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Gloucester

Gloucester RFC official matchday programme 2001-2002

European Shield fixture



vs Caerphilly

Saturday 27th October 2001 kick-off 3.00pm

[issue] 6

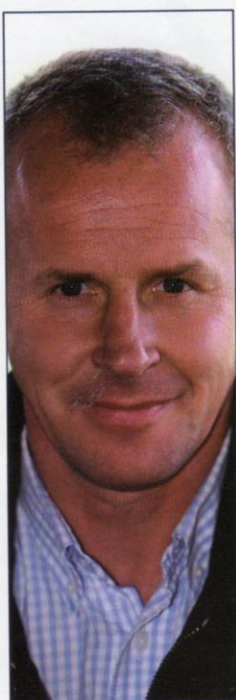
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Coach's Corner

[Paul Turner]

"I agree that today we have the perfect opportunity to rectify last week's performance."



Last weekend was a very disappointing performance. It certainly didn't go as planned.

We showed a lot of indiscipline and we focused on one plan, but had the goals gone over as in previous weeks and the driving mauls been converted into tries, I'm sure we wouldn't be talking about a loss. We didn't play very well and it was always going to be a tall order to get back from nineteen-nil down at half time. It was something that we still nearly did, but we made too many handling errors and ignored overlaps on separate occasions. We knew London Irish would try to hit us hard behind the gain line and this they did with increasing ferocity. Again though, I felt that once we had got back to nineteen-twelve and then nineteen fifteen, we were in a good position to win.

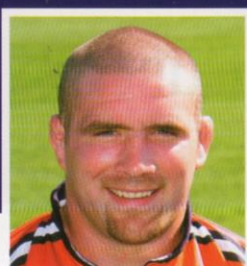
I am a firm believer in the need to get the ball through the hands early in the game. I felt that we didn't do that and when it came to key handling decisions, we made errors. We dropped passes and kicked when we could have kept it in the hands.

These mistakes though can be eradicated with time and confidence, and my job is to make sure that drills and skills are taken into the game. The European Shield is a competition we have targeted so we really don't want to slip up today. We must also remember that this is almost a two-legged tie and however hard it is today, it will be even harder down at Caerphilly next weekend. This is a great opportunity to try things and get them right, but we must ensure that we are consistent with it. I agree that today we have the perfect opportunity to rectify last week's performance. You are only as good as your last game and I hope that after today we will be back on track. I would also err on the side of caution. Knowing what I know about Caerphilly, they will not be coming up here just to make up the numbers. Caerphilly have a good history. They have been in the premiership in Wales for five years or so. They have battled against all the odds and finished

eight last year so this will not be a new experience for them. They will prepare and come up to Kingsholm and try and stop us playing. They will show the normal Welsh passion that Kingsholm used to see from Newport, Cardiff, Swansea and Newbridge. They play a style of rugby that may not have the same pace as the Premiership, but is workmanlike and effective. The only way we will be able to come through the game and say it was a worthwhile exercise, is to blow them away early.

Today is a great opportunity for younger players to put themselves into the frame for first team, Premiership rugby. The opportunity will be there and from my point of view as a new coach, I will certainly be looking for players to take it with both hands. Today's game is going to be very hard. We must stamp our authority on it early on and then take that forward into next weeks match, away at Caerphilly.





Club Captain [Phil Vickery]

D.O.B: 14/3/1976

Position: Tight Head Prop

Height: 1.91m

Weight: 112.5kg

Former Clubs: Bude/Redruth

Honours: England,

British Lions

"We now face a bit of a double-header against Caerphilly and it will give the management the chance to change a few things."

The game against London Irish was a game that should have and could have been won and that is the disappointing thing.

In certain games you get beaten and you can't do anything about it, but we made too many mistakes and it was four points that went begging. When you are not involved in a game it is always difficult to know what exactly is going on, but you know when you play away from home you will be under pressure from referees and it is up to us to be squeaky clean. It wasn't just indiscipline that cost us on Sunday but backchat and silly little things that didn't need to happen.

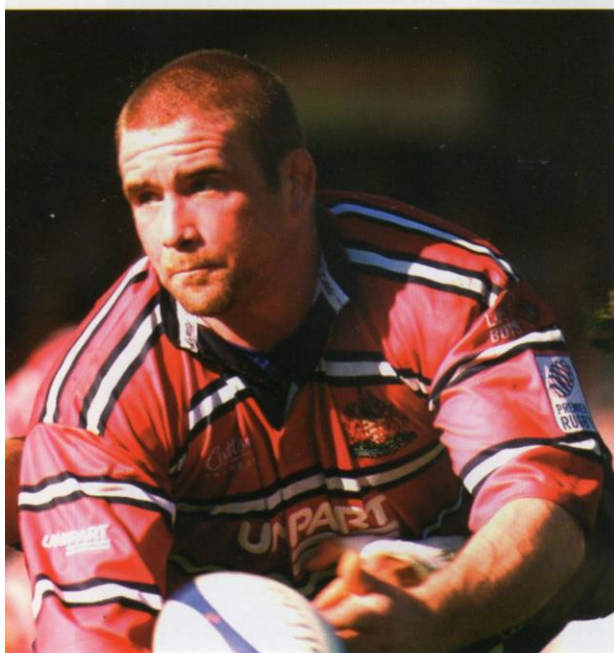
That is disappointing.
Management, players and

myself as club Captain, all talk about these aspects of the game and we have to take personal responsibility as players to make sure we take that onto the pitch. If we don't do this, then all the talk in the world won't make a difference.

In my programme piece before the Quins game, I spoke about the importance of winning the games against Quins and London Irish and how I felt that good performances weren't enough. We didn't play well on Sunday and didn't get the win. It's too early to say that we have thrown away our chances, but these were building blocks on which to build a strong contention and we have lost four points that we cannot get back. We now face a bit of a double-header against Caerphilly and it will give the management the chance to change a few things, rest some players and experiment. A lot of guys who have not played so much and a lot of the younger boys will get a chance and this is important if we are to develop as a squad. The management have rotated players, as I have been rotated, so this will be a chance to see which of the guys have got it and whose willing to put the work in. There is no point having the

size of squad we have if you are not going to use it and have the confidence to play players. As long as it is done sensibly and you have good blend within the team then it can be a useful exercise. We would all like to play every game, myself included, but is a long season and the reality is that it won't happen.

Henry Paul will get his first start as a Gloucester player today. He is a world-class player, and a very nice bloke to boot. I hope that we don't just use him as a player, but pick his brains on running lines and strategies. Rugby League is 90% defence but their attacking skills and running lines are superb. When you consider the players he has been around and played with, it is a fantastic opportunity for everyone here to learn, myself included I hope. Looking at the next two fixtures together, two wins are all that I would accept as captain. Things won't run smoothly, we know that Caerphilly are a very proud club and won't come here to lie down. There are a lot of young guys getting a chance today and it is exciting for the club to see how they respond. They have all got a great opportunity and I hope they can all take it.



The Key to Success

"I remain convinced that these weekends are not rugby trips, but short holidays which happen to have a rugby match in the middle"

It's a month since we were last here on Shield business, and the opening phase has seen Gloucester become the team to catch in Pool 7.

Expected wins over La Rochelle and Parma have placed the boys in pole position, and it's not one I expect them to relinquish. As with the Heineken Cup last season, where you finish in the group determines the home and away quarter final pairings, so top spot would mean a home game in the last eight in January. Today should be another step towards that target.

Consistency however remains a problem. The game at London Irish last week again showed how frustrating Gloucester can be, and I still

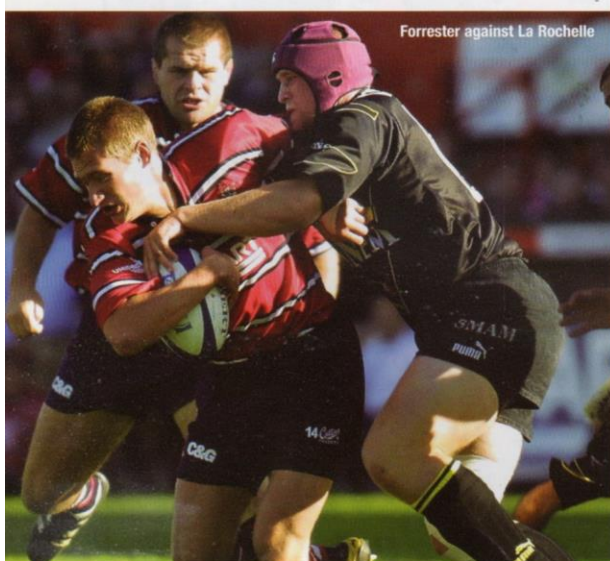
can't reach Saturday knowing with any great conviction what the team will produce. Parity between wins and losses throughout the season won't be seen as good enough, and realistically the height of the posts at other grounds can't be used as a constant excuse - Mercier must try and adapt the trajectory of his kicks to suit the occasion.

Until last weekend, Mercier had looked almost infallible, his performance against Quins here typical of what he's produced so far. The game also reminded those that might have forgotten that the old "Gloucester dog", as John Fidler used to put it, still exists. 19-0 in the second half with 14 men proved there is little wrong with the spirit among the players, who compensated more than adequately for Albanese's dismissal. The suspension applied internally by the club should show the Argentinian how he's expected to conduct himself in future, though he's not been the only summer signing in the news.

Henry Paul's long awaited arrival has finally become reality, after he'd concluded his career at Odsal with a

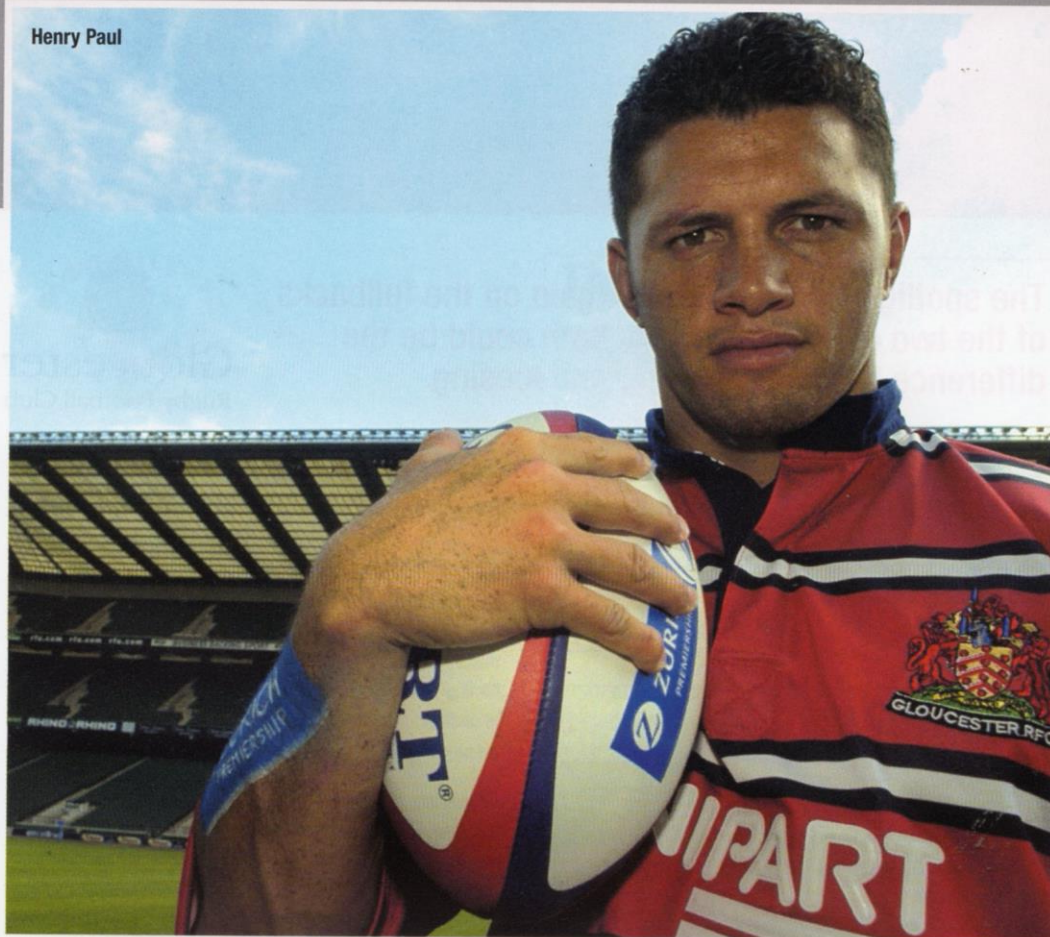
magnificent display of kicking, and a winners medal, in the Super League Grand Final. All the management must have been fearful of Paul sustaining an injury while they waited for him to switch codes - thankfully that anxiety is over, but there are other worries, with the club's considerable investment in Alessandro Stolica looking less than promising. He hasn't settled or shown the form that has made him an established international for Italy, and the club's willingness to let Castres enter the picture says that parting company isn't out of the question.

For much of the summer Stolica was Gloucester's major acquisition, and if his reported salary is anything to go by, it was fair for the fans to be drooling at the prospect of seeing him in a Cherry & White shirt. I imagine Philippe will have spent some considerable time convincing Stolica that Gloucester was the right move for him, so the concept of him leaving suggests a mistake, but it's time for Philippe to again back his judgement if he now believes that Stolica either cannot or will not produce the goods in the Premiership.



Forrester against La Rochelle

Henry Paul



Stoica's last appearance was in Parma, BBC Radio Gloucestershire's first trip of the season to mainland Europe. I'm always nervous on such occasions until I've visited the ground and made contact with the studio, but our specially installed facilities worked perfectly, even if conditions were a bit spartan.

My previous trips to Stade Francais and Colomiers both ended in defeat, so it was pleasing to see the supporters with a smile at the end, even if the game wasn't the greatest. The party based in Milan was a very mixed group, including some families, with the result that the atmosphere was less

boisterous than in Colomiers. I remain convinced that these weekends are not rugby trips, but short holidays which happen to have a rugby match in the middle, and that the overall experience isn't altered greatly by the result. Some have already booked to go to La Rochelle - and we would hope there may be more after that.

And so to today. Caerphilly are still without a win domestically, though they've been involved in several close and high scoring games. It's a pattern mirrored in the Shield, beating Parma at home and losing narrowly in France to La Rochelle. They appear a side with potential but defensive

weaknesses, and Gloucester - maybe with Henry Paul in the squad for the first time - will hope to exploit them and boost their points difference.

C'mon Glaws !

"Henry Paul's long awaited arrival has finally become reality"



Ticket and Information Hotline - Tel: 0871 871 8781

[from the commentary box]

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Head2Head

The spotlight today focuses again on the fullbacks of the two respective clubs. Both could be the difference between winning and loosing.



Gloucester
Rugby Football Club

For Caerphilly, nine times capped Justin Thomas is the last line of defence between Gloucester and the Caerphilly line. His defensive qualities will be tested to the maximum this afternoon, as will his ability to counterattack using any loose

kicks. For Gloucester Jon Goodridge makes his first start in the European Shield and will need to call on all his ability to hold the Gloucester back line together. His decision-making and skills will also be scrutinised by the Caerphilly halfbacks.

Jon Goodridge

Strengths

Goodridge began his career as a fly half but under the tutelage of the Gloucester Academy coaches, he has made the successful switch to full back. In this position he has been able to use his pace and attacking ability to unlock defences and seize on any mistakes. He has made a habit out of returning opposition kicks turning defence into attack. The Caerphilly backs will do well not to underestimate his ability to punish loose kicks when they are clearing their lines.

Weaknesses

The obvious weakness to Goodridge's game is his inexperience, still only twenty he is now just starting his professional career. The best way to combat this is game time and he has already racked up seven appearances for the cherry and whites, mainly as a substitute. Aligned to his young age Jon considers his size and strength as a weakness. He is best described as 'rangy' but as he develops if he can retain his speed off the mark he will be a formidable prospect.

Special interests

As with all the Gloucester Academy player's Jon was given the opportunity to continue his studies as he combines his rugby with further education. He is studying an Accounting and Geography degree at UWE Bristol and between training and his studies he has little time to explore other interests.

High Point

"I think my main high point so far is being involved in the European squad" said Goodridge. "Just to get selected is very pleasing. And being involved so much already this season has been great".

Low Point

"Loosing to London Irish twice in my career on the same ground is a big disappointment" says Goodridge succinctly".

Role Models

"Christian Cullen is a player I admire a lot. He plays with so much confidence; he never kicks and always looks to run the ball. He has great pace and is just fantastic to watch".

Goodridgestats

Position Full Back
Born 26/02/81
Age 20
Height 1.86m
Weight 84kg
Club History Swansea Uni
Int Hons -



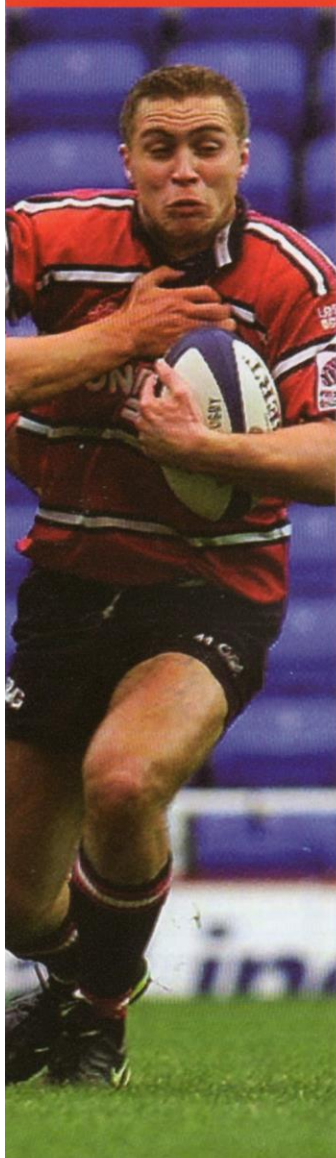
Goodridge on Caerphilly

"If I'm starting, or if I'm on the bench, my goal is simply to take the opportunity of playing. I hope to play with more confidence and enjoy the occasion".



Joe Ewens

[player focus]



When Joe Ewens was asked to describe his rugby career to date, he thought for a moment and then with a wry smile said "Up and down".

He burst on to the scene as a young eighteen year-old and was touted as the next young star. By the time he had left Colstons School in Bristol, he was playing professional rugby for Bath's first team and had represented his country at all age groups up to 'A' team level.

Ewens himself admits that this meteoric rise was all a bit too much too soon. "I started off at eighteen and a lot of things came too quickly for me to appreciate them all. I left school and went straight into the professional game and, to be honest, things weren't that professional". Without the Academy structure that is in place today at all Premiership clubs, Ewens went from schoolboy rugby to senior level, and with not much in between. This step up is hard at the best of times but as a youngster, away from home for the first time and living on a University campus, their was all the distractions that a young man could want. Added to this pressure was the fact that he was playing for English rugby's premier club of the time. "I was just sort of chucked in with a

group of lads and we were left to our own devices", explains Ewens, adding "the atmosphere was not conducive for playing professional rugby. There was no-one to look after us and, added to that, it was my first time away from home".

Rugby and particularly its development of younger players, has moved on dramatically in the last five years. With the introduction of club Academies, young school leavers are now given a more controlled environment in which to learn about the sport and perhaps more importantly, life. He burst on to the scene as a young eighteen year-old and was touted as the next young star. By the time he had left Colstons School in Bristol, he was playing professional rugby for Bath's first team and had represented his country at all age groups up to 'A' team level.

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Rugby and particularly its development of younger players,

[No.13] centre

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"That was the first time I had played on the wing. I'll play hooker if they want but I prefer centre"

has moved on dramatically in the last five years. With the introduction of club Academies, young school leavers are now given a more controlled environment in which to learn about the sport and perhaps more importantly, life.

"An Academy would certainly have helped me" said Ewens, "I'm not saying that that sort of thing didn't happen at Bath, it did and Matt Perry is an example of that, but I was just a year too soon. I think it's good, especially if you are young. It is a totally different environment here at Gloucester. At Bath everyone was treated the same, some people did well out of that, others didn't". Coinciding with Joe's emergence at Bath were two of the highest profile cross-code games in history. Wigan played Bath at both Union and League and as the profile of both clubs rocketed, so did that of their young star, Joe Ewens. "It's difficult to deal with that sort of hype", admits the rather shy Ewens, "I don't really like people talking about me like that. It's nothing you say about yourself, but more something other people say about you and it's total rubbish to be honest". Ewens admits that he shuns the limelight and doesn't enjoy all the media hype that surrounds

professional sport. His time at Bath was something of a double-edged sword.

He was able to grow up in the shadow of the best club centre partnership of the time in De Glanville and Guscott, but had to content himself with playing second team rugby. He resolved this by moving east to Bedford and had two great years of rugby. "You learn a lot from people like Jerry and Phil, but I had two great years at Bedford, developing my rugby. At Bath I wasn't really playing and there is only so much second team rugby you can play. I firmly believe the best way to learn is to be on the pitch playing regularly". Regular first team rugby, albeit with a team that were flirting with relegation and bankruptcy, brought Ewens back into the England set up as his form went from strength to strength and he kept scoring tries. "You need to settle and get used to the level of play. That only comes with games", says Ewens. His time at Bedford along with Junior Paramore and Scottish International Scott Murray brought him into contact with our new back's coach, Paul Turner, for the first time. "He was very skilful and we had a lot of fun" says Ewens. The lighthearted approach to training however, did not detract

from the intensity levels.

"We learnt a lot" says Ewens "We had a lot of good training and he taught us a lot. Even in his short time here with the skills and drills we do, he is a very talented ball player. It's just the little things really, like giving yourself more time on the ball and not rushing things". Joe's first experience of Kingsholm before his belated move to Gloucester was during an England U18's game when he scored a try against the touring Australians from the half way line. From then on, this has been one of his favourite grounds. He moved in the summer of 1999 back to the West Country albeit rather reluctantly. His rugby was going well and it was only the financial problems faced at Goldington Road that forced his hand.

Since becoming a Cherry and White, however, Joe said he has loved every moment of it. He has played most of his rugby at outside centre but deputised on the wing last season and, with his pace, he made a good fist of it.

"That was the first time I had played on the wing. I'll play hooker if they want but I prefer centre" says Ewens.

He endured a stop-start season

as, for the first time in his career, he had to cope with a myriad of injuries. Joe concedes that this was a low time for him as on separate occasions he suffered hamstring, quad and calf injuries.

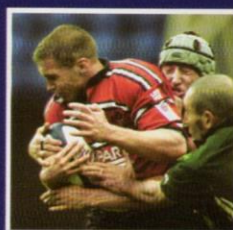
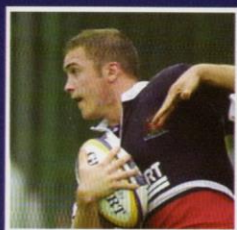
His hard work and determination to return to fitness were rewarded with a place on the England tour to North America and as Joe himself points out, "You can't be a bad player and tour with your country".

His trip was cruelly cut short as in the first tour game a late tackle dislocated his shoulder and he had to return home.

Although he didn't make the impact he would have wanted, Ewens' short career seems to have done full circle.

Characteristically though, Ewens does not want to get carried away. He realised that the England group is hard to penetrate and without sound club form, any international recognition is out of the question.

This season he has his sights firmly set on making the centre position his own and also wants dearly to win something with the Gloucester team.





playerstats

previous club: Bedford
representative honours: England A
height: 1.80m
weight: 89.8kg
position: Centre

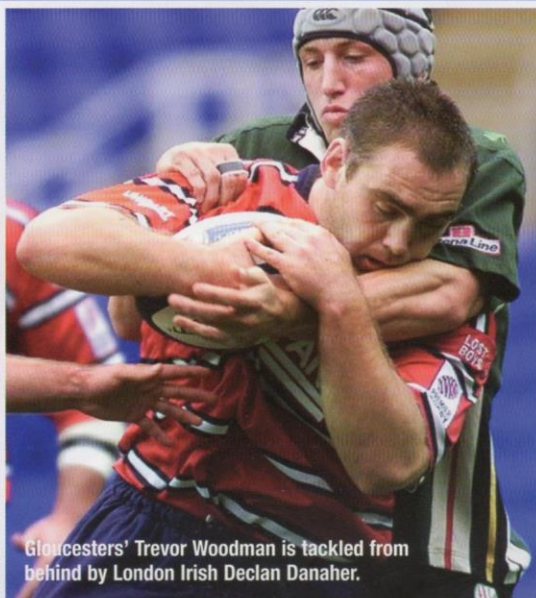

Gloucester
Rugby Football Club

Match Action vs London Irish

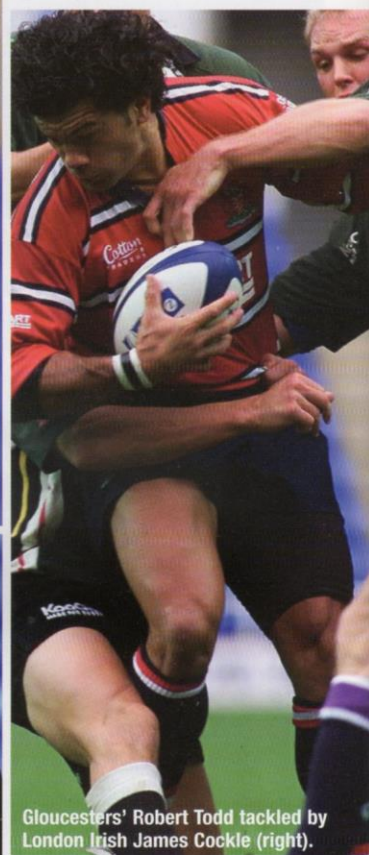
Zurich Premiership
21-10-01



Gloucesters' Ed Pearce in action.



Gloucesters' Trevor Woodman is tackled from behind by London Irish Declan Danaher.



Gloucesters' Robert Todd tackled by London Irish James Cockle (right).



Gloucesters' Joe Ewens is halted by London Irish Rob Hoadley.



Philippe Saint-Andre disappointed.

Photography Supplied by GPA

matchstats



19

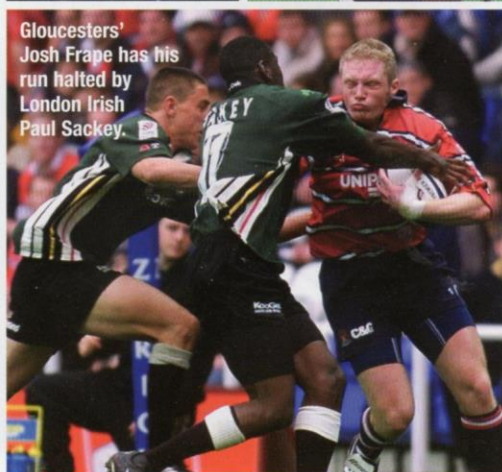
London Irish: **19 points**
Tries: Cockle
Conversions: Everitt
Penalties: Everitt (4)
Sin Bin: Bates (78)



15

Gloucester: **15 points**
Tries: -
Conversions: -
Penalties: Mercier (5)
Sin Bin: Collazo (12)

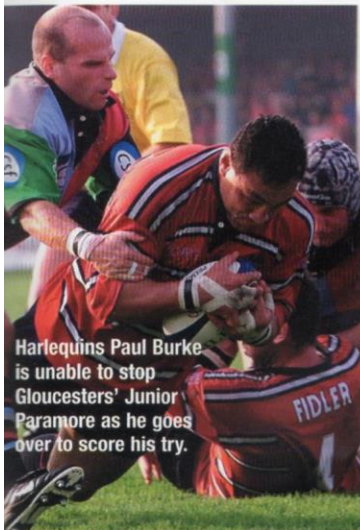
Parker Pen Shield



Gloucesters' Josh Frape has his run halted by London Irish Paul Sackey.

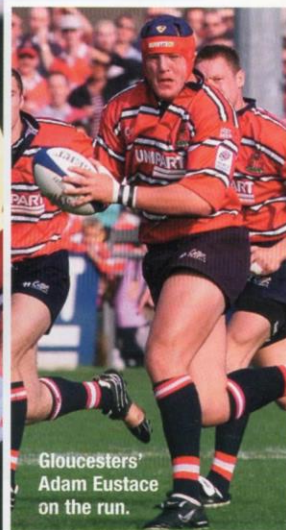
Match Action vs Harlequins

Zurich Premiership
13.10.01



Harlequins Paul Burke is unable to stop Gloucesters' Junior Paramore as he goes over to score his try.

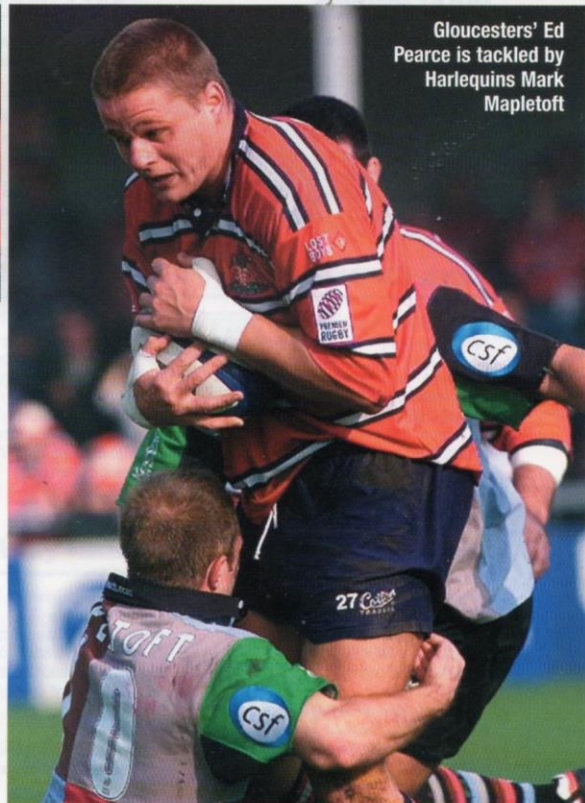
Gloucesters' Diego Albanese in the tussle with Harlequins Mark Mapletoft who he head butted and was sent off.



Gloucesters' Adam Eustace on the run.



Gloucesters' Robert Todd breaks through Harlequins defence.



Gloucesters' Ed Pearce is tackled by Harlequins Mark Mapletoft

Photography Supplied by Ben Duffy @SWPIX.com



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matchstats

Gloucester: **33 points**
Tries: Penalty Try (1)
Albanese (1)
Paramore (1)
Conversions: Mercier (3)
Penalties: Mercier (3)
Drop Goal: Mercier (1)



7

Harlequins: **7 points**
Tries: Greenwood (1)
Conversions: Mapletoft (1)
Penalties: -

Parker Pen Shield

Ticket and Information Hotline - Tel: 0871 871 8781

[match action]

33

CAERPHILLY DOES IT

One of the best things about the two European competitions is that it gives us a chance to renew our old 'Hundred Years War' against the Welsh hordes.

"...I don't actually remember Caerphilly as being regular visitors to our famous old ground..."

Enthralling though the Premiership undoubtedly is, it has deprived us of the pride and commitment which was always such a feature of these cross-Severn matches.

If you want confirmation of that statement, you have only to think back to last season's European Cup Quarter Final against Cardiff, just about the most famous Kingsholm victory for years. After that game, the local version of our own Pink 'Un ran a picture of Junior Paramore enveloping a Cardiff player, under the headline, 'NO

QUARTER - AND NO SEMI EITHER', which I thought was pretty sporting, given the emotion generated by the occasion.

That said, I could well be wrong, but I don't actually remember Caerphilly as being regular visitors to our famous old ground, so that's another reason why they are very welcome today.

I must confess to not knowing an awful lot about them prior to this game, so on the grounds that 'if you don't know

something, look at the web site' I looked them up on my personal Iron Maiden. A very lively site it is too, and I was intrigued to note that they are actually running an advertisement for new players there on, 'especially those with International experience'.

Never seen that before. Not on a club web site. Are they really that short of players? Or are they trying to lull us into a sense of false security?

We'd better tread - well - Caerphilly.

HAPPY HALLOWE'EN!

I don't know if you remember, but there was a worrying incident in the Stand at the Bristol game last season.

John Hatch, a very long-serving and valued Gloucester supporter, collapsed and had to be rushed to hospital. The press reported at the time that the speedy intervention of Stewards and other people in close proximity prevented the incident from being very much worse.

You'll be glad to know that John has made a full recovery, but at the moment at any rate, doesn't have the confidence to resume his place in the Stand. I'm told that he even finds the

excitement of watching Glaws on the telly a little much to bear. Fundamentally, however, John is fit, and next Wednesday, Halloween as ever was, he celebrates his 80th birthday. We wish him all the best, an extremely happy birthday, and continued improvement in his health. We hope that, one of these days, he can see his way to returning to Kingsholm. Come back when you can, John. We can't afford to lose a man of your knowledge and experience.



DON'T BLAME LUDO

It would be easy to point the finger at Ludovic Mercier for his six missed kicks in the game at London Irish, but let's not put more pressure on the poor bloke by blaming him for the loss of a game which we might easily have won, and damn nearly did in a frenetic second half.

Let's face it, he's missed precious few pots at goal, from the tee or in hand, since he arrived at Kingsholm, and has given us more pleasure this season than just about anyone else.

Everyone has had an off day at some point, and perhaps Ludo has now got his out of his system for this campaign. All kickers have suffered this way from time to time: Jonny Wilkinson was less than perfect in Australia, for example. Jenkins went right off the boil for his club, for Wales and for the Lions.

I always think that the chap

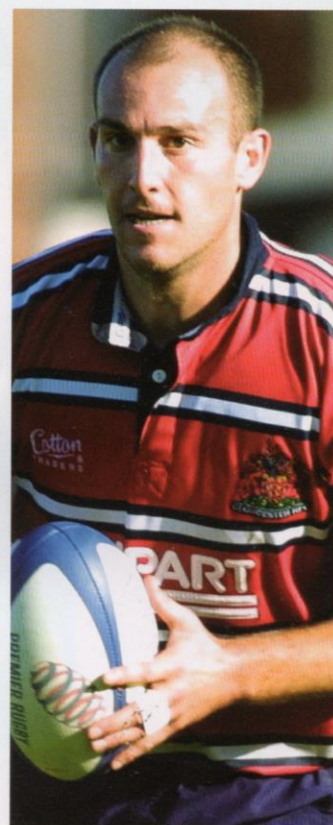
taking the kick is the only player who has the undivided attention of the whole ground in any phase of a rugby match. Absolutely no one is looking at anyone else. How many of us could be confident of standing up to that sort of pressure, week after week? Our best reaction should be "Bad luck, Ludo. Better luck next time!"

While on the subject of recent results, it would be hard to overestimate the quality of the win over Harlequins. There we were, 14-7 up at half time, but refereed down to 14 men. It would have been a considerable achievement to hang on for a

win of any sort, under the circumstances, but to be able to score 19 points without reply is an epic feat.

Remember, Quins had Messrs Luger, Greenwood and Mapletoft in their back division, and most people would have expected at least one of those three to be able to break a defence which was one man short. But they didn't.

Our most recent couple of Premiership games has typified the twist and turns of what is turning out to be a fascinating season.



THE LATE HENRY PAUL

Well, haven't you ever turned up late for work after a hefty night or two of celebration?

I know I have, and I wasn't travelling all the way from Bradford at the time. We've got four years, all being well, to enjoy the skills of Henry Paul, so let's allow him the odd couple of hours right now. Just so long as he doesn't make a habit of it. Don't know about you, but I can't remember all that many 'Henrys' playing for Gloucester. The occasional 'Harry' or even 'Hal' perhaps, but not many 'Henrys'. In fact, just about the only one I do remember is Henry Wells,

a rangy, forthright lock forward playing at about the same time as George Hastings and company. I once heard one supporter commenting about Henry, "That bloke would run through a brick wall!" Another player happened to be in the group. "Ar!" he said, "that's because he's as blind as a bat without his glasses, and can't see the bloody wall before it sits on him!"

Prophet hath no honourâ•œ



Gloucester Cracking the code

"The first test went to the Nothern Union, 23-5. Jack Robinson a Stroud man who played for the Rochdale Hornets scored a try and two goals to secure the victory and ensure his selection for the second test."

The long awaited arrival of Henry Paul last week was not the first time that the Gloucester club has been linked with the sport of rugby league.

There have been many reports of Gloucester breaking the code as Union was poaching the sports best players. However, a century ago former Union players and Gloucester players in particular did much for the rival code.

The following account is a factual piece about a trio of not so well known Gloucester players who headed north a

century ago to try their hand at professional rugby and found sporting fame.

This piece was first run in the club's 125th anniversary match day programme on September 20, 1998 when West Hartlepool visited Kingsholm. But due to recent events it seemed appropriate to run it again.

It was a battle against impossible odds, and the Gloucestershire boys were there. January 22nd 1879: the Battle of Rourke's Drift. A battle immortalised by the film Zulu where 130 British troops battled against 4000 Zulus at a remote missionary station.

In battle were: Sergeant George Mabin from Bristol, Private Alfred Hook VC, from Birdwood and Private James Jenkins born in Littledean.

July 4th 1914, Sydney Cricket Ground: Enshrined in Rugby League history as the Rourke's Drift Test Match, yet again the British boys were asked to triumph in the face of impossible odds and the boys from Gloucester were there again.

Alf Wood, Billy Hall, and Dave Holland, three former Cherry and Whites represented the Northern Union Tourists (not called Great Britain in those days), on the tour to Australia

and played their part in what is widely considered to be the greatest international Rugby League game ever played.

It was not just the result that made this test match stand out in league folklore but more in the way it was achieved. The tourists endured the sort of schedule that will have made the recent Lions trip seem like a walk in the park.

The tourists had been scheduled to play the first test at the Agricultural Grounds in Sydney on June 20th. For an unknown reason this game was pushed back a week until the 27th. The second test was already scheduled for the 29th so they had to play two games in three days. The third and final test was then set for the 4th July, which did not please the British. The Australians had all their domestic players to choose from, whilst the British were decreasing in numbers.

The first test went to the Nothern Union, 23-5. Jack Robinson a Stroud man who played for the Rochdale Hornets scored a try and two goals to secure the victory and ensure his selection for the second test.

Fifty-five thousand people watched the second test, the first ever at the Sydney Cricket Ground, and saw Australia win



odes

by 12-7 against 10 men. Jack Robinson had departed with a broken jaw and no substitutes were allowed in those days.

The depleted and demoralised squad then spent five days in Sydney waiting for a game they didn't want. Eight men were unavailable and the team had only five days to regroup and prepare.

Telegrams were passed to and fro between Australia and England until finally the tourists were told; "play the match as the Australians desire" stop, "England expects that every man will do his duty", stop "If you lose, lose like Britons" stop.

On receiving this cable, John Clifford, the British team manager told his team in the pre-match meeting "You are playing in a game of football this afternoon, but more than that you are playing for Britain and even more than that, you are playing right versus wrong".

Harold Wagstaff, the British Captain later recalled, "The men in my team were moved. You could see our fellows clenching their fists as Mr Clifford spoke. I was impressed and thrilled like never before or since by a single speech".

According to the Australian press, "Thirteen teeth-gritting, unsmiling men walked out onto the pitch, they are going to play like demons today, there is a grim set, determination all over them".

Within minutes of the kick off,

Frank Williams sustained a knee injury, although he tried to play on he had to head for the dressing room. Albert Johnson came out of the pack as a makeshift winger. Twelve v thirteen.

Dougie Clark then fractured his thumb. He had it strapped and continued to play until he fell awkwardly and broke his collarbone. He returned to help his team mates but was later withdrawn. Eleven v thirteen.

As the game continued, Alf Wood, deputising for Jack Robinson kicked two penalties to add to an Arfon Davies try to give the tourists a half time lead nine points to nil.

The second half was to be a war of attrition for the eleven remaining fit Brits. The pressure was eased as Johnson dribbled over the line and Wood added the extras.

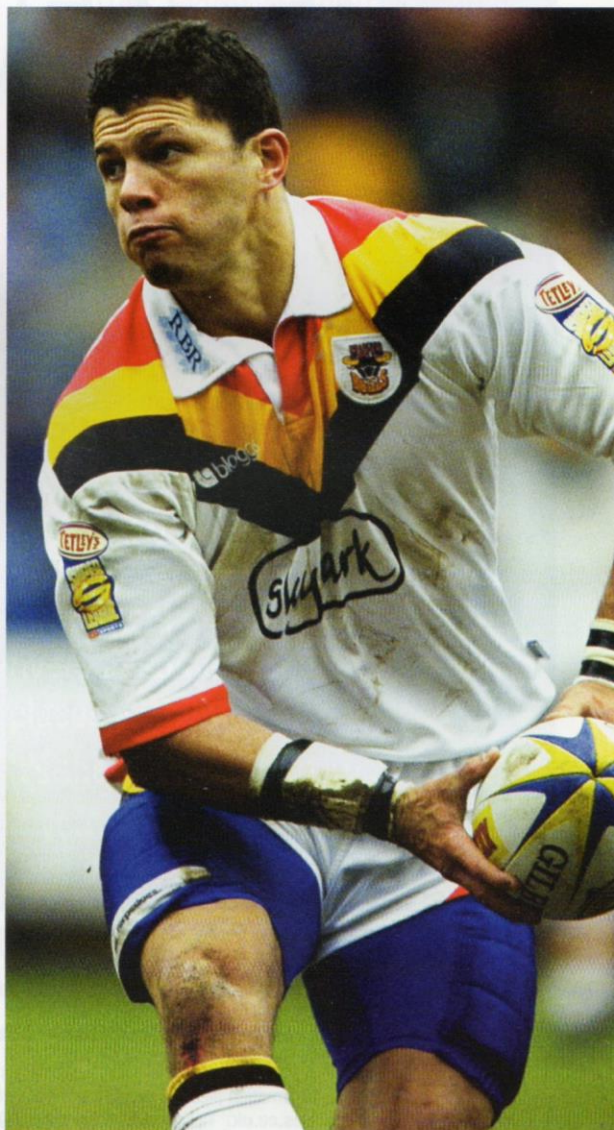
At fourteen-nil, it was then all about tackling and that is what they did. Dave Holland was in the thick of the action saving his line. Two tries to the home team made the score 14-6 and then Bill Hall had to leave the field with concussion ten minutes from the end. Ten Men versus thirteen.

The tackling became even more ferocious and Stuart Prosser was winded for a short time, reducing the tourists to nine. The British lads however, held on for the famous victory 14-6.

The mild mannered, Australian

press reported "Never before in a football match was such defence seen.... The tourists hurled themselves with tigerish determination at the man coming head on and sent him crashing back".

This story highlights what Gloucester rugby players did for the sport of Rugby League. By producing Henry Paul it remains to be seen just how much Rugby League has done for Gloucester.



Gloucester

VS

Caerphilly

<input type="checkbox"/>	Jon Goodridge	<input type="checkbox"/>	Justin Thomas	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	James Simpson-Daniel	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rory Greenslade-Jones	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Henry Paul	<input type="checkbox"/>	Holo Taufahema	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Terry Fanolua	<input type="checkbox"/>	David Hawkins (Capt.)	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Daren O'Leary	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ken Morris	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Andy Gomarsall	<input type="checkbox"/>	Luke Richards	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Clive Stuart-Smith	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sione Tuipuloyu	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Trevor Woodman	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mathew Bolton	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Olivier Azam	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dean Colclough	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Patrice Collazo	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tim Marston	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mark Cornwell	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mark Workman	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ed Pearce	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nathan Jones	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Koli Sewabu	<input type="checkbox"/>	Darren Davies	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	James Forrester	<input type="checkbox"/>	Gareth Jones	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Jake Boer C	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ben Watkins	<input type="checkbox"/>

[replacements]

<input type="checkbox"/>	TBA	<input type="checkbox"/>	Alan Chiltern	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	TBA	<input type="checkbox"/>	Geraint Lewis	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	TBA	<input type="checkbox"/>	Andrew Williams	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	TBA	<input type="checkbox"/>	Neil Watkins	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	TBA	<input type="checkbox"/>	Craig Fitzpatrick	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	TBA	<input type="checkbox"/>	Justin Hughes	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	Graham Thomas	<input type="checkbox"/>

[teams correct at 26/09/01]

i [denotes international]

c [denotes captain]

[today's officials]

[referee] Dartigeas FFR

[touch judges] Berdos FFR, Bellet FFR