



THE PRIDE THE PASSION THE HONOUR THE HISTORY

GLOUCESTER RUGBY

OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

ONLY £3

REGULARS

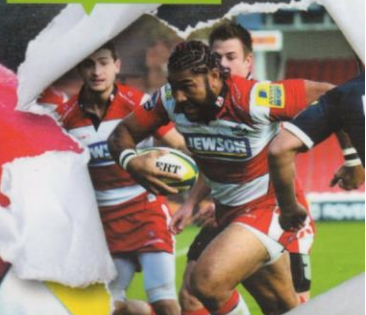
KINGSHOLM NEWS
WITH BOB FENTON


DAVE KING'S
WORLD OF
RUGBY



DreamTeam

MATCH ACTION



VS
SALE SHARKS
ON P68

BIG WILL TAKES A GRILLING



AVIVA PREMIERSHIP RUGBY
vs. SARACENS
29 OCTOBER 2011, KO 5.45PM

JEWSON CELEBRATING 175 YEARS

Main Club Sponsor



Captain's CORNER



"We've also seen Tins and Eli back in full training this week so Brush has got some real thinking to do this week in terms of his team selection and I don't envy him that!"

WELL, if we thought the first few weeks of the season had been tough, it's going to go up a notch this evening when Saracens come to town.

They're the reigning Aviva Premiership champions for one simple reason, and that is because they were the best team over the full duration of the season.

We pushed them so hard in the semi final at Vicarage Road and it still hurts that we only lost to a late penalty having taken the lead with Nicky Robinson's try under the posts.

And they've started this season in the same fashion. They may not have captured the headlines as much as some of the other teams but they've still worked their way to a won five and lost one record which isn't to be sniffed at.

In fact, after they lost narrowly to Wasps in the Twickenham double header on the opening weekend of the season, they've bounced back in style.

What's interesting is that, in an

era when it's quite tricky to win on the road, they've gone to The Rec, Welford Road and Sandy Park and come home with the points. That's quite a trio of scalps.

They know what it takes to win away from home. They're not afraid to grind out a result and that's what is going to make them such a tough opponent this evening.

For our part, we love nothing better than playing here at Kingsholm. We've got a proud record to defend so it's going to be quite some tussle.

There's been a good vibe around the training ground over the past couple of weeks as we've seen the welcome return of the boys who were away at Rugby World Cup.

I'm certainly not taking anything away from any of the players who pulled on the Cherry and White over the first few weeks, but being able to call upon seven international class players is a real boost.

I think you could see the difference, for example, that the

Scots boys made when they came off the bench a fortnight ago when we played here against Sale Sharks.

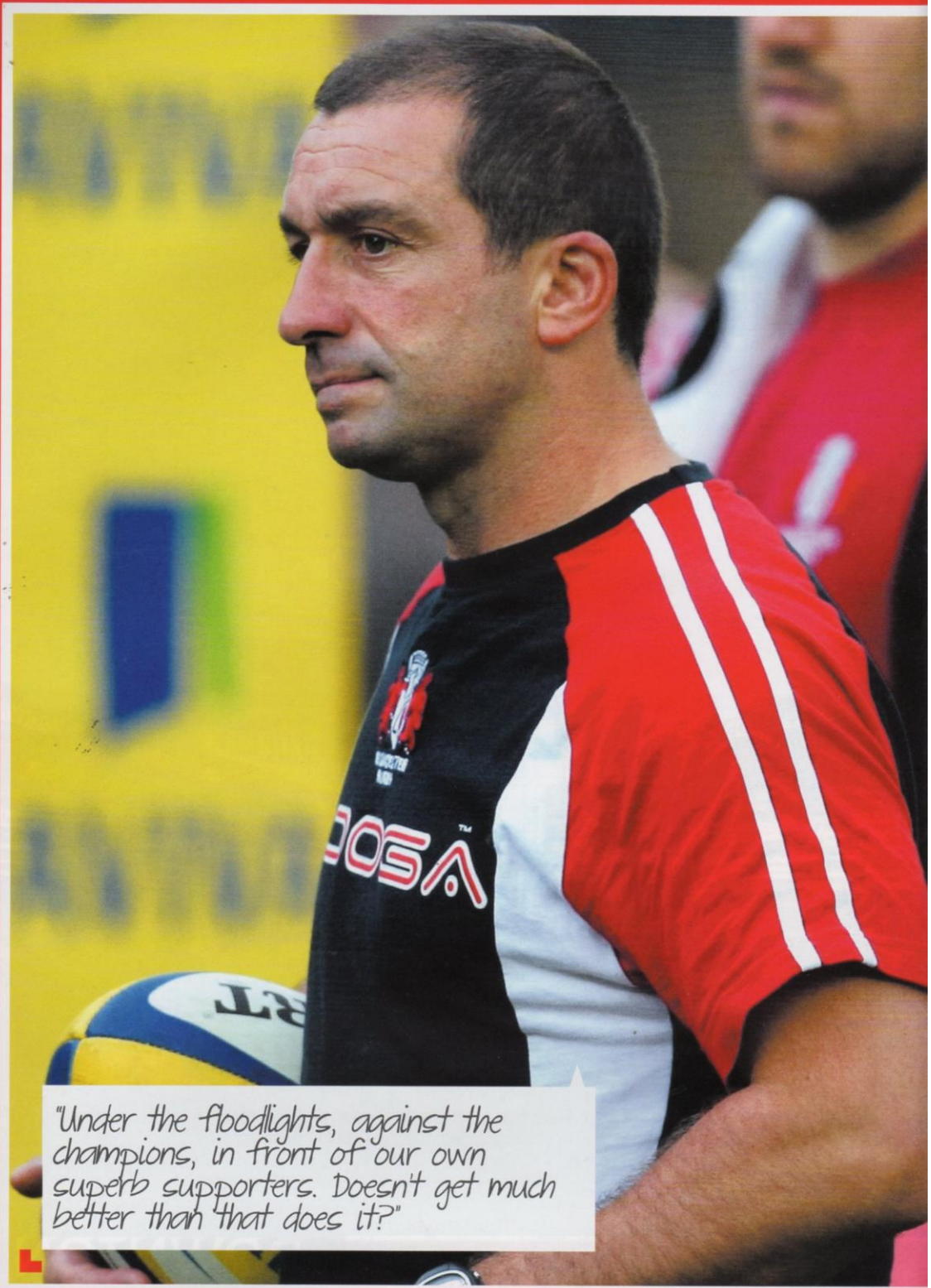
That game was still very much in the melting pot with an hour gone but the skill, experience and know-how that those boys brought to the table when they entered the fray really shone through and helped us to ease to a good win.

We saw more of the same last Friday when Q (Akapusi Qera) made his first start of the season. It may not have been our night at Welford Road but he was all over the place showing the dynamism in attack and defence that makes him such a great asset to any team.

We've also seen Tins and Eli back in full training this week so Brush has got some real thinking to do this week in terms of his team selection and I don't envy him that!

Rest assured though, whoever is selected will be busting a gut to get the job done for Gloucester this evening.

Enjoy the game!



"Under the floodlights, against the champions, in front of our own superb supporters. Doesn't get much better than that does it?"

Coach's NOTES

with Head Coach, BRYAN REDPATH

ON BEHALF OF EVERYONE AT GLOUCESTER RUGBY, I'D LIKE TO WISH THE PLAYERS, SUPPORTERS AND STAFF OF SARACENS OF VERY WARM WELCOME TO KINGSHOLM THIS AFTERNOON.

We're now entering a fascinating stage of the season. Some would say it's when the Aviva Premiership really kicks off given the number of players who have been away at the World Cup.

However, I think that would be to downplay the efforts of all the players who have been on duty during the first few weeks of the season.

The Aviva Premiership has still seen some great rugby played in that time and a number of previously unheralded players have taken their opportunity and made the most of the chance of some first team rugby.

The World Cup itself has certainly aroused comment from all walks of life. Some feel that it's the best tournament to date while others feel that it didn't live up to expectations.

What I do know is that I was fortunate enough to play in three Rugby World Cups and those tournaments were the highlight of my playing career. And, speaking to some of the boys who returned last week, they wouldn't have missed it for the world (pardon the pun!)

With the benefit of a few days of reflection, I think the right team won and not just because New Zealand were the home side!

Although the final itself was incredibly close and one kick could have seen the Webb Ellis trophy heading for France, over the course of the tournament, the All Blacks were comfortably the best team.

Fair play to France. They managed to overcome two defeats in the

tournament and still make the final. They didn't play the rugby we know they're capable of but still won games. That's the mark of a good team, one that can win without being at its best.

New Zealand winning though was the correct result. They are the best team in the world and managed to win despite the huge weight of expectation that would have been on their shoulders. Well done to them!

For my part, I'm glad to be able to call upon our players who are back with us – who wouldn't be happy to get seven international players back in the squad!

We knew before the season started that we would have a tough few weeks without them.

We needed players to rise to the challenge of playing week in and week out in the Premiership when they hadn't necessarily done so before.

We also needed to have a fairly kind run with injuries and that unfortunately didn't happen. We've been missing the likes of Alex Brown, Andy Hazell, Tim Molenaar, Luke Narraway and James Simpson-Daniel for fairly lengthy periods.

The squad has been stretched but, overall, they've coped superbly and, if things had gone slightly differently at Northampton and Sale, we could have been looking at a won five and lost one record – I wouldn't have complained at that!

That's all behind us now and there's no point about wondering about what might have been. It's all

about looking forward from here on in as we've got a tough run of fixtures lying ahead of us.

And that all starts this evening with the visit of Saracens this evening for what promises to be a massive encounter under the lights here at Kingsholm.

Over the course of the Premiership season in 2010-11, they proved themselves to be the most difficult team to overcome and that's why they were rightly crowned champions.

Yet, we managed to go toe to toe with them. We squared off four times, twice at Kingsholm and twice at Vicarage Road with the home team winning on each occasion culminating in that 12-10 semi final defeat.

This season they've picked up where they left off. They've won five out of their six games in the Premiership to date and what's most impressive is their form on the road where they've managed to win at Bath, Leicester and Exeter. Coming here won't hold any fears for them.

So, we know exactly what lies ahead of us this evening and what needs to be done. We'll fully respect Saracens but need to focus on ourselves, do what we need to do and perform the way we know we can.

Under the floodlights, against the champions, in front of our own superb supporters. Doesn't get much better than that does it?

Enjoy the game.

View from
The Citizen



WITH NICK PUREWAL

SOLID PLATFORM REQUIRED

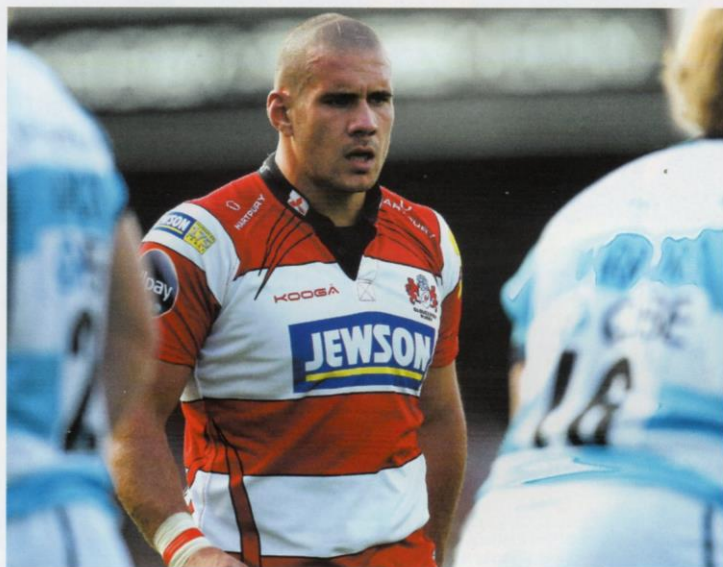
“ THAT STINGS A LOT AS A FRONT-ROWER WHEN YOU GO THERE AND YOU GET SENT WALKING BACKWARDS... ”

HESITANT Gloucester must smash straight into attack mode in the scrumage against Saracens, calls frustrated Dan Murphy.

The 25-year-old loosehead admitted Gloucester deserved their set-piece shaming at Welford Road last Friday night – because they failed to fire straight from the off.

The Cherry and Whites slumped to 40-14 LV=Cup defeat at Leicester, principally thanks to a total scrumage shortfall.

Bulldozed backwards at a rate of knots in a number of scrums, Murphy and co could not withstand the intense Tigers pressure. And the former London Irish man said nothing smarts for a front-rower like



a knockout blow at scrum time.

Friday's demolition was the first time this term that Gloucester have not been in charge in the scrumage. And Murphy said they must resume expected service when

they host powerful Saracens at Kingsholm tonight.

Admitting there was no excuse for the Leicester lethargy, Murphy said Gloucester went to Welford Road to prove their power, and were quickly disabused of any such notion.

He explained: "Maybe we felt our way into it a little which we shouldn't have, we should have attacked straight away.

"That stings a lot as a front-rower when you go there and you get sent walking backwards like that, it stings a lot. You learn from your mistakes

plan, it was just one of those things, I think we adjusted better into the end of the first half and beginning of the second-half. We will bounce back, definitely.

"You can't really excuse it, because to be the best you've got to test yourself against the best, and you go there and play Leicester, who've obviously got a good scrum with all their internationals back, and go there to Welford Road to prove yourself to be the best, and you've got to beat the best.

"And last weekend we didn't, we

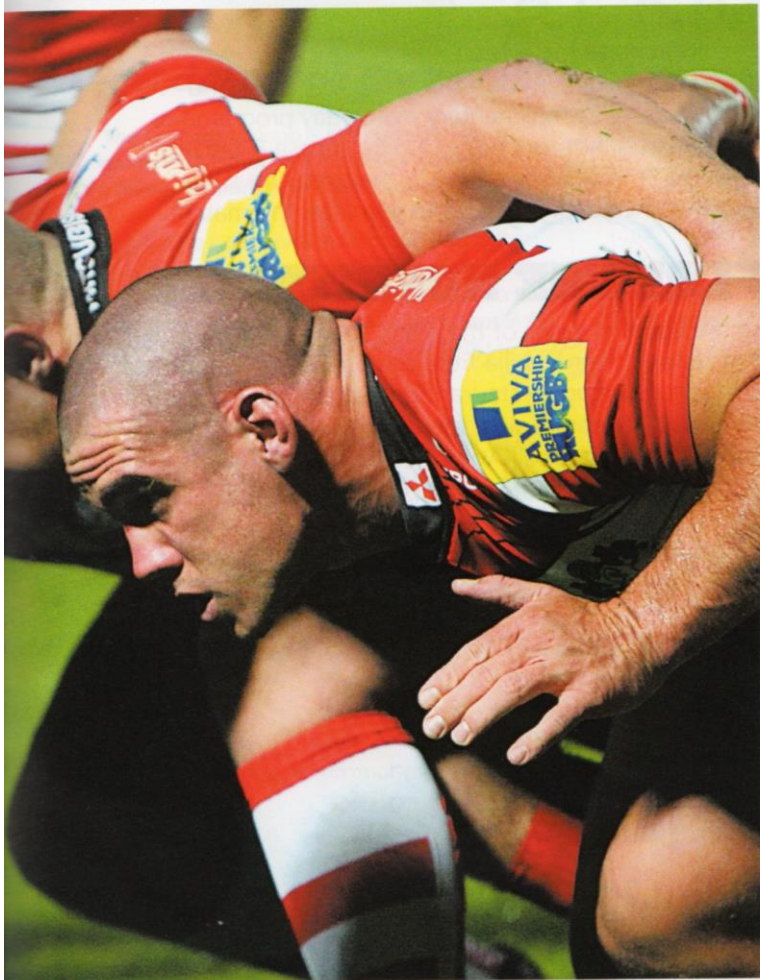
the padding around the post, and Murphy stole over.

That score came against the run of play, despite Gloucester starting solidly in terms of exploiting field position.

Leicester quickly made the most of their tight dominance though, and ultimately secured the four try bonus point win without too much trouble.

Murphy pledged Gloucester will do everything in their power to right those scrummaging wrongs this week.

He continued: "At the time I



**“...TO
BE THE
BEST
YOU’VE
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TEST
YOURSELF
AGAINST
THE BEST...”**

scored, it put us 7-6 up with the conversion and we were going strong, but the set piece really let us down. So there wasn't long that we could be pleased with that try to be honest.

"It was just one of those things, we just needed to get some set-piece dominance, scrums as well as lineouts.

"We couldn't get any strong strike plays for the backs, because we didn't have any set-piece dominance.

"So it's really hard for the rest of our game if we don't have that, and we need to get that sorted for today.

"We've worked hard all week with Brainer and the pack, and we said at the end of the game that we've got to look at each other and ourselves as players to look at our problems with the game, and that's what we've tried to do."

and you come back stronger.

"I think we adapted a bit better towards the end of the first half, but that still doesn't excuse the start we had.

"We didn't go away from the

were easily second-best."

Murphy plundered an early try that actually put Gloucester into a slender first-half lead.

Akapusi Qera charged down Toby Flood, the loose ball rebounded off



@NandosGlos 2 Chickens, 2 Livers, chicken Pitta and some nuts. Oh yeah and a glass of milk. #bigmeat

Tweeted by:
@Mrgrills77 Will James



You Tube CLIP crossbar challenge



MR GRILLS

WILL JAMES

GR MATCHDAY PROGRAMME
EXCLUSIVE CONTENT

No-one can excuse Will James of slacking this season.

HE'S sometimes unheralded outside the confines of the Gloucester Rugby camp, the likes of Alex Brown and Jim Hamilton grabbing more headlines.

However, following the close season departure of Dave Attwood and the as expected absence of Jim Hamilton on World Cup duty, there was always going to be a large burden on James' shoulders in the early weeks of this campaign.

What no-one could have predicted, however, was the unfortunate shoulder injury to Brown meaning that the 34 year old James has had to step up to the plate and assume the role of senior pro in the Gloucester second row.

It's his sixth season at Kingsholm so he's well qualified to comment on how things are progressing so far in 2011-12.

"We set ourselves some goals at the beginning of the season and it's been a tough few weeks as it has been for everyone. There have been some good performances and some not so good performances."

"But we've got something to build on. We've got lads coming back into the mix which will help us but, overall, I'd say we've had a reasonably good start."

From a personal point of view, becoming almost a mentor to the likes of Tom Savage and David Lyons who have featured in the first team squad is a different role but one he's enjoyed so far.

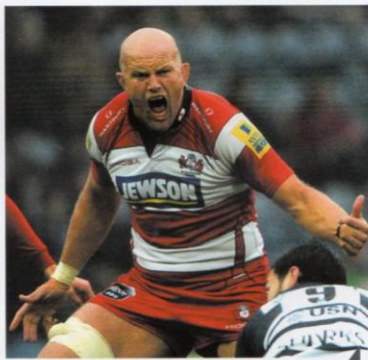
"It's been good, I've really enjoyed it. Having to call the line outs makes you think a lot more when you're out on the field."

"In terms of the younger players, Sav (Tom Savage) in particular has been fantastic. He's come in from playing last year with Hartpury and made a huge step up to playing Premiership rugby."

"Fair play to him, he's done really

well and taken his chance. He's definitely someone who is in the mix and putting his hand up for selection."

"I'm pleased to see him come on the way he has. I'm just trying to help him out and encourage him where necessary. But, for all the advice I can give him, he's the one



"...I've been thinking about what I do after I finish playing for a few years now although I want to keep on playing for as long as I can."

who still has to do the business on the pitch and he's done a good job."

James has played his part in some pretty good Gloucester packs over the past few years but this season's vintage, whilst perhaps lacking some of the big names of recent times, really seem to have stepped it up a gear. What does he put that down to?

"Well, we've worked really hard on our scrum in the latter part of

preseason and the first few weeks of the season and that's really paid dividends for us."

"We just work well as a group together but the test will come over the next few weeks when the teams we're going to be facing, like Leicester and Saracens, have a few of their more established forwards back."

By his own admission, he's one of the senior pros in the squad and, like a few of his contemporaries, is already starting to think about life after rugby although he's still got a lot of games in him just yet!

"Yes, I've been thinking about what I do after I finish playing for a few years now although I want to keep on playing for as long as I can."

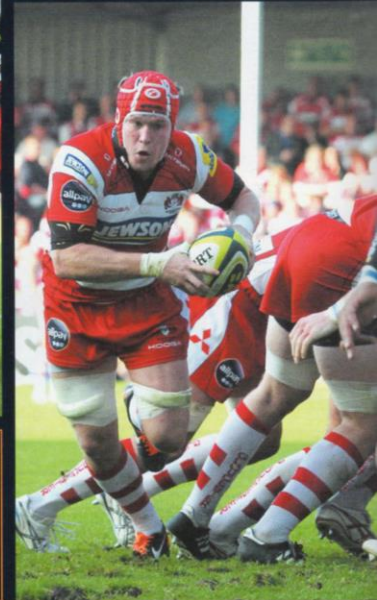
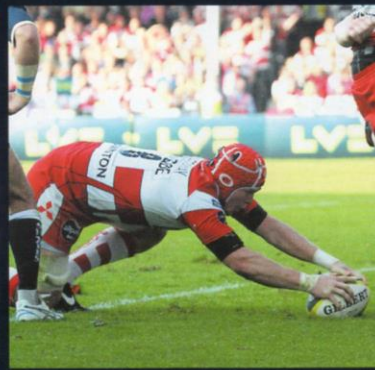
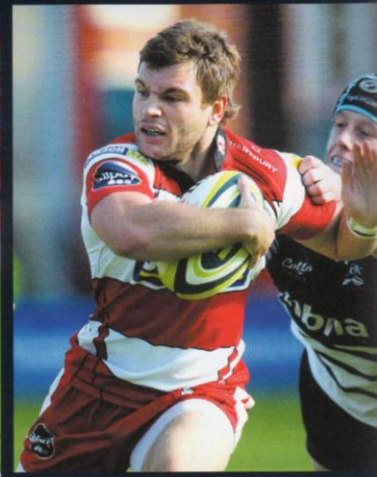
"I've done some coaching down at Yatton for a few years and I've also got a small property management business down in Bristol which my wife runs which is doing well."

"I've also just taken on the chairmanship of the RPA, taking over from David Barnes, which is a new challenge for me which will take up a bit more of my time although it won't impact upon my training I hasten to add!"

On the subject of Bristol, it's been well documented over the past couple of seasons that the second row trio of himself, Alex Brown and Dave Attwood had a car share on the go to minimise travelling costs. How are they coping now that Atts is at Bath?

(Laughs) "Well the good thing is that although Atts is now living in Bath, Yann Thomas also lives in Bristol so he's taken Dave's place and travels in with us."

"When he drives, we have to squeeze into the back of his Focus which is quite a sight but at least we're cost neutral compared to the last two seasons!"



GLOUCESTER RUGBY 58
SALE SHARKS 27

LV= Cup, Kingsholm, 15 October 2011, 15:00 KO

GLOUCESTER RUGBY

- TRIES** Vainikolo (0),
 May (29),
 Narraway (52),
 S Lawson (63),
 RGM Lawson (70),
 Sharples (75),
 Burns (79)
- CONS** Burns (1, 30, 64, 71, 76, 80),
 Taylor (53)
- PENS** Burns (15, 17, 58)

SALE SHARKS

- TRIES** Vernon (5),
 Higgins (21),
 Miller (43)
- CONS** Macleod (5, 21, 43)
- PENS** Macleod (11, 55)

AFTER the dour 13-11 slugfest served up by the same two teams only seven days earlier, Gloucester and Sale contributed to an 85 point thriller at Kingsholm in the opening round of the LV= Cup.

Bryan Redpath's side took the spoils, winning 58-27, but the Sharks can take heart from having more than played their part in a great spectacle.

In fact, with an hour played, this game was very much in the balance with both sides having scored 27 points.

Gloucester looked devastating in attack with sheer pace sending the Sale defence into panic mode at regular intervals.

However, the Stockport based

outfit were more than capable of creating chances themselves, running hard with ball in hand and offloading before the defence could re-organise itself.

Every time that Gloucester had looked set to pull away, Sale dragged themselves back into the game and even took the lead on a couple of occasions to hint at an unlikely win.

It was only in the final quarter that Gloucester's superiority up front really took its toll and a number of late tries made the winning margin a comfortable one as the Sale forwards wilted under the constant barrage.

Gloucester started off like a house on fire. Lesley Vainikolo scored after less than a minute and a second try immediately looked to be on the



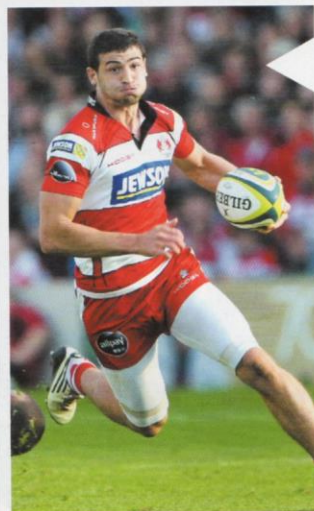
cards until Sale snaffled possession and promptly launched a length of the pitch move to level the scores.

Freddie Burns kept the scoreboard ticking over with a couple of penalties, Andrew Higgins scored for Sale and Jonny May added a spectacular solo try to earn Gloucester a narrow half time lead.

However, this was promptly wiped out when Rob Miller touched down for the Sharks but the Gloucester pack then took over.

A penalty try looked on the cards but referee Hennessy opted to sin bin Alasdair Dickinson instead. With a back making up the numbers in the Sale back row, the pushover try for Luke Narraway was a formality.

Both Lawsons then made the scoresheet, Scott from a catch and drive while Rory dotted down after Alasdair Strokosch charged down a kick before Sharples and Burns rounded off the scoring to ensure a smooth start to the LV= Cup defence.



CHAMPAGNE MOMENT

Without a doubt, Jonny May's 29th minute try. Receiving the ball on halfway, May accelerated smoothly around Andrew Higgins leaving the Sale centre for dead. He then swerved right and left, leaving would be tacklers grasping at thin air as he crossed the line for a superb solo score.

KEY QUOTE

"There were a lot of positives from it. We got the balance right between forward and backs. Played rugby in the right areas and up front we controlled the scrum area."

Bryan Redpath

GLOUCESTER RUGBY

- 15 FB Jonny May
- 14 W Charlie Sharples
- 13 C Henry Trinder
- 12 C Lesley Vainikolo
- 11 W James Simpson-Daniel
- 10 FH Freddie Burns
- 9 SH Dave Lewis
- 1 P Dan Murphy
- 2 H Matias Cortese
- 3 P Dario Chistolini
- 4 L Tom Savage
- 5 L Will James
- 6 F Brett Deacon
- 7 F Matt Cox
- 8 N8 Luke Narraway

REPLACEMENTS

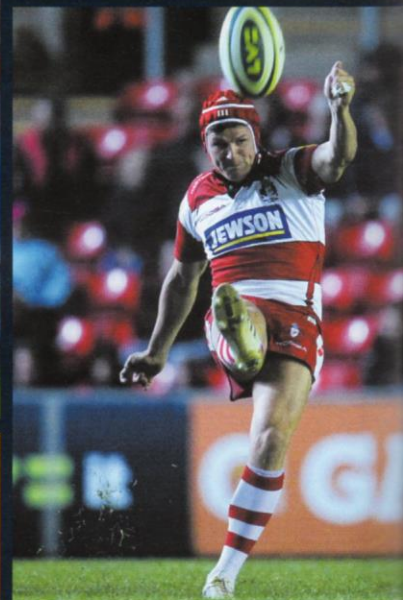
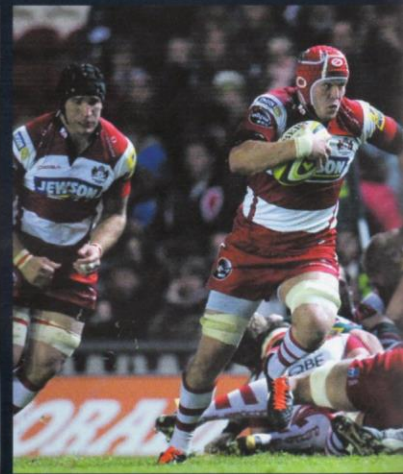
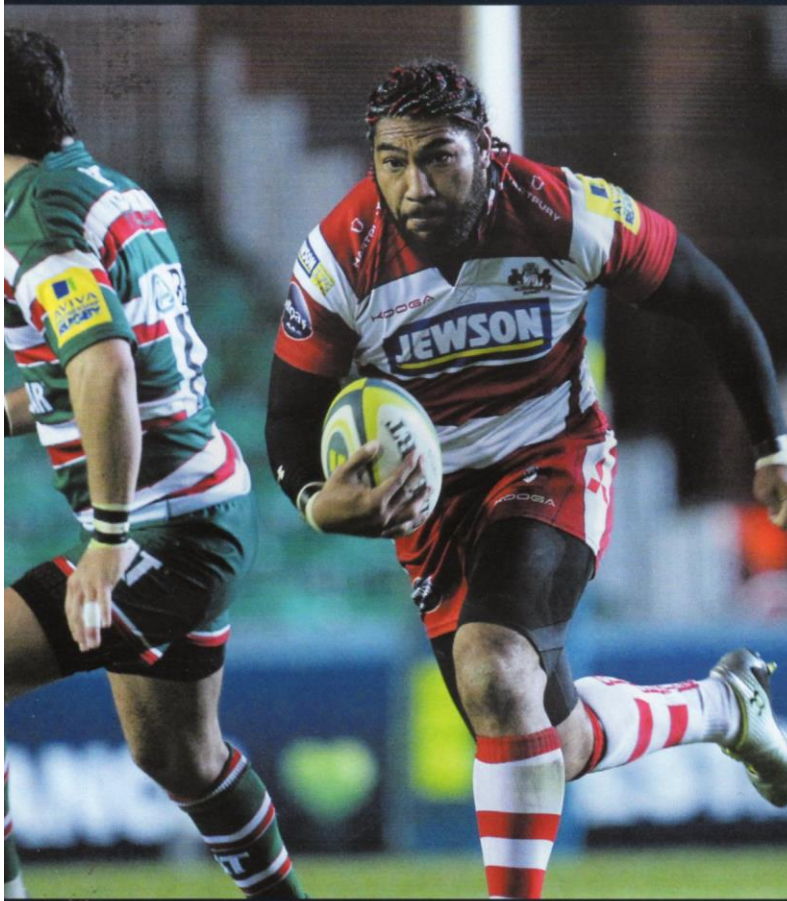
- 16 R Scott Lawson
- 17 R Yann Thomas
- 18 R Shaun Knight
- 19 R Jim Hamilton
- 20 R Alasdair Strokosch
- 21 R Rory Lawson
- 22 R Tim Taylor
- 23 R Tom Voyce

SALE SHARKS

- 15 FB Rob Miller
- 14 W Tom Brady
- 13 C Andrew Higgins
- 12 C Luther Burrell
- 11 W Charlie Amesbury
- 10 FH Nick Macleod
- 9 SH Scott Mathie
- 1 P Alasdair Dickinson
- 2 H Joe Ward
- 3 P Vadim Cobilas
- 4 L Fraser McKenzie
- 5 L James Gaskell
- 6 F Richie Vernon
- 7 F David Seymour
- 8 N8 Mark Easter

REPLACEMENTS

- 16 R Tommy Taylor
- 17 R Lee Imiolek
- 18 R Tony Buckley
- 19 Tom Holmes
- 20 R Kearnan Myall
- 21 R Will Cliff
- 22 R Johnny Leota
- 23 R Will Addison



LEICESTER TIGERS 40
GLOUCESTER RUGBY 14

LV= Cup, Welford Road, 21 October 2011, 19:45 KO

LEICESTER TIGERS

- TRIES** Cole (29),
EMS Tuilagi (40),
Youngs (42),
Agulla (77)
- CONS** Flood (31, 40, 43),
Ford (78)
- PENS** Flood (2, 16, 25, 26)

GLOUCESTER RUGBY

- TRIES** Murphy (19),
Vainikolo (59)
- CONS** Burns (19, 59)

A LEICESTER Tigers supporter on the Crumbe Terrace blew a whistle eerily reminiscent of an old fashioned steam train throughout this LV= Cup encounter and Gloucester could be forgiven at times for thinking they'd stepped into the path of an onrushing locomotive.

In the unfamiliar position of having won only one of their opening seven matches this season, the Tigers entered this game determined to get their season back on track.

Director of Rugby Richard Cockerill recalled nine internationals, and all of them looked dead set on putting on a performance worthy of the expectations of their supporters.

Gloucester were up for the fight and defended with real spirit at times. However, referee James Jones quickly spotted that the Tigers were getting on top in the set piece and the penalty count soon began to rise in favour of the home team.

This gave Toby Flood all the possession he needed to start pulling the strings at fly half although he had to settle for only two penalties in the opening exchanges.

Gloucester actually took a surprise 7-6 lead as Dan Murphy pounced upon two errors from the home side in their own 22 but this merely seemed to spur the Tigers into greater effort.

Flood soon added two more



penalties as the Gloucester scrum creaked and, eventually, the defence was breached as Dan Cole and Manu Tuilagi scored tries before half time.

Hooker Tom Youngs added the third just after half time and it seemed as though the bonus point try for the Tigers was just a matter of time.

However, Bryan Redpath's side dug deep and actually enjoyed their best spell of the game with Lesley Vainikolo's try on the hour reward

for their efforts.

A full blown comeback was never really on the cards but spirited defence seemed set to deny the Tigers the bonus point until the very last minute when the younger Tuilagi split the midfield defence and Horacio Agulla was on his shoulder to complete the scoring.

A tough night at the office for Gloucester but there are times when you simply have to tip your cap to an opposition who were better on the night.



CHAMPAGNE MOMENT

There wasn't much to cheer about on a tough night for Gloucester but Akapusi Qera soon reminded supporters of what they've been missing over the last few weeks as he sprinted out of the defensive line to flatten a would be attacker temporarily silencing the Welford Road crowd in the process.

KEY QUOTE

"They dominated proceedings. If you come here you have to get parity in the scrum and we have to accept we weren't good enough."

"We'll have Charlie Sharples, Mike Tindall, Eliota Sapolu and James Simpson-Daniel back in contention for next week. They'll provide us with a bit more zip."

Bryan Redpath

LEICESTER TIGERS

- 15 FB Geordan Murphy
- 14 W Horacio Agulla
- 13 C Matt Smith
- 12 C Manu Tuilagi
- 11 W Alésana Tuilagi
- 10 FH Toby Flood
- 9 SH Sam Harrison
- 1 P Marcos Ayerza
- 2 H Tom Youngs
- 3 P Dan Cole
- 4 L George Skivington
- 5 L Geoff Parling
- 6 F Tom Croft
- 7 F Julian Salvi
- 8 N8 Thomas Waldrom

REPLACEMENTS

- 16 R George Chuter
- 17 R Jonny Harris
- 18 R Ryan Bower
- 19 R Louis Deacon
- 20 R Ben Woods
- 21 R James Grindal
- 22 R Scott Hamilton
- 23 R George Ford

GLOUCESTER RUGBY

- 15 FB Olly Morgan
- 14 W Jonny May
- 13 C Henry Trinder
- 12 C Lesley Vainikolo
- 11 W Tom Voyce
- 10 FH Freddie Burns
- 9 SH Rory Lawson
- 1 P Dan Murphy
- 2 H Scott Lawson
- 3 P Rupert Harden
- 4 L Will James
- 5 L Jim Hamilton
- 6 F Alasdair Strokosch
- 7 F Akapusi Qera
- 8 N8 Luke Narraway

REPLACEMENTS

- 16 R Darren Dawidiuk
- 17 R Nick Wood
- 18 R Shaun Knight
- 19 R Tom Savage
- 20 R Peter Buxton
- 21 R Nick Runciman
- 22 Tim Taylor
- 23 R Brett Deacon

TODAY'S Line-UPS



**GLOUCESTER
RUGBY**



**SARACENS
SARACENS**

15	OLLY MORGAN	15	ALEX GOODE
14	CHARLIE SHARPLES	14	DAVID STRETTLE
13	HENRY TRINDER	13	OWEN FARRELL
12	ELIOTA FUIMAONO-SAPOLU	12	BRAD BARRITT
11	JONNY MAY	11	JAMES SHORT
10	FREDDIE BURNS	10	CHARLIE HODGSON
09	RORY LAWSON	09	NEIL DE KOCK
01	NICK WOOD	01	RHYS GILL
02	DARREN DAWIDIUK	02	SCHALK BRITS
03	RUPERT HARDEN	03	CARLOS NIETO
04	WILL JAMES	04	STEVE BORTHWICK (C)
05	JIM HAMILTON	05	MOURITZ BOTHA
06	ALASDAIR STROKOSCH	06	KELLY BROWN
07	AKAPUSI QERA	07	ANDY SAULL
08	LUKE NARRAWAY (C)	08	ERNST JOUBERT
16	SCOTT LAWSON	16	JAMIE GEORGE
17	DAN MURPHY	17	DEON CARSTENS
18	DARIO CHISOLINI	18	MAKO VUNIPOLA
19	TOM SAVAGE	19	HAYDEN SMITH
20	PETER BUXTON	20	JUSTIN MELCK
21	DAVE LEWIS	21	BEN SPENCER
22	TIM TAYLOR	22	ADAM POWELL
23	MIKE TINDALL	23	JOE MADDOCK

Teams were correct at time of print

THE OFFICIALS

REFEREE: Tim Wigglesworth
ASST REFS: Andrew Pearce and Andrew Watson

TOP SCORERS 2011/12



105 TOM HOMER

86 Nick Evans

72 Nick Macleod

61 Billy Twelvetrees

59 Jimmy Gopperth

58 Ignacio Mieres



WHAT ARE THESE ALL ABOUT?

A **QR code** is a specific barcode that is readable by smartphones and links to a specific webpage. There are a variety of FREE apps online for you to download to your smartphone so that you can start using the QR codes straight away.



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