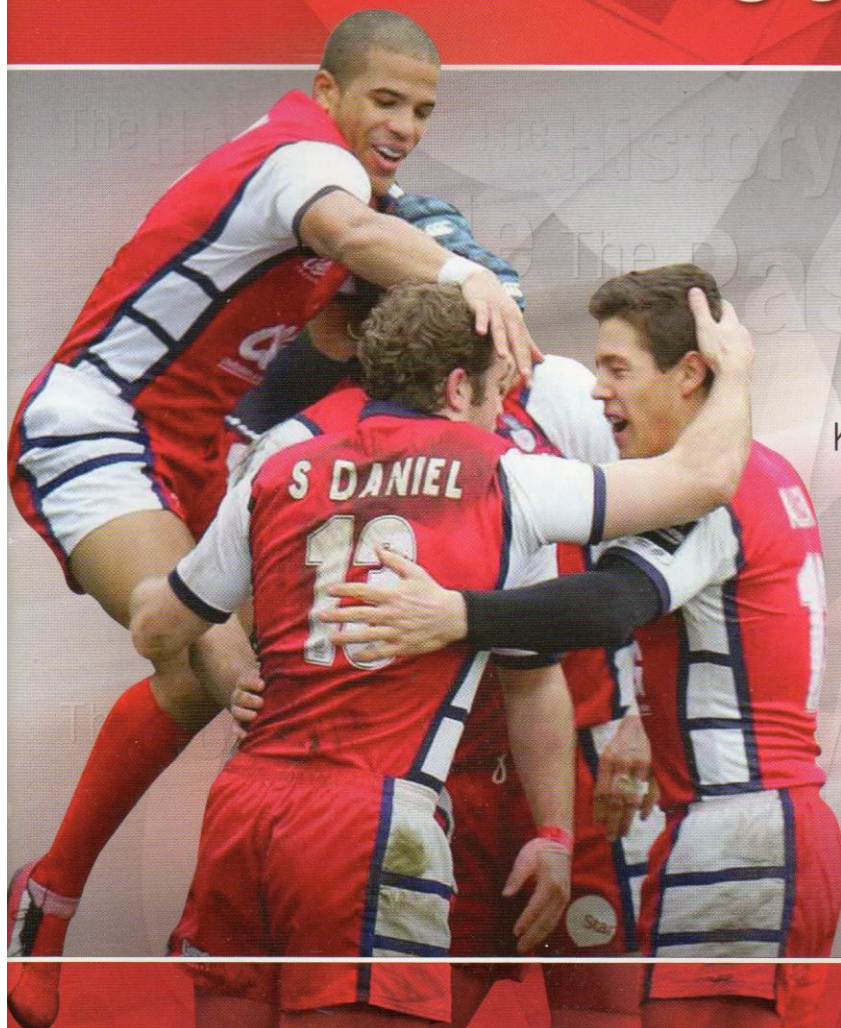


Gloucester

Gloucester Rugby Official Matchday Magazine | 2005/06 Season | Issue 14 | Price £3.00

Rugby



Jake Boer

A man on a mission

Ryan's Review

all the latest from the Kingsholm head coach

Brive

a great French name comes to town

All the regular contributors in another bumper matchday magazine

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VS **Brive**

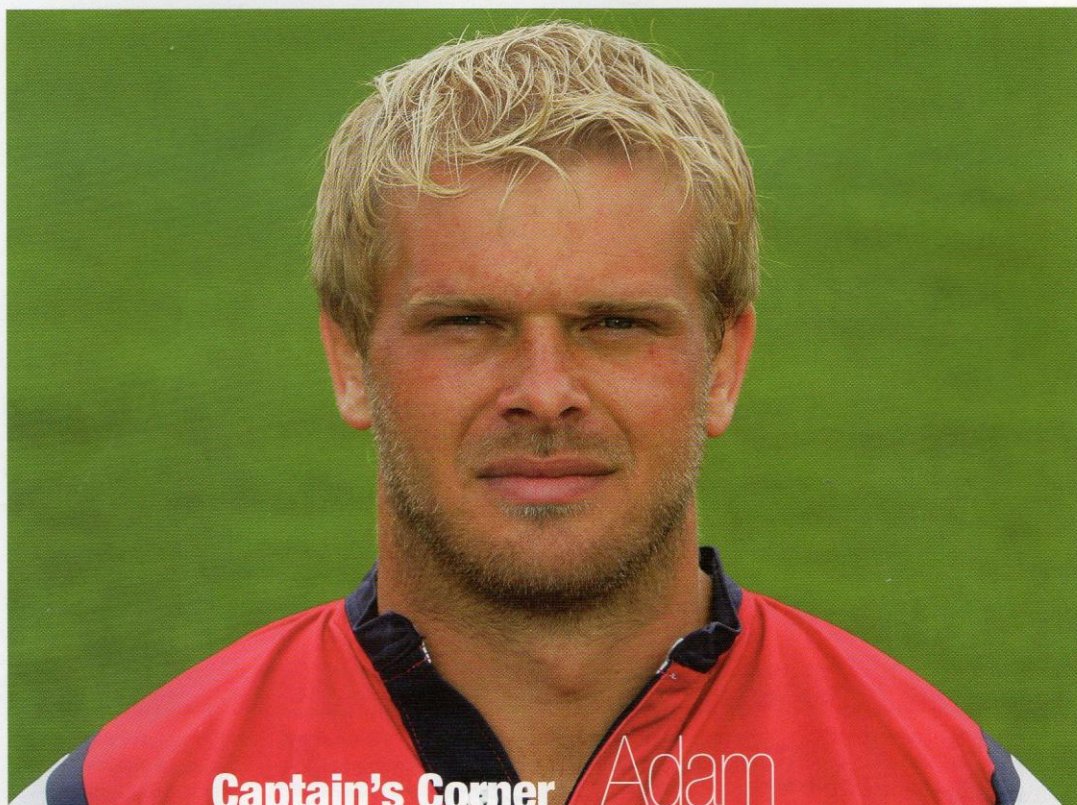
Saturday 1st April | Kick Off 15.00pm



European Challenge Cup

ercrugby.com

Quarter Final



Captain's Corner

Adam

In association with

dair*

Balding

TODAY WE are in the quarter-finals of the European Challenge Cup against Brive - one of the greatest names associated with the game in the northern hemisphere.

They were crowned the first ever Heineken Cup winners when they beat my former club Leicester in the 1997 final and since then Europe's premier club competition has grown to dominate the sport.

We are well aware that this afternoon's game represents a route back into the

Heineken Cup but equally importantly it is a chance to gain some silverware.

When you think that there are only three trophies on offer each season, to be in a position to win one is a rare occurrence and we obviously want to take advantage today.

When we set out on our European campaign, we first aimed to win our pool and gain a quarter-final.

Now we have done that, it would be a travesty if we let

it go to waste this afternoon. Nobody needs telling we are in the middle of a poor run of form that has been compounded by a withering sequence of injuries that has seriously depleted the squad.

But we are two games away from a final appearance and I know the boys will pull together today, raise themselves and produce a performance and a result we can be proud of.

This week has been one of the most difficult of the season, so if there was ever

80 minutes when we need you guys out there to really summon every last drop of passion you have, it's today.

The support has been great all season - the night match against Leicester was one of the best of my career - but with the situation at the moment, you really can make a difference.

Brive are a very organised and well-drilled side. I am sure they will attack the scrum and the line-out and generally try and make life pretty uncomfortable for us.

My only wish was that I was able to take part, but like the rest of you, I will be right behind the boys this afternoon.

The **Passion**

Guarantee a ticket at **Kingsholm** - call **0871 871 8781**

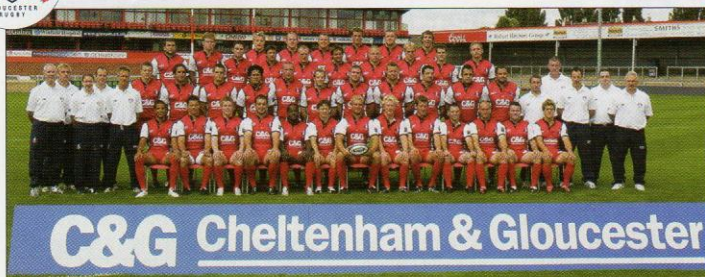
05

gloucester rugby.co.uk

SQUAD: 2005/06



Gloucester Rugby Squad 2005/06



Jack **ADAMS**

Position:
Centre
D.O.B:
17.09.86
Height:
1.82m [6', 0"]
Weight:
95kg [14st, 8lb]
International Hons:
England U18



Player Sponsor:



Anthony **ALLEN**

Position:
Centre
D.O.B:
01.09.86
Height:
1.80m [5', 10"]
Weight:
90kg [14st, 3lb]
International Hons:
England U19



Player Sponsor:

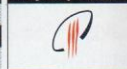


Simon **AMOR**

Position:
Halfback
D.O.B:
25.04.79
Height:
1.69m [5', 7"]
Weight:
75kg [12st, 0lb]
International Hons:
England Sevens



Player Sponsor:



Olivier **AZAM**

Position:
Hooker
D.O.B:
21.10.74
Height:
1.85m [6', 0"]
Weight:
115kg [18st, 2lb]
International Hons:
France

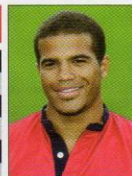


Player Sponsor:



James **BAILEY**

Position:
Wing
D.O.B:
05.08.83
Height:
1.80m [5', 10"]
Weight:
83kg [13st, 2lb]
International Hons:
England U21, Sevens



Player Sponsor:



Adam **BALDING**

Position:
Number 8
D.O.B:
07.12.79
Height:
1.88m [6', 2"]
Weight:
111kg [17st, 7lb]
International Hons:
England 'A'



Player Sponsor:



Jake BOER**Position:**

Flanker

D.O.B:

01.11.75

Height:

1.87m [6', 1"]

Weight:

105kg [16st, 8lb]

International Hons:

-

**Player Sponsor:****Alex BROWN****Position:**

Lock

D.O.B:

17.05.79

Height:

2.00m [6', 7"]

Weight:

113kg [17st, 5lb]

International Hons:

England 'A'

**Player Sponsor:****Peter BUXTON****Position:**

Back Row

D.O.B:

21.08.78

Height:

1.92m [6', 3"]

Weight:

112kg [17st, 9lb]

International Hons:

England 'A'

**Player Sponsor:****Patrice COLLAZO****Position:**

Prop

D.O.B:

27.04.74

Height:

1.85m [6', 1"]

Weight:

110kg [17st, 3lb]

International Hons:

France

**Player Sponsor:****Mark CORNWELL****Position:**

Lock

D.O.B:

22.03.73

Height:

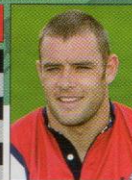
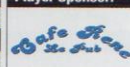
2.01m [6', 7"]

Weight:

117kg [18st, 2lb]

International Hons:

England 'A'

**Player Sponsor:****Quinton DAVIDS****Position:**

Second Row

D.O.B:

17.07.75

Height:

1.98.1 [6', 6"]

Weight:

122kgs

International Hons:

South Africa

**Player Sponsor:****Brad DAVIES****Position:**

Outside Half

D.O.B:

13.02.83

Height:

1.77m [5', 9"]

Weight:

89kg [14st, 1lb]

International Hons:

England U21, U18

**Player Sponsor:****Mefin DAVIES****Position:**

Hooker

D.O.B:

02.09.72

Height:

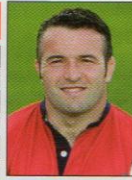
1.78m [5', 10"]

Weight:

95kg [16st, 5lb]

International Hons:

Wales

**Player Sponsor:****Rob ELLOWAY****Position:**

Hooker

D.O.B:

09.11.83

Height:

1.83m [6', 0"]

Weight:

98kg [15st, 4lb]

International Hons:**Player Sponsor:****Adam EUSTACE****Position:**

Lock

D.O.B:

09.01.79

Height:

1.95m [6', 4"]

Weight:

108kg [17st, 0lb]

International Hons:

England 'A', U21, U19

**Player Sponsor:****Terry FANOLUA****Position:**

Centre

D.O.B:

03.07.74

Height:

1.83m [6', 0"]

Weight:

94kg [14st, 12lb]

International Hons:

Manu Samoa

**Player Sponsor:****James FORRESTER****Position:**

Number 8

D.O.B:

09.02.81

Height:

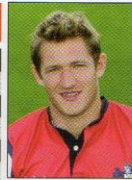
1.95m [6', 5"]

Weight:

104kg [16st]

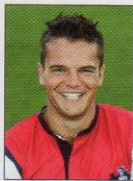
International Hons:

England

**Player Sponsor:****The Passion**

Mark FOSTER

Position:
Wing
D.O.B:
02.09.83
Height:
1.83m [6', 0"]
Weight:
91kg [14st, 3lb]
International Hons:
England U21



Player Sponsor:

**Marcel GARVEY**

Position:
Wing
D.O.B:
21.04.83
Height:
1.73m [5', 8"]
Weight:
89kg [13st, 7lb]
International Hons:
England 'A'



Player Sponsor:

**Jon GOODRIDGE**

Position:
Full-back
D.O.B:
26.02.81
Height:
1.86m
Weight:
86kg
International Hons:
England U21



Player Sponsor:

**Andy HAZELL**

Position:
Flanker
D.O.B:
25.04.78
Height:
1.83m
Weight:
93.1kg
International Hons:
England



Player Sponsor:

**Rudi KEIL**

Position:
Centre
D.O.B:
08.12.77
Height:
1.85 m [6', 1"]
Weight:
85 kg [13st, 7lb]
International Hons:
South Africa U21



Player Sponsor:

**Ryan LAMB**

Position:
Fly-half
D.O.B:
18.05.86
Height:
1.76m [5', 9"]
Weight:
81kg [12st, 10lb]
International Hons:
England U19



Player Sponsor:

**Will MATTHEWS**

Position:
Back Row
D.O.B:
14.01.85
Height:
1.88m [6', 2"]
Weight:
99kg [15st, 6lb]
International Hons:
England U21



Player Sponsor:

**Duncan McRAE**

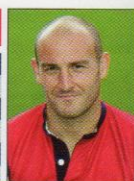
Position:
Outside Half / Full Back
D.O.B:
27.09.74
Height:
1.72m [5', 7"]
Weight:
81kg [12st, 10lb]
International Hons:
Australia 'A'



Player Sponsor:

**Ludovic MERCIER**

Position:
Fly-half
D.O.B:
01.11.76
Height:
1.80m [5', 10"]
Weight:
90kg [14st, 0lb]
International Hons:
France 'A'



Player Sponsor:

**James MERRIMAN**

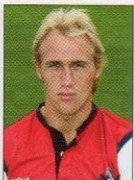
Position:
Flanker
D.O.B:
17.01.84
Height:
1.83m [6', 0"]
Weight:
95kg [14st, 7lb]
International Hons:
Wales U21



Player Sponsor:

**Oliver MORGAN**

Position:
Full-back
D.O.B:
03.11.85
Height:
1.89m [6', 3"]
Weight:
89kg [14st, 1lb]
International Hons:
England U21



Player Sponsor:

**Luke NARRAWAY**

Position:
Back-row
D.O.B:
07.09.83
Height:
1.90m [6', 3"]
Weight:
100kg [15st, 8lb]
International Hons:
England U21



Player Sponsor:



James PARKES

Position:
Hooker
D.O.B:
30.11.80
Height:
1.78m [5', 10"]
Weight:
98kg [15st, 5lb]
International Hons:
England U21

**Henry PAUL**

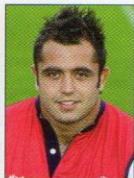
Position:
Centre
D.O.B:
10.02.74
Height:
1.80m [5', 11"]
Weight:
97kg [14st, 10lb]
International Hons:
England 'A', Sevens, England

**Jonathan PENDLEBURY**

Position:
Second row
D.O.B:
15.01.83
Height:
1.94m [6', 5"]
Weight:
104kg [16st, 5lb]
International Hons:
England U21

**Gary POWELL**

Position:
Prop
D.O.B:
30.10.79
Height:
1.82m [6', 0"]
Weight:
112kg [17st, 7lb]
International Hons:
Wales Development

**Peter RICHARDS**

Position:
Scrum-half
D.O.B:
10.03.78
Height:
1.75m [5', 9"]
Weight:
94kg [14st, 2lb]
International Hons:
England A

**Terry SIGLEY**

Position:
Prop
D.O.B:
12.10.78
Height:
1.88m [6', 2"]
Weight:
123kg [19st, 2lbs]
International Hons:
England Counties

**James SIMPSON-DANIEL**

Position:
Wing / Centre
D.O.B:
30.05.82
Height:
1.82m [6', 0"]
Weight:
79kg [12st, 7lb]
International Hons:
England, U21, U19, Sevens

**Rob THIRLBY**

Position:
Wing
D.O.B:
02.03.79
Height:
1.86m [6', 2"]
Weight:
89kg [14st, 0lb]
International Hons:
England Sevens

**Haydn THOMAS**

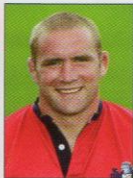
Position:
Scrum-half
D.O.B:
17.09.82
Height:
1.73m [5', 8"]
Weight:
78kg [12st, 4lb]
International Hons:
England Students

**Mike TINDALL**

Position:
Center
D.O.B:
18.10.78
Height:
1.88m [6', 2"]
Weight:
100kg [15st, 8lb]
International Hons:
England

**Phil VICKERY**

Position:
Prop
D.O.B:
14.03.76
Height:
1.91m [6', 3"]
Weight:
120kg [18st, 4lb]
International Hons:
England / Lions

**Nick WOOD**

Position:
Prop
D.O.B:
09.01.83
Height:
1.86m [6', 1"]
Weight:
113kg [17st, 0lb]
International Hons:
England U18, U21 and A



The History



Guinness A League



London Irish



Gloucester Rugby 7 London Irish 12

GLOUCESTER'S hopes of reaching the final of the Guinness A League were dealt a major blow on Monday night when they lost at home to London Irish.

It means they are now sweating on Saracens doing them a favour when they meet southern conference leaders Harlequins on Monday night. If Saracens win, then Gloucester can still qualify if they beat Quins the following week.

"It was disappointing but you have to remember exactly what the A League has been about," said Academy manager Mark Hewitt. "It would be great if every game was like the match against Leicester, when we were strong and had players

to choose from. But in reality, we simply don't have those resources.

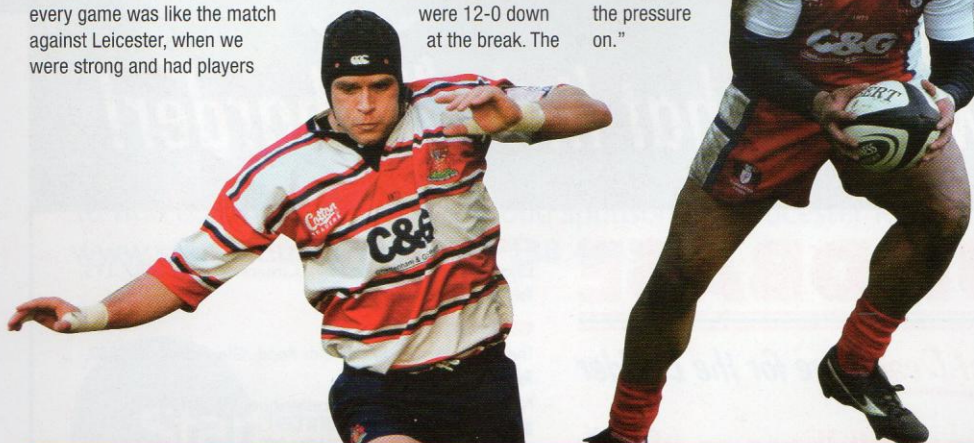
"We operate in a stretched environment - some players are on trial, some use the game for conditioning and some are Academy players. But this year it has been great to have a core of senior guys like Mark Cornwell and Quinton Davids who have been a huge bonus.

"We are obviously not yet out of it and hope that Saracens can do us a favour."

Gloucester played against the wind at Hartpury College on Monday night and were 12-0 down at the break. The

Irish scored tries through Rodd Penney and Dominic Feau'nati to establish an advantage and although Terry Fanolua grabbed a score back in the second half, Gloucester couldn't press home their advantage.

"London Irish kept the ball for long periods and that was the difference," Hewitt added. "They could keep the ball tight for 16, 17 or 18 phases and we couldn't. I didn't think our half-backs had great games and we couldn't get the field position we needed in the second half to really put the pressure on."



The Pas-

Guarantee a ticket at **Kingsholm** - call **0871 871 8781**

gloucester rugby.co.uk

Boer's War

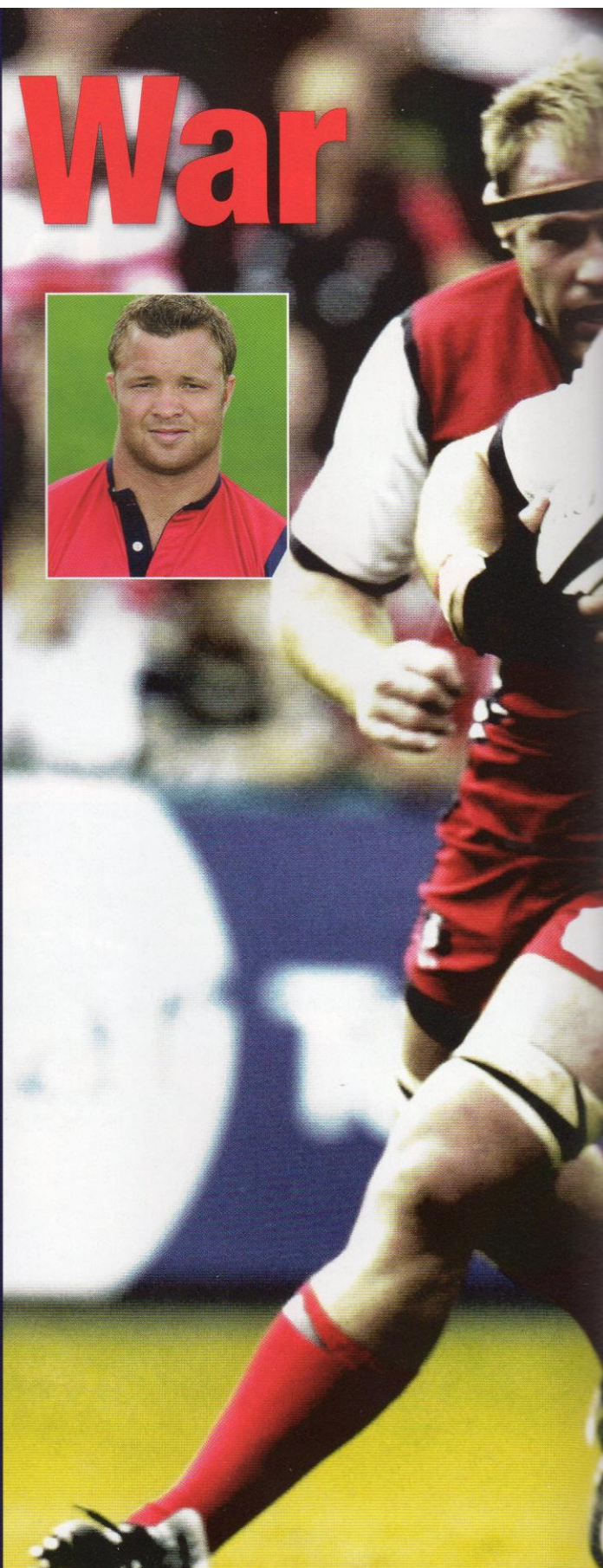
Never short of commitment, never short of energy, Jake Boer's untimely knee injury has robbed Gloucester of one of their most prized assets at a crucial stage in the season

FOR THE lovers of the grim and grotty, of the blue collar grafters who epitomise the competitiveness of the Premiership, relish its near freak-show physicality and glory in its smack-in-the-chops intensity, Jake Boer has a reputation to die for.

There are more aesthetically pleasing dancers and prancers strutting their funky stuff up and down the country and throughout Europe but for those people who regularly sardine themselves inside Kingsholm, a teak-tough forward is capable of captivating more forwards than most.

Boer is currently out of circulation because of a knee injury picked up against Bath. He is making good progress and hopes to return as soon as possible but if you want an idea about the near insane commitment required to flourish at the top of the sport, there is no better man to speak to than Jake Boer.

"When I was a kid, I didn't want for anything but I could be envious of people and I think that is where I get my competitiveness from – I just wanted more," he told the matchday programme.







“We have got some outstanding young players”

“I thought I would never get an opportunity like the one I have got now unless I worked hard and thankfully the rewards have come. For the last nine or 10 years I have lived a dream and it was something I never thought would happen.”

Initially, Boer came to England for a year to give himself a chance of catching his peers in South Africa, who all progressed to Under-21 provisional rugby after school, apart from Boer, who combined his rugby development with a full-time job.

He gave that up and joined Leicester and then switched to London Irish having made the required breakthrough.

But it was only when he dipped a toe in the boiling waters of Castle

Grim in 2000 that this madly competitive South African, who has been starved of international rugby, came into his own.

In a team that has contained World Cup winners from both hemispheres, talismanic figures and the great and the good, Boer stood comparable to anybody. For sheer willingness to succeed, he has no peers. If an opponent needed neutralising, he would do it, if a tackle needed to be made, he would make it and if it meant getting hurt in the process, he would run in front of a train to get the ball.

“I like to believe I have made myself a competitive and successful player because I consistently give my best,” he said. “It is very difficult week in, week out to produce that level of performance but it is about character and raising yourself for it.

“That draws the competitiveness out of me. Sometimes I worry myself because I get competitive about things I really shouldn’t, but that’s in my nature and forms a big part of my game.”

Boer, who has signed a one-year extension with the club, has never won an international cap but could get the chance in the summer – ironically against the Springboks in what amounts to a live trial.

Jake White, the national coach, is hoping to get him included in a rest of the World XV who will face South Africa in Johannesburg in June.

“His is a name I hear a lot of. Players speak highly of him. Coaches applaud his efforts, but all I have to go on is his Premiership form,” White said.

“There is no doubt he is a quality loose-forward, but is he as good

or better than what I have got. The best way is to compare apples with apples and put him against these guys and the World XV game gives me that opportunity.

“I was called to find out whether I had any specific player I wanted to be involved in the World XV and I said I wanted Jake Boer to play against us. It will be an opportunity for him to push for greater recognition when it comes to determining the make-up of the World Cup squad, which will be played in northern hemisphere conditions. It is a chance for him and not a guarantee of anything. But as I have said all along I will explore every avenue to get the right squad for France 2007.”

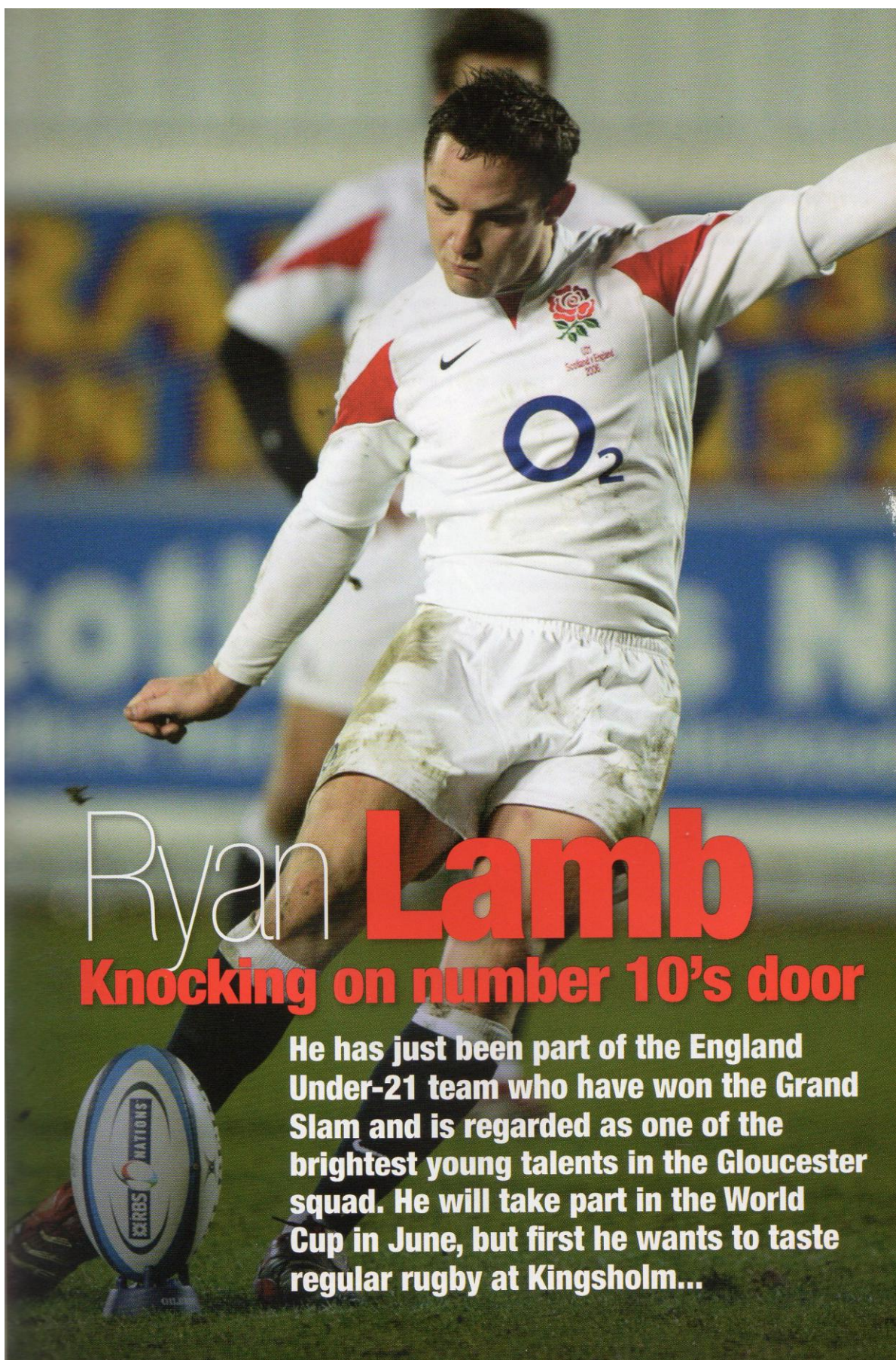
It would be a massive endorsement for the Gloucester man, who is ready to help the youngsters at Kingsholm out for the rest of the season during a particularly difficult spell for the club with a series of long-term injuries.

“The injury situation is very frustrating for the whole club but we just have to get on with it – that is how everybody is thinking,” he said.

“But we have got some outstanding young players who are coming into the side, finding their feet and doing an outstanding job. There is a lot of responsibility on these guys but they are maturing very fast and are the future of the club.

“Everyone who takes the field goes out and gives 100% and we have help them, take the positives out of each performance and get behind them.”

With Boer on board, Gloucester’s youngsters have every chance of making even greater progress and that, in part, would be down to their supremely competitive South African flanker.



Ryan Lamb

Knocking on number 10's door

He has just been part of the England Under-21 team who have won the Grand Slam and is regarded as one of the brightest young talents in the Gloucester squad. He will take part in the World Cup in June, but first he wants to taste regular rugby at Kingsholm...

BY ALL ACCOUNTS, Ryan Lamb is a bit good.

Anyone who has seen him strut his rather funky stuff on a Monday night in the Guinness A League or dance merry rings around the best in his age group in the colours of England knows he has oodles of natural talent.

But what he hasn't been able to do is make the breakthrough at Kingsholm – that notoriously unforgiving feeding frenzy of a place where reputations, however great or young, count for almost nothing until your stripes have been well and truly earned.

To be fair to Lamb (19), he is currently doing all he can to show the Gloucester coaching hierarchy he has what it takes to make the jump into the Guinness Premiership and,

quite possibly, beyond.

"All I intend to do is keep my head down and work as hard as possible to try and earn a regular spot in the squad and then, hopefully, the side," Lamb said.

"I have tried not to take much notice of what people have said about me so far and just concentrated on progressing and making myself a better player. Anyway, the boys are pretty good at bringing you down to earth and I just want to go out and play rugby and take everything else in my stride.

"I think the A League has been cracking for me in terms of my development because you play against a lot of players who have regular first team experience in the Premiership and it really helps and sharpens you up.

"But I know I will have to try and take my chance when it comes. Dean [Ryan] threw me on at the weekend against Bristol which means I have had a taste of it now and I just want more – I loved it."

There is not much Lamb cannot do with a ball in his hands or a bit of space in front of him. He has looked one of the most accomplished and naturally gifted footballers in the A games this season and sparkled for England Under-21s in the same side as club mates Anthony Allen and Olly Morgan.

It would be a considerable coup for Gloucester to produce three outstanding talents, who are all capable of playing in the Premiership, in the future. Both Allen and Morgan are already making great strides but of the three, Lamb plays in a position that requires careful nurturing.

Lamb's career started at St Peter's School – that great conveyor belt of talent that has also handed down Adam Eustace, Brad Davies and Marcel Garvey in recent years.

He played key roles in their Daily Mail Cup marches and immediately joined Gloucester on leaving school last year and signed a one-year extension to his contract a matter of weeks ago.

Although he is not fazed by the company he is keeping,

Lamb admitted he needs to generate more confidence in the coaches before they opt for him over Ludovic Mercier or Davies in the Premiership. "I would love Dean to have confidence in me," he said.

"When my chance comes, I have to go out and perform to the best of my ability. I know I will have



"When the chance comes, I have to go out and perform to the best of my ability."

some great players around me to help me out and I just have to do my best.

"It is a dream to be involved with Gloucester because they are my home-town team and I used to watch them as a kid. I just cannot wait for the chance to show what I can do."

While Davies is safe and secure, Lamb's natural instincts may produce the odd mistake here and there but his threat with ball in hand, vision and distributional skills mark him down as something special.

He guided England through their Grand Slam campaign at the age of 19 – he will not be 20 until May – and has time on his side.

"The England Under-21 season was one of the biggest tests I have faced because the whole series of games were quite intense," he said.

"There was not much time between games and the turn-around was short but the whole experience was fantastic.

"From my experience of the Six Nations, I think we have a really good squad coming together and I really believe we could compete at the World Cup against the bigger nations like New Zealand and Australia.

"But for now, I just want to concentrate on my club rugby. I cannot allow myself to get frustrated but I want to work as hard as I can to try and make the breakthrough."

Gloucester are in the quarter-finals of the European Challenge Cup today and **Bob Fenton will be in the Shed as usual for a rip-roaring encounter against Brive**

Fan Zone

I CAN'T LET this week's column go without mentioning a very unpleasant incident that happened after the end of last week's

match against Bristol. About five minutes after the final whistle the Bristol team came out to applaud their fans, though I personally thought a celebratory lap of honour was a bit over the top.

As the team walked past the Shed some of the abuse heaped on that team from a small number of our own supporters went far beyond what can usually be described as banter. I know it's disappointing to lose but there is really no excuse for supporters of our club to react

with such a torrent of verbal filth.

Unsurprisingly a group of Bristol fans who happened to be passing got caught up in the incident and things took a turn for the worse culminating in a Bristol fan stupidly throwing his pint over a Gloucester supporter.

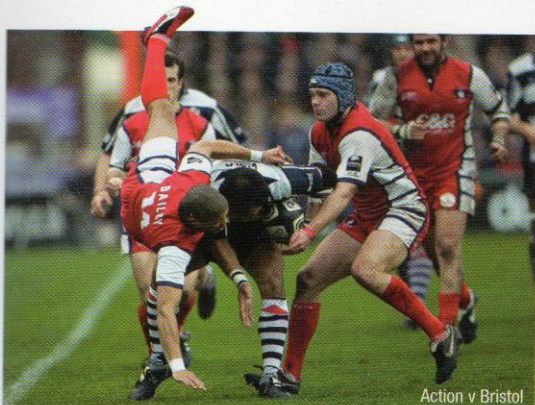
Fortunately the stewards were on hand quickly and literally ripped the offending fan over the barrier to prevent things getting even worse.

It's easy just to blame the actions of the Bristol fan for this incident, that's burying your head in the sand. The incident started because of the actions – or rather words – of a group of Gloucester supporters and it

“I know it's disappointing to lose, but there is really no excuse for the supporters of our club to act with such a torrent of verbal filth.”



Action v Bristol



Action v Bristol

spiralled out of control from there.

We all know that a lot of opposition supporters will not come to Gloucester because of a perceived impression of over-aggressive fans who have lost the traditions of sportsmanship that were always associated with rugby.

I know that's not true, you know that's not true but unfortunately incidents like this do untold damage to our reputation. We can't let a very small minority have such a lasting and detrimental effect on us.

We, as supporters, have a duty to safeguard our reputation and we have to act to stop things like this happening by alerting a steward to the problem to let them deal with it before it spills over into something nasty. Of course it's disappointing when we lose but it is, at the end of the day, only a game.

That's got that out of the way, perhaps we can concentrate on the real reason why we are here today – to get a semi-final place in the European Challenge competition.

Hopefully the excellent decision by the club to peg ticket prices, and offer further discounts

if we get through today, will have had a galvanising effect on ticket sales and there will be a good crowd. It's the quarter-final of a competition after all, it does represent what is probably our best chance of winning a trophy this season.

Brive have a good European competition pedigree, don't forget that they won the Heineken Cup in 1997 when they beat Leicester in the final. Recently, though they have had a tougher time of things as the big four in France have tended to dominate things on the other side of the channel for a few years now.

I confess to not knowing a great deal about Brive, they got to the semi-final of the competition last year, and the quarter-final the year before, and they had a couple of good results in their group stages. I seem to remember we have played them before, but the mists of time have descended and I can't be certain - we certainly haven't met in recent European competitions.

As I work for a French company I asked a couple of colleagues in Paris what they knew of them. Hard set of forwards and one guy in the centre who has played a couple of times for his country. Hmm... A French side

with a hard set of forwards, no change there, then - I've yet to see a French side that doesn't.

Currently Brive are sitting in ninth position in the French Championship some way off the pace of the league leaders, and like us they lost their last league match to opposition scrapping around at the bottom of the table – going down 24 – 13 to Montpellier.

negative and tense, there is no doubt that these feelings can be picked up by the players and this has an effect on them too.

We know that the players will be burning to put last weeks result behind them, deep down we know that whatever we might think they will give their all for the cause, we know they will want to win at all costs.

Therefore we have to forget

“We know that the players will be burning to put the last weeks result behind them.”

So, like us, the European Challenge gives a bit of time off from recent results in the domestic league, and chance to pitch for a bit of silver wear to top the season off.

They will be well up for it, we must be too. After a run of defeats like we have had it's easy for supporters to become

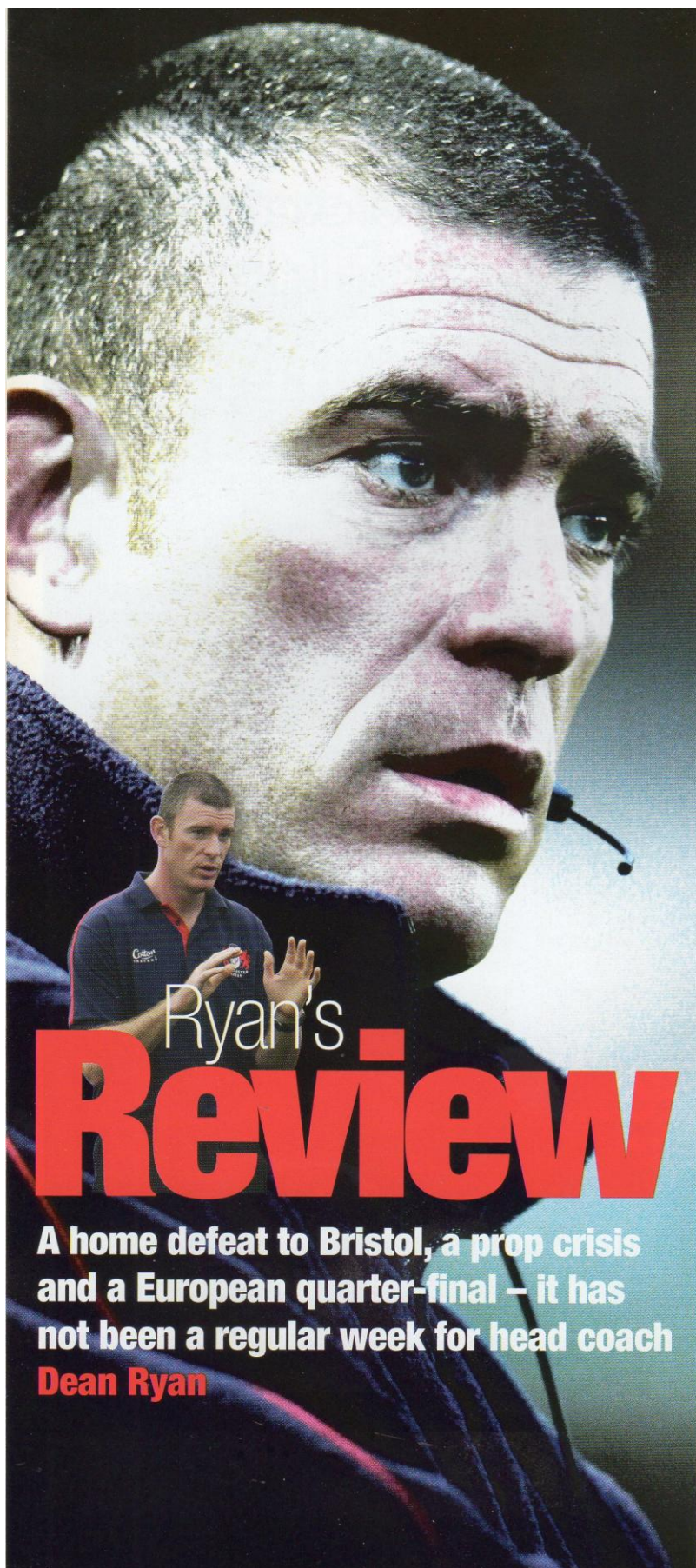
the last few home games and the defeats that went with them and we have to get right behind the team today. This competition offers a real chance of reaching the Holy Grail that is the Heineken Cup next season we must make sure we all play our part in giving maximum support to the guys on the pitch.



Action v Bristol

gloucesterrugby.co.uk

The **History**



After a weekend when we lost at home to Bristol and suffered yet another injury to a leading player, Gloucester actually gained a point on London Irish in the Guinness Premiership

DR: : It was a particularly frustrating weekend on a number of levels but to lose a home game in the manner we did, after the ambition, intensity and skill of our start, was particularly disappointing. I am not an individual who accepts defeat easily under any circumstances but we will remain focused and work hard to get things right.



What was the most frustrating part of Saturday's defeat against Bristol?

DR: At the moment, we don't have enough players in the side who know how to win games. That is not meant to sound like a strange statement – it's a statement of fact. We are without, at the present time, half a dozen individuals who shape and control the way we go about things and when those players are not around – we are left with young guys who are pretty inexperienced at this level. It is a huge learning curve for them and any team without the number of players we have unavailable would also find the going pretty difficult. Having said that, we should have had Saturday's game sewn up by half-time. I thought we made a great start, scored a brilliant try and played with the sort of pace and ambition I want to see. When we got caught in a scrap and conditions deteriorated, we couldn't get out of it. This side needs to discover a new senior group at the present time. I don't want this to sound like sour grapes because Bristol deserve a lot of credit for what they achieved.



With Patrice Collazo's shoulder injury, we have been down to one fit prop this week, have you ever seen anything like that before?

DR: Quite honestly, no. You expect to deal with front row injuries throughout the season because by the sheer nature of the position, these guys get smashed about and pick up injuries. But there was a stage this week when Jack Forster, who has appeared in only three matches at senior level, was our only prop in training sessions. All we have been able to do is monitor the fitness of the three players we hoped could get fit. We left it late in the day before finalising our squad for today's game and it has certainly not left us with much room to manoeuvre. All we can do is go from game

"They relish the forward confrontation and everything associated with that physicality."

to game hoping one or two will recover. I have never known such a difficult situation but the players have responded superbly.



We are in the knockout stages of a European competition today against former European Cup champions. Does experience of two French teams in the pool stages make it any easier?

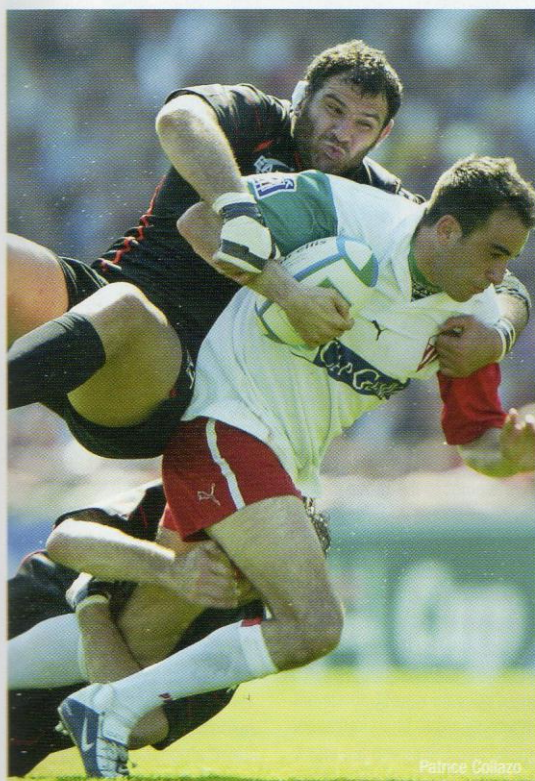
DR: We know that any French side is going to present us the same sort of challenge. We expect them to have a big scrum and attack the line-out. They relish the forward confrontation and

everything associated with that physicality.

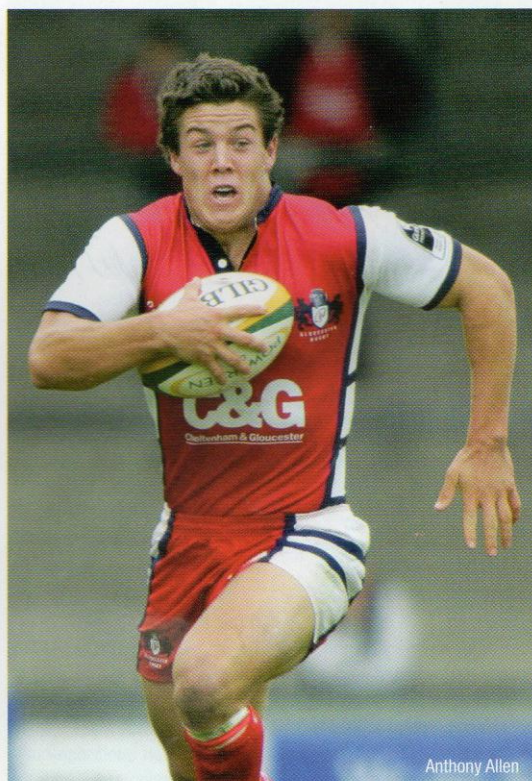
By the very fact they have reached the knockout stages means they will obviously be a threat and we will treat them with the respect they demand and deserve.

Our ambition in the pool stages was to finish top to guarantee a home quarter-final and now we have done that, we don't want to let the opportunity slip away.

In the context of our recent form, this is a massive contest but and the rewards on offer will ensure we give it everything.



Patrice Collazo



Anthony Allen

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The **History**



Match Action



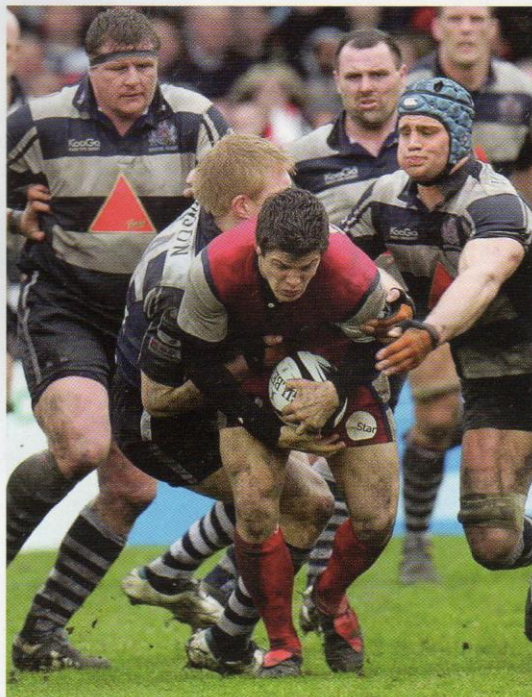
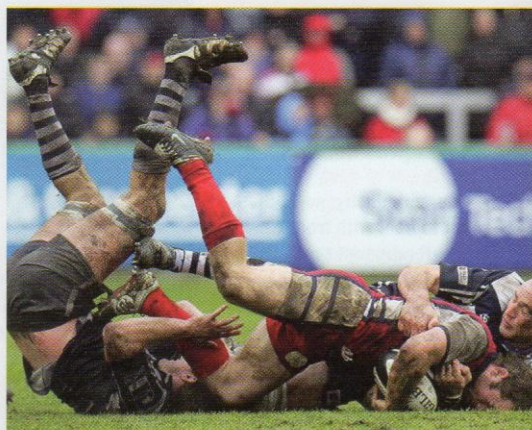
Gloucester Rugby 15 Bristol Rugby 20

Saturday, March 25

Attendance: 11,505

Referee: Wayne Barnes

Pictures by Bruce Seabrook – GPA Images info@gpaimages.com



BRISTOL claimed their first victory at Kingsholm in 12 years after they over-turned a 10-0 deficit to grab the spoils in a frantic, frenetic west country derby.

Inspired by a hugely committed forward performance, in which skipper Matt Salter was outstanding, Bristol scored two second half tries to grab four vital Premiership points.

For Gloucester, it was their third defeat in a row and matters were compounded when prop Terry Sigley was sent off in the second half.

It had all started so brightly for Gloucester when James Simpson-Daniel scored a brilliant team try after only 90 seconds when Mark Foster and Jon Goodridge ran back possession and Patrice

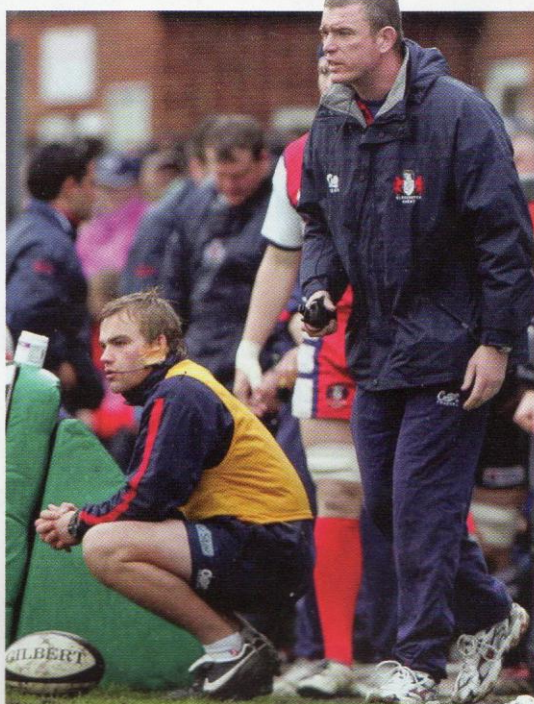
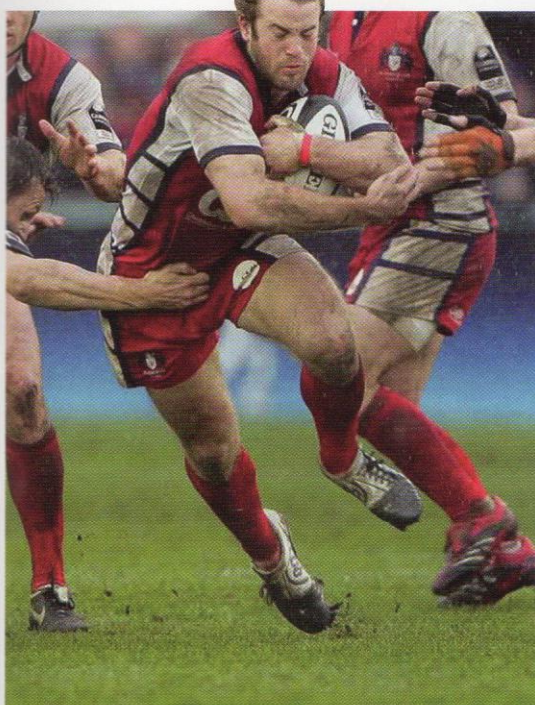
Collazo and Alex Brown added their weight to the move and Simpson-Daniel scored by the posts following quick recycling.

Gloucester could have scored again in the first quarter as they dominated but only had a Ludovic Mercier penalty to show for their efforts.

Bristol began to get back into the contest and made heavy

inroads around the fringes of rucks and mauls. They began the second half in powerful fashion, pushing Gloucester onto the defensive and following a period of intense pressure, scrum-half Shaun Perry scooted over on the blindside of a ruck to score.

Jason Strange converted and added a penalty but when Anthony Allen cut back on a



lovely angle following a surge from Luke Narryaway and a pass from Haydn Thomas, Gloucester were back in the lead.

However, the tide was with Bristol. They refused to panic and worked themselves back up field. Strange kicked cross-field over James Bailey and Brian Lima was able to control the ball, hack forward and beat Bailey to the line to

seal a momentous Bristol win.

Head coach Dean Ryan said: "My concern is that this side is struggling to find its senior group. We have all our recognised senior players - Vickery, Balding, Tindall, Boer - not around and therefore the spotlight's on some other individuals and at the moment we're not responding in the manner we would like.

"We don't have enough people who know how to win games. Some of our guys are under-performing and the rest are very young.

"I don't want to come out of this with sour grapes. We need to give Bristol credit because they got the contest into a scrap - the exact thing we didn't want - and it was crucial for them."

The History

on-line newsletter **ezine** - visit www.gloucester rugby.co.uk

gloucester rugby.co.uk



A derby day defeat against Bristol is never easy to take but as **Peter Arnold** explains, the loss of Patrice Collazo was pivotal. He also believes a number of Gloucester's biggest stars could be find themselves Down Under this summer.

Peter Arnold

FEW POSITIVES

IT'S DIFFICULT to find any positives from last week's loss to Bristol. On the face of it, we were beaten by a better team on the day. One saving grace is that the result would appear, barring something remarkable, to have made Bristol safe from relegation, and I don't think that even the most die-hard of us would really like to see the Old Enemy slip out of the Premiership again.

It all started so well, and then developed into a rather

odd game. It never lost the rumbustiousness that one expects, and even requires, from a meeting between our two great clubs, but strange things happened.

The early injury to Patrice Collazo proved to be pivotal, and his departure placed far too much pressure on young Jack Forster, who is obviously extremely talented but is only 19 after all, and had never started a Premiership before. This was compounded by the red-carding of Terry Sigley, which seemed a little harsh bearing in mind all that had gone on before the incident.

It's all too easy to criticise the officials from the safety of the stands and terraces, but I'd like to hear a few explanations about some of the decisions, particularly as the contentious uncontested scrum rules came into force. I do have to say that it doesn't appear that the referee actually bent over backwards to help Gloucester, but there you go.

You know the old saying:

"When the going gets tough, the tough get going".

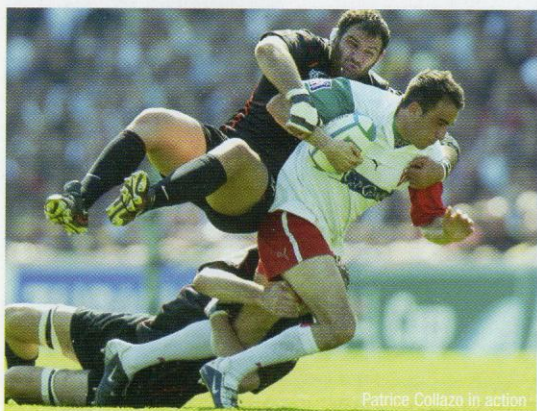
WHO'S GOING TO OZ?

ANDY ROBINSON wants to rest some of his senior players and take some younger contenders to Australia instead.

Messrs Corry and Hodgson are saying "Blow that for a game of soldiers. We want to go!" If past history repeats itself, the Aussies will demand that England send their strongest squad, although just what that would be is a subject for ferocious debate.

One is entitled to wonder, if the embattled Mr. Robinson gets his way, just which Gloucester players might be on the plane.

There are those that suspect that AR has a built-in anti-Gloucester bias, rooted in his Bath affiliations, and point to the less-than-sympathetic treatment of James-Simpson Daniel, Andy Hazell and Henry Paul to support their thesis. Personally, I doubt that that is



Patrice Collazo in action

really true, but the long years of Gloucester-Bath rivalry must have had some effect, if it's only subliminal. The bloke is only human after all.

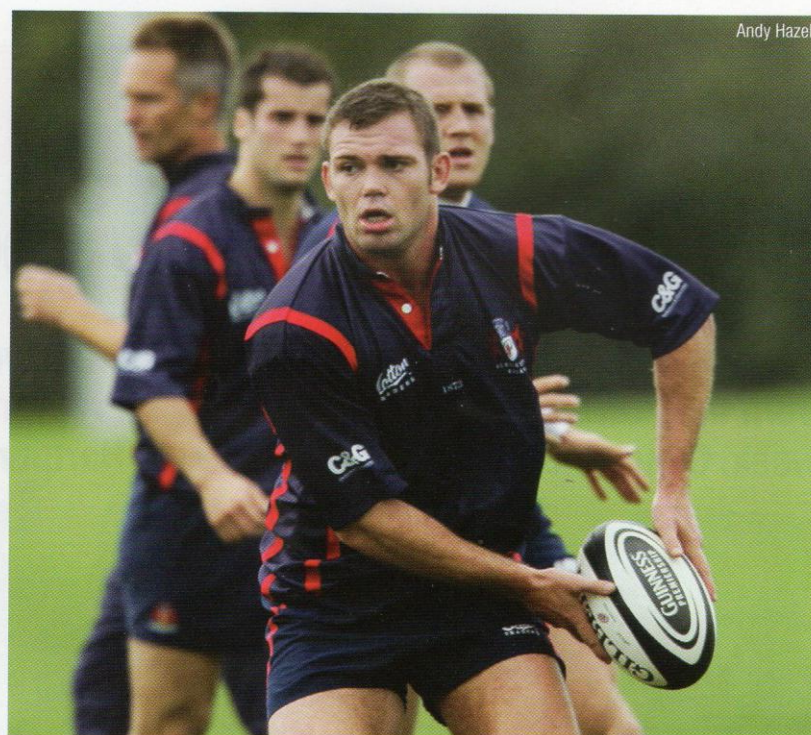
So who might get the nod if their country needs them?

In my view, the stand-out contender must be Andy Hazell. I reckon he should have been in the England squad from day one. He need have no inferiority complex about anyone who has played on the England flank this season, and can match any back-rower in the country when it comes to speed, work-rate and willingness to get down among the thick and dirty. You need blokes like him if you're going to take on the Aussies on their own patch and in front of their own crowd.

Simpson Daniel has an obvious claim. He has been very unlucky with injury and illness but is, as Dean Ryan constantly claims, just about the most dangerous running back in the Premiership. He could be a real star on a Southern Hemisphere tour, simply because, down there, they love that unpredictable style of play. Remember David Campese?

James Forrester also has a very good claim. Again, injury has not been kind to him, but a fit Forrester would be an asset to any side in the world – if he's allowed to play his own game.

Alex Brown may already be in the frame. He's another one who got himself damaged



Andy Hazell

at just the wrong time, and I can't imagine that the fading Simon Shaw should, or would, have been preferred to him if he hadn't been ruled out. Indeed, Andy Robinson hinted as much.

You might have other ideas. If so, don't write to me; drop a line to Andy Robinson at Twickenham. If he's still there.

HOW ABOUT THE BULL?

HERE'S A thought for you. By the time the Australian tour rolls around, Phil Vickery, our own 'Raging Bull' should be fit and rarin' to go. If he can get a couple of games under his belt and prove his fitness, then it would be an act of idiocy to leave him out of the party.

No English player knows more about touring Australia than he does, and he has systematically demolished every prop forward the Wallabies have been able to throw at him over the last couple of years. I don't think it would be going too far to say that the Aussies are afraid of him.

But there's more. No one knows better than we do that he is a motivating, highly rated captain.

He has that indefinable something, which Martin Johnson also had, which makes players play for him. He also has experience of skippering England. He did so in Argentina, not the easiest place to play, with great success.

also recall him in charge of an England side which spectacularly demolished a strong Barbarians side which included Christian Cullen and Jonah Lomu. You may remember that both Sinbad and Jango scored quite spectacular tries in that game.

So if Martin Corry doesn't tour, or even if he does for my money, there's a natural leader for a tough assignment waiting right here. If he can get fit.

GIVE THE GUY A CHANCE!

NOTE THAT some fans are already calling our new signing, Mr. William Walker, from the New Zealand Maories 'Willie Wonka' For goodness sake. He hasn't even arrived yet. Give the bloke a chance.

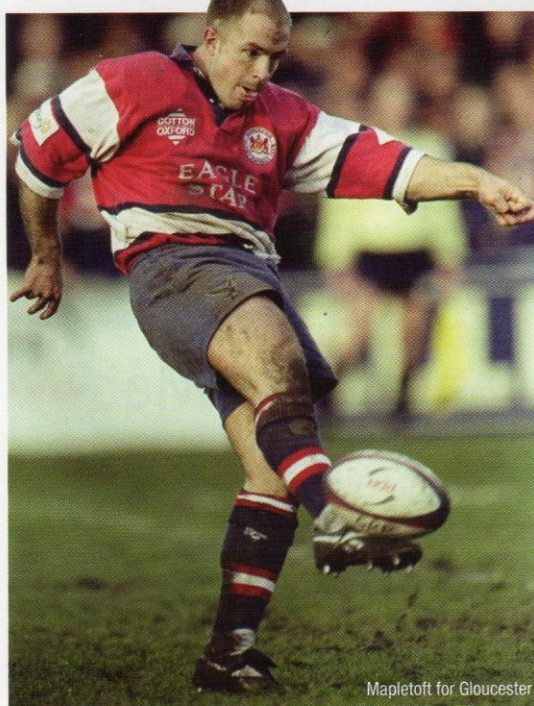
"No one knows better than we do that he is a motivating, highly rated captain."

The History

Behind The Scenes

Gloucester have been involved in European competition for almost a decade. Dave King looks back at their record and believes the time is right to follow other English clubs in landing a major trophy.

OUR EUROPEAN adventure began on 12th October 1996. It was a weekend that witnessed the commencement of a new era for club rugby union in the northern hemisphere with the start of a truly pan European competition.



Mapletoft for Gloucester

We are all aware of the importance of the major European competition – the Heineken Cup. The Challenge Cup is often described as the second tier competition but it is of major importance because it acts as a gateway into the Heineken Cup.

Both London Wasps and Sale Sharks have attached a great deal of importance to the Challenge Cup in the past which has acted as a springboard to their progress in the top-tier competition.

Gloucester's involvement in the then European Conference began with a home fixture against Welsh opponents Ebbw Vale.

The Gloucester team that autumn afternoon was: -

Chris Catling; Errol Anderson, Alastair Saverimutto, Adrian Metcalfe, Audley Lumsden; Mark Mapletoft, Scott Benton; Tony Windo, Phil Greening, Phil Vickery, Rob Fidler, Dave Sims (Captain), Rob York, Andrew Stanley, Simon Deveraux.

Mapletoft was the man of the match after scoring four tries and therefore setting a club scoring record with 34 points when he added seven conversions to his own scores and one apiece from Anderson, Saverimutto, Deveraux and Lumsden. A penalty try completed a comfortable 59-7 victory.

Captaining the Ebbw Vale team that afternoon was Byron Hayward who in later seasons moved here to Kingsholm. Sadly, back in January of this year, Byron lost his position as coach of Ebbw Vale when he was replaced by Alex Codling.

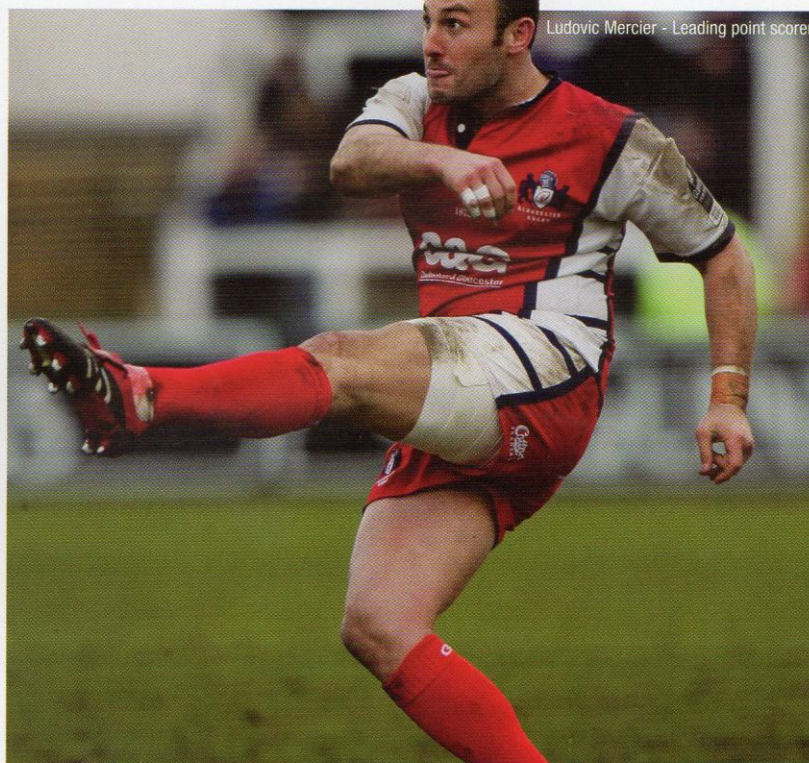
Phil Vickery is the only survivor of that match who is still with the club. It is interesting to note that Mark Cornwell was included in the United XV that same afternoon that lost by 55-5 away to Richmond with Mark registering United's only points with a try.

In this competition Terry Fanolua has made the most appearances of the 105

The Honour

players used by the club prior to today's match with Brive. Those 105 players are:

Terry Fanolua 20 (2), Mark Cornwell 19 (4), Ed Pearce 17 (3), Phil Vickery 16 (2), Rob Fidler 15 (4), Peter Glanville 13, Adam Eustace 12 (3), Ludovic Mercier 11 (1), Chris Catling 11, Neil McCarthy and Ian Sanders 10 (1), Joe Ewens 9 (2), Nathan Carter, Mark Mapletoft, James Simpson-Daniel, Richard Tombs and Tony Windo 9 each, James Forrester 8 (3), Audley Lumsden 8 (2), Patrice Collazo 8 (1), Andy Deacon 7 (9), Andy Hazell and Junior Paramore 7 (1), Simon Deveraux 7, Jake Boer and Trevor Woodman 6 (4), Chris Fortey and Adey Powles 6 (3), Phil Greening 6 (2), Tai Glassie, Daren O'Leary, Dave Sims and Robert Todd 6 each, Jon Goodridge 5 (3), Mefin Davies 5 (1), Alastair Severimutto, Philippe and Raphael St Andre and Mike Tindall 5 each. Henry Paul and Koli Sewabu 4 (2), Scott Benton, Marcel Garvey and Rob Thirlby 4 (1), Mark Foster, Brian Johnson, Adrian Metcalfe, Olly Morgan and Mike Peters 4 each. Laurie Beck and Haydn Thomas 3 (3), Olivier Azam, Jawad Djoudi, Andy Gomarsall, Peter Richards and Dimitri Yachvilli 3 (2), Diego Albanese, Luke Narraway, Federico Pucciarello and Nick Wood 3 (1), Alex Brown, Rob Jewell, Mike Lloyd and Clive Stuart-Smith 3 each, Anthony Allen, Quinton Davids, Jonathan Pendlebury and Gary Powell 2 (2), Ian Jones, Simon Mannix, Nick Osman, Martin Roberts and Stephane Sanchez 2 (1), Errol Anderson, Adam Balding, Tom Beim, Andy Gibbs, Paul Holford, Andrew Stanley, Christian Stoica and Rob York 2 each. Rob Elloway, Craig Emmerson, Chris Yates 1 (3),



Ludovic Mercier - Leading point scorer

Simon Amor, Steve Ojomoh, Terry Sigley and Richard Ward 1 (2), Warwick Bullock, John Hawker, Peter Jones, Martyn Kimber, Elton Moncrieff, Alex Morris and Ian Smith 1 each. Kingsley Jones, Duncan McRae and Serge Simon (2), Don Caskie, Chris Collins, Jack Forster, Lee Fortey, Mark Irish and Dave Timmington (1).

The leading points scorer in the competition is Ludovic Mercier – and before today's game he is only 15 points shy of the 200 mark.

185 – Ludovic Mercier (46 conversions, 27 penalties, 4 dropped goals), 128 – Mark Mapletoft (5 tries, 20 conversions, 19 penalties and 2 dropped goals, 75 – Terry Fanolua (5 tries, 12 conversions, 8 penalties), 60 – James Simpson-Daniel (12 tries), 59 – Henry Paul

“He is only 15 points shy of the 200 mark.”

(2 tries, 23 conversions, 1 penalty), 40 – Jake Boer and Daren O'Leary (8 tries each), 35 – James Forrester (7 tries), 25 – Joe Ewens, Peter Glanville and Brian Johnson (5 tries each), 20 – Tai Glassie, Phil Greening, Audley Lumsden, Gary Powell, Peter Richards and Philippe St Andre (4 tries each), Simon Mannix (5 conversions, 3 penalties), 15 – Mark Foster, Marcel Garvey, Andy Hazell, Junior Paramore, Koli Sewabu (3 tries each), 12 – Duncan McRae (6 conversions) and Alex Morris (4 penalties). 11 – Simon Amor (4 conversions, 1 penalty), 10 – Chris Catling, Mark Cornwell, Chris Fortey, Neil Osman, Alastair Severimutto, Christian

The **History**



Daren O'Leary in Gloucester colours

Stoica, Mike Tindall, Rob Thirlby, Haydn Thomas and Nick Wood (2 tries each).

Solitary try scorers have been: - Diego Albanese, Anthony Allen, Errol Anderson, Olivier Azam, Adam Balding, Scott Benton, Alex Brown, Patrice Collazo, Chris Collins, Simon Deveraux, Jawad Djoudi, Rob Elloway, Craig Emmerson, Adam Eustace, Rob Fidler, Jack Forster, Jon Goodridge, Rob Jewell, Neil McCarthy, Luke Narroway, Ed Pearce, Federico Pucciarello, Ian Sanders, Raphael St Andre, Koli Sewabu, Clive Stuart-Smith, Robert Todd, Richard Tombs, Tony Windo, Trevor Woodman and Dimitri Yachvilli.

Andy Gomarsall has kicked two conversions for a total of four points while we have been awarded 4 penalty tries. Hookers Azam, Greening,

McCarthy, Djoudi, Fortey, Chris Collins and Elloway have all scored tries in this competition.

The only one to miss out was John Hawker and he only made a solitary appearance away to Swansea. This was a match where Alex Morris made his one appearance for the club in the European Conference in a 62-12 defeat in 1996.

Daren O'Leary has scored the most tries in a match with five against Gran Parma on 5th January 2002 in a 99-0 rout here at Kingsholm. It was also the match in which Henry Paul kicked the most conversions - 12.

There is a fine roll of honour in the previous winners of this competition, 1997 - Bourgoin, 1988 - Colomiers, 1999 Montferrand, 2000

- Castres, 2001 - Harlequins, 2002 - Sale, 2003 - Wasps, 2004 Harlequins, 2005 - Sale.

Our overall record in this competition stands as follows, Won 24, Drawn 1, Lost 7. We have scored 1265 points and conceded 544. Here at Kingsholm we have won 14 matches and Lost 2, scoring 750 points and conceding 183 and we have encountered a winning run of 13 matches in this competition here at Kingsholm.

Our disappointing 28-27 defeat in the semi-final of this competition to Sale at Northampton on 28th April 2002 was the furthest we have reached in the cup. It is time to put the record straight and emulate the four English clubs who have been previous winners.

The **Pride**



Today's Teams



European
Challenge Cup

T C P D

[illegible]

James Forrester

James **Bailey**

8 No.8

22

T C P D

Simon Azoulai



European Challenge Cup

ercrugby.com

Quarter Final