE HEAD PROP	01
	HOOKER	02
	TIGHT HEAD PROP	03
	SECOND ROW	04
	SECOND ROW	05
	BLINDSIDE FLANKER	06
	OPENSIDE FLANKER	07
	NO. 8	08



T G C

GLOUCESTER

	OLLY MORGAN	15
	MARK FOSTER	14
	JAMES SIMPSON-DANIEL	13
	ANTHONY ALLEN	12
	ROB THIRLBY	11
	LUDOVIC MERCIER	10
	PETER RICHARDS	9
	PATRICE COLLAZO	01
	MEFIN DAVIES	02
	GARY POWELL	03
	QUINTON DAVIDS	04
	ADAM EUSTACE	05
	PETER BUXTON (C)	06
	ANDY HAZELL	07
	JAMES FORRESTER	08

REPLACEMENTS

JAMES BUCKLAND/LUKE ABRAHAM
ALEX MORENO
JAMES HAMILTON
WILL JOHNSON/WILL SKINNER
NEIL COLE
ROSS BROADFOOT
ANITELEA TUILAGI

MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE:
TONY SPREADBURY

TOUCH JUDGES:
PETER HUCKLE
ROBIN GOODLIFFE

INTERNATIONALS ARE
DENOTED IN BOLD

REPLACEMENTS

JAMES PARKES
TERRY SIGLEY
MARK CORNWELL
ADAM BALDING
HAYDN THOMAS
BRAD DAVIES
TERRY FANOLUA

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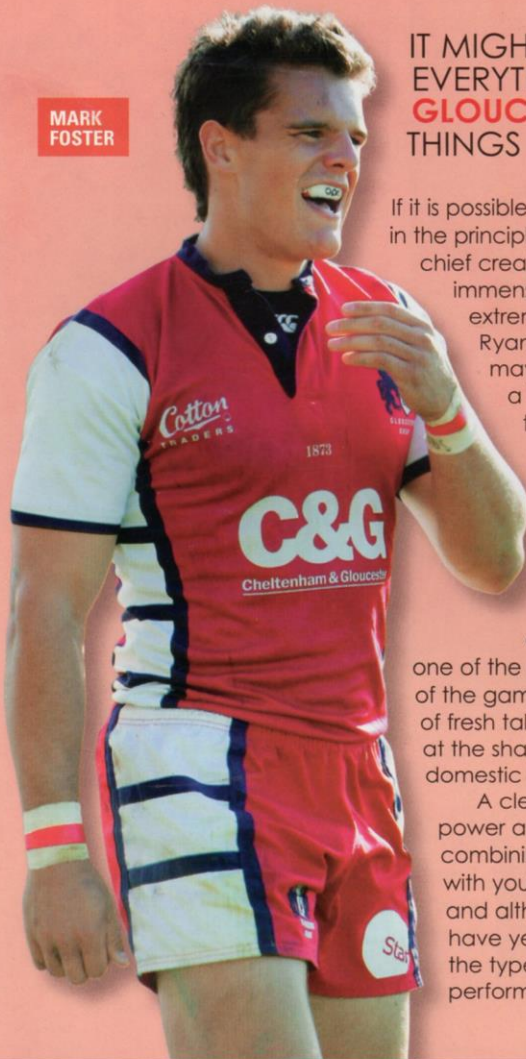
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IN OPPOSITION

gloucester rugby



MARK
FOSTER



IT MIGHT BE WRONG TO SUGGEST EVERYTHING IS GOING PERFECTLY IN **GLOUCESTER'S** WORLD AT PRESENT, BUT THINGS ARE PRETTY ROSY NEVERTHELESS.

If it is possible to forge a victory in the principle image of its chief creator – namely the immensely durable but extremely savvy Dean Ryan – then Leicester may be expecting a bit of a slugfest today.

But times are changing down Kingsholm way. They come into this afternoon's Guinness Premiership encounter against one of the grand institutions of the game with a stream of fresh talent cutting teeth at the sharp-end of the domestic game.

A clever mix of power and presence is combining very healthily with youthful inventiveness and although Gloucester have yet to produce the type of consistent performances Ryan and

his assistant Bryan Redpath would have liked, the signs are very encouraging.

Gloucester have lost only once this season – somewhat predictably 18-16 at the Rec against Bath – but the one blemish has not detracted from a ferocious work ethic, togetherness and commitment that has been the backbone of their season so far.

Rookies Olly Morgan, an immensely gifted full back, Anthony Allen, a centre with outstanding feet and balance, and scrum half Haydn Thomas are mixing superbly with established cornerstones of the team like James Simpson-Daniel and Ludovic Mercier, the points specialist from France.

Throw in the up front experience of prop Patrice Collazo, who returned to the club in the summer after two years with Toulouse, hooker Mefin Davies, James Forrester, the ridiculously talented Andy Hazell and the returning Adam

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**FRENCH POINTS-MACHINE
LUDOVIC MERCIER RETURNED TO
KINGSHOLM THIS SEASON**

Balding and Gloucester possess an all-round feel to them that has helped them win a series of close matches that last season may have proved beyond them.

They currently sit in third place and saw off Newcastle last weekend by 27-20 at Kingsholm. Morgan and Allen dazzled despite their lack of experience and it followed on from back-to-back victories in the European Challenge Cup.

An opening weekend triumph in France against Bayonne was built upon when Simpson-Daniel led the way with four tries in the 16-try, 106-3 romp against Bucuresti.

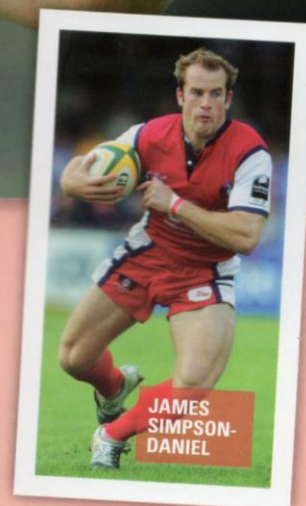
Gloucester opened the season with a 15-15 draw against Worcester – Mercier's boot ensuring the points were

shared, before they got the better of pace-setters Sale in a thrilling finale at Kingsholm with a penalty try in injury-time to seal a 21-18 victory.

Bristol were then dispatched at the Memorial Stadium 41-9, before Northampton were beaten 28-24 at Kingsholm, when Simpson-Daniel found the try line again in the second half following his return from injury.

On the injury front, Gloucester will be without lock Alex Brown and hooker Olivier Azam today. Brown has a neck injury that ruled him out of England contention, while Azam has a damaged shoulder.

But one man who will be back at Welford Road this afternoon is former Tiger



**JAMES
SIMPSON-
DANIEL**

Balding. He is expected to make his first start since the opening day of the season when he shattered his cheek against Worcester at Sixways.

He will add yet more power to the forwards as Gloucester go searching for another victory in one of the toughest environments in the Premiership today. It should be well worth watching.

by Alastair Downey

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