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GLOUCESTER RUGBY OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME 2018/19 SEASON

CHERRY & WHITES

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GLOUCESTER RUGBY v WASPS | 23 MARCH 2019 | 3:00PM | GALLAGHER PREMIERSHIP | £3.50 | 14

 **MITSUBISHI MOTORS**
MAIN CLUB PARTNER



CAPTAIN

WILLI HEINZ



GOOD AFTERNOON AND A VERY WARM WELCOME BACK TO KINGSHOLM AFTER A GAP OF A FEW WEEKS AS WE TAKE ON WASPS THIS AFTERNOON.



So, here we are. After 16 gruelling rounds of Gallagher Premiership action, we're now down to the final six matches. And every team has something to play for, whether they're pushing for the end of season play-offs like ourselves or fighting it out at the foot of the table.

Last year, we were talking about the most closely fought Premiership ever. This season, it's gone up a notch! There is absolutely no room for an off day, lose a game and you can drop a couple of places in the table.

We didn't have a bad return from the most recent phase of Premiership matches with three wins from four. If you'd offered us that beforehand, we'd probably have taken it. But, having beaten Exeter and Saracens, to lose at Bristol was a blow.

No excuses, we simply didn't perform on the night at Ashton Gate. Even then, we could have dogged out a win, despite not being at our best, which made things even more frustrating.

This made the game at Harlequins a fortnight ago even more important, and I thought that we delivered a performance that we could be happy with. It wasn't perfect, we still have plenty to work upon but we showed what we are capable of for long periods of the game.

As a group, we know what we're capable of and we set ourselves very high standards. There have been some tough times this season when we've been missing a large number of players due to injury. But, as we approach these last few games, the squad is looking in good shape and we're excited about the challenge that lies ahead.

That all begins today against a very talented Wasps side. They've had a tough run, but are still very much in the hunt and will possibly welcome back a host of international players this afternoon.

We only have to think back to last season, when we thought we had the win in the bag, only for Wasps to go the length of the field with the last play of the game to snatch a draw. That shows how dangerous they can be.

But we have to back ourselves to get results in front of our own supporters. Kingsholm is an amazing place to call home, and we need to make it tough for teams to come here – we all have a part to play in that.

Enjoy the game.

Willi

OWNER

MARTIN ST. QUINTON



GOOD AFTERNOON AND WELCOME TO KINGSHOLM AS WE RETURN TO GALLAGHER PREMIERSHIP RUGBY ACTION AGAINST WASPS.

07

It's good to be back in familiar surroundings after a couple of matches on the road at Bristol and Harlequins. After a number of Friday night fixtures under the floodlights, it will be something of a novelty to kick off in daylight this afternoon.

We really are approaching the business end of the season with just six regular season matches left to play - the fight for play-off places is tantalisingly poised! Three wins from the last four matches see us currently occupy fourth place, but several teams, including Leicester Tigers down in 10th place, will still have designs on qualifying.

Media pundits seem to comment each week that this is the tightest Premiership season yet, and I would agree. Every remaining game has great significance.

Strangely, we have the same playing record this season after 16 rounds as we had at this stage last season

- played 16, won 9, drawn 1, lost 6. This time, however, we have two more bonus points. Our destiny is certainly in our own hands and we will give the team our full support today.

This afternoon we also welcome Susie Appleby and the Gloucester-Hartpury Women to Kingsholm as they resume their Tyrrells Premier 15s campaign after a break for the Six Nations.

Gloucester-Hartpury are also in the mix for an end of season play-off place, and this afternoon's game against Wasps Ladies is crucial to their ambitions

They really would appreciate some proper Gloucester home support this afternoon, so it would be terrific to see as many people as possible stick around in the stadium and cheer them on.

Enjoy both games!

Martin

“MEDIA PUNDITS SEEM TO COMMENT EACH WEEK THAT THIS IS THE TIGHTEST PREMIERSHIP SEASON YET, AND I WOULD AGREE. EVERY REMAINING GAME HAS GREAT SIGNIFICANCE”

DAVID HUMPHREYS

GOOD AFTERNOON AND WELCOME BACK TO KINGSHOLM FOR ROUND 17 OF THE GALLAGHER PREMIERSHIP AGAINST WASPS.



The Six Nations has dominated the rugby headlines for the last couple of months, but it has been a very important few weeks for us in the Premiership. During that time, we've had three very good wins against the teams above us in the league table and, with a number of key players returning from injury, we've got a fit and confident squad heading into the last six weeks of Premiership rugby.

Through a lot of hard work, and some very good rugby, we're competing hard for a place in the play offs but, from previous experience, we all know how quickly the league table can change. This season, I suspect that both play off places and relegation will not be decided until the final weekend of the competition.

We were delighted with the performance and the

comprehensive victory against Harlequins. A bonus point win away from home, against a team on a five game winning streak, was well deserved and was a very positive reaction to our defeat in Bristol. We made very few errors, and our victory in London was built on a very strong set piece and huge defensive effort. We know we can score tries but to win these big games, home or away, we need to bring a physical edge and commitment to everything we do.

That is especially true against a very strong Wasps team today. Like us, they have suffered due to injuries during the season, but with some players returning from the Six Nations, they'll be another big test for us today. I'm sure you'll give Dai Young and everyone from Wasps a very warm welcome to Kingsholm this afternoon. In particular, a special word for Dan

Robson as we wish him a speedy recovery from his latest injury setback.

It's been another fascinating Six Nations watching Wales translate their Autumn form into another Grand Slam. With France leading 16-0 at half time in Paris on the first weekend, there wouldn't have been too many people who would have predicted the final outcome to the Championship. Huge credit to Warren Gatland in winning his 3rd Grand Slam and what a way to finish his final Six Nations game with Wales! With the Rugby World Cup on the horizon, Wales look like genuine contenders but I've no doubt that Ireland and England will rediscover their form prior to the competition kicking off in Japan.

Looking ahead to next season, I was delighted that Ruan Ackermann, Jake Polledri and Val Rapava Ruskin all signed contract extensions at Gloucester. All three are young men who have made an impact in their short time here, and we're all excited to see them continue to develop further over the next few years. As we've highlighted many times, recruitment this year is about continuity and the main focus has been on retaining the current playing squad and fast tracking some of our young Academy players.

Enjoy the game today and I know all the players are looking forward to a great atmosphere in front of a full house at Kingsholm.

David



FAREWELL TO HUDSON'S

FOR MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED YEARS THERE HAS BEEN A CLOSE ASSOCIATION BETWEEN THE HUDSON FAMILY AND GLOUCESTER RUGBY. BUT, AT THE END OF MARCH, HUDSON'S SPORTS SHOP WILL BE FINALLY CLOSING ITS DOORS AFTER 111 YEARS IN BUSINESS. WE COULD NOT LET THIS CHANGE TO THE GLOUCESTER LANDSCAPE PASS WITHOUT RECORDING THE IMPACT OF THE HUDSONS ON RUGBY IN THE CITY.

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Arthur Hudson (known to his family as Archie) was born in Gloucester in 1882. He became a clerk on the Midland Railway, and played soccer for the City Albion club on what is now the Kingsholm car park. His speed was noted by the Rugby Club and he was persuaded to switch to the oval ball in 1902. He soon made his name as a very quick winger with a high knee action, which made him difficult to tackle. He broke the Club try-scoring record with 35 tries in 31 matches in 1904-05, and the following season bettered this with 41 tries from 26 appearances.

Arthur played twice against the All Blacks on their first tour of the UK in 1905, for Gloucester and Eastern Counties, and became friends with Duncan McGregor, a New Zealand winger, who distinguished himself on that tour by scoring four tries in the 15-0 defeat of England at Crystal Palace. In January 1906, McGregor and two other All Blacks (Simon Mynott and Charlie Seeling) returned to Gloucester and made guest appearances for Gloucester in a match against Leicester – McGregor had a wonderful game, Gloucester scored six tries, and won 20-0.



ARTHUR HUDSON

Arthur's career continued to blossom, winning his first England cap against Wales in 1906, before he matched McGregor's feat by scoring four tries in Paris during the first international match between England and France. Meanwhile McGregor went home to New Zealand and switched codes to become a professional

Rugby League player, returning to the UK with the New Zealand All Blacks during the 1907-08 season. At the end of his tour, McGregor decided to stay in the UK and returned to Gloucester, where he opened a shop – "Hudson and McGregor's Sports" – with Arthur as a silent partner, but lending to the business his famous name, which was so revered locally. Arthur's sister, Beatrice (Bessie), helped to run the shop.

In 1913, McGregor, who had been playing rugby league for Merthyr Tydfil, was injured, gave up his interest in the shop, and returned to New Zealand. However, he left in Gloucester his All Blacks cap, jersey and a ball signed by the team, where many decades later they came into the possession of Allan Townsend,



DUNCAN MCGREGOR & ARTHUR HUDSON IN 1906

former captain and president of Gloucester. They are now on display in the New Zealand Rugby Museum at Wellington.

Arthur's rugby career came to an end when he was injured in the County Championship final victory over Yorkshire in 1920, having scored 242 tries in 268 appearances for Gloucester. He was immediately appointed secretary of the Club and director of the Ground Company, and he gave up his railway job to concentrate on the sports shop. He remained as Club secretary for 42 years, and combined it with treasurer and fixture secretary for many years. He kept a close eye on Kingsholm during the Second World War, for which the Club proposed to pay him an honorarium, but Arthur insisted the money be used to purchase rugby pitches for local clubs, and this resulted in the Memorial Ground on Tuffley Avenue, used by the Old Cryptians and Widden Old Boys clubs to this day.

In 1915, Arthur had married Ellen Phillips. Their son, Gordon Hudson, followed in his father's footsteps in both playing for and administering the Gloucester Club. He first played for Old

Cryptians, before making his debut for Gloucester in 1935, and securing a regular place in the team when he switched from the backs to wing forward. He served in the RAF during World War Two, which were his best rugby years. He represented the West of England, the RAF and the Barbarians. He also played for England in nine wartime Services Internationals, including three at Kingsholm, and one Victory International, but caps were not awarded. After the war, he captained the Club, and when he hung up his boots in 1954, he had notched up 320 appearances and 75 tries. He also captained and won 34 caps for Gloucestershire.

Gordon also followed his father into the family sports outfitter business, and as secretary of the Club, before serving as chairman for ten years, 1972-82, one of the most successful periods in Gloucester's history. Whilst chairman he continued to stand on the terraces near the exit from the changing rooms for every home game, initially near the clock on the Shed side and latterly in front of the main stand when the changing rooms were

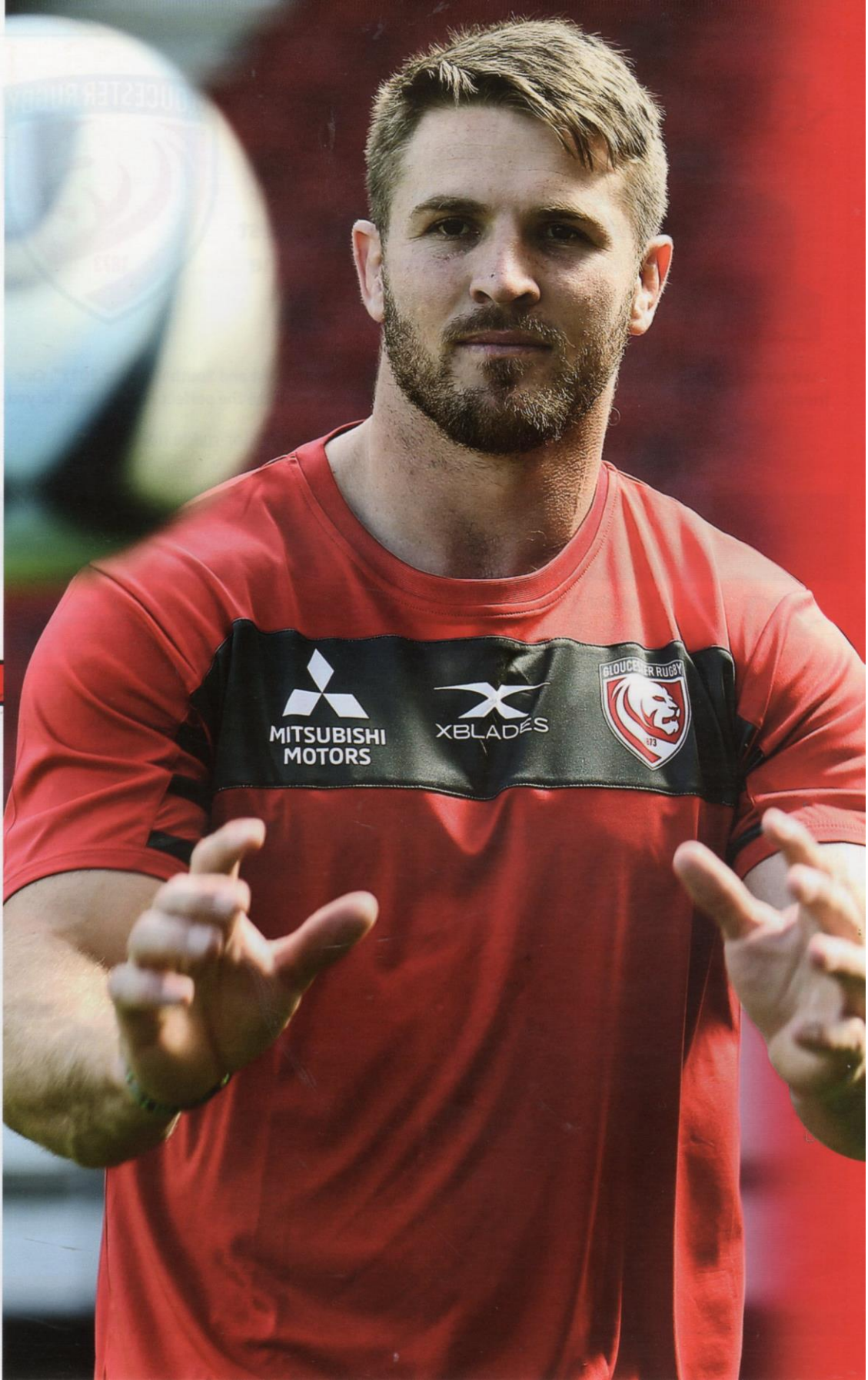


switched to that side of the ground.

Gordon's son, John Hudson, inevitably spent much of his childhood at Kingsholm while his father and grandfather were still heavily involved there. In the 1960s he was a ball boy, operating under the strict regime set by Tom Oakes as groundsman, and frustrated at missing spells of every game retrieving balls from the back gardens of St Marks Street. He played for Old Cryptians at full-back, but his chances of making the step up to play for Gloucester were inhibited by the firm grip which Peter Butler had on that position at Kingsholm. However, he duly went into the family business, taking it over in 1983. For many years he held the franchise for the Club shop, but retirement now beckons. He proclaims "Gloucester Rugby means everything to me", as it did for his ancestors – it could be taken as the family motto.

We wish him well in retirement, and salute the Hudson family for their enduring service to Gloucester Rugby.





JACO KRIEL



Dynamic, speedy and full of power. After a patient wait following surgery, Jaco Kriel is well and truly off and running in a Cherry and White jersey.

The Springbok international has started Gloucester Rugby's last three games, and sat down this week to discuss his goals, targets and his love of his time at Kingsholm so far.

The back rower missed a huge chunk of rugby after back-to-back shoulder injuries, and is relishing the chance to put together a run of games together in his new environment in the Northern Hemisphere.



Kriel is feeling in good shape after ensuring his body was back where it should be, and is looking ahead at finishing the season well and contributing to the squad effort.

"I'm very delighted to be playing at the moment, as everyone knows when I arrived I had an injury, and it was a very frustrating situation. But now I've put that behind me, and I can get minutes under my belt.

"It's a good situation to get to, but it brings a lot of pressure too because there are guys around you in the squad that want to wear the jersey. But that's a position you want to be in with competition for every jersey in such a strong squad."

The Gloucester Rugby squad has been stretched at times this season, with the injury list hitting 23 around the turn of the year, but this has provided game time for plenty of players and created an exciting depth in the squad for the coaches to choose from.

Within the back row ranks, Kriel points out the quality of the players around him, all competing for the matchday spots.

"It's definitely an area of strength in our back row, and there's a real sense of international quality within that group. Whoever wears the jersey, there is a lot of confidence that they will perform in this environment.

"We want every guy to express themselves, and there is really good competition within the team, and it's healthy competition which is good."



The Cherry and White supporters have embraced the South African flair throughout the Gloucester Rugby squad following Kriel's summer arrival alongside Franco Mostert, Ruan Dreyer, Franco Marais and Gerbrandt Grobler, and this is a fact not wasted on the 29 year old.

"That's amazing to hear, and it's really good that the supporters have welcomed us. For me, I came here wanting to be part of the family, and to connect with the fans, who have accepted me.

"To be part of this family is something that you have to respect and not take for granted. We can always work harder and harder, not just for yourself, the team and the coach, but for the supporters, who watch you week in, week out."

And adapting to the physicality of the Gallagher Premiership has been a challenge that Kriel is truly relishing after spending his career in Johannesburg with the Lions in Super Rugby.

"That's a huge difference I must say. For me, Super Rugby was fast rugby, and physical. When I came here I had the idea that it was physical, but when I played in the Premiership, it was just a different level.

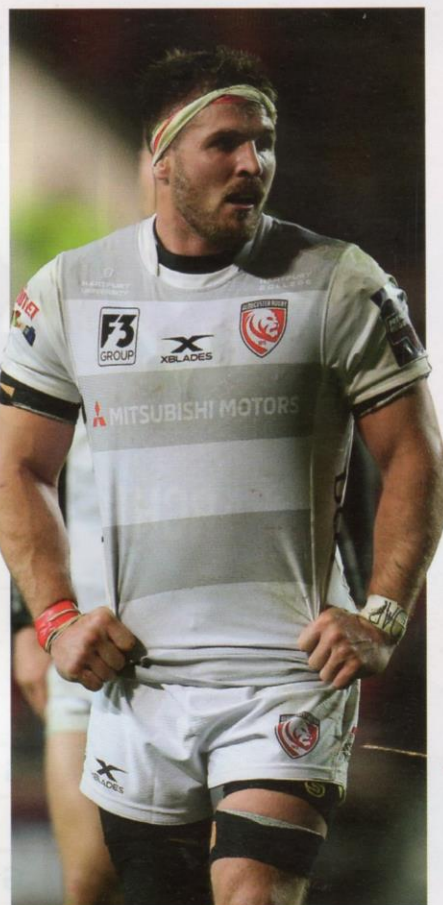
"I don't think the Premiership gives enough credit to itself, and the competition we play in. It's fast, you have to be physically strong and deliver every week.

"Every team can perform on their day, and beat anyone. That's the challenge."

2019 is obviously a Rugby World Cup year, and Kriel is realistic and knows he has to keep performing to the max in order to catch the eye of Rassie Erasmus and the Springbok coaches to get the chance to perform at the showpiece event in Japan in September.

"It will always be a good marker and a huge dream for me to play in a Rugby World Cup. For me it's taking it week by week and focusing on your goals.

"I missed a lot of rugby in the past year, so I must focus on this time of my life, but it will always be a dream and passion for me to play for my country at Rugby World Cup."



KINGSHOLM NEWS

WITH BOB FENTON



RIGHT, NOW WE HAVE GOT THE INTERRUPTIONS OF THE SIX NATIONS OUT OF THE WAY LET'S GET ON WITH THE BUSINESS END OF THE SEASON.



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To be fair, the Six Nations this year was quite interesting – a lot of close fought games and a lot of frankly freakish results. Wales showed what having a team can do and deservedly took the trophy. So many pundits and experts were predicting that it was all just a straight shoot-out between England and Ireland, but fair play to Wales, it would have been a travesty had they lost out in the last game.

All those experts though... I don't know why they wax on the way they do, all they have to do is follow my mate JP on Twitter and they would get everything they ever wanted to know about Welsh rugby and a whole lot more besides in a series of concise tweets – well maybe around 3,000 of them to be fair.



Never short of a word or two, is our John, but stick with him - he knows his stuff!

That England v Scotland game last weekend though, what was that all about? All that excitement

about England giving away a 31-point lead in the way they did. Yes, me too – I don't know what the fuss is about... anyone who has followed Gloucester Rugby for more than a few seasons will be well used to watching a

team throw away a seemingly insurmountable lead. In fact, a whole new verb is born: to 'Gloucester' – the ability to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory.

Happily though – and hopefully without tempting fate today – we have put those days behind us. A new toughness about the side in the Johan era, and that's a good thing. And if you want to see the living embodiment of that new toughness you don't have to look that far – just into the second row and the machine that is Franco Mostert.

'Machine' doesn't do him justice, he's superhuman – his energy levels and physicality in the 80th minute are the same as they were in the first. Unbelievable stamina and he must be a nightmare to play against. And, just as Ruan Ackermann did in his first year, he's playing our season after completing a season in Super Rugby and an international tour. Freakish fitness and he's already a long way up the ladder to legendary status in my book.

It's a shame we had to have a weekend off for the last round of the Six Nations and the new Premiership Rugby Cup Final (was I the only one who thought it a bit off that it was played at the home ground of one of the competing teams) as we hit a great vein of form in the weeks prior.

In case you have been living in a bubble for a few weeks, we clock up back to back wins against the teams in first and second place in the league and then throw away



all the good stuff in a frankly flummoxing performance away at Bristol. For all the world it looked like we were going to get the result but Bristol just kept coming and we kept making mistakes. Yep, we 'Gloucestered' it.

So, the following week, an away trip to the Stoop to play one of the in-form teams was probably not what the doctor would have ordered. Many feared the worst: our away form, the performance in Bristol the week before... a losing bonus point was about the best we could hope for...

Except I had a sneaking suspicion that we could nick it. We did more than that though... I am struggling to remember a more complete away performance from the team. While I admit that I often struggle to remember what I did yesterday, this was different. A monstrous performance from one to 15, and had it not been for a very late – and very soft – try at the death

for Harlequins they would have left with nothing.

That said, with a comfortable lead and not many minutes left on the clock you could see by looking at all the Gloucester fans at the Stoop that they were thinking '...there is still time for us to throw this away...'. Not so, though. Like I said, I can't think of a better team performance in recent years.

That's all well and good, of course. What matters now is not a couple of weeks ago, it's the next few hours. While that win put a bit of clear water between us and fifth place, Wasps are one of the sides in the hunt for that all important top six finish so there's no question of them not coming out firing.

It's great shame that Dan Robson will not be among the men in black today, having been struck down last week with blood clots. I'm no doctor but that doesn't sound good. He's a great player and a great bloke, so hopefully though Dan will bounce back quickly and get himself back on the paddock.

That means that the man in the number nine shirt steering the Wasps ship will be Joe Simpson – who next season will be here among our numbers. With that in mind a couple of nice, slow, loopy passes for interceptions would be nice, Joe – think of the Heineken Champions Cup place for next season!





GLOUCESTER RUGBY

24



EXETER CHIEFS

17



“THAT LAST DEFENSIVE EFFORT SHOWED THE GUTS OF THE GUYS. BUT WE ATTACKED WELL IN PARTS. WE PROBABLY LEFT A FEW TRIES OUT THERE AND OUR SET PIECE WAS MUCH BETTER.”

“THE BIG THING IS HOPEFULLY WE CAN IMPROVE FROM THIS. EVERYONE WILL BE THAT MUCH SHARPER AND MORE FOCUSED IN THE GAMES AHEAD.”

HEAD COACH, JOHAN ACKERMANN

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Gloucester Rugby snapped a five game losing streak in all competitions with a thrilling 24-17 Gallagher Premiership victory over league leaders, Exeter Chiefs.

It was the fourth time this season that the two teams have met in first team action, and two wins apiece shows that there is little to choose between the two teams on the day.

This was certainly the case as the Premiership resumed after a break of several weeks, and Gloucester Rugby and Exeter ensured that it hit the ground running!

The momentum of the game swayed this way and that as both teams enjoyed periods of superiority but, crucially, the Cherry and Whites had their noses in front at the final whistle although it was a very close run thing.

It took a valiant, backs to the wall effort as time expired to protect the narrow lead, but Gloucester Rugby did just about hold out although the Chiefs were convinced that there was an element of skulduggery involved!

But, on the balance of things, no-one would have begrudged Gloucester

Rugby the win – on the day, they just about edged it.

Things did look ominous early on, however. Despite missing several players on international duty, the Exeter juggernaut looked in good nick and their pack very nearly rumbled over for a try from a catch and drive, before scrum-half Nic White darted over.

Billy Twelvetrees narrowed the deficit with a penalty, before Gloucester Rugby took the lead. Danny Cipriani's cross-kick was well caught by Ollie



Thorley who offloaded for Jason Woodward to score. Twelvetrees converted for 10-7.

Exeter hit back at the start of the second half, Sam Simmonds levelling the scores with a penalty. But it was Gloucester Rugby who struck next, Willi Heinz scoring a similar try to White's earlier effort as he forced his way over from close range.

Ollie Thorley very nearly extended Gloucester Rugby's lead, but lost control as he tried to touch down and the Chiefs duly levelled

matters, former Cherry and White Matt Kvesic making the key break for Tom O'Flaherty to sprint home untouched.

The tension mounted and Billy Twelvetrees was narrowly off target with two tricky penalties as the Cherry and Whites piled on the pressure. But the crucial score finally came, albeit with a bit of luck.

An Owen Williams clearance kick was semi-charged down, playing his teammates onside. Ollie Thorley scooped up the loose ball and set off. The

support was good, the hands were secure and Ben Morgan crashed over. Twelvetrees showed admirable nerve to convert.

Just a couple of minutes left, but there was still drama to come. The Cherry and Whites received the restart safely but were then penalised for a neck roll.

The Chiefs kicked to the corner and proceeded to hammer away at the line. They've done it successfully so many times, but this time they came up short... just!



GLOUCESTER RUGBY

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SARACENS

SARACENS RUGBY

24

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“IT WAS A PRETTY FRUSTRATING WAY TO FINISH WHEN WE WERE IN QUITE A GOOD POSITION AND WE LET THEM BACK IN.”

“SARRIES ARE SUCH A GOOD SIDE AND IF YOU TAKE YOUR FOOT OFF THE GAS FOR A MINUTE YOU LET THEM IN AND THEY TOOK THEIR TRIES WELL TO BE FAIR.”

“DISAPPOINTED NOT TO GET THE FOURTH TRY WITH THE WAY THE GAME WENT BUT WE’LL DEFINITELY TAKE THE WIN.”

BACKS COACH, TIM TAYLOR



For the second time in seven days, Gloucester Rugby took a big scalp at Kingsholm as they defeated Saracens by 30 points to 24.

The margin of victory was actually less than the 24-17 triumph over the Exeter Chiefs the week before. However, scorelines can be deceptive as this was a far less stressful encounter, only two late scores in the final two minutes earning

a losing bonus point for the visitors.

Saracens will rightly point out that they were missing several internationals, but they were still able to field a competitive line-up and the Cherry and Whites had to be at their best to emerge victorious.

Gloucester Rugby imposed themselves straightaway on the night. Billy Twelvetrees kicked an

early penalty, then converted Ben Morgan’s try as the number eight showed great awareness to touch the ball against the base of the post pad for the game’s first try.

10-0 up after 22 minutes, Twelvetrees extended the lead with two further penalties as the Cherry and Whites kept up the pressure, Saracens’ Alex Lozowski responding with one of his own as the home team went into half-time with a decent 16-3 lead.



Saracens did their best to fight back at the start of the second half, but were kept at bay by some resolute Gloucester Rugby defence. The Cherry and Whites then started to turn the screw.

Three times they were held up over the line, as the Saracens defence hung tough, but the pressure eventually told as Ed Slater crashed over from a couple of metres out.

The visitors duly made a host of replacements in a bid to get back in the game, and it paid dividends. A penalty kicked deep into the Gloucester Rugby 22 set up the field position and Michael Rhodes burrowed his way over from close range. Lozowski converted for 23-10.

However, any thoughts of a comeback were swiftly quashed as Ben Morgan, who put in a Man of the Match performance, added

his second try of the evening to effectively clinch the win as Twelvetrees converted again to open up a 30-10 lead.

Credit to Saracens, they showed the attitude of a team who have achieved so much over the past few seasons as they kept going right until the very final whistle, two tries in the final two minutes securing an important losing bonus point for the Men in Black.



BRISTOL BEARS

28



GLOUCESTER RUGBY

24

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“THE PLAYERS KNOW WE LET AN OPPORTUNITY SLIP. THE FIRST HALF WAS REALLY OUR OWN FAULT. WE TRIED LITTLE OFFLOADS AND DIDN'T KICK OUT, WHEN THE PLAN WAS TO KICK OUT.

“IN THE SECOND HALF WE GOT THE LEAD AND FELT WE COULD CAPITALISE, BUT THEN WE LET THEM BACK IN. THE YELLOW CARDS WERE DEBATABLE - ONE OF THOSE THINGS THAT EITHER GO FOR YOU OR DO NOT.

“BUT WE SHOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN IN THAT POSITION IN THE SECOND HALF. IF WE'D PLAYED BETTER IN THE FIRST HALF. THE REALITY IS, WE HAVE TO GIVE BRISTOL CREDIT.”

HEAD COACH, JOHAN ACKERMANN

Gloucester Rugby's winning run came to a shuddering halt at Ashton Gate as, having beaten Exeter Chiefs and Saracens in successive weeks, the Cherry and Whites slipped to a disappointing 28-24 defeat at the hands of the Bristol Bears.

Having consolidated their position in the play-off places of the Gallagher Premiership table with the two wins against the top two teams in the league, the defeat represented a missed opportunity to open up a gap on the chasing teams.

What was perhaps most disappointing

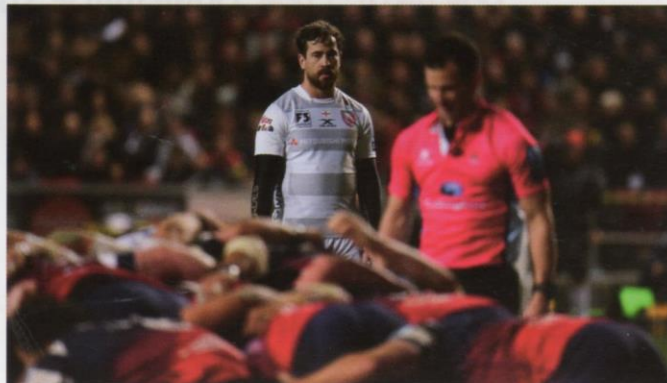
on the night was that Gloucester Rugby just didn't perform against their West Country rivals. It was an error strewn performance and, in the cold light of day, Bristol didn't have to work too hard for at least two of their tries.

Similarly, at least one key refereeing decision went against the Cherry and Whites on the night. The deliberate knock-on awarded against Jason Woodward, for example, which saw the full-back awarded a yellow card and ultimately resulted in a penalty try for the home team, and a second yellow card for Gloucester Rugby, was shown on replay to have gone backwards.

But the simple fact of the matter is that the Cherry and Whites fell a long way short of the standards they reached against Exeter and Saracens and, in a league which is so competitive, that was enough for Bristol to prevail.

Things went awry for Gloucester Rugby very early on. A poor kick chase of a clearance kick downfield saw a couple of simple passes open up the defence and former Cherry and White Dan Thomas touched down.

It was a setback and some scrappy play followed, but Gloucester Rugby hit back as good hands from Danny



Cipriani put Jason Woodward over and Billy Twelvetrees converted for a 5-7 lead. However, two Callum Sheedy penalties saw Bristol lead 11-7 at half time.

Twelvetrees narrowed the gap with a penalty early in the second half, but poor kick chase once again hurt Gloucester Rugby as Luke Morahan made the initial break before Andy Uren went over in the corner, Ian Madigan converting for 18-10.

The game then seemed to swing decisively the way of the Cherry and Whites. Tom Marshall finished

magnificently in the corner, before Woodward harassed Charles Piutau into a mistake as both chased Cipriani's kick through and Ollie Thorley swooped on the loose ball to score.

The Cherry and Whites, despite being well below their best, had their noses in front but the momentum suddenly turned.

Woodward was harshly yellow carded and Bristol were able to kick to the corner. The subsequent catch and drive resulted in a penalty try for the home side and edged them in front 25-24.

Even worse, Ed Slater was sinbinned for the penalty try offence.

Despite being down to 13 men, Gloucester Rugby had a chance to retake the lead but Twelvetrees was off target with his penalty attempt. Ian Madigan made no such error off the tee a few minutes later and Bristol led 28-24.

There was one last chance for the Cherry and Whites as they forced a last-gasp five metre lineout, but Bristol spoiled the maul to end the game and send Ashton Gate into raptures.



GLOUCESTER RUGBY



WASPS RUGBY

82

T	P	C	D		POSITION	T	P	C	D		
■	■	■	■	Jason WOODWARD 15	FULL BACK	15	Willie LE ROUX	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	Tom MARSHALL 14	RIGHT WING	14	Elliot DALY	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	Billy TWELVETREES 13	OUTSIDE CENTRE	13	Juan DE JONGH	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	Mark ATKINSON 12	INSIDE CENTRE	12	Gaby LOVOBALAVU	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	Ollie THORLEY 11	LEFT WING	11	Josh BASSETT	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	Danny CIPRIANI 10	FLY-HALF	10	Rob MILLER	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	Willi HEINZ (C) 9	SCRUM-HALF	9	Joe SIMPSON	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	Josh HOHNECK 1	LOOSEHEAD PROP	1	Ben HARRIS	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	Franco MARAIS 2	HOOKER	2	Tom CRUSE	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	Fraser BALMAIN 3	TIGHTHEAD PROP	3	Will STUART	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	Ed SLATER 4	LOCK	4	Joe LAUNCHBURY	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	Franco MOSTERT 5	LOCK	5	Will ROWLANDS	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	Ruan ACKERMANN 6	BLINDSIDE FLANKER	6	Brad SHIELDS	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	Jaco KRIEL 7	OPENSIDE FLANKER	7	Nizaam CARR	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	Ben MORGAN 8	NUMBER 8	8	Nathan HUGHES	■	■	■	■
REPLACEMENTS											
■	■	■	■	Henry WALKER 16		16	Tommy TAYLOR	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	Val RAPAVA RUSKIN 17		17	Zurabi ZHVANIA	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	Ruan DREYER 18		18	Jake COOPER-WOOLLEY	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	Freddie CLARKE 19		19	James GASKELL	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	Lewis LUDLOW 20		20	Ashley JOHNSON	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	Callum BRALEY 21		21	Craig HAMPSON	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	Owen WILLIAMS 22		22	Jacob UMAGA	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	Matt BANAHAN 23		23	Ross NEAL	■	■	■	■



MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: Ian Tempest
Assistant Referees: Hamish Smales & Simon McConnell / TMO: Stuart Terheege

