

The Official Matchday Programme of Gloucester Rugby

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Gloucester Rugby



Gloucester Rugby
v Leicester Tigers
11.03.07 13.00

Jake Boer

The great flanker prepares to bow out

Olly Morgan

I will bounce back from shoulder injury

Dean Ryan

Gloucester's head coach rounds up the latest action

Opposition Spotlight

Preview of Leicester and Shane Jennings interview

Get To Know

James Bailey

ALSO INSIDE

Match action, Fans Zone, Peter Arnold and Peter Butler joins the Hall-of Fame



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Captain's Corner

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"Both teams will be without their **international** players but that in no way detracts from the significance of this fixture between two of the **biggest** teams in the **country**."

WE ARE now closing in on the final stages of the Guinness Premiership season and today start a trio of home games that will be crucial to our play-off chances.

Our defeat at Saracens last month has been rectified with back-to-back victories over Worcester and Northampton that has got us right back in the top four picture.

Last Saturday we earned a tremendous result against Northampton at Franklin's

Gardens. We required patience, resolve, determination and cool heads to over-turn a 5-0 deficit in the closing stages to win a game that could have got away from us through no fault of our own.

I thought it was a crucial victory and one we thoroughly deserved for our second half dominance in utterly horrendous conditions following a down pour immediately before kick-off.

It means we come into today's game with increased

impetus against the leaders of the Premiership. Leicester are a fantastic side, full of experience, a hard edged approach and an ability to win the tightest of matches so we will respect them fully.

Both teams will be without their international players but that in no way detracts from the significance of this fixture between two of the biggest teams in the country.

Kingsholm will be packed to the rafters this afternoon for

such a big game and that is a wonderful feeling for a player. There is much for us to achieve in the coming weeks and we have given ourselves a great platform to really kick on and challenge the best teams in the country.

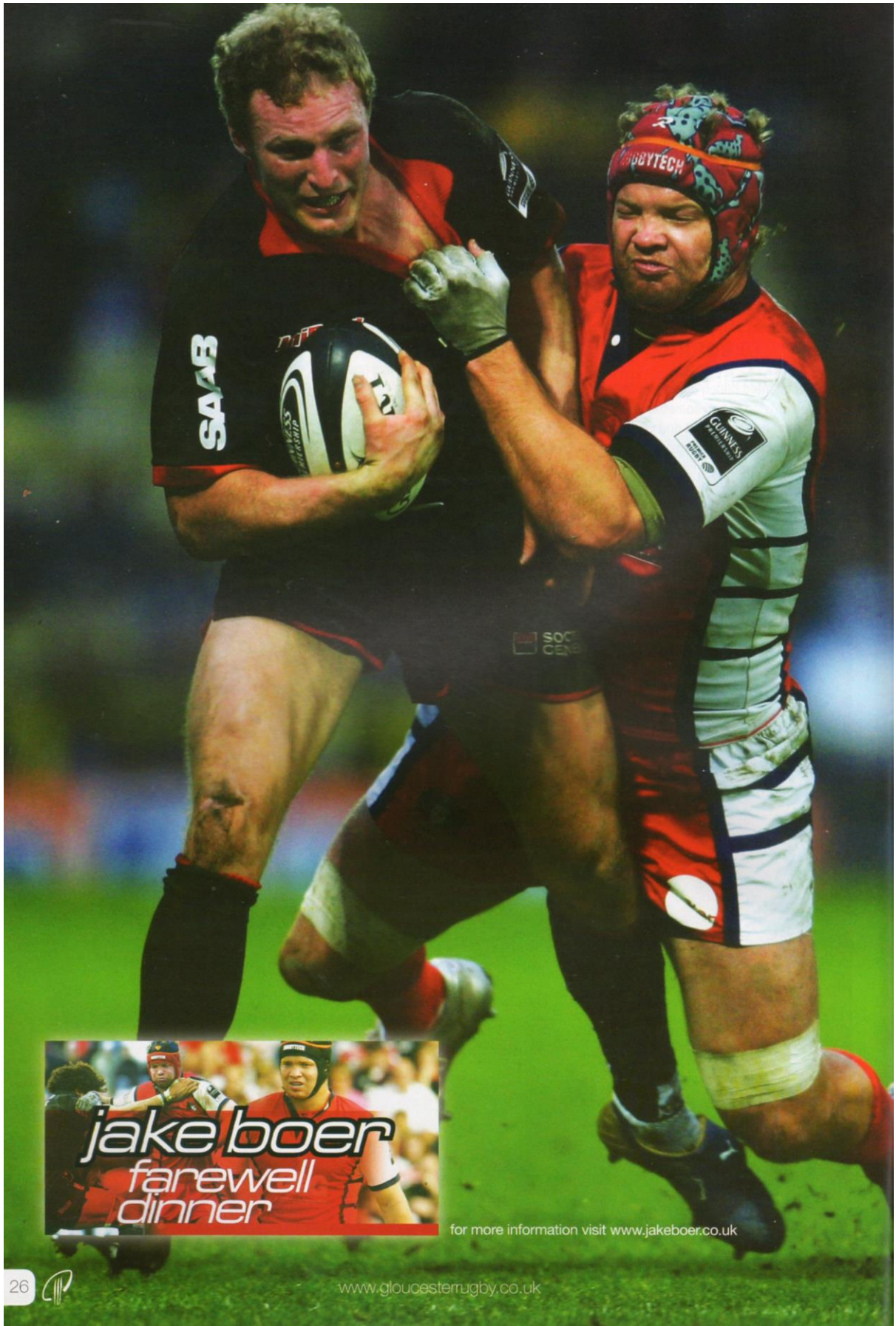
That job starts this afternoon and we need to be at the top of our game to get the right result. But please get right behind the players today, make yourself heard and help keep us where we want to be – in the top four until the end of the season.



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Boer to be wild

After much begging and pleading, Bob Fenton got his wish – the chance to speak to Jake Boer, the Gloucester flanker who will return home at the end of the season. Without question, Boer is a Kingsholm legend and will not be forgotten when he goes, as Fenton finds out.

SO FAREWELL then Jake Boer, off at the end of the season to take up the full time running of his business ventures in South Africa. While most people will not be too shocked at the news, it's still going to be a sad day for Gloucester when he packs his bags and leaves. For that reason, and after some unseemly pleading with the programme editor, this week's main feature is dedicated to him.

Boer is the epitome of what Gloucester fans expect their players to be – teak hard, committed, full-on and relentless. We want our players to go out there and give it the gun, forget 110% commitment, we're talking at least 1000% here, and never take a backward step. Jake was that man to a 'T'.

There's always a big argument over who the most influential foreign player to have pulled on the Gloucester shirt has been. Jake is often overlooked in the lists that come up, not because he is not worthy of a place on the short list, it's because we didn't bring him in from overseas like Richard Tombs, Terry Fanolua, Ian Jones et al. Jake came from the slightly closer climbs of Sunbury and London Irish after a short sojourn at Welford Road. He must be, though, one of the most influential players from anywhere, let alone overseas, to have pulled on a Gloucester shirt in modern times. That's not just me saying that, Jake was held in high esteem by his peers who voted him Premiership Players Player of the year (or some such title), a similar award from supporters across the land, but perhaps more importantly he was voted Shedhead Readers Player of the Season.

Not once, but twice – in a row. No player

has ever done that before, it's doubtful whether they will again. That confirms his position as one of the modern greats and a veritable Gloucester legend.

But to use a word often spoken by the great Saint Philippe of Andre, Jake is a 'humble' man. He was always ready to stop and have a chat, the conversations were not all one way like they are with some people, or a mumbled comment while he tries to get away.

A great example of that was at Franklin's Gardens some years ago when he stopped after the game to chat, despite the abuse he was getting from team mates to get on the bus. It took Ed Archer coming back to drag him away and onto the bus to end the conversation.

There can be no doubt, the man loves to chat. "I'm a people person," he told me. "I think it's great when people want to talk to me because I am good at my job. I respect the supporters and it's an honour for me to talk to them."

And there's another reason to stop to chat, "In Gloucester it seems the supporters know more about what is happening at the club than the players – I think that's great."

So what now for Jake, and how does he see his future panning out. "There's a number of factors that have come together at one time, that mean the time is right for me to go back home," he said.

"Top of the pile is that I want to spend some time with my mother and my family. I've been away for some time now, my Dad died just before I came to the UK, and I'm going to let my



Player Interview

06



Jake's Stats

Position: Flanker

Height: 6'1"

Weight: 16st 8lb

DOB: 1.11.75

heart rule my head and go back home.

"I've also got my young business in South Africa, my mother and my sisters have been doing a great job in running it for me but it's time to go back and take some of the responsibility off their shoulders. It's hard to be in control when you are so many thousands of miles away.

"Also my daughter is about to start college so it is a good time for her. And to be honest I'm missing the lifestyle. I love to be outside doing things and the great British climate is not the best for that kind of life.

"It's flattering to be asked to stay on longer, and I am really pleased that I have been able to stay here and end my playing career in England at a club that has been so good to me."

Probably by now anyone with access to a computer has checked out the link to Jake's house for rent – and a mighty fine house it is too. But don't be fooled into thinking that this one property is the sum of his business empire, there's far more to it than that. There's a couple more similar properties for a start.

"It's grown out of a lot of people inside and outside of the game asking me where to go in South Africa," he said. "I bought some property a few years back and we have spent time getting them right, we've got our Four Star accreditation now, and have been working with another local company to put together packages for people.

"We did think about offering the whole package – with flights and everything – but with the internet and cheap flights it's easier for people to make their own arrangements. We've started to create whole packages for people once they arrive so they can enjoy the country to its full – from activity based tours, extreme adventure & water sports to discovering the very best of all local attractions "

If that isn't enough Jake is planning another business venture that is aimed at gap year students. Called "33' 18' Extreme", a joint venture with 'Action Professionals', this will involve students spending 3 months in South Africa, during which time they will be involved in all manner of sporting ventures, combined with cultural experience and conservation studies. At the end of it they will leave with an internationally recognised personal training qualification.

That lot should be enough to keep anyone busy. Except there's more... "On top of that we are going to be doing a lot of work in the local community and will be helping kids from underprivileged backgrounds get into sport," said Jake. "It won't just be rugby; it'll be all sorts of sport. For me

it's all about putting something back."

Add that little lot up and you wonder how Jake had time to get his boots on recently. He's been helped in a large way by his wife who works in marketing and who has been busy developing that area of the business.

"It's not something we have rushed into," he said. "We've taken a heck of a lot of advice from all over the place. But this is something we really want to do, and the time is right for us to move it on to the next level."

Has his marketing taken in the potential huge market of people wearing Gloucester colours – you bet, "We've thought of that," he laughed. "In this business you have to be prepared to offer the right prices to the right people at the right time."

He didn't quite say that if you quoted your season ticket number when booking he'll slash a few percentage points off the cost, but don't rule it out though.

Given all the commitments to his burgeoning business empire, is this the last we are going to see of Jake on a rugby field? No chance, it seems that a crack at Super 14s is pretty high on his agenda. "I want to play for another 18 months," he said. "I'm in talks at the moment and hope to play in two Curry Cup campaigns and one Super 14 competition."

A bit closer to home arrangements are being made to mark Jake's departure from Kingsholm in some style. Raffles at today's and up and coming games to win his shirt, a special commemorative shirt for supporters to buy are part of the package, along with a black tie dinner up at Cheltenham race course on 21st April. All the details can be found on his website: www.jakeboer.co.uk.

Black tie... Jake notices my groan. "Is there something wrong with black tie?" he asks. "Personally I like to dress up once in a while – I spend my life in track suits and not shaving and sometimes it's good to pull on the good clothes. I don't think I look too bad considering I have spent the last ten years being smashed about!"

For what it's worth I believe that at the end of the season Gloucester will lose one of its greatest ever players. When you look back over the last seven years of improvement and success at Kingsholm there is one man at the heart of it – the iron hard man that is Jake Boer.

If he approaches his business life in the way he has approached his playing days at Castle Grim you just know he's going to make a huge success of his new business empire.


Can I have a bigger discount now, Jake?

"It's flattering to be asked to stay on longer, and I am really pleased that I have been able to stay here and end my playing career in England at a club that has been so good to me."



Ryan's Review

Following the defeat against **Saracens**, Gloucester have won games against **Worcester** and **Northampton** and Head Coach **Dean Ryan** rounds-up the latest action.

 **It really is beginning to close up at the top end of the Premiership, Saturday's victory was vital?**

DR: IT certainly was. We obviously realised that either Bristol or Wasps would take points off each other and looking at the remaining fixtures, I think there are some tough ones for every side looking to get into the play-offs, including ourselves.


What we must aim to do in the next couple of weeks is take advantage of the bank of home games we have coming up and really press our claims for a top four place. It is long gone now but had we managed to see out that game against Saracens, I am pretty convinced we would be almost there already and it would have out one of rivals 10 points behind us.

I thought Saturday was a very determined performance in atrocious conditions and I am convinced that had it stayed dry we could have possibly won by an even greater margin.

We required elements of smartness, control and perseverance to get the result because we could have lost that game through no real fault of our own. We dominated the second half throughout but could not get anyone on the end of our line breaks until late on when Anthony Allen and James Simpson-Daniel combined brilliantly.

As a scrummaging performance

I thought our first-half display was one of our best this season, we looked threatening at different stages and scored a really good try. It was a fantastic, resilient performance and I was also really pleased we closed the game out like we did – I think we deserved that.

 **Saturday's performance was different from the one against Worcester?**

DR: YES, it was. The performance against Worcester was flat and we cannot afford to be like. Worcester missed a great opportunity to beat us at Kingsholm and had it not been for the likes of Andy Hazell and Peter Richards, we would have lost that game.

We were looking for a bit of kick-back from the game against Saracens and we didn't get it – that was a disappointment for everyone.

I thought their performances were outstanding and we needed their drive





“I thought Saturday was a very **determined performance** in atrocious conditions and I am convinced that had it stayed dry we could have possibly won by an even **greater margin.**”

and enthusiasm. I was disappointed with certain aspects of our game that day but I think Worcester deserve some credit for the way they approached the game.

They looked to have a go at us and that obviously paid dividends against Bath last weekend.



At this stage of the season there are bound to be some injuries in the squad. The ones to Olly Morgan and Adam Balding are particularly bad timing aren't they?

DR: At some stage every squad is going to be hit by injuries but I felt particularly sorry for Adam and Olly for different reasons.

Balders had really got his head down and battled for a place in the side in an area of the club where we are particularly strong. We are fortunate enough to have plenty of options available to us in the back row but he put together a series

of outstanding performances and changed the balance of our side.

I was really pleased for him because he has a lot to offer. As for Olly, we appreciate he has had a history of shoulder injuries but over the last 12 months has really started to mature as a Premiership full-back and has subsequently been rewarded with two England caps.

He had an opportunity to press Iain Balshaw really hard for the England shirt and that was not only great for him but also a great reflection on our club.

We wish the pair of them all the best in their recovery in the coming weeks.



Today, Premiership leaders Leicester are the visitors to Kingsholm, is there a tougher test for you?

DR: For a long time Leicester have been the benchmark for success

in the Premiership and nothing has altered my view on that, despite their change in the last few years.

They have a vast array of outstanding players and lead the Premiership because they have been the most consistent side so far this season. Their victory over Munster in the Heineken Cup at Thomond Park was a remarkable achievement and testament to their player group and coaching staff.

I know from experience just how difficult games in Munster are and the result was a huge shot in the arm for English teams in Europe.

They qualified for the knockout stages of Europe from a very difficult position and that was a great achievement. We appreciate both teams will be without a number of international players this afternoon but that in no way detracts from the intensity of today's game between two of the mightiest teams in the country.



Gloucester RUGBY

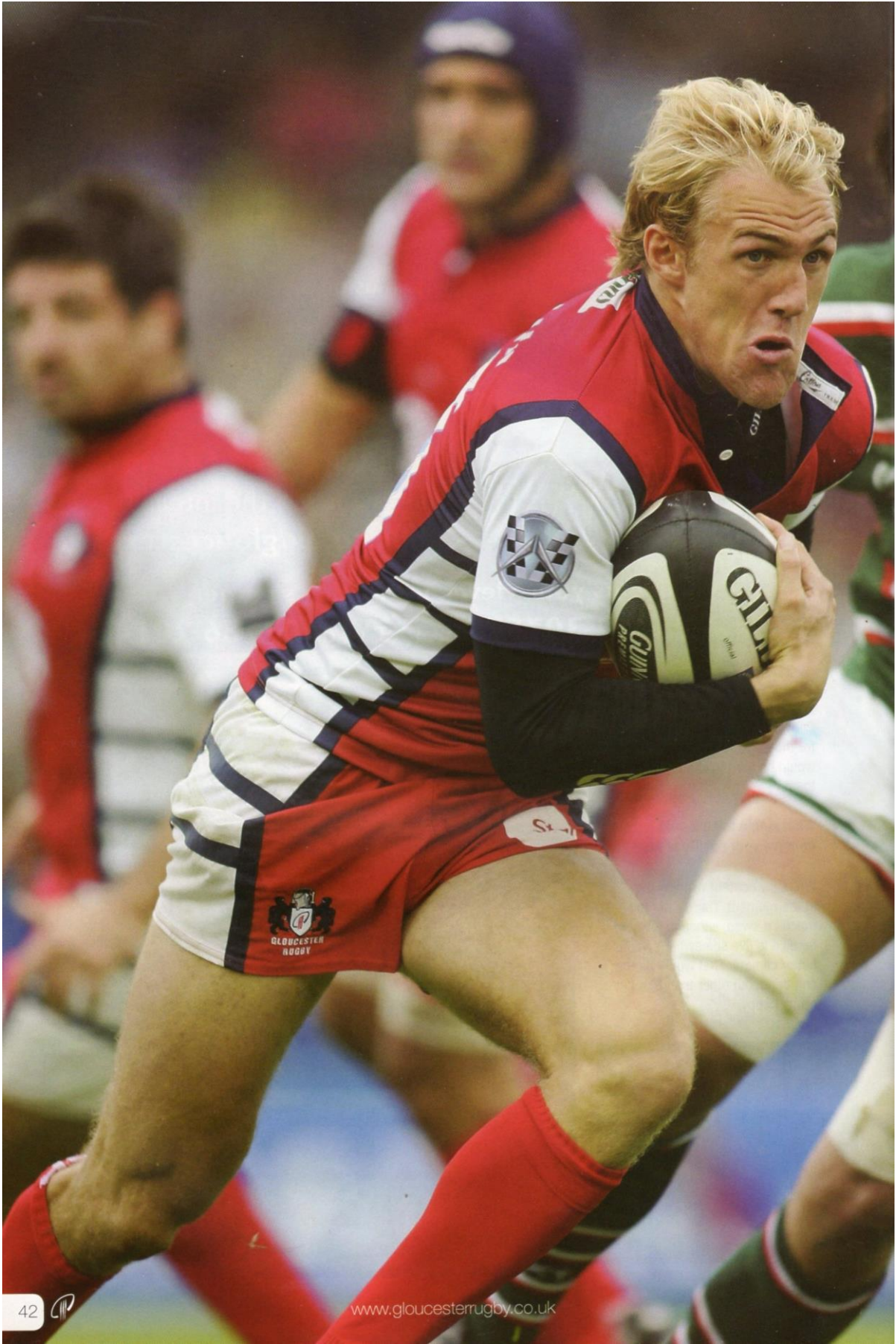


Leicester TIGERS

	Willie WALKER	15	Full Back	15	Geordan MURPHY	
	James BAILEY	14	Right Wing	14	Seru RABENI	
	Anthony ALLEN	13	Centre	13	Dan HIPKISS	
	James SIMPSON-DANIEL	12	Centre	12	Daryl GIBSON	
	Iain BALSCHAW	11	Left Wing	11	Alesana TUILAGI	
	Ryan LAMB	10	Fly Half	10	Andy GOODE	
	Peter RICHARDS	9	Scrum Half	9	Frank MURPHY	
	Nick WOOD	1	Prop	1	Michael HOLFORD	
	Olivier AZAM	2	Hooker	2	James BUCKLAND	
	Jack FORSTER	3	Prop	3	Alex MORENO	
	Will JAMES	4	Lock	4	Leo CULLEN	
	Alex BROWN	5	Lock	5	Ben KAY	
	Peter BUXTON	6	Flanker	6	Luke ABRAHAM	
	Andy HAZELL	7	Flanker	7	Shane JENNINGS	
	Luke NARRAWAY	8	No 8	8	Brett DEACON	

Replacements

	Mefin DAVIES	16	Substitute 1	16	Gavin HICKIE	
	Patrice COLLAZO	17	Substitute 2	17	Marcos AYERZA	
	Adam EUSTACE	18	Substitute 3	18	Tom CROFT	
	Jake BOER	19	Substitute 4	19	Jordan CRANE	
	Haydn THOMAS	20	Substitute 5	20	Scott BEMAND	
	Jon GOODRIDGE	21	Substitute 6	21	Sam VESTY	
	Rudi KEIL	22	Substitute 7	22	Ollie SMITH	





Player Interview

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Olly's Stats

Position: Full Back
Height: 6'3"
Weight: 14st 6lb
DOB: 03.11.85

The cold shoulder

This week, Olly Morgan underwent a shoulder operation that will rule him out for the rest of the season. But the matchday programme got a chance to catch up with the Gloucester and England full-back to look back at his season

ALL THINGS considered – international debuts, crucial tries, injuries and hospital beds – it has been an eventful season for Olly Morgan, Gloucester's brilliant young full-back.

On Monday, he underwent surgery in London to have ligament damage around his labral joint repaired, following a nasty spot of jiggery-pokery on England's far from fruitful night at Croke Park a fortnight ago in the Six Nations Championship.

Morgan is not immune to the odd injury here and there to his shoulders, but the prang he suffered in the face of Ireland's onslaught robbed the Red Rose army of one of their most efficient and effective performers on a night that will take some erasing from the memory banks.

His aim now is to return to contact training in good enough condition to give himself a shot at making the cut for the World Cup, but even after two caps he has given himself a wonderful opportunity and forcing himself into Brian Ashton's squad.

"I have been told the operation was a success – I was a little bit sore for

a day or two but I feel okay now. Hopefully I will be in a position to start contact training in May and then I will go from there," Morgan said.

"It was just unbelievable when it happened and I immediately knew it was the same feeling in my shoulder as I have suffered before. There was no way I could risk not having the operation this time because I could have got into an even worse situation in the future.

"I think this is for the best – I am obviously gutted it has happened at the back end of the season when there is so much at stake for the club and also for England, but hopefully I can press my claims for the World Cup, get that in my mind and have something to focus on."

Morgan is a terrifically gifted footballer. He has matured significantly over the last 12 months in the increasingly choppy waters of the Premiership, is brave to the point of insanity, safe under the high ball and willing to have a crack in attack.

Gloucester's resources in the position are vast. Alongside



"The first cap was a bit of a surreal experience but it was nice to get off just one because some players get stuck there and if I could build on that in any way in the future, that would be fantastic."

Morgan, Iain Balshaw brings a free-running, international-quality option to the party, while Willie Walker can also be deployed from his usual stand-off position.

This season, Morgan has made 18 appearances in all competitions with four tries.

There is naturally the odd mistake here and there – his decision to stick his head in the way of Rupeni Caucaunibuca of Agen must be one of the gravest – but he is gutsy beyond belief, knows his way to the try line and is hugely consistent.

Morgan only made his Gloucester debut in 2004 and made fewer than 40 senior appearances before winning his first England cap against Scotland.

"The first cap was a bit of a surreal experience but it was nice to get off just one because some players get stuck there and if I could build on that in any way in the future, that would be fantastic," he said.

"We were all aware about the

potential hostility in Ireland before that game but the people there were great, the atmosphere was like nothing I had ever experienced and to have the opportunity to play at a ground like Croke Park may never happen again - it was a once in a life-time chance.

"As the time you spend with these players grows, you do get more confident in yourself but I was very nervous before the game, there was a lot of history attached to the occasion and we were against one of the best backlines in the world. It was a huge game – and yes, I was sick beforehand again."

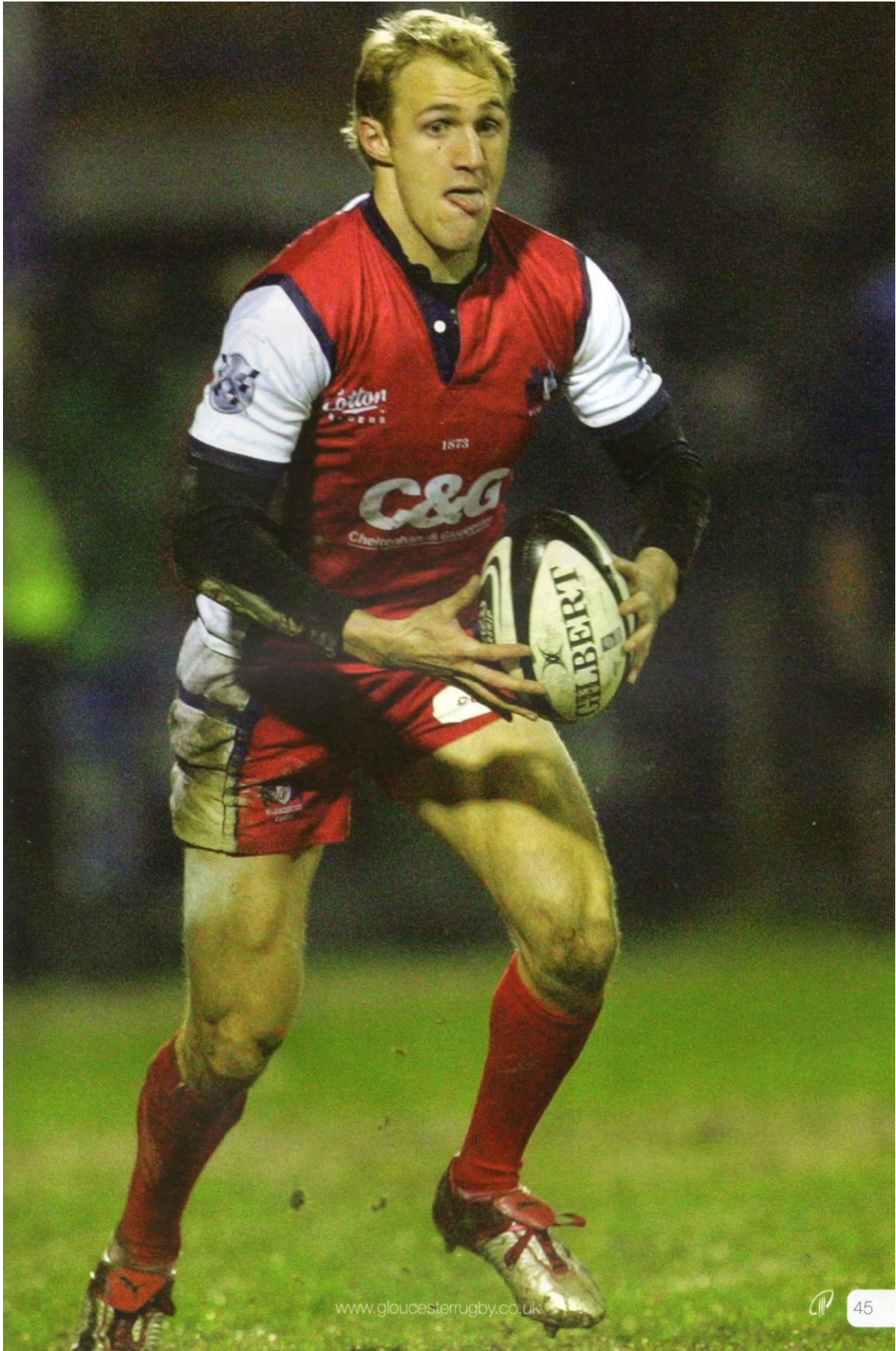
Morgan is realistic in his assessment of his contribution to Gloucester this season. "In any season you have represented your country, I think you must be pretty satisfied with the season you have had," he said.

"I always want to be realistic in the targets I set myself because we have some fantastic players at Gloucester in my position like Balsh and Willie and hopefully they have made me a better player.

"There is plenty to learn from these guys but individually I have been pleased with what I have done and to get off the mark with England was a great experience."

He now has a waiting game to play and a recovery and conditioning plan to start before the end of May, as he counts down the clock to the World Cup – "I just want to get back and then play to the best of my ability so I can give it a go," he said – and it would be impossible to argue.





Match Action

Time line

 3 min	
Brown DROP-GOAL	0-3
 6 mins	
Brown PEN	0-6
 15 mins	
Buxton TRY, Lamb CON	7-6
 19 mins	
Lamb PEN	10-6
 24 mins	
Lamb PEN	13-6
 26 mins	
Brown PEN	13-9
 43 mins	
Foster TRY, Lamb CON	20-9
 52 mins	
Best TRY, Brown CON	20-16
 67 mins	
Brown PEN	20-19
 69 mins	
Mercier PEN	23-19
 76 mins	
Mercier pen	26-19
 79 mins	
Bailey TRY, Mercier CON	33-19

Gloucester Line-up

15	Jon Goodridge	
14	James Simpson-Daniel	
13	Rudi Keil	
12	Jack Adams	
11	Mark Foster	(11)
10	Ryan Lamb	(2 cons, 2 pens)
9	Peter Richards	
1	Nick Wood	
2	Olivier Azam	
3	Christian Califano	
4	Will James	
5	Alex Brown	
6	Peter Buxton (capt)	(11)
7	Andy Hazell	
8	Luke Narryaway	
REPS		
16	Mefin Davies	(Azam)
17	Jack Forster	
18	Adam Eustace	(James)
19	Jonathan Pendlebury	
20	Haydn Thomas	
21	Ludovic Mercier	(1c, 2 pens) (Lamb)
22	James Bailey	(1) (Jack Adams)

Gloucester Rugby 33
Worcester Warriors 19



Warriors worn down

Saturday, February 24
Referee: Ashley Rowden, Attendance: 12,500

WORCESTER Warriors produced an excellent all-round performance but still failed to earn their first Premiership victory over Gloucester a fortnight ago.

The Warriors were already 6-0 ahead thanks to a James Brown drop-goal and penalty before Gloucester on the scoreboard. A line-out went over the top but Brown took too long over his clearance and flanker Peter Buxton was through to charge his kick down, scoop up the ball and score.

But there was little urgency from Gloucester

and in a flat performance, they were lucky Worcester failed to take their chances.

Twice in the first-half they missed clear chances. First, Brown ran onto Matt Powell's clever kick from a ruck only for Peter Richards to make a wonderful cover tackle and then Thinus Delport was bundled into touch by Andy Hazell later in the half.

Had it not been for the efforts of Hazell – who was a one-man wrecking crew – and the prompting and probing of Richards, Gloucester may well have lost.





Man of the Match... Peter Richards



Scrum-half Peter Richards had an outstanding game and his try saving tackle in the first-half was crucial.

As it was, Ryan Lamb kicked two first-half penalties to take the hosts 13-9 ahead and when another big hit from Hazell and a neat round the corner pass from Rudi Keil put Mark Foster into space, Gloucester were 20-9 ahead after 43 minutes.

However, Worcester showed great spirit, were always prepared to have a go and after 52 minutes scored a very good try. Powell burst clear from a scrum, swapped passes with Brown and broke the tackle of Keil before

sending full-back Lee Best in for the try.

That dragged the score back to 20-16 and it soon became 20-19 to set up a very tense finish.

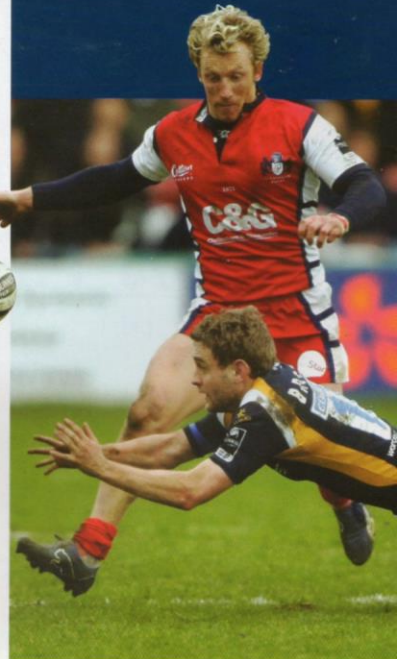
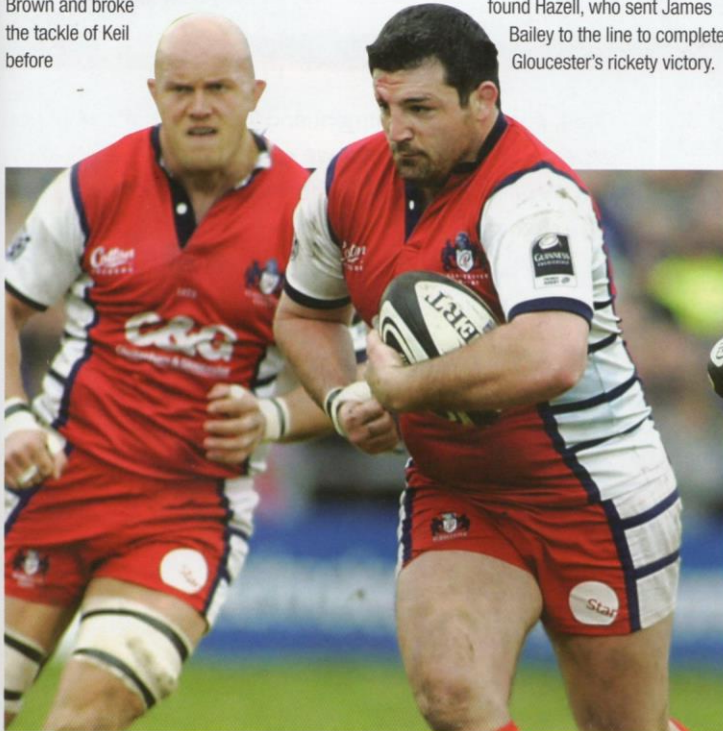
Gloucester needed some breathing space and two penalties from Ludovic Mercier stretched them clear and in the final minute, Richards made a brilliant break, James Simpson-Daniel got away down the right and his inside pass found Hazell, who sent James Bailey to the line to complete Gloucester's rickety victory.

Coaches Comment...

Dean Ryan



"I thought it was a flat performance and I think Worcester missed a gilt opportunity to win at Kingsholm," Gloucester's head coach Dean Ryan.





Peter Arnold

Peter Arnold is back today for a trio of installments and starts a long line of farewells to **Jake Boer**, bemoans the bad luck suffered by **Olly Morgan** and is thrilled by **Gloucester's victory** over **Northampton** last weekend.

JAKE'S PROGRESS

ALL GOOD things must come to an end, they say, and the imminent departure of Jake Boer gives us a prime example of that. When I read the news of the potential signing of a young Edinburgh flanker for next season, I did wonder why we seemed to be strengthening an area where we already seemed to be more than adequately covered, but now I've had that question answered for me.

But I don't care how many back-row practitioners we have, or how formidable their quality, I think you do have to miss the rock-hard Jake Boer. His secret is that he does the simple things well, and does them at an intensity which makes some opponents, who consider themselves to be tough guys, quake in their size 12's

When Jake's on the field everyone knows

it, from the chap unfortunate enough to get in his way, to the spectator in the farthest reaches of the back row of the stand. He has an aura about him which communicates itself to the whole team, and that served him well when he was skipping the side. Not for nothing was he voted Player of the Season a few years ago, in a period when rivals like Neil Back and Richard Hill were around.

It's obvious that the Springbok authorities missed a very considerable trick when they allowed Jake to slip through their fingers, and if they've got any sense at all they'll endeavour to recruit Mr. Boer to their coaching set-up, in some capacity or other, on his return to South Africa.

I first became conscious of Jake Boer when he played against us for London Irish, and admired his forthright approach then. He had had a short stint with Leicester before that, which means that he has been plying his trade around English grounds for ten

whole years, which is a fair old slice out of anyone's working life.

Gloucester never had a better, or more wholehearted, servant than Jake. We'll miss him a lot, both as a player and as a personality. We wish him well in his endeavours back in his native land, and assure him of a warm welcome in Gloucester in general and Kingsholm in particular, whenever he cares to pay us a visit.

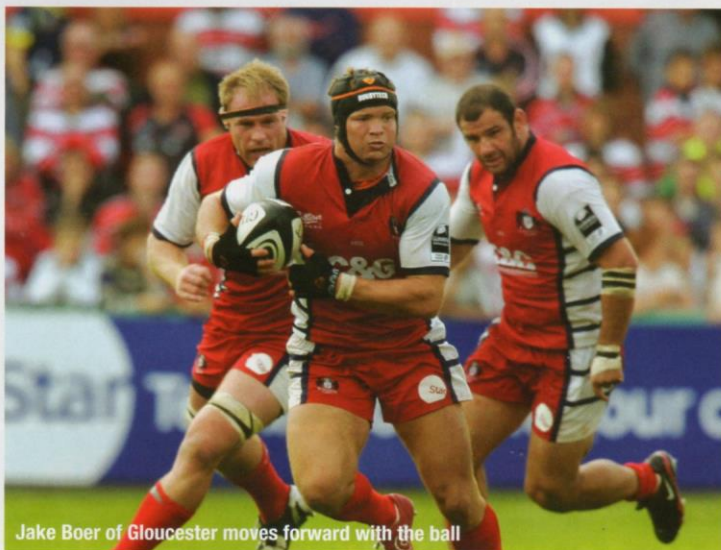
BAD LUCK OLLY

WE WERE all very sorry to learn that Olly Morgan will be out for the rest of the season as a result of his shoulder injury sustained while playing for England against Ireland. I suppose the only consolation for him is that he missed most of that particular debacle, so can't in common justice be blamed for that inept display.

Indeed, I thought he was having a fine game until being forced off, displaying all the defensive qualities of which we know he is capable. It's a shame that he hasn't, thus far, been given much of a chance to show what he can do when running at the opposition, ball in hand.

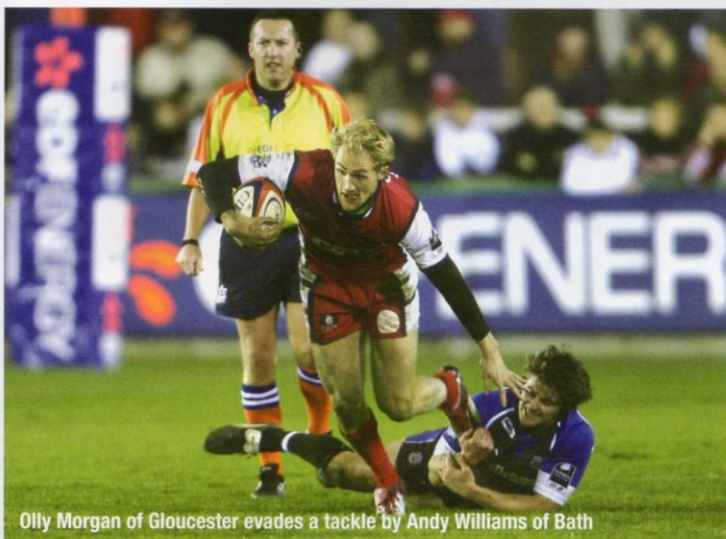
Someone pointed out the irony of the situation to me the other day. Brian Ashton asked all the clubs not to play their England squad members on the weekend before the Croke Park match for fear of injury, a request most clubs ignored. In the event, not one England squad member got damaged while turning out for their employers, while one or two sustained injuries while playing, or training, with England.

As far as we are concerned, we have lost both our premier full-backs while on England duty, and it's just as well we have



Jake Boer of Gloucester moves forward with the ball





Olly Morgan of Gloucester evades a tackle by Andy Williams of Bath

a deputy as able as Jon Goodridge to step into the breach.

But it's wretched luck for Olly Morgan, who is without doubt, one of the rising stars on the national scene. It is to be hoped that his enforced absence doesn't spoil his chances of making the World Cup party.

DILEMMA

LAST week's game at Northampton was a decidedly odd affair. A try scored in the first five minutes, then nothing at all until the dying embers. There were very few penalties, and no one had a pot at goal, apart from the two conversions, all afternoon. However, it all came right in the end, and let's face it, we needed that win just at the moment.

I see that the club's website attributed the victory to 'sheer bloody mindedness', and in the horribly difficult conditions, that was probably exactly what was needed. We must, however, give due credit to the lovely Allen-Simpson-Daniel try, and especially to Willie Walker's stunning touchline

conversion. Dean Ryan must have been the most frustrated man in England, having been banished by the powers-that-be to the television gantry for the duration.

Perhaps the most significant factor in the whole affair was the feeling

that Gloucester, having gained a slender advantage with less than ten minutes to go, at long last seemed to have learned to stick the ball up their jumpers and deny the opposition any more possession than they could help until the ref blew time on the proceedings. We can think of a couple of games where that approach might have garnered us a few more precious Premiership points.

Elsewhere, Bristol got stuffed, which helps our chances, and Worcester managed to beat Bath, which probably pleased all of us at Kingsholm.

It was also interesting to watch the half-hour TV coverage of Leicester v. Harlequins on BBC2. From the evidence presented, it appeared that the Quins gave the Tigers all they could handle, and of course, the Stoop brigade are here next week.

We live in interesting times.

AND FINALLY...

Three home games on the trot! Hardly worth going home, really.



Gloucester in action against Northampton Saints

Hall of Fame

with Dave King



Peter Butler

He holds a points record that is likely to stand forever. **Peter Butler** was a remarkable goalkicker and today joins Dave King's Hall of Fame

PETER BUTLER holds a Gloucester record that is unlikely ever to be beaten – the number of points he scored for the club during a phenomenal kicking career during the 1970s.

His record of 2,961 points is a remarkable achievement and his kicking prowess stands head and shoulders above any club rival and perhaps only Ludovic Mercier could challenge his metronomic ability, if not the number of points he scored.

Butler was born on 23rd June 1951 in Gloucester and was educated at Crypt Grammar School in the city.

His playing career took place in the amateur era but he would surely have been as effective as a professional. It was his amazing points accumulation that stands out. In the 1972-73 season, 324 points for Gloucester and also collected a further 102 points when he was representing Gloucestershire in that same season. That took his total points tally to a remarkable 426 points for the season.

This period was a golden time for the former Crypt Grammar Schoolboy for amazingly in the following season of 1973-74 he surpassed his previous seasons total of points to record an incredible 574 points. He became only the third player to record 500 points in a season in first class rugby.

At international level it was always a mystery that Butler never represented England on more than two occasions

because his kicking prowess must have attracted attention at the highest echelons of the game.

His incredible total of 2,961 points for this club over a 10-year span between 1972 and 1982 would have attracted world wide recognition.





“At international level it was always a mystery that **Butler** never represented **England** on more than two occasions because his **kicking prowess** must have attracted attention at the highest echelons of the game. ”

The first of his international appearances came outside of Great Britain and was on England's tour of Australia in 1975. He was not the club's sole representative for Peter Kingston and Mike Burton, his Gloucester colleagues were also named in the England team.

In a 16-9 defeat the Gloucester's full-back kicked a penalty and a conversion at Sydney Cricket Ground.

The England team was: -

P.E. Butler (Gloucester); P.J. Squires (Harrogate), J.P.A. Janion (Richmond), A.W. Maxwell (New Brighton), A.J. Morley

(Bristol); W.N. Bennett (Bedford), P. Kingston (Gloucester); M.A. Burton (Gloucester), J.V. Pullin (Bristol), B.G. Nelmes (Cardiff), R.M. Uttley (Gosforth), N.D. Mantell (Rosslyn Park), D.M. Rollitt (Bristol), A.G. Ripley (Rosslyn Park), A. Neary (Broughton Park, Captain). The referee was Mr W.M.Cooney (Australia).

Butler repeated his feat of kicking a penalty and a conversion in his second appearance for England against France. After his second and final appearance for England, Butler said: "They are undoubtedly the finest side I have ever played against." The French had demolished England in the Parc de Princes Stadium in Paris. Butler

was agog at the expertise he had faced that spring afternoon, "If their backs had not made mistakes, goodness knows how many points they would have scored against us."

It was also a match where the English pack had been outplayed by the French. Butler, who had his club colleague Chris Williams making his only England appearance that day, were deprived of the ball.

Mike Burton, another of the Gloucester trio appearing in that Paris defeat held his own position in the England team throughout that season.



Hall of Fame...

If Butler could not regain international honours, he became a major player for Gloucester in the County Championship and was key in their regular successes.

In fact he scored 36 points out of his team's 40 points in their group South West Division matches. In the final against Lancashire at Blundellsands he scored 14 points in the County's 22-12. This brought his total for the season to 59 out of the total of 99 that the County had recorded in their title success. The team that took the County to their eleventh championship was: -

P. Butler (Gloucester); R.J. Clewes (Gloucester), J.A. Bayliss (Gloucester), A.R. Jardine (Gloucester), A.J. (Bristol); R.L. Redwood (Cheltenham) R. Harding (Bristol); M.A. Burton (Gloucester), J.V. Pullin (Bristol), R.F. Cowling (Gloucester), J.H. Fidler (Gloucester), A. Brinn (Gloucester), J.H. Haines (Gloucester), R.C. Hannaford (Bristol), J.A. Watkins (Gloucester).

In the 1975-76 season in the county Championship final at Richmond against Middlesex he accounted for all of his team's 24 points in Gloucestershire's 24-9 victory. That season he totalled 90 of the County's 116 points in six matches. The Gloucestershire County team had seen

“As **Burton** remarked when he captained **Gloucester** in the 1975-76 season he paid tribute to his **Gloucester Rugby** colleague: “**Peter Butler** was our leading goal scorer and his phenomenal goal kicking won several matches on its own.”

Butler score 367 points in the 31 matches. That is testament to a phenomenal goal kicker. In May and June 1976 Gloucestershire made their first overseas tour which included seven matches in Rhodesia and South Africa. On that tour they Won 4, Lost 3, Points for -165; Against 143.

He contributed 70 points from eight goals and 18 penalty goals. In the 1911-12 season the County had their first fixture outside this country when they visited Ireland. They lost by 20-6 against Dublin County in Dublin, but Rhodesia and South Africa was the first venture overseas to a different continent.

As **Burton** remarked when he captained Gloucester in the 1975-76 season he paid tribute to his Gloucester Rugby colleague: “Peter Butler was our leading goal scorer and his phenomenal goal kicking won

several matches on its own.” Butler was a proud member of the Gloucester Rugby team that won the RFU's National Club Knockout Competition on 15th April 1978 when Leicester were defeated by 6 points to three. Peter converted Richard Mogg's try in that success. The Gloucester XV were: -

P.E. Butler; R.J. Clewes, B.J. Vine, R. Jardine, R.R. Mogg; C.G. Williams, P.R. Howell; G.A.F. Sargent, S.G.F. Mills, M.A. Burton, S.B. Boyle, J.H. Fidler, V.J. Wooley, J.F. Simonett, J.A. Watkins (Captain).

Referee: Mr R.C. Quittenton.

It is doubtful if anyone will surpass Peter Butler's 2,961 points scored for Gloucester Rugby Club, a phenomenal record by a man with a 'Golden Boot'.

David King

CAPS

YEAR	VERSUS	DATE	VENUE	RESULT
1975	Australia Kicked a penalty goal & conversion	24th May	Sydney C.G.	Lost 9-16
1976	France Kicked a penalty goal & conversion	20th March	Parc de Princes, Paris	Lost 9-30



Fan Zone with Bob Fenton

It has been a busy few weeks but amid all the speculation a very special **Gloucester** player has announced he will be leaving at the end of the season. **Bob Fenton** looks at the comings and goings today and pays tribute to **Adam Eustace**.

I T'S BEEN an interesting few weeks for us, a narrow defeat up at Saracens – by narrow I mean so narrow you couldn't get an old fashioned tappet spacer into it (younger readers – ask yer Dad what this means) and then two tense encounters with clubs ploughing their furrows at very much the wrong end of the table.

But two wins out of three isn't so bad – Saracens seem to have put things right at their place for the time being and are getting some good results. For so long they had all the players and none of the team. Now they are on the verge of getting both and winning at Watford could become a bit of a rare event.

Everyone knows that things went a little sour for Dean Ryan after the Watford game, and I am certainly not going to rake over old coals now, suffice to say he got into a spot of bother with the RFU.

But 13 weeks! Man alive... Bank robbers get a shorter sentence than that these days. And when they get out they get social security, houses, cars and luxury holidays – well according to the Daily Mail they do, anyway.

Up at Saints last week Dean was apparently on the TV gantry. At least it would have been dry up there – we watched the game through a hailstorm. I came away with a headache from having all those icy blocks bouncing off my head – and it hurts more when they land where hair used to be, let me tell you.

There is an important moral to this story though – if you want something saying to a referee let us over on the other side of the ground do it for you, after all we are the experts and it is in our job description.

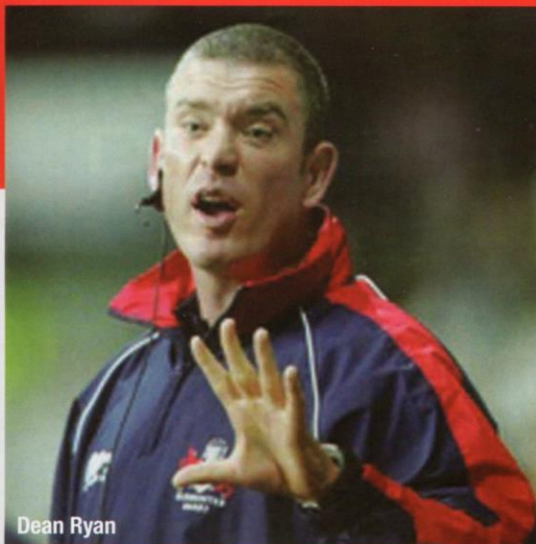
Seeing Worcester come to town is always an interesting fixture – I mean do Chris and Lee Fortey, Thinus, Reg Windo and all the other ex-Gloucester boys have to drive up the M5 to come down on the coach? It was also nice to see Thinus enjoying a moment of banter with the crowd immediately prior to kick off. He did eventually 'give us a wave' but man it was

half hearted. Good man Thinus, still say he was one of our better signings.

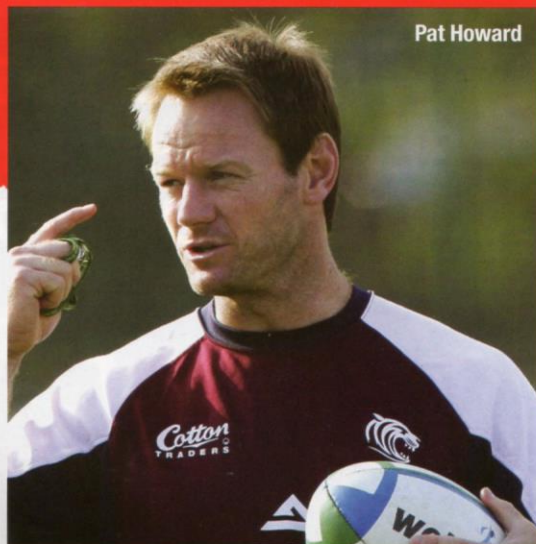
And Saints. Boy are they in trouble. Have you looked at their run in, Bath, Bristol, Wasps to name but three. And given the way we comprehensively took their pack apart you have to say that they are going to struggle against those

Adam Eustace





Dean Ryan



Pat Howard

“Because I am travelling with other people the option of getting up to **Twickenham** early to watch it on TV isn't there so I am going to be kept up to date by text. I'm not sure if my nerves are going to stand it... ”.

boys. It's going to take a huge effort for them to fight off the drop.

Makes you glad we're concerned with a struggle at a very different end of the spectrum, and today they don't come much higher. Leicester are top of the pile and will be a very tough nut to crack, even though they will be without most of their first team through international call ups. Win this one today though, and we will be well on our way to a home play off match.

Elsewhere in the world it seems that everyone's attention is turning to the annual merry-go-round of players leaving and players coming. If I've got our rumours right we have signed 18 props, 43 hookers, more back row forwards than you can shake a stick at and just about every international scrum-half and fly-half in Europe.

This kind of annual speculation-fest does my head in. Everyone seems to have a 'source' of nailed-on news – usually who knows the bloke who marked up the papers for the paper boy to deliver to someone who lives next door to someone who once spoke to a player. I know it's all harmless fun, but there again I know how I would feel if I started to read

speculation on various websites about someone coming in to take my job. Not the best form of motivation, and far better to wait until those rumours become facts.

One transfer fact we can talk about – and one that has been overlooked somewhat with Jake's announcement - is Adam Eustace moving on, he's off to the Scarlets in the summer. Adam has been at Kingsholm for ages now and has been a fantastic servant to the squad.

While we may have Marco and Alex ruling the roost now it's not so long ago that his pairing with Mark Cornwell was an almost permanent fixture on the Gloucester team sheet, and they more than held their own against much more fancied opponents. He's made around 130 Premiership appearances and has more than a few tries to his name.

He's been really unlucky with other players coming to Kingsholm that have made the position of second row one of the most keenly contested, so recently has found first team starts hard to come by. You never got to hear him moan about his lack of first team chances, he always seemed to be up and ready to play his part – a perfect professional in that respect.

He's a guy of huge potential – the great Ian Jones once marked him down as a player who could go on to achieve high honours, and although he's going on to pastures new lets hope this spurs him on achieve even more out of the game. Maybe the change of scenery will help him in that respect.

So good luck Adam, but if we get drawn against the Scarlets in the Heineken Cup next season I hope you have a 'mare when you come back to Kingsholm.



A final point... I'm not here today - I am at Twickenham about to watch England probably get stuffed by France. Before I took the ticket I checked the Gloucester fixtures to make sure we didn't have a game – all was well. Then Sky TV changed the date... So this is the first proper home fixture I have missed in 11 seasons, and I feel completely sick about it.

Because I am travelling with other people the option of getting up to Twickenham early to watch it on TV isn't there so I am going to be kept up to date by text. I'm not sure if my nerves are going to stand it...

Give the boys an extra shout for me!

Match Action

Time line

 5 mins	
Hartley TRY	5-0
 12 mins	
Simpson-Daniel TRY, Walker CON	5-7



Gloucester Line-up

15	Iain Balshaw	
14	Karl Pryce	
13	Mike Tindall	
12	Anthony Allen	
11	James Simpson-Daniel	(1t)
10	Ryan Lamb	
9	Peter Richards	
1	Nick Wood	
2	Olivier Azam	
3	Carlos Nieto	
4	Marco Bortolami (capt)	
5	Alex Brown	
6	Peter Buxton	
7	Andy Hazell	
8	Luke Narraway	
REPS		
16	Mefin Davies	(Azam)
17	Christian Califano	(Wood)
18	Will James	
19	Adam Eustace	
20	Rory Lawson	(Richards)
21	Willie Walker	(1c) (Lamb)
22	James Bailey	(Pryce)

Northampton Saints 5
Gloucester Rugby 7



Super Sinbad

Saturday, March 3

Referee: Wayne Barnes, Attendance: 13,529

JAMES SIMPSON-DANIEL'S 72nd minute try and a brilliant conversion from replacement Willie Walker salvaged a tenacious and determined victory over Northampton Saints.

For the best part of 70 minutes, Gloucester had trailed to a try from hooker Dylan Hartley from a driven line-out in the opening stages and despite plenty of field position and possession it looked as though Dean Ryan's side may lose a game that was well within their grasp.

An exceptionally heavy rain storm immediately

before the kick-off totally changed the complexity of the game because Gloucester's free-running style had been literally swept away.

However, their scrummage was outstanding all afternoon – Carlos Nieto had a wonderful game in the tight, Olivier Azam was forceful and physical and Nick Wood got through plenty of work.

Northampton dominated for the opening quarter but thereafter Gloucester had the better of the match. Karl Pryce was safe and secure under





the high ball and caused a severe ripple or two in the Saints defence, Ryan Lamb mixed up his box tricks very well and as the game progressed, Anthony Allen came into the contest.

There were a number of opportunities that went begging in the second half. Iain Balshaw's angled break could have ended with a try but Mark Robinson got across to make the tackle before he could get a pass away to James Bailey and Azam knocked on when over the line.

But Gloucester kept pressing through the power of their forwards and the

industry of their backs and when Walker, Rory Lawson and Mefin Davies were introduced late on, they added late impetus.

Walker had been on for less than five minutes when he sent Allen on a lovely, twisting break and at last there was a Gloucester player in support. Simpson-Daniel took the pass and went the 20 metres to score.

Walker still had to land the touchline conversion but he did it brilliantly and Gloucester had sealed the narrowest of wins.



Man of the Match...

Carlos Nieto



The prop anchored Gloucester's forward effort in the tight.

Coaches Comment...

Dean Ryan



"We have got some very threatening runners but in those conditions it is very difficult. I thought we stuck at it really well – we are delighted," head coach Dean Ryan.

