

THE PRIDE THE PASSION THE HONOUR THE HISTORY

GLOUCESTER RUGBY



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Vs. NORTHAMPTON SAINTS
Vs. LONDON IRISH

Tom Savage

SAVAGE CONDITIONS

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW INSIDE

Vs. LONDON WASPS
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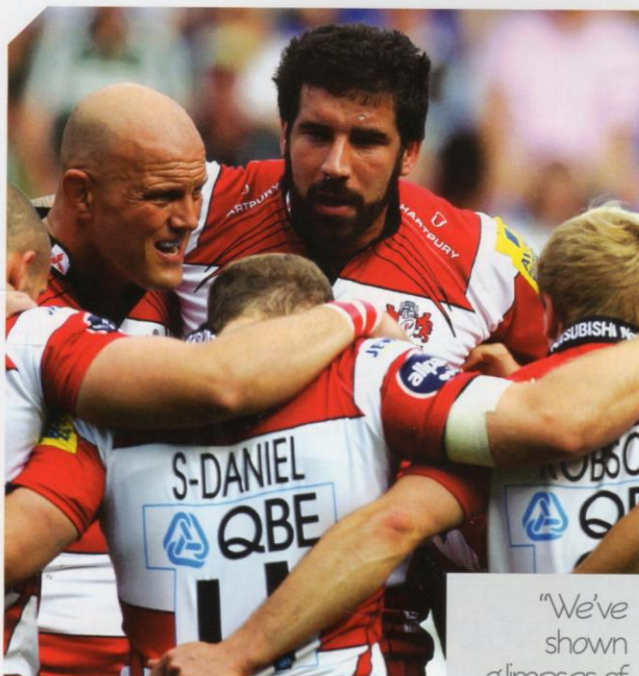
GILBERT

GILBERT

HILTON HHONORS

CAPTAIN'S *Corner*

Jim Hamilton



AFTER a couple of weeks on the road in the Aviva Premiership, it's great to be back at Kingsholm this afternoon for the visit of London Wasps.

We've had a couple of really tough away fixtures and, upon first glance, six points from those two fixtures isn't a bad return from what turned out to be two vastly differing types of game.

London Irish at the Madesjki was breathless. It was incredibly hot down there on the pitch on the day and the game seemed to be played at 90 miles an hour throughout!

It was my first game since the end of last season and I know I really felt it. You hear about it all the time but, for the all the work you put in during preseason, nothing compares to playing in competitive matches and I was delighted to get through the 80 minutes.

"We've shown glimpses of what we're capable of so far but we need to produce it more regularly."

Momentum swung one way to the other in that game and we had to dig deep and show massive self belief to get through it and come away with the points. We may not have been at our best but it was a big set forward for us.

The same could apply to last week at Sixways to be honest. Again, we didn't perform as we know we can but we showed resilience in adversity to come away with a draw from a game that looked as though it had slipped away from us.

Nigel (Davies) spoke during the week before Worcester that he expected a dog fight at Sixways but knew that we would be up for that fight as a team.

What Nigel is referring to there is the spirit that currently exists within this squad of players. I can honestly say that it's as good as I've known it here at Gloucester and every player is willing to put his body on the line.

Look at the cover tackling from the likes of Jonny May and James Simpson-Daniel to keep our line intact in the first half. They were huge moments. Effort like that when you don't have the ball can be worth seven points.

We'll definitely need more of that commitment this afternoon. We've enjoyed some ding dong battles with London Wasps in the past and they'll be coming here today full of confidence following their win over London Irish last weekend.

Last season was a total blip for Wasps. They had so many players missing through injury, I think something like four players actually retired from playing because of injury.

They've had the summer to regroup and have made some good signings. They've worked under Dai Young for a year now and look to be heading in the right direction.

What we have to focus on though is ourselves. We've shown glimpses of what we're capable of so far but we need to produce it more regularly.

We're all looking forward to playing here again in front of our magnificent supporters and hope we can give you something to shout about.

Enjoy the game!



"Today's game
will certainly have
a certain Welsh flavor
to it with Dai Young as
Director of Rugby for Wasps
- someone I know well and
have locked horns with on several
occasions in the Celtic league."

COACH'S *Notes*

Director of Rugby, Nigel Davies

A WARM welcome to all here today from the Gloucester Rugby team and we sincerely hope that you have an enjoyable day at Kingsholm and we will be working hard to ensure we perform to our utmost on the field.

It's great to be back home now in front of our supportive home crowd after two difficult away games.

We have picked up six points from games where we had only secured one at this point last season and, although this may be progress, we are not satisfied with how we performed in the away fixtures.

We now expect more from ourselves – and want to move forward today as we concentrate on the new systems and rugby

training regime – they are skills and techniques within the game that should be fully appreciated as they have far more of an effect on the outcome of games than other areas.

It is one of the biggest changes in the game since I last played (1998) and the contact area has now emerged as a martial art in its own right.

There is no-one who wants to play attractive, open and accurate rugby more than me, and we will strive to be the best in this area with real ambition and play with no fear but this freedom will be defined by control of the darker arts!

It's been good to get three competitive games under our belts in order to see how the players and the new structures operate under real pressure and, as a result, we are looking to build on these performances.

Today's game will certainly have a certain Welsh flavor to it with Dai Young as Director of Rugby for Wasps – someone I know well and have locked horns with on several occasions in the Celtic league.

And, of course, there's the former career Scarlet, Stephen Jones, who I have worked with since he became a professional player.

And, of course, Nicky Robinson who all the Gloucester supporters will know well along with Rhys Thomas and Lee Thomas.

So, I'd like to extend a big welcome to Wasps and their Welsh contingent after what was a great result for them last week against Irish, and they will be looking to build momentum. They will want a result today, just like ourselves.

Finally on a very sad note, I am sure you all, like me, would like to offer our sincere condolences to the Spence family after the tragic accident last weekend.

There are no words that can truly convey the sadness of their loss, but our thoughts are with them and with Ulster Rugby as we pay our respects through a minute's silence before today's game – something which puts all we do into real perspective.

Nigel



Nigel and the rest of the coaching staff enjoyed the determination showed by the players in the recent game against London Irish

philosophy we put in place in the off-season.

After the game at Sixways, I was interviewed by a certain TV commentator who criticised the quality of play in the game.

When I asked him to expand on this, he spoke about the quality of passing, catching, running lines and the execution of skills. And, in general I would have to agree.

However, rugby union is a complex and technical game today. Central to our game are the contact area and set piece play, which are both hugely influential on the outcome of games.

They are a major focal point within any team



NEVER SAY DIE ATTITUDE

Nick Purewal's

View from **The Citizen**



**“Last-ditch tackles are as valuable as tries,
and our determination is fantastic...”**

Try saving tackles are priceless in Nigel Davies' reckoning.

But the Gloucester boss is already sick of impressive last-ditch challenges atoning for shoddy first-phase defence.

The Cherry and Whites are adapting to a

elements of that were always likely to take time to bed in.

The desire and determination is clear for all to see when Gloucester men track back and haul down try-bound opponents, denying them scores.

Jonny May has made two such tackles in as many weeks, and James Simpson-Daniel contributed with a similarly desperate cover action against Worcester too.

Throw in Henry Trinder's smart interception after Simpson-Daniel's crucial challenge, and it is clear Gloucester's players do not lack intensity or work rate.

Davies thinks it is all a matter of communication and timing, and if his men can solve those issues then the Cherry and Whites will be back on track on the rearguard front.

“We've got to be stronger in our first-up defence and our organisation,” he explained. “There's no doubt that we need to build better understanding collectively of what we're doing there.

“Part of that comes with time, and part of that we've been examining this week.

“We've made a reasonable start in some respects, but without that defensive strength then you will always put yourselves under pressure.

“Last-ditch tackles are as valuable as tries, and our determination is fantastic.

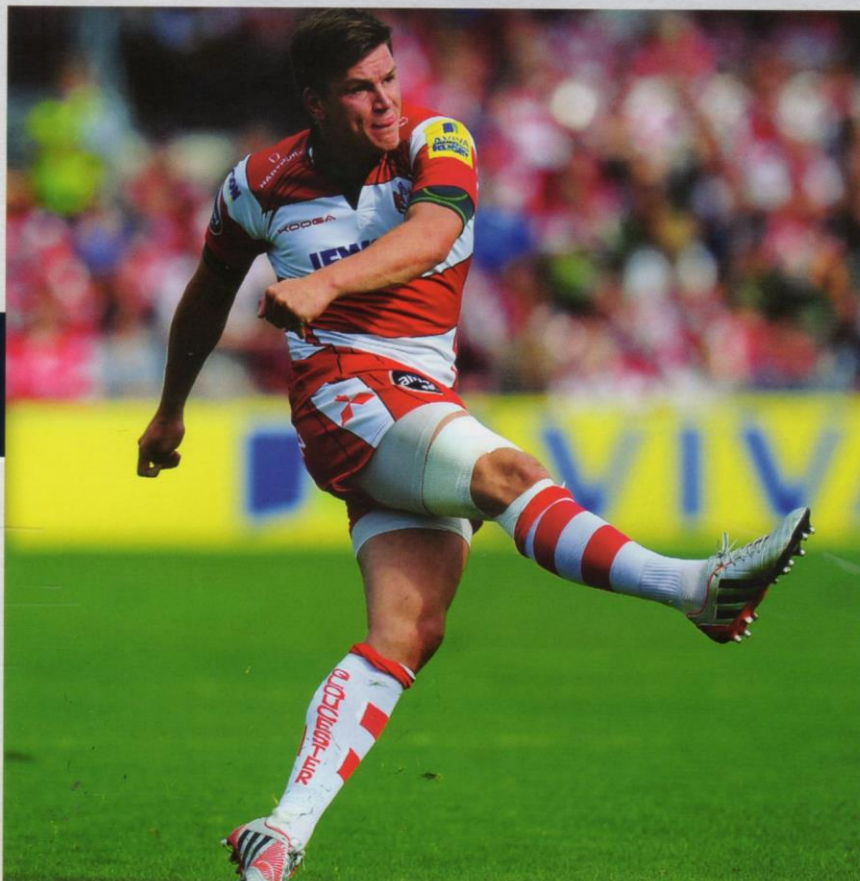
“That's not in doubt and is definitely



new defensive set-up under specialist coach Paul Moriarty.

Gloucester have been adjusting to an entirely new set up all summer though, so

■ Defence drills during pre-season



Freddie Burns

worthy of praise, but now we've got to build on that and tighten up."

Gloucester's 16-16 draw at Worcester last week at least preserved the Cherry and Whites' unbeaten status away from Kingsholm.

Today's Wasps clash offers the opportunity to get off the mark at home after slipping up 24-19 against Northampton on the season's opening day.

Davies believes Gloucester cannot command victories without controlling contests in all aspects, but he is not about to panic three games into his tenure.

With one defeat, one win and one draw to date, the Kingsholm men are yet to produce a fully-rounded performance – but Davies is confident things are moving in the right direction.

He continued: "To come away and get a draw at this stage is not bad. We're unbeaten away which is not bad, but we've still got to get better.

"At least we have that, but it's not enough and we need to keep pushing on. We've got

this is

Gloucestershire

- Family vow to live up to brave Rachel's 'bucket list' wishes
- Pats have nobody to blame but themselves
- Gloucestershire badger cull 'not scientific'
- Gloucester children's beauty pageant 'fun not sinister'



to get greater defensive understanding in there to be honest. We need to step up, and the players know that."

"But from every performance we have the opportunity to move forward, and that's what we've tried to do again this week."

Hailing Freddie Burns' improved goal-kicking ratios after his last-gasp penalty that salvaged Saturday's draw, Davies also praised wing Shane Monahan for an industrious and productive full Premiership debut.

Davies continued: "Freddie was great, and that was a really decent kick at the end on Saturday.

"He showed a lot of composure to nail that. His stats last year were in the 60 per cent area, which is too low. But now he's turned that round and he's drawing and winning us games.

"Shane's gone very well for us, and he just brings a different dimension to us.

"It's all very well having a lot of players who are quick, but you've got to have someone who gels it together, and people like Shane can do that."

GLoucester Rugby HERITAGE

www.gloucester rugbyheritage.org.uk

THE PRIDE THE PASSION THE HONOUR THE HISTORY

HOW IT ALL STARTED

Founded in 1867, Wasps pre-date Gloucester by six seasons, but failed to become a founder member of the RFU in 1871 – they were invited to the meeting, but their man went to the wrong pub, settled in there, and never made it to the meeting.

The fashion in London at that time was to name clubs exotically, and Frank Hartley, captain of the Flamingoes (Battersea) did make it to that first RFU meeting, and was elected



For many years, Wasps were a peripatetic club playing a restricted and local fixture list on rented pitches, but they purchased their own ground at Sudbury in 1923.

Seeking to improve their fixture list after World War Two, they engaged Gloucester, who won the first fixture 8-5 at Kingsholm on 19th October 1946.

Charlie Crabtree scored a try early on, but the match was won near the end when a young Ken Daniell, playing at stand-off in place of Willie Jones, "captured an opponent's pass, cut through finely, and raced away to the fullback, when he punted ahead and over the line to score a grand try near the posts", which Bill Hook converted.

The following season Gloucester won 17-0 on their first visit to Sudbury, Crabtree and Daniell again scoring tries, whilst Willie Jones scored a try, a drop goal and two conversions.

A RECORD OF TWO HALVES

The clubs then played once a season, alternately home and away.

Gloucester had much the better of the results for some 40 years, although, in 1961, Gloucester visited Wasps and lost 10-6, the referee explaining that "the match was played 35 minutes each way at the request of the Gloucester skipper who stated on arrival that they wished to catch an early train home".

Wasps had to wait until 1988 for their first win at Kingsholm, in a match which controversially doubled as both a league and cup game.

Since the introduction of leagues and professional rugby, the boot has been on the

Complete your Day's Pleasure by visiting GLoucester HIPPODROME			
GLoucester (Red and White)		WASPS (Black)	
Full Back		Full Back	
(1) W. HOOK		(1) M. G. MORGAN	
Three-quarters		Three-quarters	
(2) C. CRABTREE Left Wing		(2) R. R. SEEL Right Wing	
(3) S. DANGERFIELD Left Centre		(3) G. R. EVANS Right Centre	
(4) S. H. DAVIES Right Centre		(4) P. H. TILL Left Centre	
(5) W. D. KEAR Right Wing		(5) J. DOUBLEDAY Left Wing	
Half Backs		Half Backs	
(6) K. DANIELL Fly Half		(6) R. MORGAN Fly Half	
(7) D. D. EVANS Scrum Half		(7) P. W. SYKES Scrum Half	
Forwards		Forwards	
(8) T. DAY		(8) C. R. LEE	
(9) J. HOPSON		(9) J. C. HUDSPITH	
(10) D. WHITMORE		(10) J. B. BLAND	
(11) R. MORRIS (Captain)		(11) D. W. MARGOLM	
(12) S. SMART		(12) N. COMPTON (Captain)	
(13) J. THORNTON		(13) V. R. MALENPRE	
(14) G. DUNN		(14) A. A. EDWARDS	
(15) A. G. HUDSON		(15) R. A. DANIELS	
Referee		Referee	
Mr. J. BISHOP (North Midlands)			
TO-DAY		NEXT WEEK	
BING CROSBY INGRID BERGMAN		VIVIEN LEIGH CLAUDE RAINS	
The Bells of St. Mary's		STEWART GRANGER	
and FULL PROGRAMME		Caesar and Cleopatra	
		The Eagle of London and New York	

onto the committee which drew up the laws of the game.

In 1873, he came to Gloucester to work, was instrumental in the formation of the Gloucester Club, and became its first captain. Gloucester first played a London side in 1876, against Frank's old team, the Flamingoes.

A page from the programme for the first match in 1946 listing the teams.



Ken Daniell

Charlie Crabtree

Bill Hook

Willie Jones

other foot, to the extent that the overall record has evened up.

Today's encounter is the 85th between the clubs, Gloucester still having the edge with 43 wins against Wasps 40, but the points advantage is with Wasps 1,516 – 1,403.

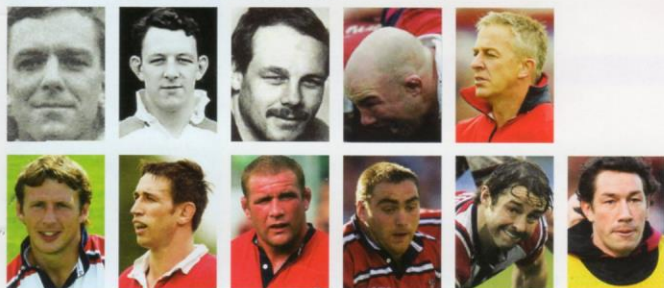
The scorers of all of Gloucester's points, which won the first two matches played against Wasps.

performance by the Gloucester pack. Olivier Azam, at his peak, scored two tries of tremendous power, the first when he blasted off the side of a maul, brushing aside Phil Greening, and the second when he ploughed across the line taking half the Wasps pack with him.

Gloucester's forward power was further demonstrated when Jake Boer wrestled away possession to score, and again when Ian Jones was harassed into a deliberate knock-on under his posts to concede a penalty try which gave Gloucester the bonus point.

CONNECTIONS

Pictured here are players/coaches who have been associated with both Gloucester and Wasps – can you name them? (Answers at bottom of page)



**2003 Premiership Final
at Twickenham
Wasps 39 Gloucester 3**

A game which Gloucester supporters will never forget however hard they try.

Wasps had finished 15 points behind Gloucester, top of the league in the regular season, but this counted for nothing in the first ever Zurich Premiership Final.

Gloucester had a 3-week break before the Final, and played as though they were already on their summer holidays.

On the day, Wasps thoroughly deserved their win. Alex King at outside half controlled the game and Simon Shaw and Lawrence Dallaglio dominated up front.

Gloucester, disorganised behind the scrum and sluggish in the forwards, could find no answer in what, for them, was a game too far.

MEMORABLE MATCH

**1990 Pilkington Cup
at Adams Park
Wasps 19 Gloucester 23**

Tim Smith played a blinder and kicked 3 penalties, while John Gadd and Jim Breeze scored tries, before Richard Mogg scored the winning try with 90 seconds to go, which Tim Smith converted from the touch line.

The Times said of Gloucester: "Their red-blooded assaults, launched from almost every corner of the pitch, helped produce one of the most exciting cup games seen at Sudbury in years."

BIGGEST WINS BY EACH CLUB

**2001 Zurich Premiership
at Kingsholm
Gloucester 43 Wasps 13**

This impressive win featured a dynamic

Connections answers: Top Row (L-R): Don Rutherford, Tony Davis, Kevin Dunn, Phil Greening, Nigel Melville. Bottom Row (L-R): Simon Amor, Ian Jones, Phil Vickery, Trevor Woodman, Andy Gomersall, Tom Joyce.



Bonus
CHERRIES

GLoucester RUGBY
HERITAGE

This season every programme will contain an article by the Gloucester Rugby Heritage Project.

Much more on the history of the Gloucester Club, and the Project, is at www.gloucester rugbyheritage.org.uk



ust over a year ago, Tom Savage made his first Aviva Premiership start for Gloucester Rugby at home to the Worcester Warriors.

At that point, he'd played just 38 minutes of first team rugby and was working hard to prove that he belonged in the Gloucester Rugby squad.

A year's a long time in professional rugby however, and last weekend saw Savage lining up once more against the Warriors, this time at Sixways. He's started all three games so far this season, showing great versatility in the process.

In the first game he started in the second row, last weekend he wore the number six shirt. That's part of the Tom Savage conundrum – is he a lock or a blindside flanker?

That self same question was put to Director of Rugby Nigel Davies after the win at London Irish recently. His response was simple but meaningful – “He's a starter.”

That's a sign of the 23 year old's progression over the past 12 months. He's no longer the former Hartpury RFC captain trying to establish himself in the squad.

He's now a first team regular putting in performances that are catching the eye of observers throughout the game, but remains level headed enough to take nothing for granted and appreciate that he needs to



I've had a good afternoon down at Ross on
wye rugby club. All the best for the start of
the season #localderby
@tc_savage

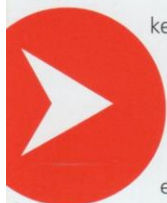
Tom Savage

NONE *Shall* PASS

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041



keep grafting to keep progressing.

"Last season was an incredible experience and it was a great starting point for me. And what it's done is give me a platform to kick on from this season and try and establish myself in the team.

"I've put in a lot of work in preseason to try and keep moving my game forward and I generally feel a lot more comfortable in and around the first team set up. It's an obvious thing to say but it was all new to me last year."

He's an honest, hard working player on the pitch and also frank enough to admit that he's still learning his trade, but that he's in a great environment to develop his game.

"Obviously there are times when I still feel like a relatively new face in the squad because we're fortunate to have such massive experience around the place.

"We've got guys who have been in and around the first team for a long time and that's fantastic for someone like me, because they're always available when you need some help or advice and you can use their experience to benefit your own game massively."

Continuing improvement is massively important, of course, and Savage is already savvy enough to appreciate that he's not going to be a surprise package for opposing teams any more.

"With the analysis tools that are available nowadays, teams can become aware of your individual strengths and weaknesses very quickly. We do our background on the opposition and they do their background on us.

"All you can really is keep working at your game, keep making small improvements where you can to keep on adding to your game so that you don't become predictable."

That work starts in preseason and Savage insists that great strides were made during



"We've got guys who have been in and around the first team for a long time and that's fantastic for someone like me, because they're always available when you need some help or advice..."

▼ Sav had a big performance against Irish a few weeks ago

that period.

"You know that preseasons are never going to be easy and you've got to put in the hard yards to establish a base level of fitness.

"This year was hard work as I expected but it was incredibly structured thanks to Paddy (Anson) and the other Strength & Conditioning guys.

"We knew exactly what we had to achieve and how we were going to get there and I think the benefit of that work has shown in the games so far."

How easy has it been for him switching between the second and back rows?

"There are some key differences between the two roles, particularly in areas like the lineout. But the way I play the game, I like to get around the park, make lots of carries, put in lots of carries and be heavily involved at the breakdown.

"That works with both the positions I'm asked to play. I just try to do everything to the best of my ability and contribute what I can to the overall team effort."

It's round four of the Aviva Premiership this afternoon and Gloucester are looking for their second win of the season, but the feeling is that it's all heading in the right direction as Wasps come to Kingsholm this afternoon.

"We've made a lot of changes on and off the field and it wasn't all going to come together overnight.

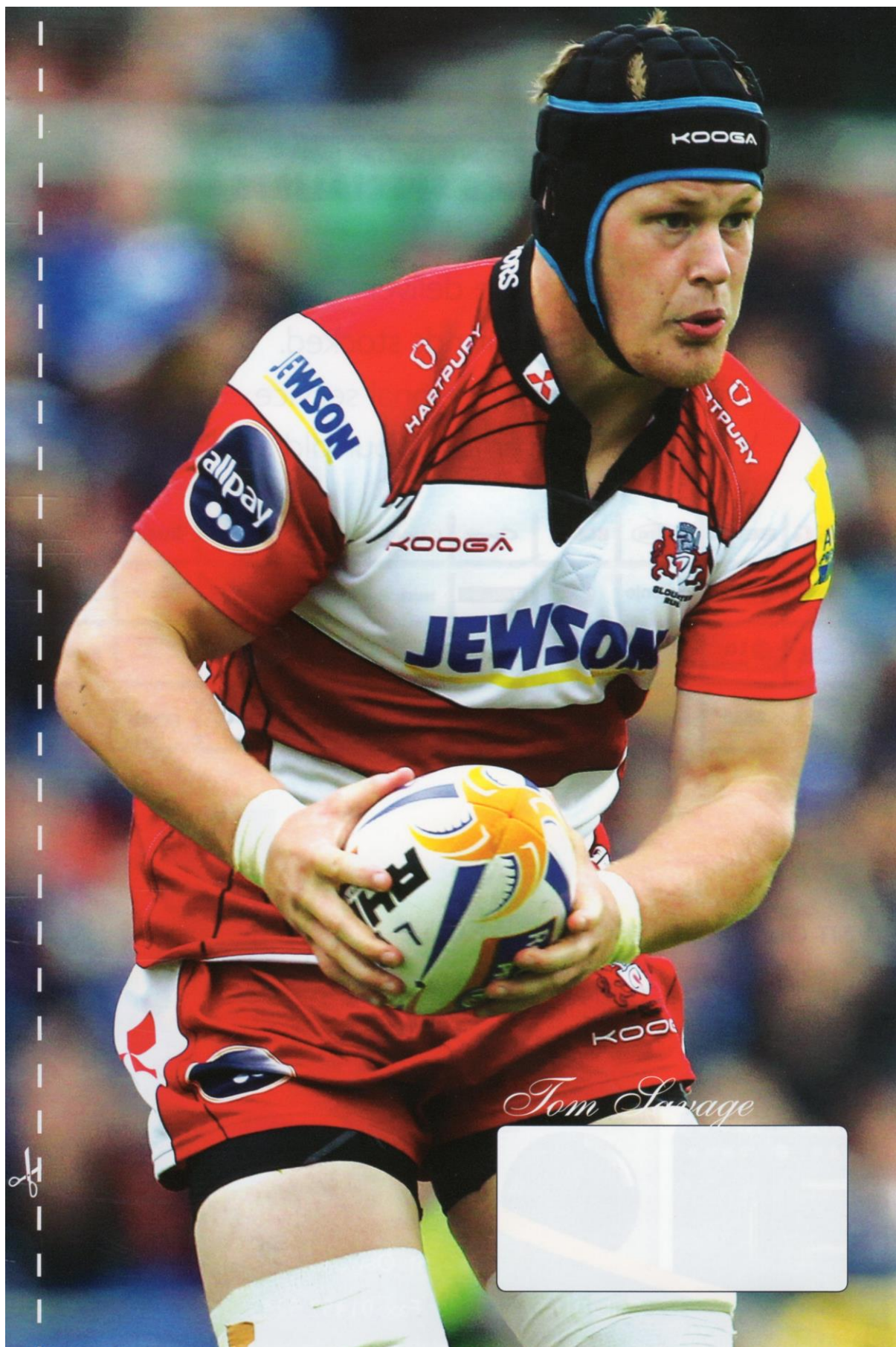
"Nigel has said that we've been operating around the 50% to 60% mark and he's spot on. There's a lot more to come from us and, when we start performing at 80% to 90% of what we're capable of, then you'll see a totally different looking Gloucester team.

"Three games in and we could easily have come away with three wins had things worked out differently. It's given us a start and now we need to start kicking on.

"Hopefully, I'll be involved. It's massive for us to be back home at Kingsholm after two weeks on the road.

"We'll need to be sharp because Wasps are coming off the back of a good win last weekend but hopefully we can show what we're made of."





Tom Savage

Kingsholm News

with Bob Fenton

"And the thing that makes me smile - Stockport Sharks performances to date. Couldn't happen to a nicer bunch, could it?"

So three games into the season and what have we learnt about our team and the Premiership as a whole?

For me the answer is a few obvious things, one surprise and one thing that just makes me keep smiling. Oh, and a bit about our team too.

The obvious points... Leicester and Saracens are still the big dogs in the playground and will be towards the top of the tree at the end of term.

Northampton showed on day one that they are still a force to be reckoned with and, in keeping with four out of the previous five seasons, we started with a loss.

Always disappointing, doubly disappointing when it comes from a home fixture but at least we got a point for effort. I think it would be a man with far too much money who would bet against Saints being in the top four come May – two impressive away wins under their belt is proof of that.

One thing always gets me though – how do they get away with constantly standing up in the scrum like that?

Dylan Hartley comes up quicker than a pop tart (younger readers check Wikipedia to find out more about these molten lava containing devices that masquerade as a food source), yet they never seemed to get pinged.

After the Saints game, our old mate Westy shared a seat and the radioactive contents of

his hip flask with Dave Pearson – the ref on the day – on the train journey back towards t'frozen north.

Mr P told him something along the lines that, as they were going forward, it was not an offence. News to me, but I guess he does know a bit more about refereeing than me.

Moving on, we've learnt that London Irish have fallen apart in spectacular fashion from a few years ago. They've shipped 123 points in three games, I suspect that is roughly about the same number as the total season ticket sales they have made at their soulless stadium.

We've also learnt that Wasps – our visitors today – seem to have got their show on the road, but more about them in a moment.

And the thing that makes me smile – Stockport Sharks performances to date. Couldn't happen to a nicer bunch, could it? And long may it continue. Yes, yes... I know that's a little childish – I don't care though and I will carry on gloating for as long as they carry on losing.

But what of Gloucester – what kernels of knowledge have we gleaned from our first three outings so far?

To be honest it's probably a little early in the season to be trying to play this game, so I'm not sure – well apart from a bit more doggedness and a bit more steel.

I don't think I am alone in thinking that the Gloucester side that played through the final

quarter of last season would have completely crumbled under the weight of the Northampton onslaught a couple of weeks back.

Similarly, I suspect they would have come back empty handed from Irish and possibly Worcester too. So, if a new cussedness and a healthy addition of grit and Glawster Dawg in our front eight are symptomatic of the 'Davies Effect', then I'm pretty happy with what we are seeing and am looking forward to watching this continued development.

No doubt he is already working on how to blend this attitude with the rapier-like attacking abilities of our back line.

Once that clicks – and let's be patient here because that could take a bit more time – I think we can look forward to life at the right end of the table. Especially when you factor in the undoubted impact Jimmy Cowan's arrival will have.

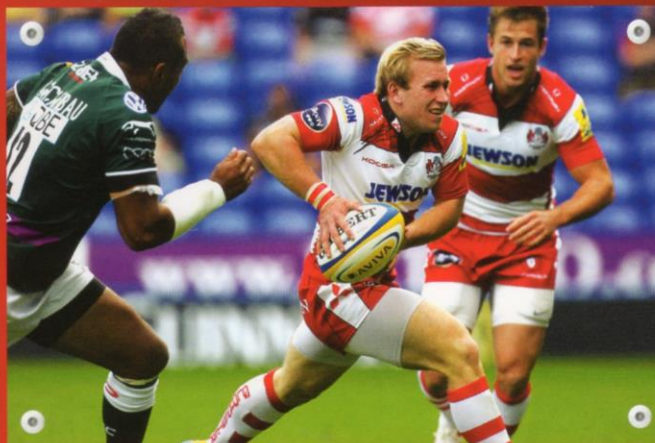
I liked Jimmy's quote in The Rugby Paper last weekend when he said:

"... Gloucester were a team I was excited about. They remind me a lot of home - a passionate, parochial fanbase and rugby in Gloucester is the number one sport."

I also liked the comment about coming here to revitalize his career and that he didn't expect to automatically take the number nine shirt.

I know there is a certain amount of 'PR spin' here, but I reckon he's going to be a heck of an acquisition for us, not least because of the amount of experience and knowledge he is going to be able to impart to the already impressive Dan Robson.

So what of today's visitors – Wasps – the team most Gloucester fans love to hate... Played three, lost two. But what is clear is that they have shaken off last season's shackles and have rediscovered the way to the try line – 106



Dan Robson will certainly gain a great deal from the introduction of Jimmy Cowan

points scored including 11 tries – Christian Wade and Tom Varndell racking up seven between them. So note to team – aimless kicking up field = not a good plan for today.

Wasps have no doubt been helped by the lifting gloom of uncertainty that hung over them for most of last year as a result of their off-field future.

It's good for the game that this has been lifted. I know it's fashionably trendy to 'hate' Wasps because of what they did to us in the final about a decade ago, but they are a good club with a great tradition.

With family living in the Wycombe area I know how much effort they are putting into developing their community links and how they are working with junior clubs in the area, and that has to be good for the game.

Not only that, what would Barney Burnham - everyone's favourite Wasps Fan – do with his weekends???

Still hope he goes home unhappy today though!



KNOWLEDGE GLOUCESTER GOSPEL TALK OPINIONS FAN VIEW POINT EXPERIENCE PETER ARNOLD

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF IT SO FAR?

You could look at our season thus far either way really. If you are a glass half empty kind of person you could shake your head mournfully and point out that we've only won one match, and we're approaching the end of September.

On the other hand, if you are of the more optimistic glass half full persuasion, then you could quite cheerfully state that we're almost a month into the season and we've only come second on one occasion.

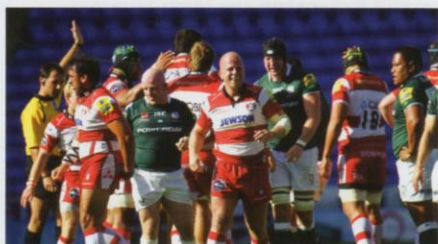
Each view seems to me to be equally valid. I would just respectfully remind you that, for some years now, we have been forced to the conclusion that to come away with six points from two successive away games is a pretty fair return.

That's certainly been our experience in recent seasons. We've never been as good as we should be away from our comfort zone at Kingsholm, and I've no doubt that it's a syndrome which our new squad and management will be out to cure as soon as they can.

We shouldn't forget either that London Irish have been something of a bogey team as far as Gloucester is concerned, and there's a deal of satisfaction in slaying that particular demon.



▲The Shed in full voice



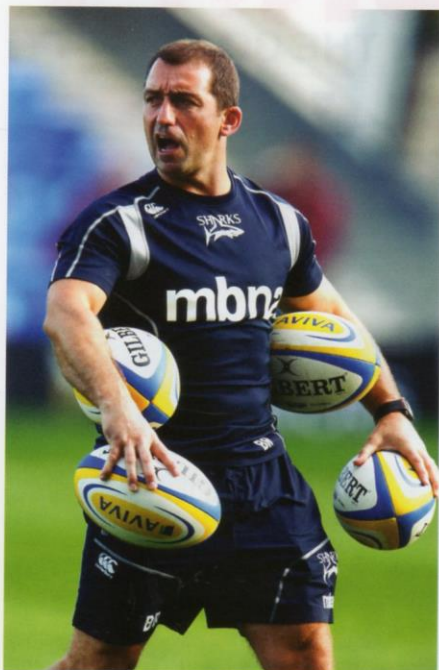
◀vs London Irish

Anyway, who would you rather be running at the moment? Glos or the Irish?

The Worcester scenario is rather different. Local derbies are notoriously difficult to predict, and there are so many folk at Sixways who know Gloucester well, that the form book goes out of the window.

We've found it difficult to win up there for a variety of reasons, and you may recall that one loss was, with hindsight, the first inkling of the back-room tempest which was about to hit Kingsholm.

SO WHAT NOW?



You may regard those traumatic few weeks at the end of last season as so much water under the bridge, although you will be as interested as I to see what the atmosphere will be like the next time Sale come this way. However the effects of that tsunami will be felt for a long time.

To start with, we have a squad which looks radically different from the one which represented us last time round.

On paper at least, it looks to be bristling with talent, and present indications seem to show that it isn't short of resolution and determination either.

We have seen Gloucester collapse at the end of tight games far too often before, and the same self-destruct button could very easily have been pressed at both the Madejski and Sixways.

But it didn't happen, because the lads risked life and limb to make sure that it didn't.

That steel core may well be needed today. Wasps have a good record at Kingsholm. And last week excepted, got stung pretty badly themselves in their first couple of games.

They will want to keep their Irish momentum going, and they have the firepower to do it.

But Gloucester will not be easy to beat on their own patch this week. Should be a good one.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

"The name does sound a bit like something from the battle of the Little Big Horn doesn't it?"

There is a fair old clutch of new names at Kingsholm this season, but to my mind, by far the most interesting one is the one belonging to our lively, extremely promising, new centre and outside half who is rapidly establishing himself as a favourite at Castle Grim.

I refer, of course, to one Billy Twelvetrees. Where on earth did he acquire a name like that?

When I first saw his name, a couple of seasons ago, on the Leicester team sheet I couldn't help wondering if the Tigers had been recruiting on the other side of the Herring Pond and found a full-blooded North American Indian.

The name does sound a bit like something from the battle of the Little Big Horn doesn't it?

But, as far as I know, Billy isn't in the habit of wearing a war bonnet or carrying a tomahawk. Not that he needs such accessories. His twinkling feet and keen rugby eye are all he needs to make a big impression on the opposition.

Anyway, I found the name intriguing, so I did a rather perfunctory Internet search to see what I could find out.

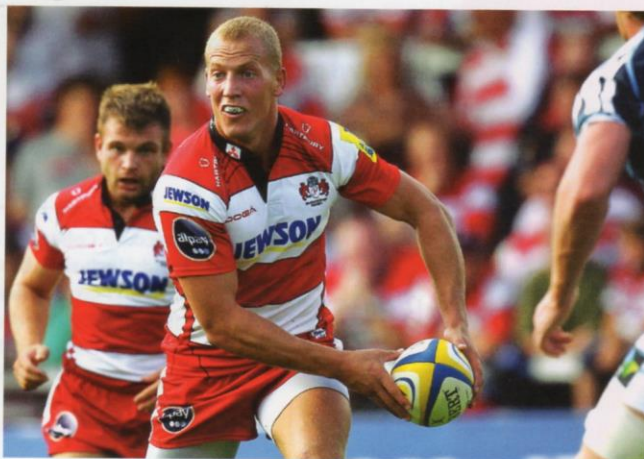
Rather disappointingly, the most likely source for the name is rather less exciting than the Cheyenne warrior thought.

No one seems to be quite sure, but it appears that the most likely derivation is from a family living close to a grove of twelve trees.

Never mind. Our Cherry-and-White Billy Twelvetrees has already taken a few scalps, and will certainly notch up many more. We're glad to have him.

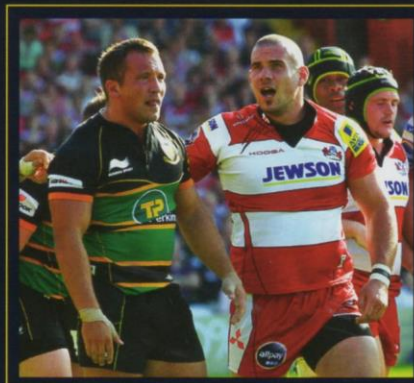
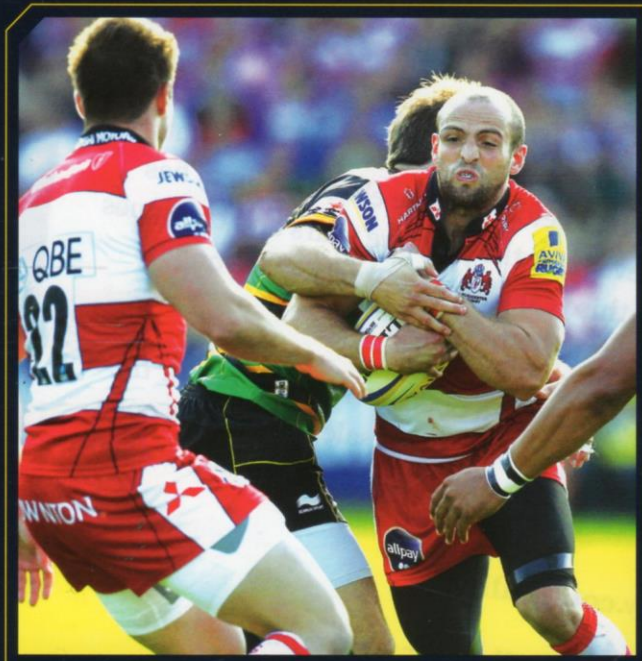
◀Redpath - in for a hard time on his return to Kingsholm?

▼Billy Twelvetrees



Replay

GLOUCESTER RUGBY 19 NORTHAMPTON SAINTS 24



GLOUCESTER RUGBY POINTS SCORERS

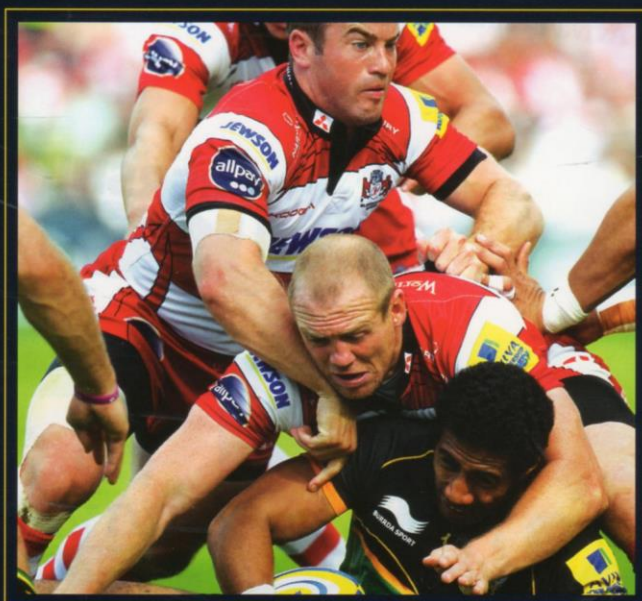


TRY: Penalty (71)
CONS: Burns (71)
PENS: Burns (27, 36, 41, 48)

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS POINTS SCORERS



TRIES: G Pisi (17, 50), Hartley (23)
CONS: Lamb (18, 23, 51)
PENS: Lamb (38)



Gloucester Rugby's 2012-13 Aviva Premiership Rugby campaign got off to a losing start against Northampton Saints as the visitors exploited a slow start from the Cherry and Whites.

It was the proverbial game of two halves. Gloucester were slow out of the blocks as the Saints made the most out of their first half superiority in the driving maul and quickly opened up a 14-0 lead.

Nigel Davies' side were spending large periods of the game on the back foot and possession was a scarce commodity.

However, as half time approached, there were signs of Gloucester clawing their way back into proceedings and two Freddie Burns penalties helped make it a 14-6 deficit at half time.

Gloucester emerged after the interval a

1ST SEPTEMBER 2012, 15:00 KO
KINGSHOLM
AVIVA PREMIERSHIP: ROUND 1



Not a moment as such but the sustained pressure that the Gloucester pack put on the Saints eight, forcing penalty after penalty until referee Dave Pearson had no option but to award the penalty try.

changed side and quickly took the game to the visitors.

Two more penalties from Burns within 10 minutes of the restart got his side within striking range at 17-12 but George Pisi's second try was a potential hammer blow.

To Gloucester's enormous credit, heads didn't drop. There was no panic as they simply picked up where they'd left off prior to Pisi's try.

The Saints spent pretty much all of the last half hour pinned back in their own 22, defending wave after wave of Gloucester attack. The defence was impressive and Gloucester's only flaw was a slight lack of composure when scores looked likely.

Northampton did start to buckle slightly as Gloucester tightened the screw and GK van Velze and Paul Doran-Jones were both yellow carded as the pressure told.

However, time was ticking away and, even though Gloucester eventually forced a penalty try, there was no less than ten minutes left on the clock to pull an unlikely win out of the hat.

There were half chances, but possession was lost on a couple of crucial occasions when the Saints looked to be on the ropes. Northampton hung on and Gloucester were left to dwell on what might have been.

Losing at home is always a massive disappointment but Gloucester can take plenty from this game.

After the slow start against a quality opponent, it could have been a long old afternoon. However, the response to adversity was impressive and Gloucester certainly finished as the better of the two teams.

String together a full 80 minutes and Gloucester will take some matching.

Nigel Davies

Director of Rugby

"We put a lot of pressure on ourselves in the first half, we played in the wrong areas and we gave Northampton exactly the type of platform they thrive on."

"We were behind for large periods of the game, but we fought back strongly and the boys will take positives from that."

GLOUCESTER RUGBY



#	POS	NAME
15	FB	Jonny May
14	W	Charlie Sharples
13	C	Mike Tindall
12	C	Billy Twelvetrees
11	W	James Simpson-Daniel
10	FH	Freddie Burns
9	SH	Dan Robson
1	P	Nick Wood
2	H	Darren Dawidiuk
3	P	Rupert Harden
4	L	Tom Savage
5	L	Alex Brown (c)
6	F	Matt Cox
7	F	Akapusi Qera
8	N8	Ben Morgan
16	H	Huia Edmonds
17	P	Dan Murphy
18	P	Shaun Knight
19	L	Will James
20	F	Sione Kalamafoni
21	SH	Dave Lewis
22	C	Henry Trinder
23	FH	Martyn Thomas

NORTHAMPTON SAINTS

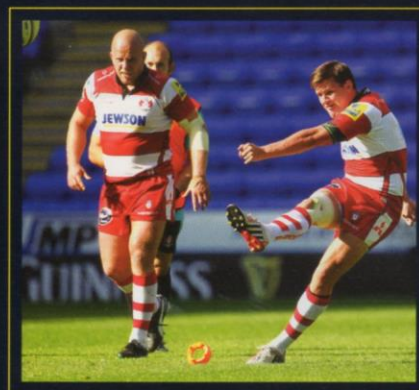
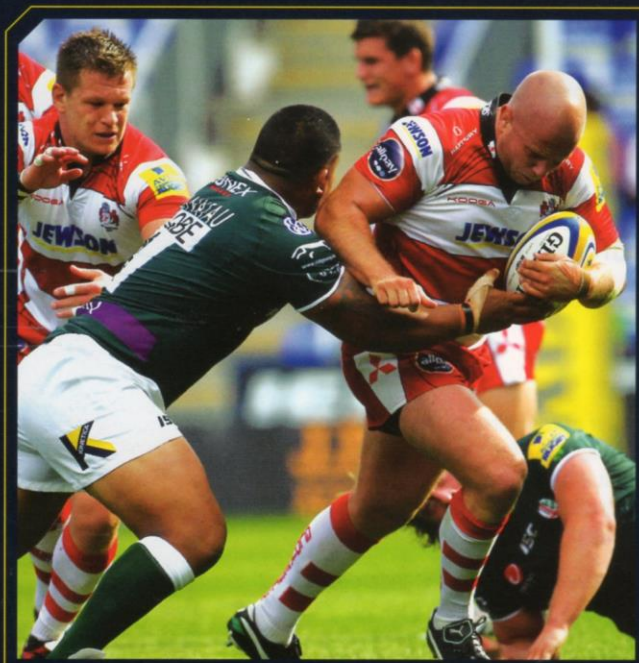


#	POS	NAME
15	FB	Ben Foden
14	W	Ken Pisi
13	C	George Pisi
12	C	Dominic Waldouck
11	W	Vasily Artemyev
10	FH	Ryan Lamb
9	SH	Lee Dickson
1	P	Soane Tonga'uiha
2	H	Dylan Hartley (c)
3	P	Brian Mujati
4	L	Samu Manoa
5	L	Christian Day
6	F	Phil Dowson
7	F	Tom Wood
8	N8	Gerrit-Jan van Velze ■
16	H	Mike Haywood
17	P	Alex Waller
18	P	Paul Doran Jones ■
19	L	Mark Sorenson
20		Rhys Oakley
21	SH	Martin Roberts
22	FH	Stephen Myler
23	C	Luther Burrell

ACTION Replay

LONDON IRISH GLOUCESTER RUGBY

31
40



LONDON IRISH POINTS SCORERS



TRIES: Ojo (20), 'Aulika (46), O'Leary (56)
CONS: Shingler (47, 57)
PENS: Shingler (3, 18, 31, 68)

GLOUCESTER RUGBY POINTS SCORERS



TRY: Morgan (39), Simpson-Daniel (69), Qera (75)
CONS: Burns (39, 69)
PENS: Burns (8, 24, 27, 44, 53, 59, 64)

Recent visits to the Madesjki Stadium have not been happy ones for Gloucester Rugby.

Prior to this game, the last victory over London Irish there was a 22-11 triumph back in November 2006.

But the Cherry and Whites got their Aviva Premiership win total off and running with a gutsy performance that saw them edge a 40-31 shoot out.

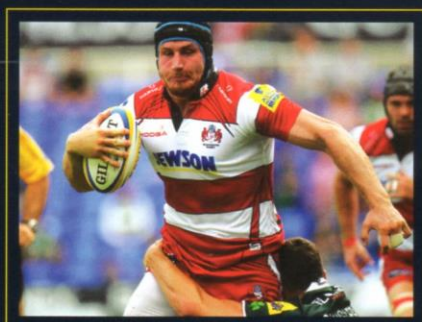
It was a display of guts and determination which saw Gloucester show great resilience to come from behind in the second half to snatch the win with two late tries.

On a scorching day in Reading, Gloucester started brightly but couldn't take full advantage of some good early possession and territory.

The respective kickers looked on good form but Topsy Ojo's try, latching on to a nicely weighted grubber from Tom Homer, was a blow



8TH SEPTEMBER 2012, 15:00 KO
KINGSHOLM
AVIVA PREMIERSHIP: ROUND 2



Ben Morgan's first try was a crucial one for Gloucester. Scored just before half time, it sent his team into the break with their noses in front.

Picking the ball up from a ruck, he shrugged off George Skivington, evaded Scott Lawson and swatted aside Tomas O'Leary to romp home under the posts.

Nigel Davies
Director of Rugby

"Our commitment and resilience is 100% - our performance level is about 60. We can still get a lot better.

"One of the strengths we have in the squad is that we can put out a very competitive 23-man squad who can all make a big contribution."

to Gloucester who were looking comfortable up to that point.

Freddie Burns chipped away at the Exiles' lead with a couple of well struck penalties but it was Morgan's try just before half time that gave the Cherry and Whites a real boost.

A comeback from the home side was to be expected and replacement prop Halani Aulika battered his way over from close range to lift his side and the home crowd.

Burns slotted further penalties either side of that try but Tomas O'Leary's opportunist try from a couple of yards out seemed to be a decisive contribution.

Gloucester were far from done and dusted and Burns continued to punish any indiscretions, although two further penalties were offset by one from Steven Shingler which saw the game finely poised at 31 points apiece going into the final ten minutes.

It was at this point that Gloucester finished the game strongly for the second week in succession.

Against Northampton Saints, they came up just short, effectively running out of time when a memorable comeback looked on the cards. Today they got it just right.

Dave Lewis' dummied his way down the blindside and then floated a beautifully weighted pass inside for James Simpson-Daniel to give Gloucester the lead.

The Gloucester pack then took full control of proceedings, a rolling maul sucking the life out of their Irish counterparts, before Akapusi Qera finished off from close range to complete a fine win.

Director of Rugby Nigel Davies admitted after the game that he believed that his team were still only playing at 60% of their potential.

When Gloucester hit form, allied to the spirit and determination they have demonstrated so far, they will be a force to be reckoned with.

LONDON IRISH



#	POS	NAME
15	FB	Tom Homer
14	W	Topsy Ojo
13	C	Jonathan Joseph
12	C	Sailosi Tagicakibau
11	W	Marland Yarde
10	FH	Steve Shingler
9	SH	Tomas O'Leary
1	P	Max Lahiff
2	H	Scott Lawson
3	P	Leo Halavatau
4	L	George Skivington
5	L	Bryn Evans
6	F	Declan Danaher (C)
7	F	Ofisa Treviranus
8	N8	Jon Fisher
16	H	Brian Blaney
17	P	Halani 'Aulika
18	P	John Ryan
19	L	Kieran Low
20	F	Alex Gray
21	FB	Anthony Watson
22		Shane Geraghty
23		Jack Moates

GLOUCESTER RUGBY



#	POS	NAME
15	FB	Jonny May
14	W	Charlie Sharples
13	C	Henry Trinder
12	C	Billy Twelvetrees
11	W	James Simpson-Daniel
10	FH	Freddie Burns
9	SH	Dan Robson
1	P	Nick Wood
2	H	Darren Dawidiuk
3	P	Shaun Knight
4	L	Will James
5	L	Jim Hamilton (C)
6	F	Tom Savage
7	F	Andrew Hazell
8	N8	Ben Morgan
16	H	Huia Edmonds
17	P	Dan Murphy
18	P	Rupert Harden
19	L	Sione Kalamafoni
20	F	Akapusi Qera
21	SH	Dave Lewis
22	C	Mike Tindall
23	W	Shane Monahan



Teams correct at time of print 20/09/12

TODAY'S *Line-ups*



GLouceSTER RUGBY

US

LONDON WASPS



ROB COOK	15	HUGO SOUTHWELL (C)
JONNY MAY	14	TOM VARNDELL
HENRY TRINDER	13	ELLIOT DALY
BILLY TWELVETREES	12	ANDREA MASI
JAMES SIMPSON-DANIEL	11	CHRISTIAN WADE
FREDDIE BURNS	10	STEPHEN JONES
DAN ROBSON	09	JOE SIMPSON
NICK WOOD	01	TIM PAYNE
DARREN DAWIDIUK	02	T. RHYS THOMAS
RUPERT HARDEN	03	FABIO STAIBANO
TOM SAVAGE	04	TOM PALMER
JIM HAMILTON (C)	05	MARCO WENTZEL
SIONE KALAMAFONI	06	JOE LAUNCHBURY
ANDY HAZELL	07	JONATHAN POFF
BEN MORGAN	08	ASHLEY JOHNSON
HUIA EDMONDS	16	TOM LINDSAY
DAN MURPHY	17	SIMON McINTYRE
SHAUN KNIGHT	18	ZAK TAULAFO
WILL JAMES	19	JAMES HASKELL
AKAPUSI QERA	20	BILLY VUNIPOLA
DAVE LEWIS	21	CHARLIE DAVIES
MIKE TINDALL	22	NICK ROBINSON
MARTYN THOMAS	23	TOMMY BELL

THE OFFICIALS

REFEREE: Martin Fox

ASSISTANT REFEREE'S: Nigel Carrick and Andrew Watson

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