

official matchday programme of the london irish

2001/2002

issue • 04

price • £2.50

London **IRISH**



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V GLOUCESTER
sunday ■ 21st oct ■ 2001



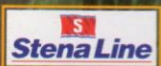
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VISITORS PROFILE

Gloucester

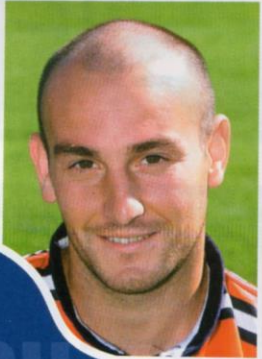
The end of last season

promised much for Gloucester. They had reached the Heineken Cup semi-final and were in the inaugural Championship playoffs. Losses to Leicester in the Cup and Wasps in the playoffs on consecutive weekends however, brought the season to a speedy conclusion.

It was clear through much of last season that Gloucester suffered through a lack of strength in depth in key positions. With this in mind recruitment was paramount in Philippe Saint Andre's mind this summer. Alongside the big summer signings of Alessandro Stolica, Ludovic Mercier, Diego Albanese, and Daren O'Leary, the club have continued its policy of development from the younger ranks and eight of last season's Academy players have 'graduated' to first team honours. The names Forrester, Simpson-Daniel and Goodridge may yet become Gloucester names of the future. The season could not have started with a sterner test. Northampton Saints were the visitors to Kingsholm in the

LUDOVIC MERCIER

| | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| d.o.b 1/11/76 | last club Aurillac |
| height 1.79m | honours - |
| weight 85kgs | |



FLY HALF

ONE 2 WATCH

opening round of the Premiership, they enjoyed two victories against the Cherry and Whites last season and the whole squad were keen to rectify that record. Gloucester dominated up front for eighty minutes and Northampton succumbed to a 22-9 defeat.

This early season high was quickly grounded however, as losses in successive weeks to Saracens and then to triple winner's Leicester Tigers brought the Cherry and Whites back to earth with a bump. Philippe Saint-Andre accused his team of not playing for eighty minutes as they allowed Saracens a

25-9 half time lead and threw away a 15-6 lead against the Tigers. Gloucester then travelled away to Manchester side, Sale and turned in a truly great performance, out powering the early season leaders. This season Gloucester will play their European rugby in the Parker Pen Shield. The campaign has started well as Gloucester continued their winning streak disposing of La Rochelle and G.R.A.N Parma with relative ease.

A visit from Harlequins last weekend allowed Gloucester to extend their winning streak to four consecutive matches. The London side were

demolished 33-7.

This week saw the conclusion of one the biggest transfers in Rugby Union history. The Rugby League star, and recent Grand Final winner, Henry Paul, has switched codes to join Gloucester this season and enjoyed his first day with his new team mates earlier this week. Henry is unlikely to make his debut this week but is considered by many as the spark to ignite the Gloucester back line. An already impressive squad, just got stronger.

JAMES BENNET

TODAYS TEAM LIST

face to face

**LONDON
IRISH**



GLOUCESTER

| | | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------|----|------------------|----------------------------|
| tick the players who start | MICHAEL HORAK | 15 | CHRIS CATLING | tick the players who start |
| | JUSTIN BISHOP | 14 | DAREN O'LEARY | |
| | ROB HOADLEY | 13 | JOE EWENS | |
| | BRENDAN VENTER | 12 | ROBERT TODD | |
| | PAUL SACKY | 11 | DIEGO ALBANESE | |
| | BARRY EVERITT | 10 | LUDOVIC MERCIER | |
| | DARREN EDWARDS | 9 | DIMITRI YACHVILI | |
| | NEAL HATLEY | 1 | TREVOR WOODMAN | |
| | RICHARD KIRKE | 2 | OLIVIER AZAM | |
| | ROB HARDWICK | 3 | PATRICE COLLAZO | |
| | RYAN STRUDWICK | 4 | ROB FIDLER | |
| | STEVE WILLIAMS | 5 | ED PEARCE | |
| | JAMES COCKLE | 6 | ADAM EUSTACE | |
| | DECLAN DANAHER | 7 | ANDY HAZELL | |
| | CHRIS SHEASBY | 8 | JAKE BOER | |

REPLACEMENTS

| | | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|----|-----------------------|--------------------|
| no. of replacement | HENTIE MARTENS | 16 | ANDY GOMARSALL | no. of replacement |
| | JARROD CUNNINGHAM | 17 | JON GOODRIDGE | |
| | RICHARD BATES | 18 | ALESSANDRO STOICA | |
| | GLENN DELANEY | 19 | FEDERICO PUCCIARIELLO | |
| | NAKA DROTSKE | 20 | CHRIS FORTEY | |
| | MIKE WORSLEY | 21 | JAMES FORRESTER | |
| | SIMON HALFORD | 22 | JUNIOR PARAMORE | |

Today's Match Officials

Referee: Ian Ramage (Scottish Rugby Union)

Touch Judge 1: David Sainsbury (RFU)

Touch Judge 2: John Burtenshaw (RFU)

Fourth Official: John Dennison (RFU/Kent)

THE CRAIC IN THE VALLEY - MORE THAN 80 MINUTES OF RUGBY

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