

TOPFLIGHT
OSPREYS

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VS
GLOUCESTER RUGBY

OSPREYS OFFICIAL MATCHDAY
MAGAZINE 2006-2007

EDF LEAGUE ROUND 1
29.09.2006



energising the cup





DIRECTORS WELCOME ROGER BLYTH & MIKE CUDDY

Whilst we are all naturally disappointed with last Friday's result in Ulster, we are also well aware that the difference between winning / losing, and a good / poor performance is marginal, and we naturally remain very optimistic that the talent within the set-up will turn fortunes around, and give our supporters something to cheer about.

The first month of the season has really tested the squad, and the signs have been encouraging. Of particular note was the week of the Cardiff & Borders fixtures, where Lyn and his coaching staff opted to select two squads for the matches in as many days. Fulfilling these fixtures has enabled us to participate in the EDF Cup; however, only time will tell whether two matches within 48 hours has taken its toll.

We are delighted to welcome our visitors from Gloucester here this evening for the first EDF Energy Cup match of the season. Not only are we delighted to welcome the team and their supporters for this fixture, but we are delighted that as regions we have secured Anglo-Welsh fixtures, which have historically proved extremely popular and passionate encounters.

Although restructuring has taken away the traditional Welsh / English Club rivalries, we are sure that the newly formed regions

will provide the same level of focus & determination in these encounters.

Last season, of course, we traveled to Kingsholm, Gloucester, where we were beaten. This return fixture promises to be an even tougher contest as we face a Gloucester team that appears to be firing on all cylinders. Notable performances recently would suggest that the team travels well, and so the Ospreys will need nothing short of a quality performance to take this English scalp.

"THIS RETURN FIXTURE PROMISES TO BE AN EVEN TOUGHER CONTEST AS WE FACE A GLOUCESTER TEAM THAT APPEARS TO BE FIRING ON ALL CYLINDERS."

Many of us will remember only too fondly the bruising encounters between the Welsh clubs and Gloucester – encounters that were not for the faint-hearted. We have no reason to believe that tonight's fixture will be any different, and although there are the skeptics in the media who question the commitment to this competition, you can be sure that the Ospreys are taking this challenge extremely seriously. Building a successful squad is about momentum, and a victory here this evening will spur on the squad & coaching staff to even greater heights.



LAST MEETING

GLOUCESTER

23



| | | |
|------|----------------------|-------|
| 1 | NICK WOOD | |
| 2 | MEFIN DAVIES (C) | |
| 3 | GARY POWELL | |
| 4 | ADAM EUSTACE | |
| 5 | ALEX BROWN | |
| 6 | JAKE BOER | |
| 7 | ANDY HAZELL | |
| 8 | JAMES FORRESTER | |
| 9 | HAYDN THOMAS | |
| 10 | LUDOVIC MERCIER | C2 P3 |
| 11 | JAMES SIMPSON-DANIEL | T1 |
| 12 | HENRY PAUL | T1 |
| 13 | MIKE TINDALL | |
| 14 | MARK FOSTER | |
| 15 | JOHN GOODRIDGE | |
| SUBS | | |
| 16 | TERRY SIGLEY | >< |
| 17 | OLIVIER AZAM | |
| 18 | MARK CORNWELL | >< |
| 19 | LUKE NARRAWAY | >< |
| 20 | PETE RICHARDS | |
| 21 | BRAD DAVIES | |
| 22 | ROB THIRLBY | |

OSPREYS

7



| | | |
|------|--------------------|----|
| 1 | DUNCAN JONES | |
| 2 | BARRY WILLIAMS (C) | |
| 3 | ADAM JONES | |
| 4 | ANDREW NEWMAN | |
| 5 | BRENT COCKBAIN | |
| 6 | LYNDON BATEMAN | |
| 7 | STEVE TANDY | T1 |
| 8 | LEE BEECH | |
| 9 | JASON SPICE | |
| 10 | MATTHEW JONES | C1 |
| 11 | JONNY VAUGHTON | |
| 12 | LEIGH DAVIES | |
| 13 | SONNY PARKER | |
| 14 | RICHARD MUSTOE | |
| 15 | SHAUN CONNOR | |
| SUBS | | |
| 16 | HUW BENNETT | >< |
| 17 | PAUL JAMES | >< |
| 18 | ANDREW MILLWARD | >< |
| 19 | IAN EVANS | >< |
| 20 | RICHIE PUGH | >< |
| 21 | RHODRI WELLS | >< |
| 22 | ANDREW BISHOP | >< |

KEY

| | |
|------------------|-------|
| SUB ON / SUB OFF | >< |
| CONVERSION | C |
| PENALTIES | P |
| DROP GOAL | DP |
| CARDS | 🟡 🟠 🟡 |

THIS WEEK IN WELSH RUGBY

OSPREYS GLOUCESTER



OSPREYS HAVE WAITED EAGERLY TO PUT RIGHT THEIR DEFEAT AGAINST GLOUCESTER ONE YEAR AGO AND ARE EAGER TO MAKE AMENDS FOR LAST FRIDAY'S DEFEAT AWAY TO ULSTER.

We kick off the first round of the EDF Energy- sponsored Anglo-Welsh Cup with great anticipation and look forward to a strong performance from the team. A winning start in all competitions is extremely important and both teams will be keen to strike the first blow. Gloucester are currently second in the Guinness Premiership and are proving a hard team to beat, so the Ospreys will have their work cut out.

Showing great skill and determination with a forward platform that has been the hallmark of this great club, Gloucester will be full of confidence, but let's not dismiss the Ospreys who have been known to rise to the challenge. We all hope that tonight we see the team gel and perform to a level that we all know they are capable of.

This is a fixture that for many supporters within the region will be an opportunity to

see great rivals rekindled. There have been many bruising encounters between Gloucester and the Region's Premier Teams (Neath, Swansea, Bridgend, Aberavon and Maesteg) over the last 100 years and although Regional rugby has seen the introduction on a new tier of professional rugby, those rivalries still exist.

Many players were out of last year's game to Gloucester through injury, however tonight with a fit, recouped team and one with a point to prove, we are sure that they are ready to give the team across the border a run for their money.

Both Gloucester and Ospreys have an unbeaten home record this season and Ospreys have all to play for if they want to secure the points. Both teams are hungry to win, so I'm sure we can look forward to some top-flight rugby tonight.



TODAYS VISITORS GLOUCESTER



IT WAS very nearly the perfect start. Gloucester ended their first section of four Guinness Premiership matches with three victories and a draw and sit in second place in the table with 14 points.

Considering head coach Dean Ryan has been without a raft of potential first-choice players through injury, Gloucester start to the season has been hugely encouraging.

But tonight they turn their attentions to the EDF Energy Cup and an extremely intense visit to the liberty Stadium to face the Ospreys in a potentially mouth-watering encounter.

There is no doubt Gloucester will be on a high, even if Ryan makes a number of changes or is able to welcome back a couple of his more established senior figures like Mike Tindall and Iain Balshaw.

Gloucester opened their season with a west country derby victory over their nearest and dearest from Bath on the opening weekend – youngsters Jack Adams and Olly Morgan scoring the tries in their 24-19 success.

They then last week they got the better of Harlequins at the Stoop in a far more disjointed performance that was revved up by a virtuoso performance from scrum-half Peter Richards.

It has been a solid if unspectacular start for Dean Ryan's side. The Kingsholm head coach has concocted one of the most exciting groups of players in the country, blending a mixture of youthful swagger and talent with high-quality experience in key positions.

From the beginning of the campaign they have been tagged as one of the

favourites to the final stages of a number of competitions but Ryan is only too well aware that his group of players have only just begun their journey.

"Our ambition is to be at the top end of Europe but our journey has only just begun," he has said. "There will be some pain along the way but we have an exciting and developing group of players who all work tremendously hard to try and be successful.

"We are on a journey together and there is a long way to go. What has been pleasing is that we have endured a number of injuries but still progressed well. We are capable of making a number of changes and still be very competitive."

Gloucester's new-found freedom, partly orchestrated by design and partly by necessity, ended in triumph with the European Challenge Cup against London Irish last season. But by then, the wheels were already in motion for this campaign.

Under the stewardship of Ryan and his assistants Bryan Redpath and Denis Betts, Italian duo Marco Bortolami and Carlos Nieto joined from Narbonne and Viadana respectively in two of the highest profile signings of the close season. Bortolami has already shown what an outstanding athlete he is and is a natural leader of growing reputation in Gloucester's pack and Nieto is regarded as one of the best tighthead props in the Six Nations.

Christian Califano, once voted in the all-time best French front row, switched from Agen and has been a revelation – offering immediate set-piece quality and a perfect learning base for youngster Jack Forster.

There have been other additions too. With Ryan Lamb out of action with an ankle injury, Willie Walker has taken





ONE TO WATCH
GLOUCESTER



WILLY WALKER

VISITORS SQUAD 2006-07

| SURNAME | FIRST | CAPS |
|----------------|-----------|---------|
| ADAMS | JACK | |
| ALLEN | ANTHONY | |
| AZAM | OLIVIER | 10 CAPS |
| BAILEY | JAMES | |
| BALDING | ADAM | |
| BALSHAW | IAIN | 26 CAPS |
| BOER | JAKE | |
| BORTOLAMI | MARCO | 49 CAPS |
| BROWN | ALEX | 1 CAP |
| BUXTON | PETER | |
| CALIFANO | CHRISTIAN | 68 CAPS |
| COLLAZO | PATRICE | 1 CAP |
| DAVIES | BRAD | |
| DAVIES | MEFIN | 38 CAPS |
| ELLOWAY | ROB | |
| EUSTACE | ADAM | |
| FORRESTER | JAMES | 2 CAPS |
| FORSTER | JACK | |
| FOSTER | MARK | |
| GOODRIDGE | JON | |
| HAZELL | ANDY | 6 CAPS |
| JAMES | WILL | |
| KEIL | RUDI | |
| LAMB | RYAN | |
| LAWSON | RORY | |
| MCMILLAN | ROSS | |
| MERCIER | LUDOVIC | |
| MERRIMAN | JAMES | |
| MILLER | DEAN | |
| MORGAN | OLLY | |
| NARRAWAY | LUKE | |
| NIETO | CARLOS | 13 CAPS |
| PENDLEBURY | JONATHAN | |
| RICHARDS | PETER | 2 CAPS |
| SIGLEY | TERRY | |
| SIMPSON-DANIEL | JAMES | 9 CAPS |
| THIRLBY | ROB | |
| THOMAS | HAYDN | |
| TINDALL | MIKE | 49 CAPS |
| TUOHY | DAN | |
| WALKER | WILLIE | |
| WOOD | NICK | |

his opportunity in the number 10 shirt, while both scrum-half Rory Lawson and lock Will James have the potential to make serious impacts.

Iain Balshaw completed the summer recruitment drive from Leeds and can be deployed from either wing or full-back. It has meant that Ryan's

biggest job in pre-season has been managing the vast expectation on his squad.

"There is an awful lot this squad can achieve but we must not get ahead of ourselves – we have a long way to go and a lot of development to go through," Ryan said.

WILLY WALKER & OLLY MORGAN
Photograph Bruce Seabrook /
www.gpalmages.com

MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE: HUW WATKINS
TOUCH JUDGE: NEIL BALLARD
TOUCH JUDGE: ALAN JENKINS



TODAY'S SPONSORS

MATCH: Burdens
MATCH BALL: Hereford Super-Sandwich Ltd

OSPREYS

Vs

GLOUCESTER



| | PLD | POSITION | PLD | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|------------|-----|---|
| LEE BYRNE | <input type="checkbox"/> 15 | FULL BACK | 15 | <input type="checkbox"/> IAIN BALSHAW |
| NIKKI WALKER | <input type="checkbox"/> 14 | WING | 14 | <input type="checkbox"/> MARK FOSTER |
| SONNY PARKER | <input type="checkbox"/> 13 | CENTRE | 13 | <input type="checkbox"/> JACK ADAMS |
| ANDREW BISHOP | <input type="checkbox"/> 12 | CENTRE | 12 | <input type="checkbox"/> RUDI KEIL |
| SHANE WILLIAMS | <input type="checkbox"/> 11 | WING | 11 | <input type="checkbox"/> JAMES BAILEY |
| GAVIN HENSON | <input type="checkbox"/> 10 | STAND OFF | 10 | <input type="checkbox"/> LUDOVIC MERCIER |
| JUSTIN MARSHALL | <input type="checkbox"/> 9 | SCRUM HALF | 9 | <input type="checkbox"/> RORY LAWSON |
| DUNCAN JONES (CAPT) | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | PROP | 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> PATRICE COLLAZO |
| BARRY WILLIAMS | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | HOOKER | 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> MEFIN DAVIES |
| PAUL JAMES | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | PROP | 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> JACK FORSTER |
| BRENT COCKBAIN | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | LOCK | 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> WILL JAMES |
| IAN EVANS | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 | LOCK | 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> ADAM EUSTACE |
| ALUN-WYN JONES | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 | FLANKER | 6 | <input type="checkbox"/> ADAM BALDING |
| STEVE TANDY | <input type="checkbox"/> 8 | NO.8 | 8 | <input type="checkbox"/> LUKE NARRAWAY |
| RYAN JONES | <input type="checkbox"/> 7 | FLANKER | 7 | <input type="checkbox"/> JAKE BOER (CAPT) |

REPLACEMENTS

| | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|----|--|
| ED SHERVINGTON | <input type="checkbox"/> 16 | 16 | <input type="checkbox"/> OLIVIER AZAM |
| ADAM JONES | <input type="checkbox"/> 17 | 17 | <input type="checkbox"/> NICK WOOD |
| LYNDON BATEMAN | <input type="checkbox"/> 18 | 18 | <input type="checkbox"/> MARCO BORTOLAMI |
| JONATHAN THOMAS | <input type="checkbox"/> 19 | 19 | <input type="checkbox"/> JAMES MERRIMAN |
| JASON SPICE | <input type="checkbox"/> 20 | 20 | <input type="checkbox"/> PETER RICHARDS |
| SHAUN CONNOR | <input type="checkbox"/> 21 | 21 | <input type="checkbox"/> BRAD DAVIES |
| TALIESIN SELLEY | <input type="checkbox"/> 22 | 22 | <input type="checkbox"/> OLLY MORGAN |

The squads listed above were correct when going to print.

MATCH STATS

SCORE

TRIES

CONVERSIONS

PENALTIES

DROP GOALS

MAN OF THE MATCH

MATCH STATS

SCORE

TRIES

CONVERSIONS

PENALTIES

DROP GOALS