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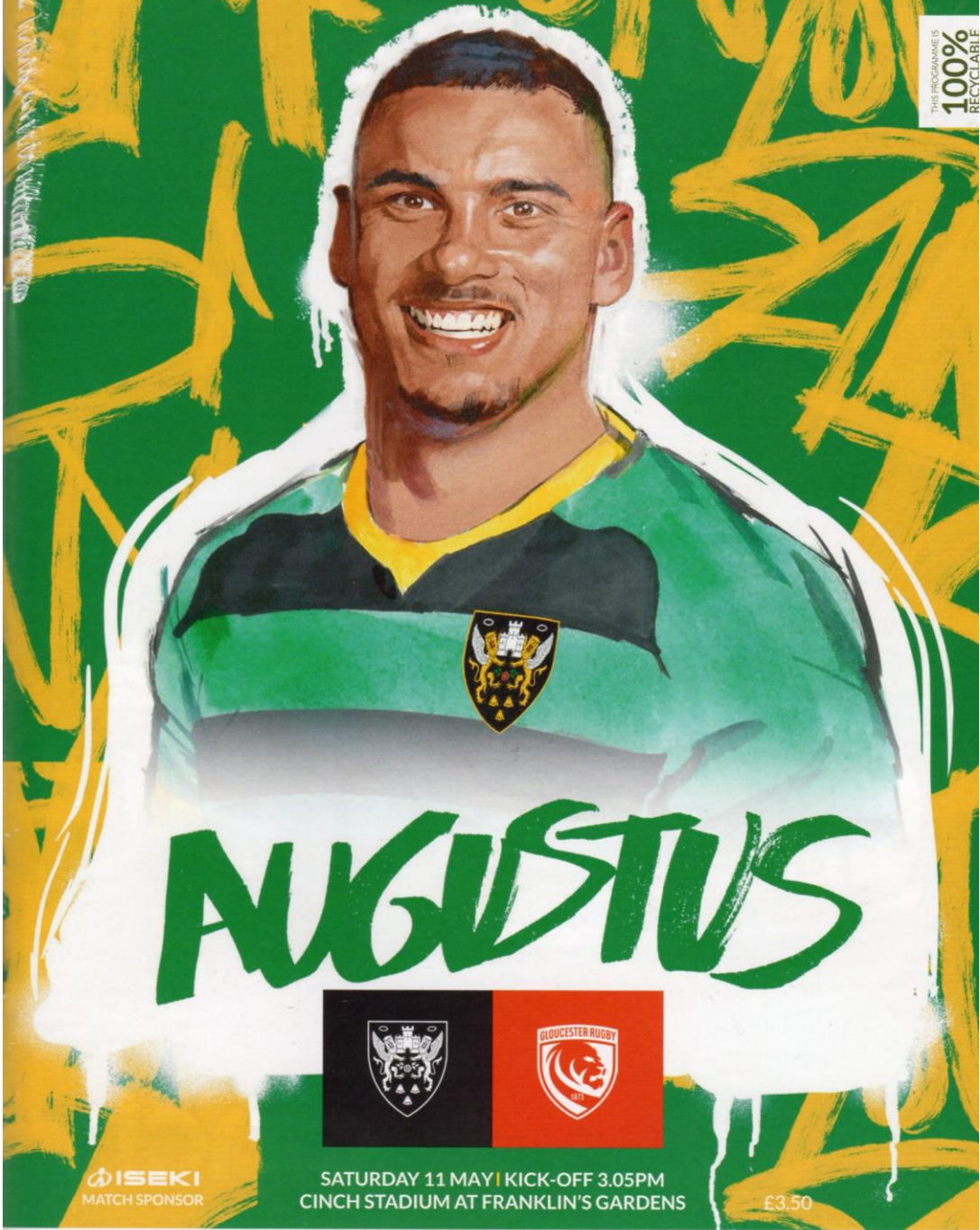
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macron

TOOLSTATION

Travis Perkins

THE PROGRAMME IS
**100%
RECYCLABLE**



ISEKI
MATCH SPONSOR

SATURDAY 11 MAY | KICK-OFF 3.05PM
CINCH STADIUM AT FRANKLIN'S GARDENS

£3.50

Gallagher PREMIERSHIP RUGBY

Gallagher



ASDA LONDON PRIDE

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Christopher Ward

TNT SPORTS



ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW

A glance at the Gallagher Premiership table would suggest the 2023/24 season has not been a vintage one for the Cherry and Whites.

With two rounds of the regular season remaining, George Skivington's side are already confirmed to finish second bottom this term with a return so far of four wins from 16 games.

However, their Cup form has been nothing short of extraordinary. They won all six of their Premiership Rugby Cup games before making it a magnificent seven by defeating Leicester Tigers in March's Final at Kingsholm to lift the trophy.

That isn't the only silverware they could secure this term. Gloucester's European Challenge Cup journey has seen them conquer opponents from Georgia, France, Scotland, Wales and last weekend, Italy, as they defeated Benetton to make it seven successive wins in the competition.

They will be aiming to make it 15 wins from as many Cup games on Friday 24 May when South African side the HollywoodBet Sharks are their opponents at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium final.

Gloucester's 2023/24 league season actually started with some promise as Harlequins and Newcastle Falcons were defeated in the opening rounds.



However, this was followed by nine successive losses – including going down 31-29 at Kingsholm to Saints in dramatic showdown two days before Christmas.

That poor run finally ended with a 32-20 victory over Sale Sharks in Round 12 before leaving Mattioli Woods Welford Road a week later with a 27-25 win at Leicester Tigers' expense.

Those successive wins that sandwiched the Six Nations break did not usher a turnaround in form to haul them up the table as defeats followed to Bristol Bears, Saracens and Exeter Chiefs.

Skivington's recruitment entering the current campaign was headlined by luring former Bath



No.8 Zach Mercer back from Montpellier while a large number of players headed for pastures new. Tom Seabrook joined Saints, Billy Twevetrees teamed up with Ealing and Giorgi Kveseladze headed back home to Georgia's Black Lion.

But their biggest departure was to come ahead of the Six Nations when superstar winger Louis Rees-Zammit was granted a release from his contract to pursue a career in American Football. Gloucester also saw England hooker Jack Singleton team up with Toulon while the talismanic talents of centre Mark Atkinson sadly came to an end following his injury-enforced retirement.

Heading into next season, key men such as back rows Ruan Ackermann and Lewis Ludlow are committed to new deals along with prop Val Rapava-Ruskin. There's some stardust incoming to Kingsholm too as former Wasps winger Christian Wade resumes his Premiership career with Chris Ashton's all-time try-scoring record in his sights after five years away at the Buffalo Bills and Racing 92.

There's a couple of notable half-backs also arriving in the form of Tomos Williams and Gareth Anscombe – who have 95 Welsh caps between them. Argentinian hooker Santi Socino is heading to France, while Adam Hastings is returning to Scotland with Glasgow.

Gloucester have finished top of the Premiership on three separate occasions in 2002/03, 2006/07 and 2007/08 but missed out on the big prize with two final losses and a semi-final defeat.

The Cherry and Whites have competed in the end-of-season playoffs once in the last 12 seasons, when they came third before losing to eventual champions, Saracens.

While league silverware has eluded them, since the turn of the century, Gloucester have won five trophies. That started with the 2002/03 Powergen Cup when Saints were defeated 40-22 in the Twickenham Stadium final.

European Challenge Cup followed in 2005/06 when London Irish were edged 36-34 in a thrilling final at the Twickenham Stoop. The same venue also hosted Gloucester winning the same competition in 2014/15, when Edinburgh were beaten 19-13.

Gloucester have also lifted silverware right here at cinch Stadium at Franklin's Gardens, when it was the neutral venue for the 2010/11 LV=Cup final, where Newcastle Falcons were thrashed 34-7.

HEAD COACH

GEORGE SKIVINGTON



Warrington-born Skivington enjoyed a fine playing career winning four Premiership titles and two Heineken Cups with Wasps before moving to Leicester Tigers in 2010.

After two years at Welford Road, he switched to London Irish before retiring in 2016 at the age of 33 due to a shoulder injury. Skivington was capped by England

Saxons and spent time in main squads without making his senior international debut.

His coaching journey started while he was still playing at Ealing Trailfinders before becoming forwards coach at London Irish upon his retirement.



WHO TO WATCH

ZACH MERCER

26 | NO.8 | ENGLAND

Mercer made his debut for Bath as a 19-year-old back in 2016, and went on to make 99 appearances for the club before making the move to France and Montpellier in 2021.

While at Bath he was also handed his England debut, as he came off the bench at Twickenham against South Africa in 2018.

His move to France a couple of years later ruled the back row out of England selection, but his time across the channel was a great success – he made 59 appearances over two seasons, and won the Top14 in his first season with Montpellier.

Now back in the Gallagher Premiership, this time with Gloucester, he has helped the Cherry and Whites to a Premiership Rugby Cup win, along with a spot in the European Challenge Cup final later this month against the Sharks.



JONNY MAY

34 | WING | ENGLAND

Having made his debut for Gloucester back in 2009, May has made 188 appearances for the Cherry and Whites and announced earlier this year that he will be leaving the club and the end of the current campaign.

Between his two stints for Gloucester, May also made 44 appearances for Leicester Tigers from 2017-2020 – in which he scored 30 tries.

Internationally, May made his debut for England in 2013 on the summer tour of Argentina, and went on to make 78 appearances for his national side, including playing in the 2019 Rugby World Cup final.



CHRIS HARRIS 33 | CENTRE | SCOTLAND

Starting life at Newcastle, Harris made over 100 appearances for the Falcons and scored 20 tries along the way.

He made the switch to Gloucester for the 2019/20 Premiership season, and the Scotland international now has 87 appearances for the Cherry and Whites.

Harris made his Scotland debut in November 2017 at Murrayfield against Samoa, and started his first Six Nations game the year after against Wales.

His first try for his country came in the 2019 Six Nations against Italy. So far, he's made 47 appearances for Scotland, with the most recent outing coming in last year's Rugby World Cup.

JOSH HATHAWAY 20 | WING | ENGLAND U20

Wing Josh Hathaway has enjoyed a breakthrough campaign for the Cherry and Whites this term.

He made his debut for the club last season in the Premiership Rugby Cup, playing in the final two rounds.

This season, the 20-year-old has gone from strength to strength, making his Premiership debut at home to Saracens in Round 3.

It was against Saracens away from home later in the campaign where he ran in a hat-trick of tries – having scored his first in the league the week before against Bristol.



HEAD 2 HEAD | GLOUCESTER RUGBY



V



HEAD 2 HEAD

33

WON

2

DRAWN

35

LOST

1,546

POINTS FOR

1,450

POINTS AGAINST



BIGGEST WIN:
SAINTS 53
GLOUCESTER 6 (2014)



HEAVIEST LOSS:
SAINTS 7
GLOUCESTER 31 (2021)



SAINTS AND IAN TEMPEST
P23 | W11 | D0 | L12

LAST TIME HE REFEREED US:
SAINTS 82 DONCASTER 12
(OCT 2023)

**Stats only cover the professional era*



OPPOSITION BY NUMBERS

68

GLOUCESTER HAVE CONCEDED THE **SECOND-HIGHEST** NUMBER OF TRIES IN THE LEAGUE

THEY HAVE ALSO SCORED THE **SECOND-FEWEST** NUMBER OF TRIES

46

2,293

ONLY **SAINTS** HAVE MADE MORE TACKLES IN THE LEAGUE SO FAR THIS SEASON THAN GLOUCESTER

GLOUCESTER ALSO SIT **SECOND-HIGHEST** ON **TACKLES MISSED**, BEHIND HARLEQUINS

370

19

LEWIS LUDLOW HAS CONCEDED MORE PENALTIES THAN ANY OTHER PLAYER IN THE PREMIERSHIP

ZACH MERCER HAS MADE MORE OFFLOADS THAN ANY OTHER GLOUCESTER PLAYER

54

7,552

THE CHERRY AND WHITES HAVE **CONCEDED MORE METRES** THAN ANY OTHER TEAM THIS SEASON

ONLY TWO TEAMS HAVE **WON MORE TURNOVERS** THAN GLOUCESTER THIS SEASON

119

126

ONLY **NEWCASTLE** HAVE MADE **FEWER ENTRIES** INTO THE OPPOSITION 22 THIS SEASON THAN GLOUCESTER

HOW THEY MIGHT LINE UP



- REPLACEMENTS**
 16 Sam Matavesi
 17 Emmanuel Iyogun
 18 Elliot Millar Mills
 19 Temo Mayanavanua
 20 Sam Graham
 21 Tom James
 22 Burger Odendaal
 23 James Ramm

Any late changes will be announced in the stadium on matchday.



Our best guess at:

- | | | |
|------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| 15 Josh Hathaway | 10 Adam Hastings | 4 Freddie Clarke |
| 14 Jonny May | 9 Caolan Englefield | 5 Freddie Thomas |
| 13 Chris Harris | 1 Mayco Vivas | 6 Ruan Ackermann |
| 12 Seb Atkinson | 2 Seb Blake | 7 Lewis Ludlow (c) |
| 11 Ollie Thorley | 3 Kirill Gotovtsev | 8 Zach Mercer |

REPLACEMENTS

- | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| 16 Santi Socino | 19 Albert Tuisue | 22 Charlie Atkinson |
| 17 Jamal Ford-Robinson | 20 Jack Clement | 23 Alex Hearle |
| 18 Ciaran Knight | 21 Stephen Varney | |

OFFICIALS

- Referee:**
 Ian Tompsett
Assistant Referees:
 Adam Leal and Dan Jones
No. 4: John Meredith
TMO: Rowan Kitt