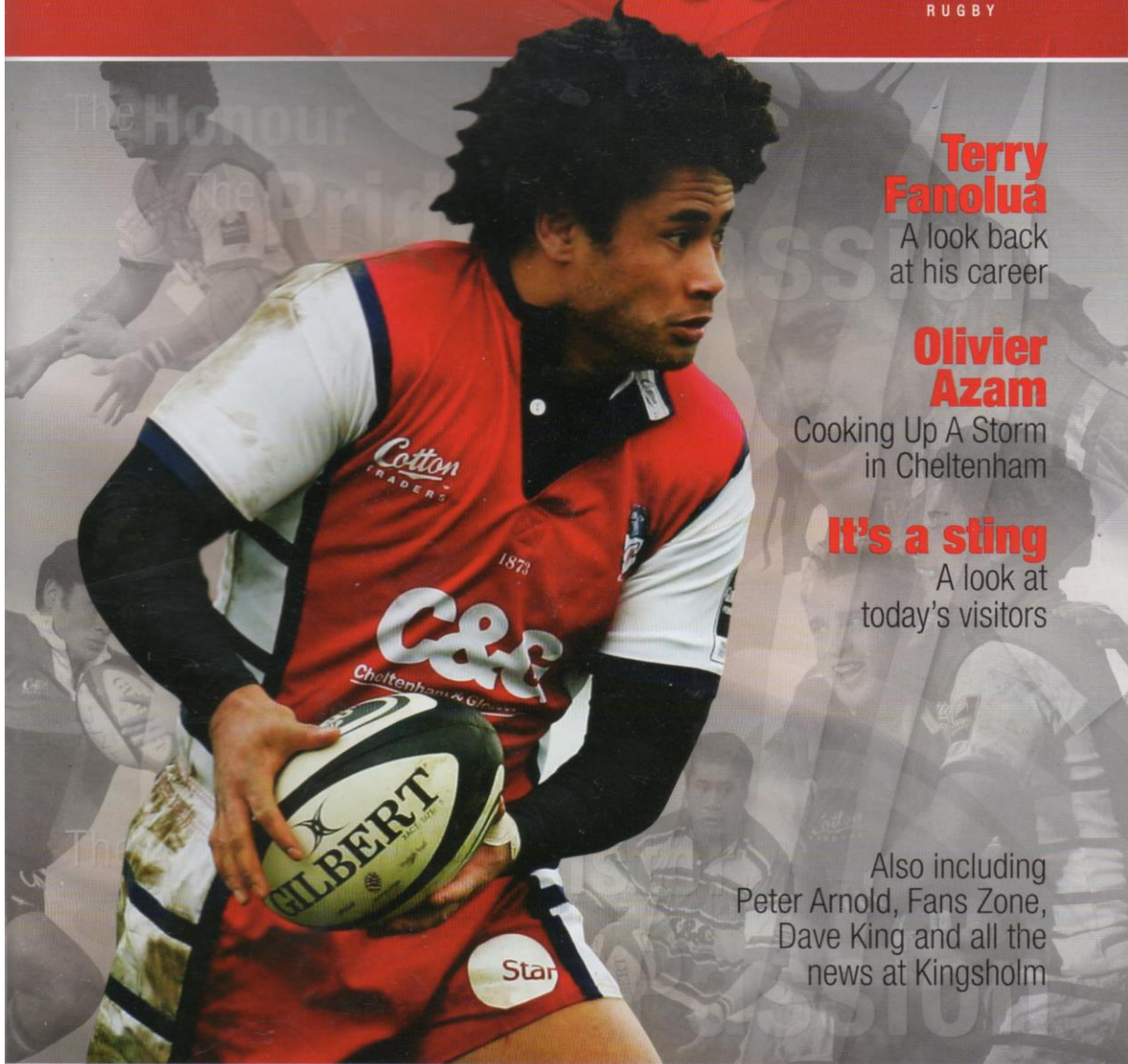


Gloucester Rugby

Gloucester Rugby Official Matchday Magazine | 2005/06 Season | Issue 17 | Price £3.00



Terry Fanolua

A look back at his career

Olivier Azam

Cooking Up A Storm in Cheltenham

It's a sting

A look at today's visitors

Also including Peter Arnold, Fans Zone, Dave King and all the news at Kingsholm

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VS **London Wasps**

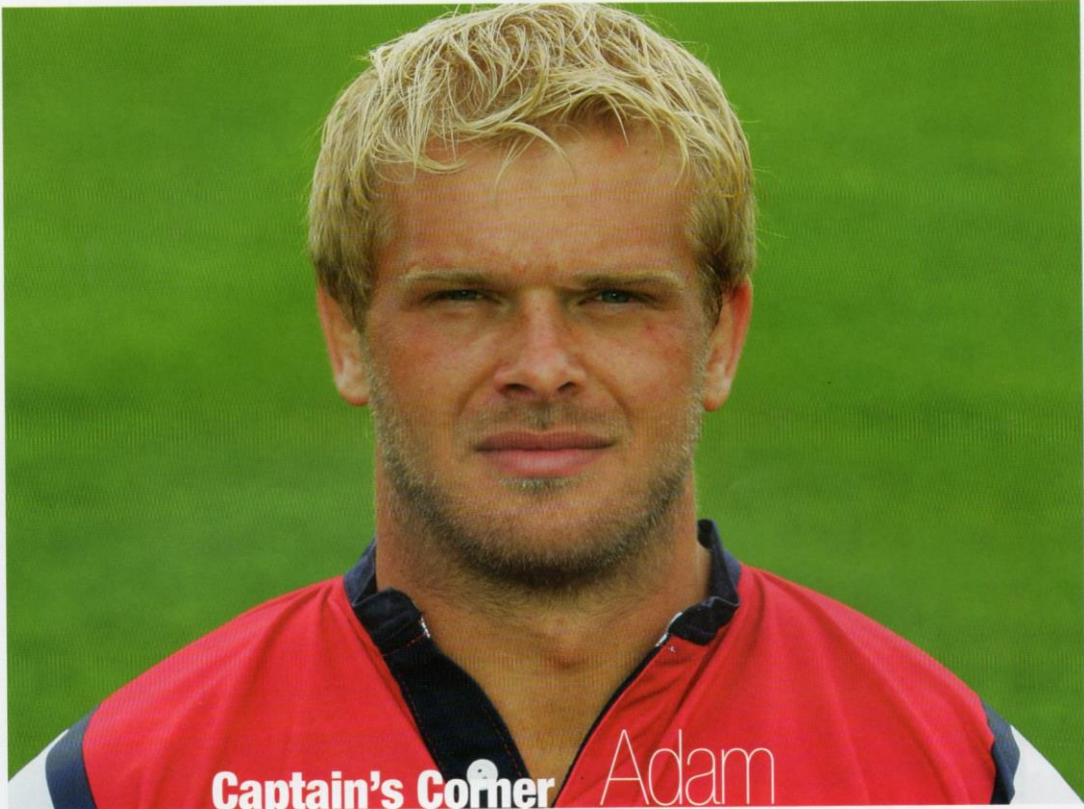
Saturday 6th May | Kick Off 15.00pm



THE TIMES



www.guinnesspremiership.com



Captain's Corner Adam

In association with
dair*

Balding

WOULDN'T YOU
just know it.

The fate of our Guinness Premiership play-off chances will now be settled on the final day of the regular season at Kingsholm against today's visitors London Wasps.

It is a winner takes all occasion against two of the mightiest clubs in the country to decide who will secure the final play-off place. There simply couldn't be more at stake.

We have got into this position through good hard work, the

outstanding development of our youngsters and the leadership qualities of our senior players. It means that at Kingsholm today we have one final hurdle to jump to make a real statement about our future.

In the last three weeks we have found our stride again and our victory at Leeds last Sunday has got us into this position.

But we know what we are up against today. Despite a rocky period of form, Wasps are the Powergen Cup winners and possess some of the most

outstanding individuals in the game.

They have made an art form of peaking at this stage of the season in one-off matches, of producing their best in knockout rugby and they are perhaps the most savvy opponents we could be up against today.

However, we have not come this far, been through so much as a squad and experienced so many different emotions this season that we are not prepared to waste the chance today.

We will have a capacity 12,500 crowd behind us, capable of generating a wall of noise and an atmosphere that is unique to Kingsholm and we will need that every step of the way.

On a personal note, I obviously hope to play my part in the game. I made my comeback at Leeds last weekend and thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to get back in a Gloucester shirt and do my bits and pieces for the team.

It was a special day for both myself and Andy Hazell last weekend as we made our 100th appearances in the Premiership - and hopefully after today we will have a couple more to make this season.

Enjoy the game.



Guarantee a ticket at **Kingsholm** - call **0871 871 8781**

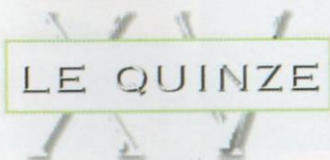
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Ready, Steady **Cook**



Olivier
Azam

He is more at home in the heart of Gloucester's scrum as their talismanic hooker, but **Olivier Azam has his fingers in other pies - quite literally. Last night he opened his new restaurant, called 15, in Cheltenham as the matchday programme found out.**



WHEN OLIVIER AZAM swapped the delights of Michelin country in France to dip his toes in the boiling waters of Castle Grim a few years back, he cultivated a level of hero worship almost as great as the one he enjoyed in his homeland.

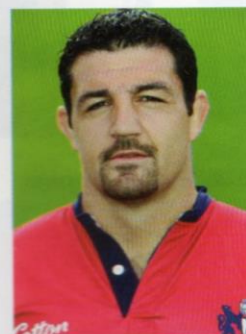
With his total level of commitment, incendiary attitude and total devotion to anything resembling physical contact, Azam was right at home with Gloucester's typical style.

A brief spell back in France was ended last year when he rejoined Gloucester for the second time and although the last two seasons have been wrecked by injury, Azam made a positive return against Leeds last weekend during Gloucester's win in Yorkshire.

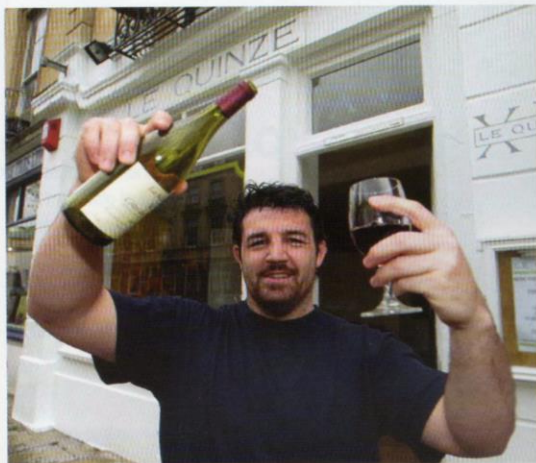
But there is more, much more, to the former France A international. Alongside his former Montferrand team-mate Laurent Guntert, Azam has opened his first restaurant in Montpellier in Cheltenham.

Guntert was forced into retirement because of a neck injury which meant he reverted back to his former profession as a chef and the pair have linked up in Cheltenham for their latest business venture.

"I always thought Cheltenham would be a really good place for a restaurant like this - a traditional French restaurant with old recipes and something you don't find anywhere else," Azam said.



Pictures by Bruce Seabrook
GPA Images info@gpaimages.com



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The History

Guarantee a ticket at **Kingsholm** - call **0871 871 8781**



“I am very excited about the opportunity and I hope people will very much enjoy the experience we can give them.”

“I already have a pub in France but I have always been interested in opening a restaurant. It is something to do when my rugby has finished and I wanted to bring a little bit of French culture to England.

“The specialities will be things that are traditional to me in France, dishes my grandmother used to make, ones that are simple but delicious.”

The name of the restaurant is

obviously rugby related, as Azam explains: “Laurent has size 15 feet, there are 15 players in a rugby team and we are also number 15 on Montpellier Street.

“I am very excited about the opportunity and I hope people will very much enjoy the experience we can give them. For me, this is very much like rugby. When I play I like to give a bit of myself and I hope people can experience a piece of France in the restaurant.”

Although Azam is relishing his new project, his heart and soul remain on the rugby field. Last season he damaged his right shoulder so badly he missed the majority of the season and only six weeks into the current campaign he suffered an almost identical injury to his left shoulder in a Powergen Cup match at Bristol.

It deprived Gloucester of one of their most physical and potent weapons - a man fortified by the battle provided at the set-piece.

Mefin Davies has shouldered the vast majority of the work load but both Rob Elloway and James Parkes have tasted first team action too.

But despite the set-back, Azam believes he has a better chance of prolonging his career. “I certainly believe I am fresher now compared to when I was 28,” he said. “I thought last season was a really bad one but this has been even worse and very hard to take.

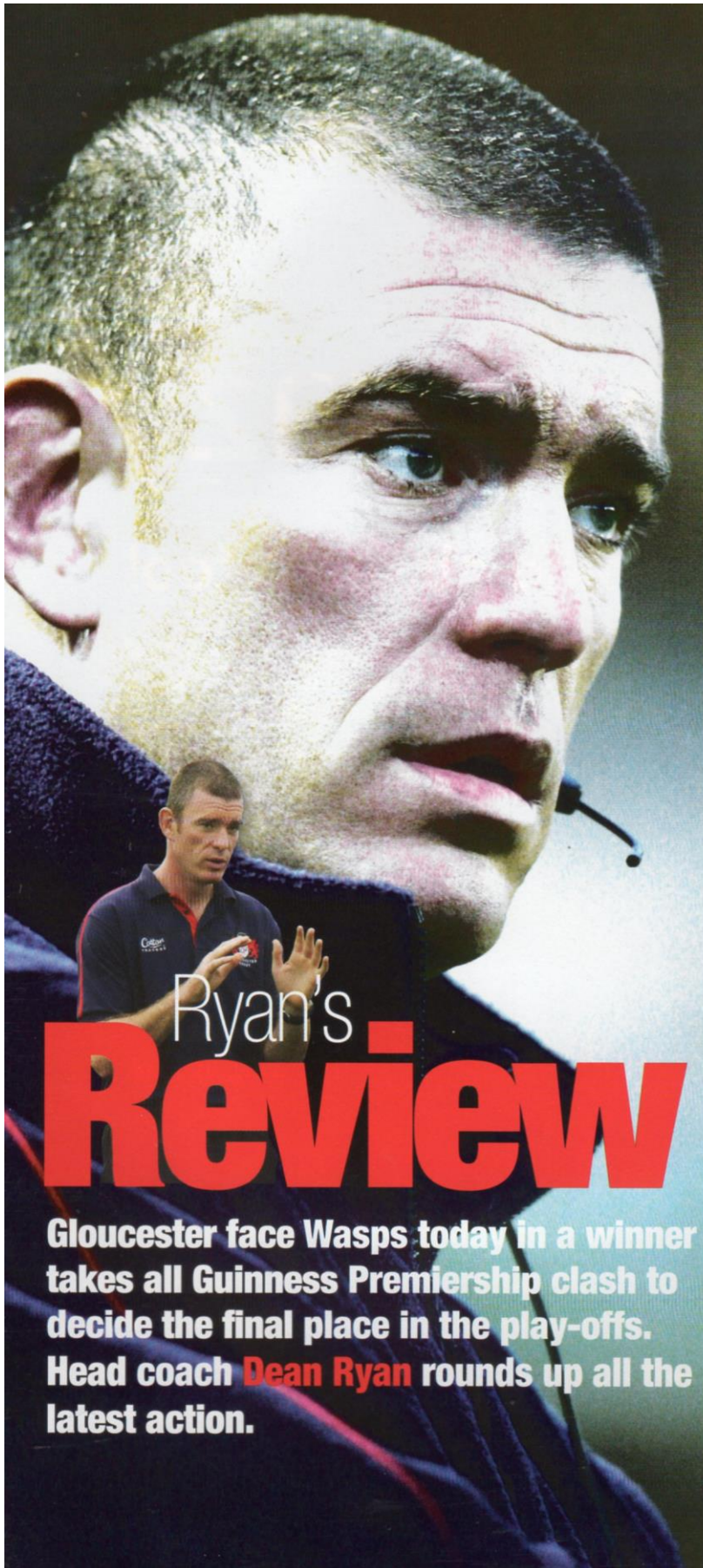


“I don’t think I have ever been as frustrated because I cannot play and I am really glad to be back in the team. Training and rehabilitation is fine but I miss playing too much.

“But I think I can see the game from a new perspective now and that I can further my career down the line. I am just glad I am back and able to play, hopefully to make up for lost time.”

For more booking information contact **01242 525230** or take along your Gloucester season ticket.

Azam is now ready to cook up a storm on and off the field.



Ryan's
Review

Gloucester face Wasps today in a winner takes all Guinness Premiership clash to decide the final place in the play-offs. Head coach **Dean Ryan rounds up all the latest action.**



You describe what you want to achieve at Gloucester 'as a journey' - it has been some ride this season?

DR: Yeah, it's been eventful. At stages during the season in between international periods, we developed momentum and progress that was really pleasing and gave an early indication of what we can achieve in the future. After the Six Nations it took us a bit of time to re-establish our ability to win matches but during that time we maintained our adventure, enthusiasm and spirit and eventually got what we deserved with two back-to-back victories over Worcester. It put us in a position, following the victory at Leeds, where we control our fate and that is really - all you can ask for with one game remaining. It is a situation that will be new to a number of players but hopefully they will also be invigorated by the challenge and we can continue our league season.



Even before today's game, Gloucester are back in the Heineken Cup next season, how important is that?

DR: The very very fabric of a club like ours needs exposure to the Heineken Cup - the players are desperate for it because they can test themselves against the best players in the northern hemisphere and the supporters want it because they demand their club play in the best competition. Being away from it this season has only emphasised just how much we want to be part of it.

One of our major goals was to qualify for the competition again and I don't think that feat should be under-estimated, particularly after where we finished last season. I am delighted for everyone involved because this squad is at the beginning of its development together and will only get better with the exposure it gets in Europe's premier competition. The whole atmosphere of being in the European Cup is different

- there is more edge, more intensity and more atmosphere.



That is obviously in the future, today is all about the Premiership and Wasps

DR: I wouldn't want to read too much into their last few results, particularly Sunday's against London Irish. Wasps have become the most efficient and effective team in the country at knockout rugby, as they have shown in the last three seasons at Twickenham. They have players supremely well versed in winning big matches, who are capable of bringing the best out of players around them. They are further on in their development than we are so it will be a great test of the progress we have made this season and in

"Wasps have become the most efficient and effective team in the country."

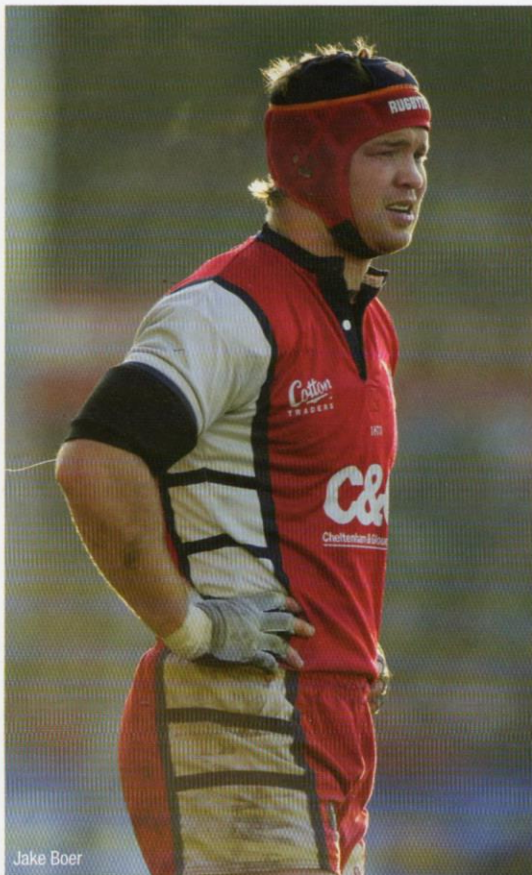
particular, the last few months. I just want our young players to express themselves like they have been doing, while learning all the time from the experienced heads they have around them. If we can do that, I am sure we stand a really good chance.



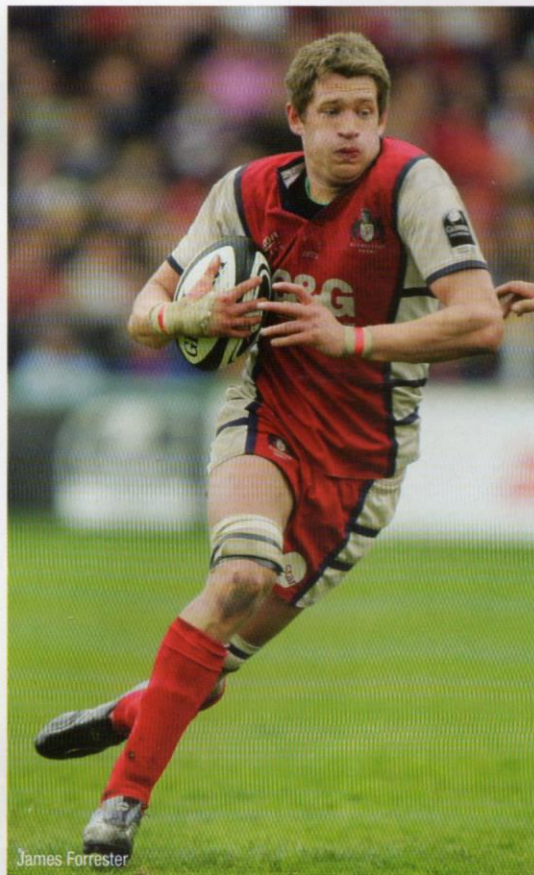
Finally, can you round up the latest injury news?

DR: I was delighted to see both Adam Balding and Olivier Azam make returns last Sunday

because they provide us with a level of power that has not always been available this season because of injuries. We have been pretty fortunate that Mefin Davies has remained injury free, while James Forrester has done a very good job at number eight. Jake Boer has been named in the squad that will take part in the National Charity 10s tomorrow and that is very good news for him. If we can continue our season, then hopefully he may be available for the end of it.



Jake Boer



James Forrester

gloucester rugby .co.uk

The History

Match Action

European Challenge Cup 

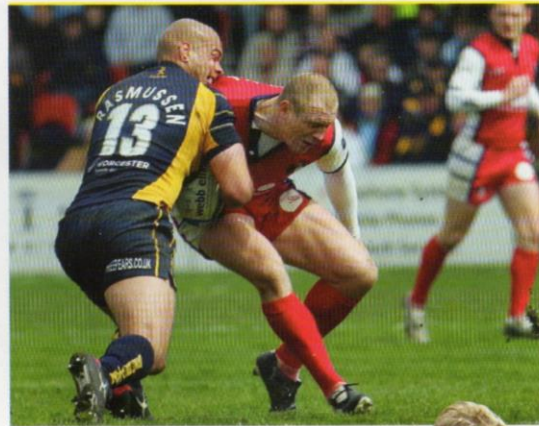


Gloucester Rugby 31 Worcester Warriors 23

European Challenge Cup semi-final

Saturday, April 22
Attendance: 8,609
Referee: Christophe Berdos (Fr)

Pictures by Bruce Seabrook – GPA Images info@gpaimages.com



MARK FORSTER'S try seven minutes from time finally quashed Worcester's outstanding fightback and booked Gloucester's place in the final of the European Challenge Cup.

The try came when Ryan Lamb launched a steepling up and under towards full-back Nicolas Le Roux and Ludovic Mercier, on at full-back in place of the

injured Ollly Morgan, took a sensational catch and when possession was recycled, Lamb kicked across field for Foster to take the catch and score.

Lamb nailed the touchline conversion to turn a 21-23 deficit into a 28-23 advantage and when he kicked a 79th minute penalty, Gloucester were heading for the final at the Twickenham Stoop.

"We kept the ambition and the belief and kept playing and eventually we got the rewards that, over the whole game, we probably deserved," said head coach Dean Ryan. "We showed when we can get some movement in the game that we've got an exciting group of people who want to play."

"They keep believing until the final minutes. We didn't want to

say that reaching a semi-final was good enough because we had a young and inexperienced side. It's about getting to finals and hopefully this is the first of many."

Gloucester got off to a sensational start with two tries in the opening 15 minutes. The first came when Peter Richards broke blind following a catch by Ollly Morgan and fed Lamb,

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The Honour



who beat the cover before linking with Richards again and James Forrester before James Simpson-Daniel finished the move with an expert finish.

The second try was just as impressive and again involved Simpson-Daniel and powerful surge from Peter Buxton.

With quick ball from a ruck, Anthony Allen used the space given to him to dummy his

way into score. The conversion took Gloucester 15-3 ahead but Worcester launched an outstanding recovery and scored themselves when stand-off Shane Drahm scooted over by the posts following heavy pressure at a series of set scrums.

And with Thomas Lombard heavily involved and Drahm pulling the strings, Worcester

scored again before the break when Lombard's break was taken on Kai Hortsmann and Craig Gillies gave the scoring pass to Pat Sanderson.

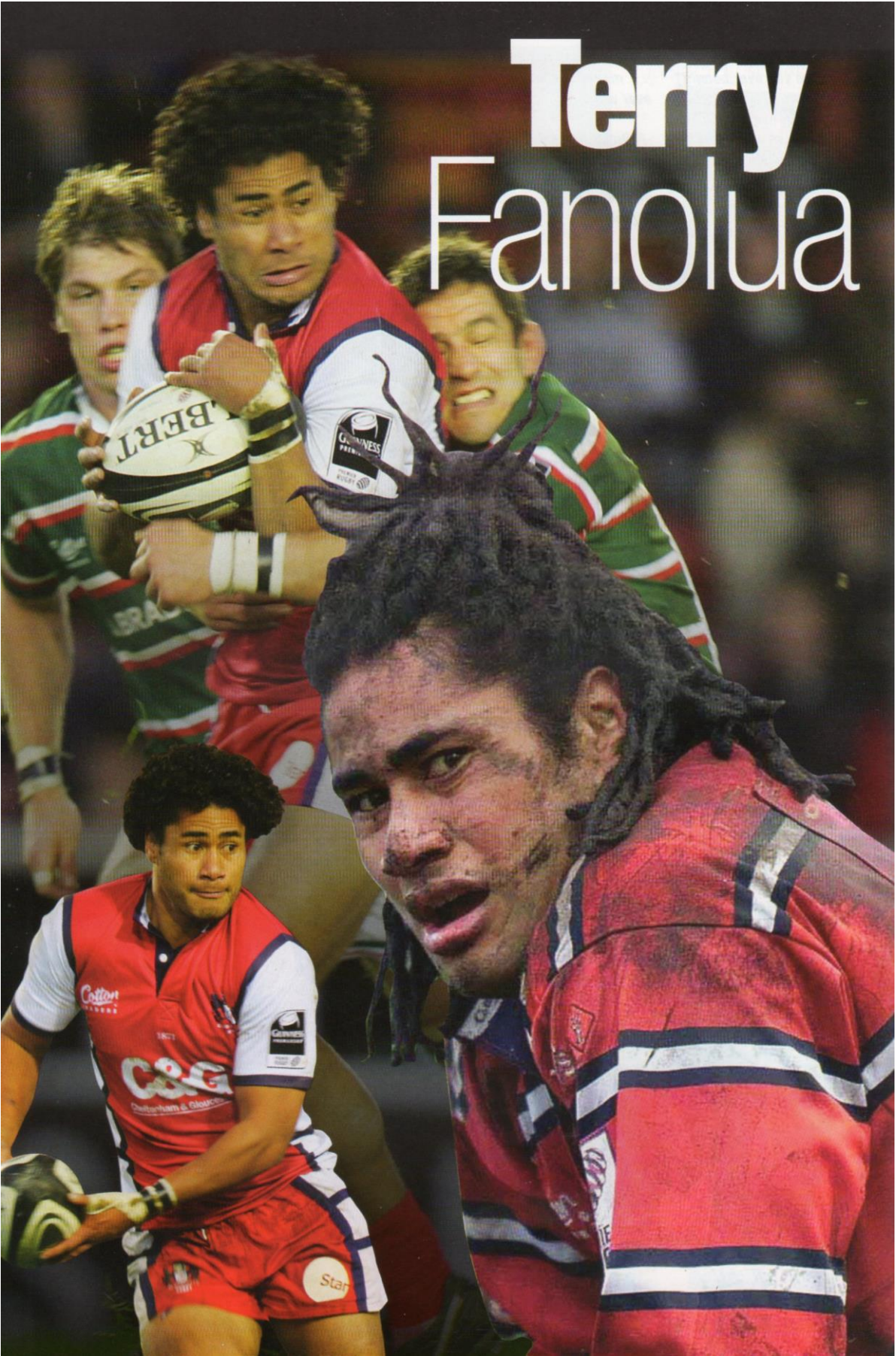
Suddenly, Gloucester's lead had been wiped out and when Drahm landed a drop-goal and a penalty at the start of the second half, Worcester's noisy support

sensed an unlikely away victory.

But Gloucester hit back. Lamb and Mercier both landed penalties to drag the hosts to within two points and when Foster scored in the left corner with seven minutes left, Gloucester could start making plans for their first cup final appearance since 2003.

The History

Terry Fanolua



Not many people know **Terry Fanolua** as well as **Tim Broadley**. He has known the Samoan centre for four years and in today's matchday programme pays his own special tribute to the man from Gloucester's midfield.

TODAY WILL be the end of an era – and then some. Gloucester's final Guinness Premiership match of the season against Wasps has been dedicated to Terry Fanolua – the dread-locked bone re-arranger – who has made a habit of making mincemeat of opponents up and down the Premiership.

But Fanolua will not be the only member of the squad leaving at the end of the season. Both Phil Vickery, the tight-head prop and Mark Cornwell the second row, will leave the club to join Wasps and Pertemps Bees respectively as Gloucester re-structure for the new campaign.

All three have written indelible chapters into Gloucester's recent history but for Broadley, who was the best man at Fanolua's wedding, Castle Grim is not going to be the same place without the flowing locks, rolled down socks and all-out aggression of Fanolua next season.

"I have known Tezza for four years on a friendship basis and it is a honour and a pleasure to have the opportunity to say a few words about him," Broadley said.

"His legendary performances over nine years for Gloucester are well known to all rugby fans, not only in Gloucester but across the rugby world. His strength, honesty and endeavour is obvious on the pitch and is very apparent in the culture of this true Samoan."

Fanolua has signed a contract with Brive for next season, having joined Gloucester's first mini revolution in 1997 under former director of rugby Richard Hill.

He came in alongside Philippe Saint-Andre and Richard Tombs as the first overseas players to join the club. While Saint-Andre was a genuine world class winger and Tombs a thoughtful, technically excellent centre, it has been Fanolua's all-action, all-commitment style that has ensured he has remained at the club for long.

In that time he has gone on to become Gloucester's leading appearance maker in the professional era and also the leading try scorer in all competitions.

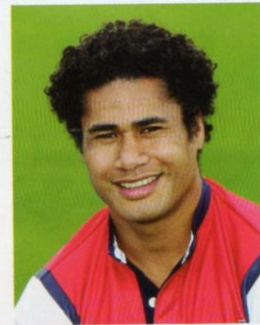
"Fa'a Samoa means the Samoan way," Broadley continued. "This is an all-encompassing concept that dictates how Samoans behave. It refers to the

obligations that a Samoan owes to their family, community and church.

"Tezza has not only shown this obligation to Gloucester Rugby over the years, he and his family have introduced this concept to what they call their aiga [extended] family. My family and I have been privileged to become part of this family and have learned many of the strengths of the Samoan way.

"Traditionally, Samoans consider it a matter of honour to make a guest feel as welcome as possible, believing that anything they have is at the disposal of others. I can confirm from first hand experience that whenever you meet Tezza and his family you will always be treated with respect and understanding.

"My family and I will always treasure, with



The
History

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"Tezza is now adopted as one of Gloucester's own – which is not an easy task – as a professional sportsman and wishing to become part of the local community, he has found time to do what all Gloucester people are expected to do – play skittles for a local team and be involved with his local rugby club, Old Richians.

"The style of Tezza's play is characterised by his fast-running and hard-tackling. The vigour in which he embraces the physical aspect of the game has earned him high praise across the rugby world.

"He eats, breathes, sleeps Gloucester and has spoken with great personal emotion".

fondest memories of being witnesses at the wedding of Anne and Tezza, the birth and growth of Tyra, Teryn and Terry Junior and the times members of our families have spent together in England, New Zealand and Samoa."

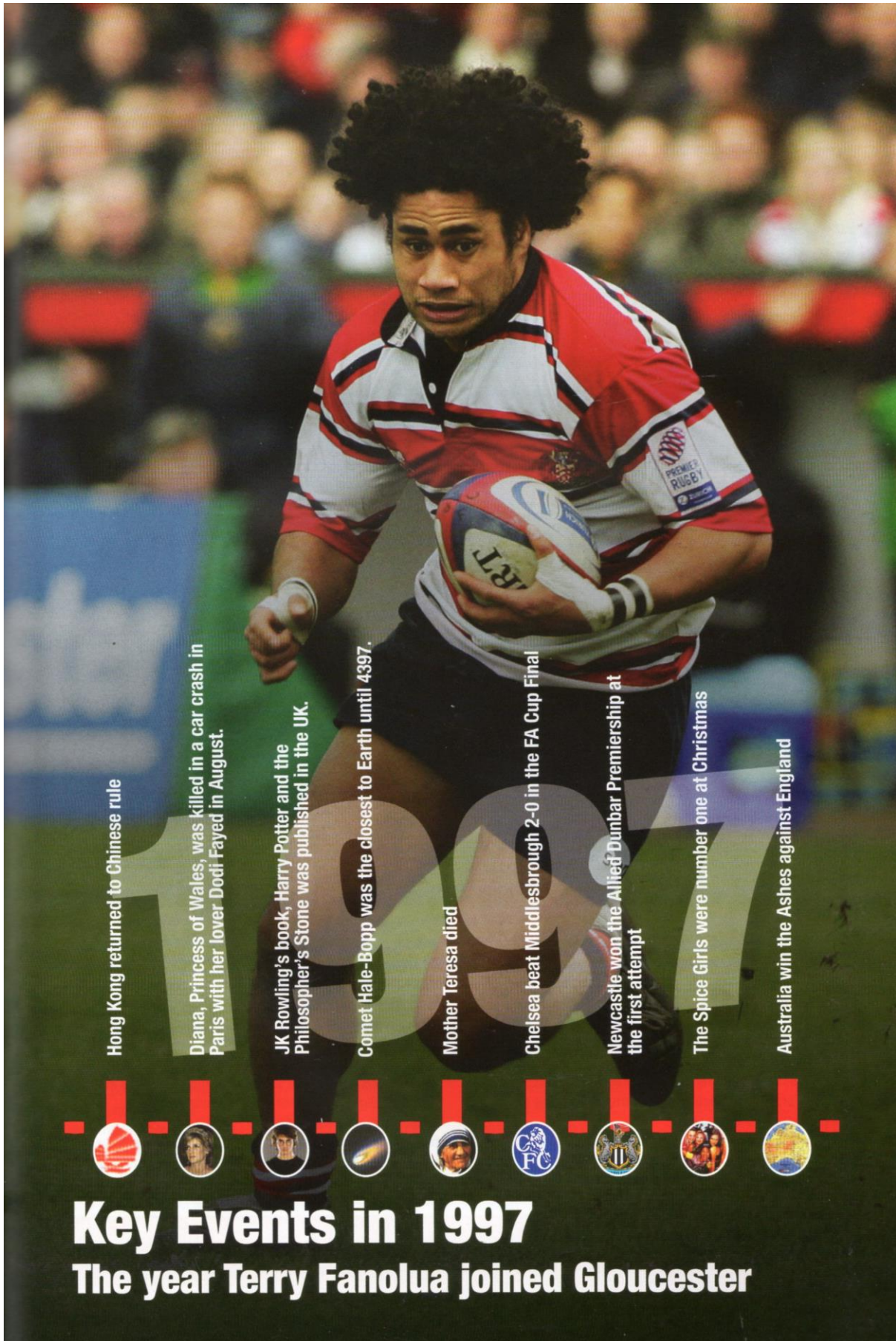
In his 15 appearances all in all competitions this season, Fanolua has scored one try and during his career also won 28 caps for Samoa.

It is expected, in honour of one of their favourite sons, inhabitants of the townie terrace known as the Shed will wear black wigs this afternoon to celebrate his final game for the club.

"Terry always talks of pride when people ask him about his rugby – he eats, breathes, sleeps Gloucester and he has often spoken with great personal emotion that he feels for the people of Gloucester.

"The rugby legacy Tezza will leave at Kingsholm will be legendary to the marvellous supporters whom mean so much to him. I am sure Tezza will take a small part of Gloucester with him but I know he and his family will leave a greater part of Samoa with us. May I take this opportunity to wish Tezza, Anne, Tyra Teryn and Terry Junior, all the best of luck for the future."





Hong Kong returned to Chinese rule

Diana, Princess of Wales, was killed in a car crash in Paris with her lover Dodi Fayed in August.

JK Rowling's book, Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone was published in the UK.

Comet Hale-Bopp was the closest to Earth until 4397.

Mother Teresa died

Chelsea beat Middlesbrough 2-0 in the FA Cup Final

Newcastle won the Allied Dunbar Premiership at the first attempt

The Spice Girls were number one at Christmas

Australia win the Ashes against England



Key Events in 1997

The year Terry Fanolua joined Gloucester

Match Action



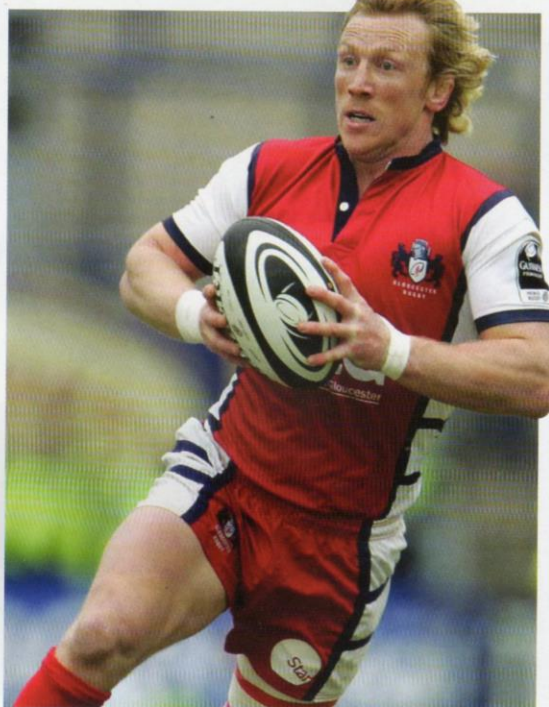
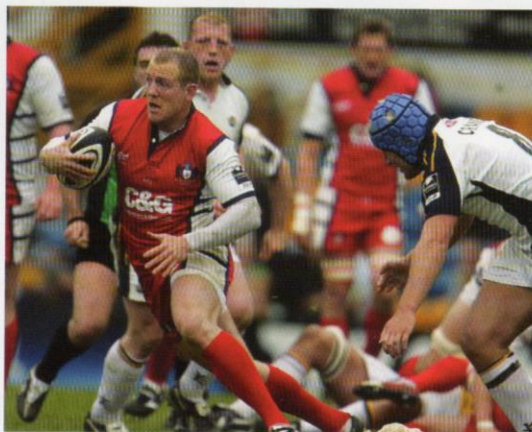
Leeds Tykes 7 Gloucester Rugby 31

Sunday, April 30

Attendance: 4,425

Referee: Sean Davey

Pictures by Bruce Seabrook – GPA Images info@gpaimages.com



GLOUCESTER scored three second half tries to book a Premiership play-off showdown against Wasps.

Although relegated Leeds were wholehearted and committed, they made far too many errors and once Gloucester combined good shape with their ambition, were simply too hot to handle.

Through the efforts of Peter Richards, who was in relentless form from the scrum-half position, Andy Hazell on the openside flank and a cutting edge Leeds failed to live with, Gloucester scored three times in the third quarter to seal the match.

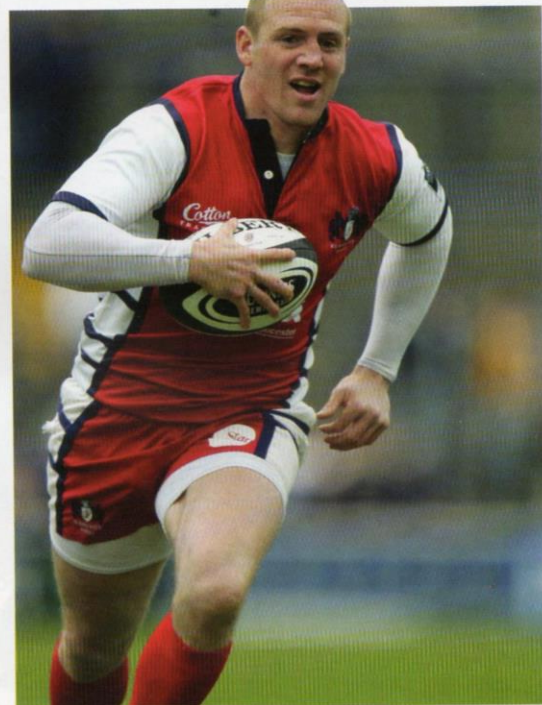
But Gloucester were far from seamless in the first half and only had Mike Tindall's try to

show for their efforts when he started and finished a move that also involved Mark Foster, Luke Narraway, Mefin Davies, Patrice Collazo and Ryan Lamb.

Leeds struck back with a score from Tom Biggs, who managed to control the bounce of the ball from a Gordon Ross kick to leave the Tykes trailing 10-7 at the break.

However, Gloucester blew the hosts away in the second half. Lamb's break close to the advantage line and a slaloming run from James Simpson-Daniel allowed Richards to send Hazell in for the second try after 45 minutes.

Gloucester then drove a line-out infield and Leeds unable to match their power



at last, before Richards and Lamb cut through the defence and the scrum-half sealed an outstanding performance with the score from short range.

And Simpson-Daniel added the bonus point score when he picked up a neat little grubber from Lamb to take Gloucester 31-7 ahead and complete a comfortable victory.

Head coach Dean Ryan said: "We've got to keep this youthful enthusiasm, but it's got to listen to the experience that's around. In the first half we played with a lot of exuberance but not really what the game needed.

"We weren't direct enough, we didn't challenge them physically and we left them in the game for 40 minutes.

The 15 minutes after half-time we were more direct and physical.

"So it's a mix of emotions. I can't help being enthused by the number of try-scoring opportunities we created, and I can't help but be frustrated that we only scored four and didn't get the right shape for the game in the first half."

"It was a difficult atmosphere and we got caught up in that flatness," Ryan added.

"But it was important we have something to play for next week.

We didn't want to have a dead game at Kingsholm and there will be something on next week for us to see if we can get a play-off position."

The History

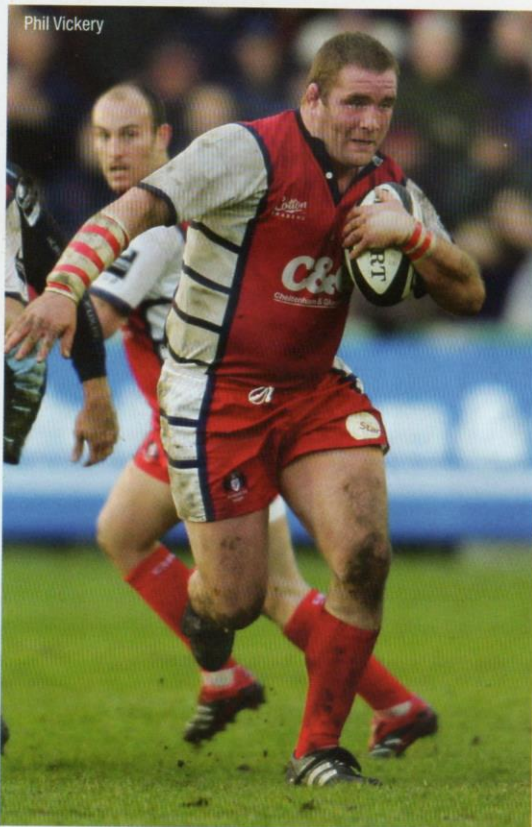


Peter Arnold looks back at the end of an era at Gloucester, is relishing today's encounter against Wasps and hopes for another absorbing cricket season.

Peter Arnold



Mark Cornwell



Phil Vickery

END OF AN ERA

THEY SAY that time goes faster as you get older. In that case, I must be about 103. It only seems a few weeks ago that I was sitting down to write my first notes of the season, yet here we are, staring down the gun barrel of another dry spell without any games at Kingsholm.

I expect the autumn will soon roll around, though, especially if the cricket season yields as much interest as the last couple has. Anyway, we still have a cup final to look forward to, and perhaps even a play-off. So the season isn't quite dead yet.

In many ways, we are seeing not just the final chapters of another rugby season, but the end of an era for Gloucester Rugby. At the start of the campaign we felt we could rely on the skills and physical presence of Phil Vickery and

Terry Fanolua, not to mention the 100% commitment of 'Pasty' Cornwall, but now we are going to have to learn to live without them.

Back in September, there was considerable euphoria about the return of Ludovic Mercier, but his place is now under considerable threat from the indecently young talents of Ryan Lamb. Originally, most of us would have put down Jon Goodridge as a virtual banker at full-back, but Olly Morgan has usurped his supremacy.

Not that either Ludo or Jonny are spent forces, far from it, but the junior talent on display over the past few weeks has presented a challenge which simply can't be ignored, while up front, Jack Forster has laid down a marker which will take a bit of forgetting.

And speaking of front rows, the thought of Collazo, Azam, now happily back in the fold, and

The Honour

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Nieto is a pretty terrifying one.

All in all, we can go into the close season with a fair degree of optimism. But then, we usually can.

NO HAPPY RUNABOUT

TIME WAS when the last match of the Kingsholm season was a sort of end-of-term party. Someone like Exeter would roll up, and everyone would happily throw the ball about, try some outrageous things and then retire to the clubhouse for a drink or 19.

Not any more. Today's game has enormous significance, especially for Wasps. Phil Vickery's new outfit not even in the play-offs? Unthinkable, even a fortnight or so ago.

But, whatever happens, we're back in the Heineken. It would be nice to see Munster back here again, wouldn't it?

PAUL ON THE BALL

REGULAR readers (both of them) of these pages will recall that, a few weeks back, I rather put Councillor Paul James, Deputy Leader of Gloucester City Council, up the sharp end. Knowing that he would be in his usual spot in the Shed, I suggested to him that as Terry Fanolua has been a super ambassador for the whole city in his travels around the rugby-playing world, then perhaps Gloucester should recognise that fact before he departs. I suggested that a Civic Reception might be appropriate.

As I thought he would, Paul took me up on it. He spoke to Lise Noakes, our energetic young Mayor, on the subject, but unfortunately the crowded civic calendar

and the general logistics of the situation did not permit such an event to take place. However, the Mayor did what she could. At tonight's Fanolua Farewell dinner, Terry will receive a small gift from the city together with a letter of appreciation from the Mayor. Her Worship, sadly, has a prior engagement, so Paul has been asked to do the honours himself, which seems appropriate. I'm glad to be able to feel that I had a hand in the recognition myself.

PROGRESS REPORT

IVE ALSO been hearing reports about the progress of the forthcoming Gloucester Rugby Festival. Next Friday's dinner, in aid of the Pied Piper Appeal appears to be on track, although there are a few places left. Mike Burton is giving his services for free, although he could probably charge his own price for after dinner speaking these days.

Phil Vickery and Phil Blakeway are appearing as part of the Question of Sport team. A little bird also tells me that Mike Teague may open the memorabilia exhibition at the museum. That has to be worth a visit.

It's all fairly low key to start with, although I see no reason why it shouldn't progress and become a nationally recognised event. Don't know about you, but I don't know of a similar enterprise anywhere in the country, and I can't imagine a better place to hold a Festival of Rugby than Gloucester.

So what about the future? There's no shortage of possibilities. How about a sevens tournament for local club? Or a mini-rugby event to encourage

"Today's game has enormous significance, especially for Wasps."

the youngsters? We could also hold a sponsored pass-the-ball around the Via Sacra. And I like the idea of a Kingsholm Beer Festival, featuring the micro-breweries of Gloucestershire.

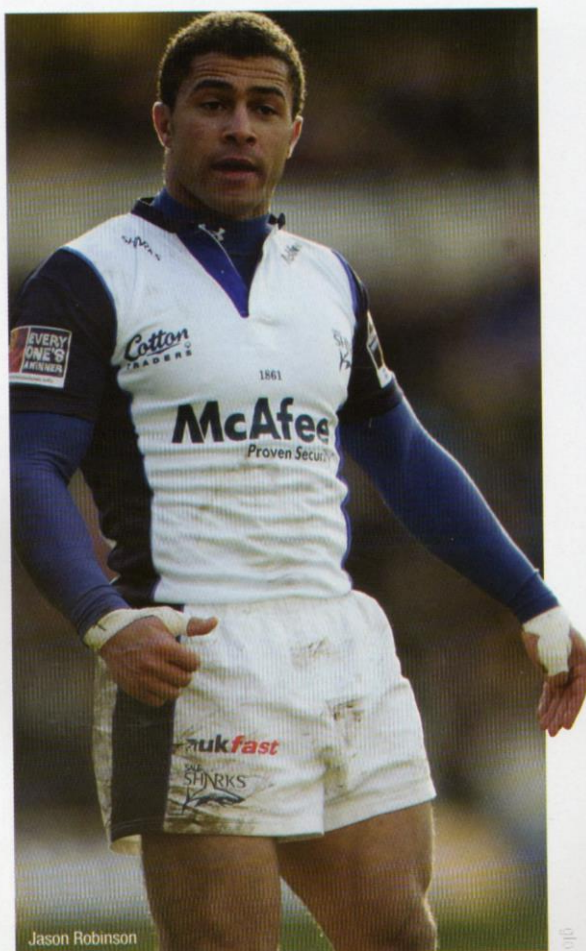
I'm sure Alan Stephens of CAMRA would help.

Best of luck to the inaugural

event. I hope it goes from strength to strength.

LAST WORD

DO YOU see that Jason Robinson has been complaining that the present play-off structure of the Premiership doesn't give enough credit to the side which finishes top of the table after a whole season's effort? Now where have we heard that before?



Jason Robinson

gloucesterrugby.co.uk

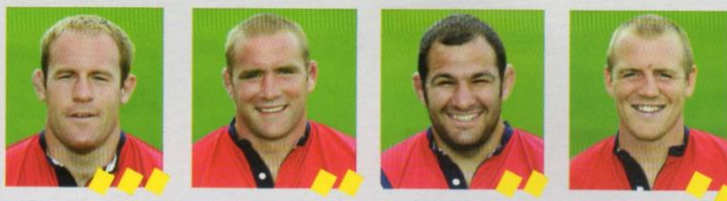
TheHistory

Behind The Scenes

Dave King completes a look back at the season to date, charts appearances, cards, tries, points and attendances in another fascinating look behind the scenes

We have received 19 yellow cards with Dave Pearson being the most trigger-happy official, handing out five of that total.

Peter Buxton has received three, Phil Vickery, Patrice Collazo, Mike Tindall have been sin-binned twice (pictures in order).



Other casualties have been Olivier Azam, Rob Thirlby, Jon Pendlebury, Adam Eustace, Olly Morgan, Peter Richards, Terry Fanolua, Alex Brown and Gary Powell.

The two red cards involving our matches have been administered to Andrew Higgins of Bath and our own Terry Sigley.

Attendances at Kingsholm have decreased due to the reduced capacity this season. A total of 131,253 have attended this season including today's fixture compared with 136,700 in 2004-2005. This has shown an average attendance this season of 11,932 in Guinness League matches compared with 12,427 in 2004-2005, a deficit of 495 each match.

The way Gloucester have scored their points this season is also split into clearly defined 10 minute periods.

	For	Against
0-10 mins:	109	40
10-20 mins:	94	90
20-30 mins:	97	50
30-40 mins:	130	73
40-50 mins:	106	58
50-60 mins:	124	39
60-70 mins:	107	53
70-80 mins:	135	68

YET ANOTHER season is coming to a close, which means it is time to evaluate how successful the club has been this campaign.

But how can success or failure be truly measured? For instance, can Leeds or Bristol knowingly have the same aspirations as Wasps or Leicester at the outset of the season? The answer is surely no.

However, we are primarily concerned with matters at Kingsholm. This season has been one of development and progression with youth very much to the fore.

Time has been called on the Gloucester playing career's of Phil Vickery, Mark Cornwell, Henry Paul and Terry Fanolua, four of the club's long serving professionals and we wish them well in their travels.

The burgeoning talents of Olly Morgan, Anthony Allen, Jack Adams, so cruelly hit with injury after a bright start to his senior career, Mark Foster, Nick Wood, Ryan Lamb, Rob Elloway, Luke Narraway, James Bailey, James Merriman, Jonathan Pendlebury and Jack Forster have all displayed a great deal

of skill that bodes well for the future of the club.

The long-term absences of Olivier Azam, Adam Balding and Vickery robbed the team of experience and weight which is so crucial in matching most teams in the Premiership and when you factor in the injuries suffered by James Forrester, Jake Boer, Gary Powell and James Simpson-Daniel at times, this season, Gloucester have been deprived of momentum at crucial periods.

It has been a season where Adam Balding has been named as club captain but because of injuries the matchday leadership responsibilities have also fallen to Vickery, Boer, Mike Tindall and Peter Buxton. One interesting aspect to this season is that Peter Richards has emerged as the most prolific try scoring scrum-half the club has seen in several seasons.

Peter has scored 13 times in all competitions, which compares with the 12 tries Andy Gomersall scored in five seasons with the club.

Our overall record this season under the guidance of Dean Ryan as head coach in all competitions reads as follows: Played: 31, Won: 21, Drew: 1, Lost: 10.

In our three Powergen Cup matches we were watched by a total of 19,672 spectators for an average of 6,557. Only one match was played here at Kingsholm with 6,154 witnessing the visit of Welsh region Ospreys.

Our European Challenge Cup adventure attracted an overall aggregate of 51,632 spectators for an average of 6,456. At Kingsholm a total of 41,932 spectators attended for



Phil Vickery against Saracens

“One interesting aspect to this season is that Peter Richards has emerged as the most prolific try scoring scrum-half the club has seen in several seasons.”



Peter Richards against Worcester

The **History**



a Kingsholm average of 8,386 spectators.

This season saw the debuts of Rudi Keil, Quinton Davids, Pendlebury, Lamb, Adams, Allen, Richards, Thirlby, Thomas, Tindall, Morgan and Jack Forster.

Our form in the Premiership has dipped somewhat in the latter stages of the past two seasons. Whether that can be attributed to injuries or loss of form is open to debate. In the later stages of the 2004-2005 season we only won three of our final 15 matches.

In this current season we have improved, winning three of our last eight matches prior to our visit to Leeds last Sunday.

In the Guinness Premiership

this season we have scored a total of 37 Tries, 29 conversions and 57 penalties, while there have only been two drop-goals and five penalty tries.

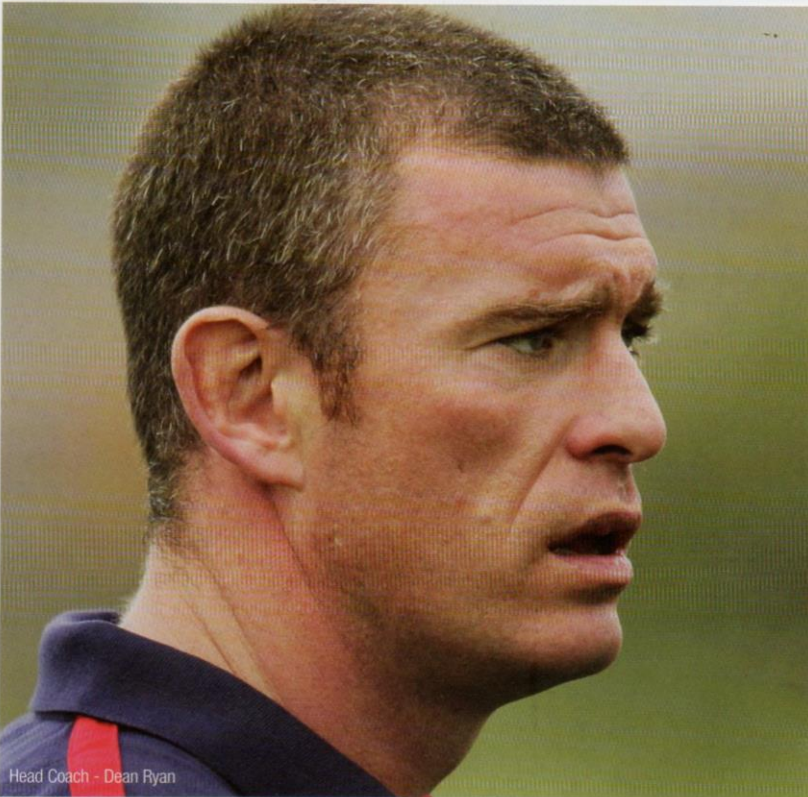
With regard to try scoring 17 have been recorded at Kingsholm and 17 in away matches in the Premiership. Of course European Challenge Cup matches offer a complete contrast with 34 tries scored at Kingsholm in five matches and 16 in three away matches in this competition.

This is the first season that Ryan has served the club as head coach and in all competitions, we have scored 530 points at Kingsholm and conceded 230. In away matches we have scored 392 points and conceded 236 this

gives an overall total of 922 points scored in all matches and conceding 466.

Out of the 43 players registered to play there have been 42 who have sampled first team rugby. The only player not have appeared at senior level was Will Matthews. Once again no player was ever-present in Premiership matches. Ludovic Mercier played in the first 18 before giving way to Ryan Lamb.

It is now time for the ball upon willow, the flannelled fool to take over from the muddied oaf. Lazy, hazy summer days ahead? We are left to reflect on a season of development where youth has had its fling. Maturity beckons and with it seasons of glory to come?



Head Coach - Dean Ryan

