

Official Match Programme £3  
Season 2005/06 Issue 11

Guinness Premiership  
Sunday February 19th 2006  
Kick-off 2.30pm

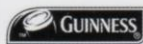
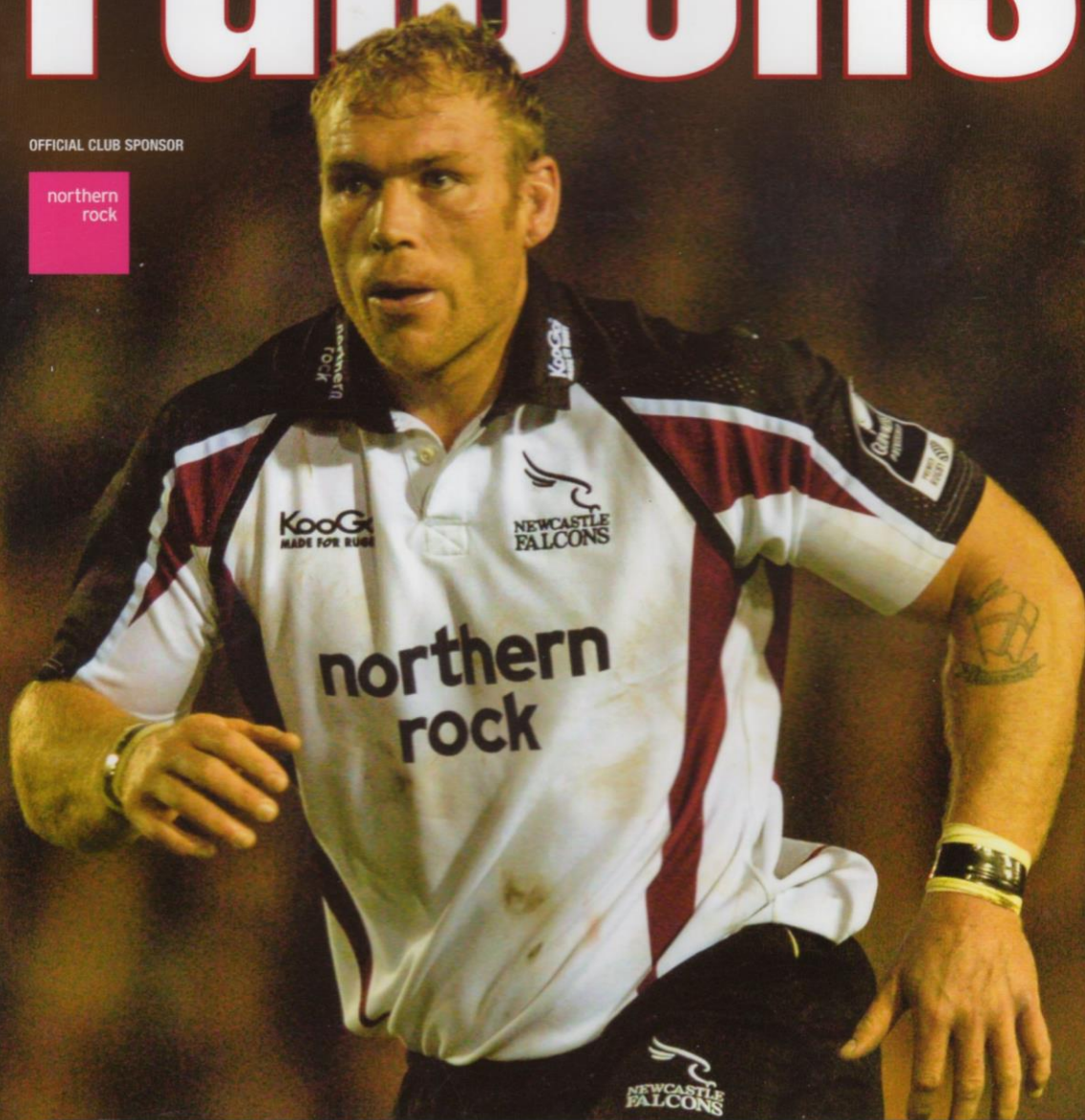
  
NEWCASTLE  
FALCONS

Gloucester Rugby

# Falcons

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## TEAM SHEET

**NEWCASTLE FALCONS v GLOUCESTER – 19/2/2006 (2.30pm)**

*Referee: Ashley Rowden*

*Touch Judges: Robin Goodliffe and Don Helme*

<b>Newcastle Falcons:</b>	<b>Gloucester:</b>
15 Matthew Burke 14 Tom May 13 Mathew Tait 12 Jamie Noon 11 Anthony Elliott 10 Dave Walder 9 Hall Charlton  1 Micky Ward 2 Matt Thompson 3 Robbie Morris 4 Andy Perry 5 Stuart Grimes 6 Mike McCarthy 7 Cory Harris 8 Colin Charvis (captain)	15 Jon Goodridge 14 James Bailey 13 James Simpson-Daniel 12 Rudi Keil 11 Mark Foster 10 Ludovic Mercier 9 Peter Richards  1 Patrice Collazo 2 Mefin Davies 3 Terry Sigley 4 Jonathan Pendlebury 5 Alex Brown 6 Peter Buxton 7 Andy Hazell 8 Jake Boer (captain)
<b>Replacements:</b>  16 David Wilson 17 Andy Long 18 Luke Gross 19 Ben Woods 20 Joe Shaw 21 James Grindal 22 Toby Flood	<b>Replacements:</b>  16 Rob Elloway 17 Nick Wood 18 Adam Eustace 19 Adam Balding 20 Terry Fanolua 21 Simon Amor 22 Brad Davies

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IN OPPOSITION

# Gloucester



**I**f a successful team is based around the competitiveness within a squad - particularly one that has been without 15 players due to injury and international commitments - then Gloucester may have made a very significant statement last Friday.

Dean Ryan's side climbed up to third in the Guinness Premiership following a raucous, thrilling 34-16 victory over Leicester that went some way to repairing the damage of their home defeat to London Irish and their task this afternoon is to continue that progression against Newcastle.

Rookies like breakaway flanker James Merriman, lock Jonathan Pendlebury and hooker Rob Elloway have all made outstanding contributions and now their task is to establish some consistency when the internationals return.

"The most successful element of this year is that nobody knows who's going to play the next week and that includes Ludovic Mercier and Sinbad [James Simpson-Daniel] right through to James Bailey and Mark Foster. If we can maintain that we'll keep up the intensity levels," Ryan said.

"We covered a lot of ground, more verbally, over the last two weeks, following the game against London Irish because sometimes we try and be too organised and we drop some of our ambition.

"Some of our selections were about players who had ambition and were prepared to have a go."

Gloucester have been having a go all season. They have inevitably lost matches but at the same time have made great strides in aiming to qualify for next season's Heineken Cup.

Their only defeat since Boxing Day - when they lost a thriller 32-25 away to Wasps - was the 13-9 home defeat against London Irish but they have safely progressed to the knockout stages of the European Challenge Cup and triumphed away to Saracens in the Premiership.

Today, they should be able to welcome back

Mike Tindall

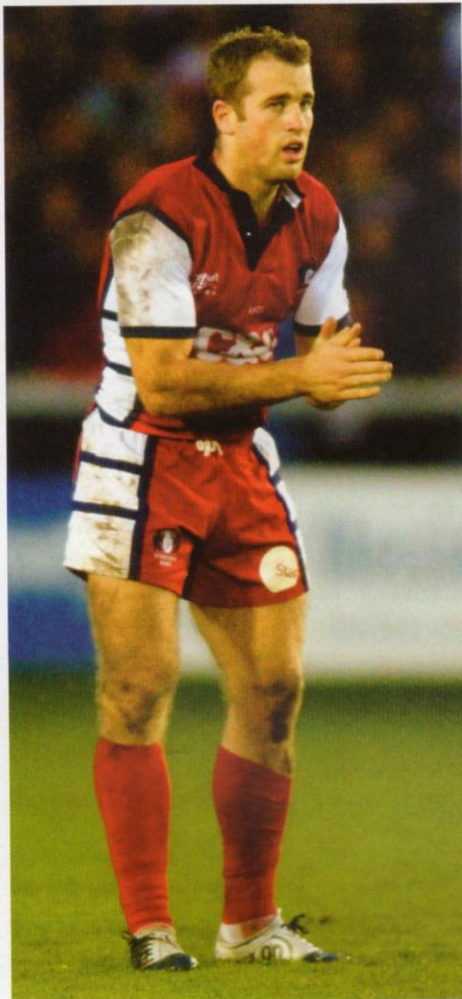






a number of international players from the Six Nations. Both Mike Tindall and James Simpson-Daniel scored in England's victory in Rome - Tindall producing a performance of conviction and attacking threat in midfield - and he will be a key man this afternoon if he resumes in centre birth at club level.

Hooker Mefin Davies has been involved with Welsh squad, while Anthony Allen, Ryan Lamb, Henry Paul, Luke Narraway and Simon Amor have



James Simpson-Daniel



all been part of the England Under-21's or sevens squads.

Gloucester are making significant strides at the top end of the Premiership and this afternoon's tussle at Kingston Park will be one of their toughest assignments remaining on the road this season.

At Kingsholm earlier in the campaign Gloucester triumphed 27-20 and another tight, tense clash is expected today. Gloucester may not yet be the finished article, but they are making progress with a pack of forwards who compete wholeheartedly at the set-piece and backline that is capable of adding a real cutting edge to all the grunt work.

And while all the talk is of Sale, Wasps and Leicester as the fight for the play-off places heats up, Gloucester have quietly broken into the top four. Their task now is to stay there and that begins today.

