

RICHMOND

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

£2.00



RICHMOND **GLOUCESTER**

SATURDAY 25 APRIL 1998
KICK OFF 3.00 PM



CLUB SPONSOR

ORACLE
Enabling the Information Age™

MATCH SPONSOR

hp **HEWLETT**
PACKARD

LEAGUE SPONSOR

ALLIED
DUNBAR
PREMIERSHIP

Focus on

Presented today
in association with



THE O

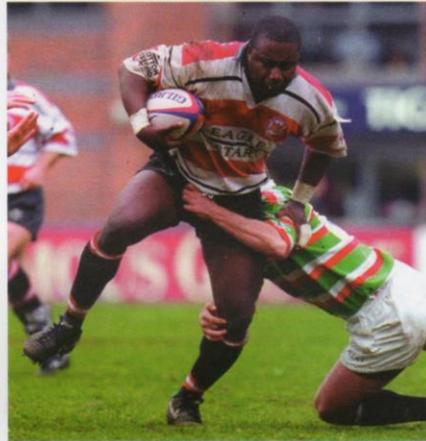
Not so long ago, Gloucester's idea of expansive rugby was when the team switched from their usual nine-man game to actually include the fly-half in the proceedings. That's not the case now, of course, with director of rugby Richard Hill working hard over the past two years to bring the standard of Gloucester's back play up to that of the forwards.

Now Gloucester have the all-round game to match any team in the Premiership as has been demonstrated recently in some exciting games played out in the cauldron-like atmosphere of Kingsholm.



Mark Mapletoft

Two weeks ago title favourites Newcastle were extremely lucky to hold out for a two-point victory, scraping through thanks to some controversial refereeing decisions that enraged the full capacity 12,000 crowd. A week later, Gloucester overwhelmed perennial local rivals Bath by



Steve Ojomoh

27-17 - a highly significant result that signifies a shift in the power base of West Country rugby.

The foundation for some great play is a mighty front five, in which tighthead Phil Vickery and second row Dave Sims are outstanding. In the back row skipper Pete Glanville, although absent through injury for the Newcastle game, is one of the most under-rated flankers in the country and has been an inspirational leader throughout the season. His back row colleague Steve Ojomoh took a while to cement a place for himself in the team



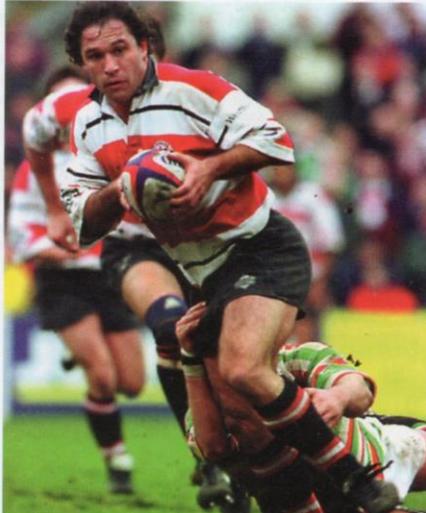
Club News is produced by
John Johnson (Managing Ed.)
Tel: 01202 745 120 Fax: 01202 745 121
Email: clubnews@richmond.co.uk

PPOSITION

after joining mid-season from Bath, but has recently put in some heroic performances, particularly in the past fortnight.

But it is the exciting backline which holds the key to Gloucester's recent upturn in fortunes. Held together by the slight figure of fly-half Mark Mapletoft, a player who combines a solid tactical kicking game with some delightfully subtle touches, Gloucester's backs have really taken the game to the opposition this season. The international centre partnership of Australian Richard Tombs and Samoan Terry Fanolua is certainly one of the most exciting in the League. Tombs is particularly important to the Gloucester effort. The linchpin of Gloucester's defensive organisation, his

Richard Tombs



Dave Sims

intelligent play and strength in the tackle has also made the most of the players around him in attack.

While Gloucester go into today's match as favourites, having already beaten Richmond 26-20 back in December, they are no doubt aware that like the 'Cherry and Whites', Richmond also save their best performances for their home ground and will be eager to prove the Courage Athletic Ground as fortress-like as Kingsholm.

By Justin O'Regan, Editor, Inside Rugby

RICHMOND





RICHMOND

GLOUCESTER

16	Matt Pini*
15	Spencer Brown
14	Allan Bateman*
12	Jason Wright
11	Dominic Chapman
10	Adrian Davies*
9	Agustin Pichot*
1	Dan McFarland
2	Barry Williams*
3	Darren Crompton
4	Craig Quinell*
5	Craig Gillies
6	Adam Vander
7	Ben Clarke (C)*
8	Scott Quinell*

* International (C) Captain

Replacements

17	John Davies*
18	Andy Cuthbert
19	Alex Codling
20	Corin Palmer
21	Ben Harvey
22	Earl Va'a*

Referee

Graham Hughes

Match Mascots

Joanna Gillham & James Hopkins

15	Chris Catling
14	Brian Johnson
13	Terry Fanolua*
12	Richard Tombs*
11	Philippe Saint-Andre*
10	Mark Mapletoft*
9	Scott Benton
1	Tony Windo
2	Phil Greening
3	Andy Deacon
4	Rob Fidler
5	Dave Sims
6	Pete Glanville(C)
7	Nathan Carter
8	Steve Ojomoh*

* International (C) Captain

Replacements

16	Audley Lumsden
17	Laurie Beck
18	Trevor Woodman
19	Mark Cornwell
20	Simon Devereux
21	Neil McCarthy

Touch Judges

Brian Campsall & Steve Bradford