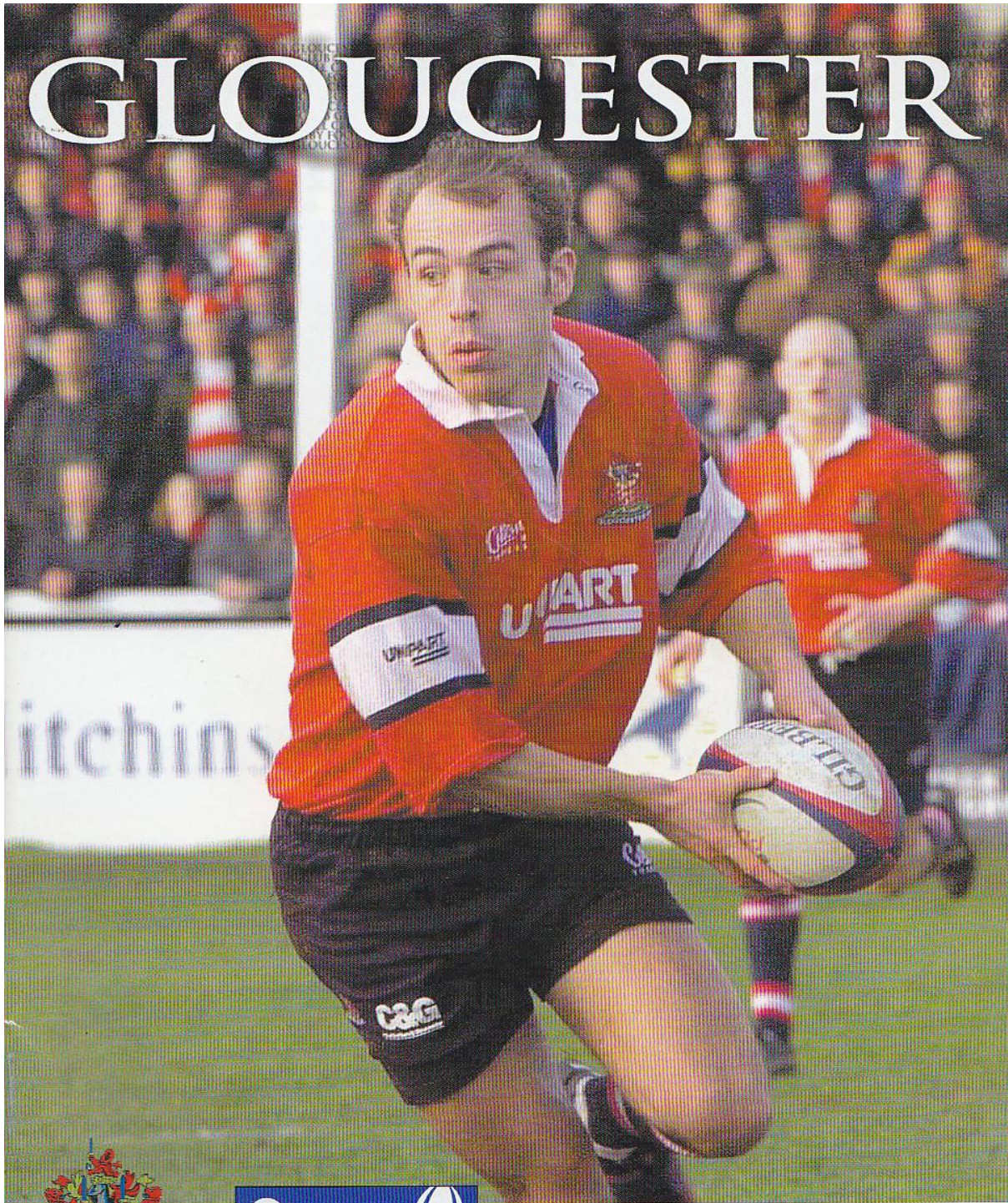


GLOUCESTER



GLOUCESTER V BRISTOL RUGBY

SATURDAY 30 SEPTEMBER 2000 KICK-OFF 3.00 PM

GLOUCESTER RFC OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

2000-2001 SEASON

ISSUE 04 - £2.00



TODAY'S TEAMS

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 30TH, 2000

GLOUCESTER* 38 (11) BRISTOL RUGBY* 16 (16)

CHRIS CATLING	15	SPENCER BROWN
JOE EWENS	14	DAVID REES
<i>2T</i> JASON LITTLE (I)	13	EDUARDO SIMEONE
CHRIS YATES	12	LEIGH DAVIS
TOM BEIM (I)	11	DEAN DEWDNEY
<i>Be 4 PG</i> SIMON MANNIX (I)	10	STEPHEN VILE <i>c 3 PG</i>
ANDY GOMARSALL (I)	9	(C) AGUSTINE PICHOT
ADEY POWLES	1	PAUL JOHNSTONE
CHRIS FORTEY	2	BARRY WILLIAMS <i>T</i>
<i>T</i> PHIL VICKERY (I)	3	KRIS FULLMAN
ROB FIDLER (I)	4	ANDREW SHERIDAN
IAN JONES (I)	5	DEAN RYAN
JAKE BOER	6	SIMON FENN
KINGSLEY JONES (I) (C)	7	ADAM VANDER
JUNIOR PARAMORE (I)	8	BEN STURNHAM

REPLACEMENTS

IAN SANDERS	16	LEIGHTON GERRARD
TERRY FANOLUA (I)	17	NEIL MCCARTHY
ADAM EUSTACE	18	SCOTT MORGAN
ANDY HAZELL	19	JIM BROWNRIGG
STEPHANE SANCHEZ	20	GARETH BABER
<i>T</i> OLIVIER AZAM	21	JAMIE MAYER
	22	SEAN MARSDEN

TODAY'S OFFICIALS

REFEREE: NIGEL YATES RFU
 TOUCH JUDGES: T FISHER & P EMERSON RFU
 FOURTH OFFICIAL: T.B.A

(I) DENOTES INTERNATIONAL
 (C) DENOTES TEAM CAPTAIN
 *TEAMS CORRECT AT 27-09-00

Ball boys now sponsored by: **Marlborough Stirling**



GUS COLLYER-BRISTON AGE 6

Gus comes from the village of Rampton Mansell, near Stroud, and attends Oakridge Lynch Primary School.

He is the youngest of five children and, like his brothers, plays for Cirencester Rugby Club, where Dad is Chairman of the minis and Coach of the Under 12's.

Says Gus: "This is the first time I'll run out on the Kingsholm pitch, but I bet it won't be my last!"



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WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS BRISTOL RUGBY

TODAY WE WELCOME OUR GREAT WEST COUNTRY RIVALS BRISTOL TO KINGSHOLM

**"THE SUPPORT IN
THE SHED IS THE
BEST ANYWHERE.
THEY ARE
FANTASTIC."**

It is a fixture that has spanned well over a century, the first game being played on the 24th September 1892 here at Kingsholm. It is indeed the oldest English senior club fixture and was continuously played until Bristol lost their promotion/relegation play-off and had to endure the 98-99 season in Division two.

This fixture is slightly marred for Gloucester Rugby Club as it comes at the end of a week when one of our players has finally lost his fitness battle, and has been advised to quit the most prized game of Rugby. Brian Johnson has been forced into early retirement buy a serious back injury he has been unable to recover from. BJ made his Gloucester Debut nearly four years ago in December 1997, away at Newcastle. Since signing from Newbury he has made 39 appearances for the club scoring 9 tries, playing his final game against London Irish in the last game of last season.

He has gained 5 caps at England 'A' level his debut coming against South Africa 'A' here at Kingsholm. He has also represented the Barbarians in various 7's tournaments. He recalls "I love that style of rugby it obviously suits my game, and to win the Middlesex 7's in 1998 was a truly great occasion".

**BELOW: BRIAN
JOHNSON IN ACTION
AGAINST QUINS**



Brian has managed to combine a successful Rugby career with a commission in the Army. He has served as a Captain in the Royal Signals and has indeed represented the Army and combined services, most famously when playing against Philippe Saint -Andre who was called up for the Bar-Bars in a game here at Kingsholm.

He Said "I would like to take this opportunity to thank both Gloucester and the Army, specifically the Royal Signals, who have both been excellent and given me tremendous support over the years. It has been a great honour to represent both parties. I have made some very good friends here on both the playing and coaching staff".

When quizzed on his relationship with the shed he retorted "The support in the shed is the best anywhere, they are fantastic". He Added, "Playing on the wing I'm always right next to it at least 40 minutes each game and I can tell you; Northern Ireland, Bosnia, or Kosovo, there is no-where like playing in front of the shed if you are having a shocker!"

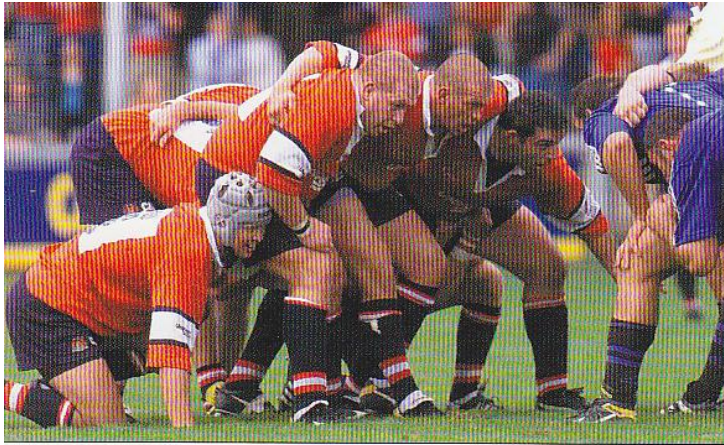
Brian has assured us he intends to stay round the club and perhaps enjoy a beer in the shed now on match days.

From all at the club good luck BJ!



PREVIOUS MEETINGS

22 JAN 2000	GLOUCESTER VS BRISTOL KINGSHOLM	29 - 23
04 DEC 1999	GLOUCESTER VS BRISTOL MEMORIAL S	38 - 25
18 JAN 1998	GLOUCESTER VS BRISTOL MEMORIAL S	14 - 13
23 AUG 1997	GLOUCESTER VS BRISTOL KINGSHOLM	35 - 13



COACH'S CORNER

WITH JOHN BRAIN

ABOVE:
GLOUCESTER'S
FRONT ROW IN
ACTION AGAINST
BATH

THE WIN AGAINST QUINS LAST SATURDAY WAS ESSENTIAL FOR CONFIDENCE WITHIN THE SQUAD.

This would have been a very difficult week otherwise. When you lose games you should have won like against Bath, it is a body blow. I have to say after that result confidence was low. I think that showed in our game against Wasps and in the first half against Quins.

"AFTER BEATING LEICESTER LAST WEEK THEY WILL COME HERE BELIEVING THEY CAN WIN."

We played like a team without any belief. In the second half against Quins however, we played a very sensible game.

The result on Saturday has led to a much more positive attitude in training this week. We have also been given a boost by being able to include Jason Little in the team for the first time. As you would expect this has given the whole team a lift.

Saturday's game against Bristol however, is another must win game. There are no easy games against Bristol and it will be interesting to see the influence Jack Rowells' involvement will have on their play. After beating Leicester last week they will come here believing they can win.

We on the other hand will be keen to establish 'Fortress' Kingholm, and get back last seasons habit of not loosing at home. After Bath we sat

down and made a point of stating we didn't want to loose again at home this season.

This Saturday we obviously want to win first and foremost. Ideally we would like to win in style and score the four tries to gain maximum points. We do want to score points but generally we are looking for the team to give a better performance than last week.

This round of matches signals the end of the first section of Zurich Premiership games. To finish it with four wins and four loses from eight matches isn't great but isn't the worst situation. Our win against Newcastle away is now proving to be very good indeed.

This league shows that form lines are difficult to gauge and any number of teams are capable of putting together a winning sequence that will help them challenge for the top positions.

Another plus point this week was the declaration of British citizenship for Junior Paramore. He is eligible as he has worked continuously in Britain for four years. We now only have three 'foreigners' in the team Elton, Terry and Jason and at this point Elton is unfortunately injured. This is obviously a strong position for us to be in.

We wish all the travelling Bristol fans the best. It's good to have so much quality in the region. I hope both teams play to their potential so long as we score more points than them at the end of the day.

GLOUCESTER RUGBY CLUB ACADEMY

MATCH REPORT:
GRFC ACADEMY
VERSUS
BRISTOL U19'S
VENUE: HOME

DATE: 23RD
SEPTEMBER 2000

RESULT:
WON 22-11

**"NICK COX MADE
AMENDS FOR HIS
PREVIOUS ILL
DISCIPLINE TO
BREAK THROUGH
THE CENTRE OF A
RUCK AND
SPRINT UNDER
THE POSTS
TO SCORE."**

**ACADEMY PLAYER
DURING THE GAME
AGAINST BRISTOL**

THE GLOUCESTER ACADEMY PLAYED ITS SECOND CURTAIN RAISER OF THE SEASON, BEFORE THE 1ST XV'S GAME AGAINST HARLEQUINS, A LOCAL DERBY VERSUS BRISTOL U19'S.

Although turning around at half time 11 to nil down, they rallied to score 22 unanswered points in the second half to win the match 22:11.

The Academy team started poorly giving away a penalty after two minutes to give Bristol a three points lead which they extended to six within a further 3 minutes for offside at the ruck. The lighter Gloucester pack were struggling against the heavier Bristol eight who were causing problems with their pick up and drives from ruck and maul. From one of these driving plays, combined with some weak tackling by Gloucester, they drove deep into the Gloucester 22 and went over for an unconverted try.

Gloucester were not helping themselves by their first up tackling and could not get their lineout to function properly. Their cause was not helped with a missed penalty in front of the posts and their skipper LH prop Nick Cox sin-binned two minutes before half time for use of the boot in the ruck! The whistle went for the end of the first half with the Gloucester team well aware they were not performing to their potential. With skipper Nick Cox with a full eight minutes still to run in the sin-bin, Gloucester started the second half in much better fashion, winning a scrum from the kick off and driving into the visitors 22. The forwards recycled quick ball, which allowed John-Paul Goatley at centre to go over for Gloucester's first

score of the afternoon to reduce the deficit to six points.

Nick Cox rejoined the fray and Gloucester attacked once more causing the Bristol defence to give away a penalty. This was taken quickly by England U18 scrum-half, Clive Stuart-Smith onto England "A" flanker Ryan Peacey who scorched through a gap to score. The conversion again being missed, but Gloucester were within one point of their visitors at 10:11.

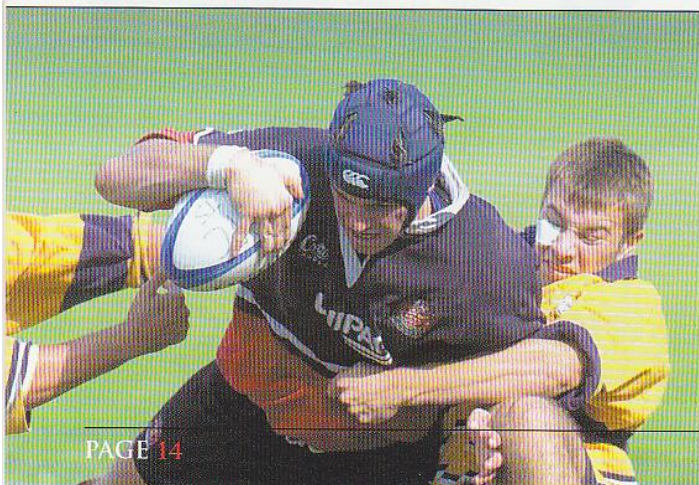
Gloucester were now playing some good rugby and putting the bigger Bristol forwards under pressure as they tired noticeably. The ball was being moved confidently behind the scrum and the outstanding John-Paul Goatley stepped two players before putting full back Adrian Hand through a gap to score. The home side were not having the best of days with the boot and the score stayed at 15:11 for Gloucester, the first time the home side had been in front all match.

The Bristol No.8 was also sin-binned for the last 10 minutes of the match for a late tackle. Gloucester found touch and drove into mid field where Nick Cox made amends for his previous ill discipline to break through the centre of a ruck and sprint under the posts to score. This was met with a tremendous roar from the shed, now filling for the 1st team match versus Richard Hills Harlequins!

Gloucester's final try was converted by outside half, Brad Davies to put Gloucester 22:11 points ahead and although the home side continued to put pressure on the Bristol line, they were unable to score more points. With the final whistle a 22 points to 11 victory for the Academy team was ensured!

Gloucester meet Bristol U19's again at Kingsholm on the 9th December in the first round of the National Knockout Cup for Colts and will need to improve their overall performance if they are to progress further in the competition. Bristol will get better and their bigger forwards who caused Gloucester problems in the first half before they tired, will become fitter and more able to sustain the pressure they put the home side under. It promises to be an intriguing local derby and Cup-tie!

Report: John Haines, Academy Team Manager.



AN INNOVATIVE SPONSORSHIP POWERED BY PASSION

'FANS SPONSOR CLUB'.... HOW GOOD DOES THAT SOUND?

NOTICED A NEW PERIMETER
BOARD AROUND THE GROUND
TODAY?

Take a closer look and see if you can spot it. That's the one, the one that says Independent Gloucester Rugby and Rivals.net are sponsors of the Gloucester Rugby Academy.

The deal is a natural fit for us at Shedhead who have made a point of trying 'to put something back in' to the club. We approached Rivals.net with a sponsorship plan, and were very pleased when they agreed, especially as it is the biggest deal of its kind they have undertaken. As well as the perimeter board, very soon the Academy players will be running out with our logos on their sleeves.

Rivals.net is a ground breaking internet sports network, featuring over 300 independent fan websites. The UK network was launched recently to cover a huge range of sports - from football to Formula 1, rally to rugby and cricket to skateboarding. Rivals.net sites - all of which are run by editors who are first and foremost expert passionate fans of their sport - provide the best stories and information using the fastest and latest technology to deliver what sports fans want, when they want it.

Rivals.net identified a gap in the market to bring together like-minded communities of fans who want up-to-date insider information that they can't get from official sites, press or TV, and more importantly, want to talk about it with other people who share their passion. The future of sports media publishing is being placed firmly in the hands of the fans - Rivals.net may provide the power, but the fans supply the passion. This is what Rivals.net is all about, providing fans with a soapbox where they can come together and speak out on the issues that matter.

Through this sponsorship you will be able to keep up to date with all that's going on in the Academy set-up on our Rivals.net website (www.gloucesterrugby.com) and in Shedhead. There will be exclusive interviews, coaching tips for youngsters as well as advice for older players.

The Academy will provide the Gloucester heroes of tomorrow, we're proud to be associated with their development.

By Ed Snow and Bob Fenton

"RIVALDS.NET IS ALL ABOUT, PROVIDING FANS WITH A SOAPBOX WHERE THEY CAN COME TOGETHER AND SPEAK OUT ON THE ISSUES THAT MATTER."



GLOUCESTER RUGBY.COM



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104.7 FM & 1413 AM

FIRST FOR COVERAGE OF THE CHERRY & WHITES

MORE THAN LIFE OR

HISTORY RECORDS THAT GLOUCESTER V BRISTOL IS THE OLDEST ENGLISH SENIOR RUGBY CLUB FIXTURE.

"THE AMBULANCE WAS CALLED ON THREE FURTHER OCCASIONS"

Played at least once, and mostly twice, a season - apart from a couple of years ago, when the South Gloucestersians opted to spend a season in Division Two, but we won't dwell on that - the Clubs first met on September 24th, 1892 at Kingsholm, and to date have played more than 200 'games'.

I have to question the word 'games', which my dictionary defines as 'pastimes' or 'sporting contests', as a correct description of these matches, as it seems that only in quite recent times has a ball been an essential item to the contest. The presence of a ball has ensured that results are more meaningful to the wider audience, and gives referees the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge of the Laws of the game other than number 26 (Foul Play and Misconduct). Not that foul play would have been condoned by any of the players from previous eras, but since these games were not competitive in a league or Cup sense, the honour of the Cities they represented added just a little spice to the occasion.

I well remember arriving at Kingsholm some years ago to watch an early season West Country battle. As I approached the ground, a few minutes late for the kick-off, an ambulance, bells ringing, sped past in the direction of the hospital. Inside the ground, another ambulance was on the pitch to collect an injured victim on a stretcher. On its departure, I discovered there were only 27 players on the park.

"THE DECISION HAD BEEN MADE, AND THE SELECTORS RETIRED TO THE BAR, HAPPY IN THE KNOWLEDGE THAT THEY HAD BRIDGED THE DIVIDE."

The ambulance was called on three further occasions. On one journey it brought back a heavily bandaged Dave Rollitt, before collecting another of his unfortunate colleagues. Throughout the remainder of the game, as more players went off for 'treatment' while others returned, there were never more than 27 taking part in the 'battle'. This was, of course, before the days of replacements.

Recalling this particular game which ended, after 15 minutes of injury time, as a 7-all draw, John Fidler said: "People were getting lumps kicked out of them. I remember the ambulance coming on the field a few times. I was carried off and then ran back on because I was missing the fun. It was brilliant!" The participants are now men of distinction - Mike Burton, John

Fidler, Mike Nichols, Robin Cowling, Alan Brinn, Jim Jarrett, Mike Fry, David Watt, Dave Rollitt - who will tell you that their memories of West Country derbies have been among their richer experiences of life.

Those of you of a similar generation will not need to be told that they were all forwards. You see, with so much at stake, and the ball rarely seen, the backs were superfluous - they could fight among themselves to decide who should take the penalty kicks. The fact that the players were born and bred within a couple of miles of Kingsholm or the Memorial Ground induced the pride. But there was another factor which made these epics so vital. And that was County Rugby!

The County Championship was the stage watched by the England selectors. And Gloucestershire, along with Lancashire, were the two strongest County sides. With two of the top clubs within their boundary, the Gloucestershire selectors need look no further than Bristol and Gloucester for their team. It created the North-South divide for both players and selectors. There was as much skull duggery going on among the selectors as there was on the field by players needing to 'score' a point or two over their competitor for a County place. The County selectors held meetings behind closed doors at a hostelry 15 miles down (or up, if you're a Bristolian) the A38. The meetings were heated. Bribes and threats were rife. Ambulances were put on stand-by. But, compromise was reached. It was decided that half the team would come from Bristol and half from Gloucester.

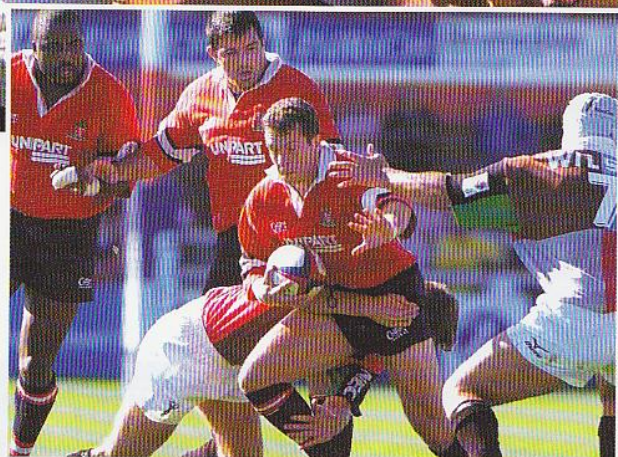
The decision had been made, and the selectors retired to the Bar, happy in the knowledge that they had bridged the divide. It was a few days later that someone, almost certainly a Gentleman from the Media, asked the obvious question. It flawed the selectors; they hadn't thought of that one! More meetings were called. The problem was not who to select, it was should he be Bristol or Gloucester. The North-South line was again the problem.

Deliberations went on long into the nights. Pubs along the A38 were in danger of running dry! At last, they found the solution, but the public had to wait until the team was announced. It included, at scrum-half, John Cannan from Clifton RFC..... and he was a good player too.

DEATH

FROM THE COMMENTARY

BELOW: GLOUCESTER'S JUNIOR PARAMORE PULLS AWAY FROM HARLEQUINS AND TOM BEIM BREAKING THROUGH HARLEQUINS FRONT LINE



BOX

B B C

By David Reed,
BBC Rugby Commentator

ALASTAIR DOWNEY OF THE CITIZEN

AT THIS POINT OF THE SEASON IT WAS FELT APPROPRIATE TO ASSESS THE MOOD OF THE LOCAL SPORTSWRITERS WITH REGARD TO THIS MOST IMPORTANT OF SEASONS. OUR FIRST GUEST COLUMNIST THIS YEAR IS ALASTAIR DOWNEY OF THE CITIZEN, TODAY HE GIVES US HIS VIEWS ON THE SEASON SO FAR.

TWO WEEKS BEFORE THE START OF THE SEASON, THEN CAPTAIN IAN JONES COULD NOT WAIT TO MIX IT WITH THE REST OF THE PREMIERSHIP.

Gloucester had been training hard and all they wanted to do was just play. That must seem like a lifetime ago now for coach Philippe Saint-Andre and his squad. Amazingly, today's visitors to Kingsholm, fierce rivals and proud west country neighbours Bristol, will be Gloucester's eighth Zurich Premiership game in less than two months.

It is an astonishing thought. It leaves just 14 Premiership games until the end of the season that is still eight months from completion. The hectic schedule has given Gloucester little chance to recover from their crippling injury list but their season to date is not too difficult to evaluate. Saint-Andre's team has simply not played to its potential. The very foundations on what Castle Saint-Andre was built last season have not functioned with the same competence or stability.

The shuddering home defeat at home to Sale was their blackest hour and in some respects, they have not fully recovered. Victories away at Rotherham, predictably enough and Newcastle, far more fulfilling gave glimpses of what this squad can achieve. But defeat against Bath was debilitating after they dominated the game and their visit to Wasps proved disastrous, but then again it always does. Saint-Andre must have been kissing Simon Mannix's right foot last Saturday after his 27 points put the boot into Harlequins for their first home win of the season.

So where does it all leave us? Two more penalties, one each against Sale and Bath, would have handed Gloucester eight more points and they would now sit roughly third in the Premiership.

It proves the gap between success and failure is hairline in today's cosmopolitan professional world. Ian Jones' decision to stand-down was an honourable one, but the position needs to be resolved quickly.

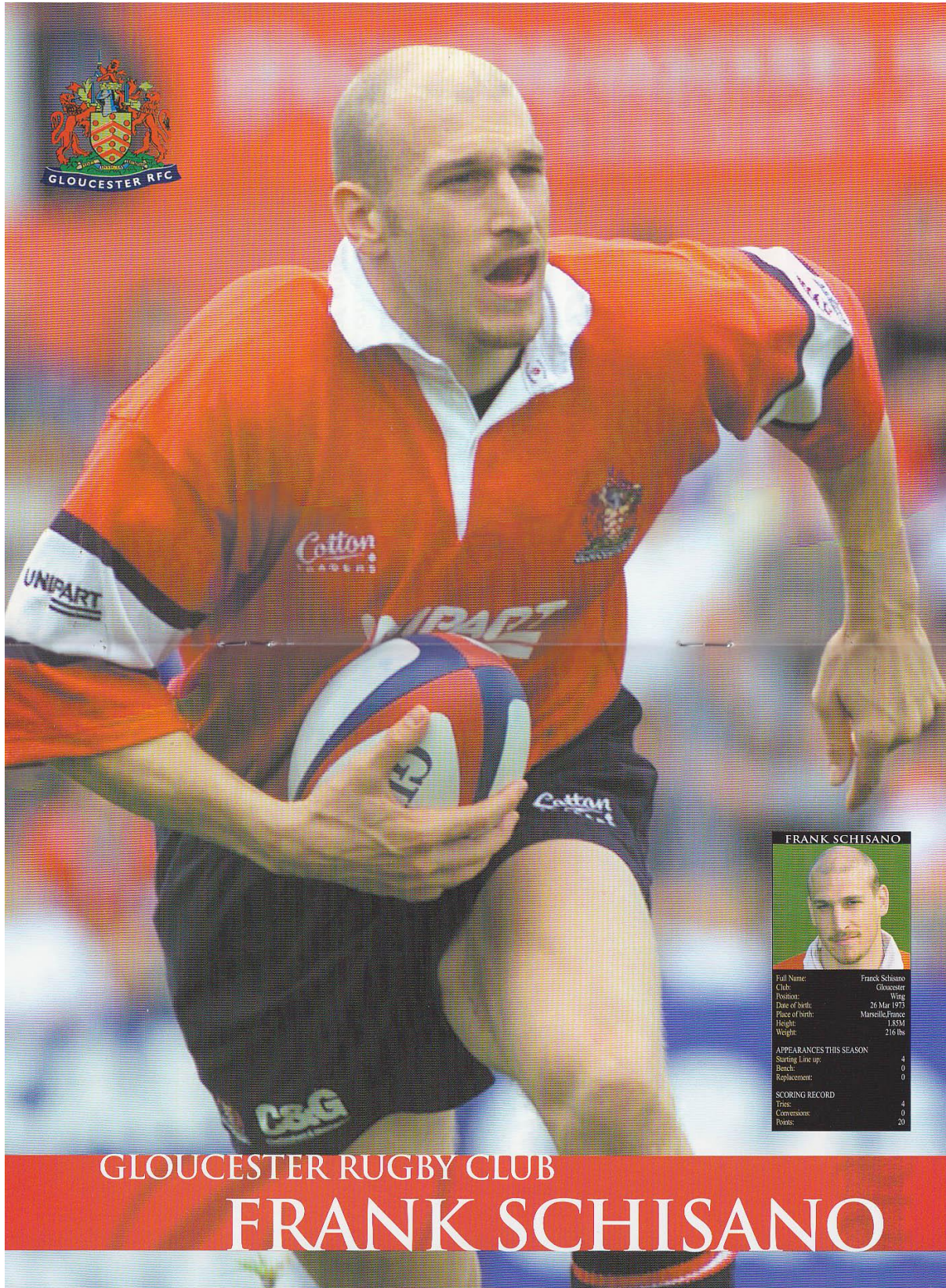
Gloucester enter the Heineken Cup at Llanelli next Friday and they must have their house in order before that trip. In the opinion of many, including this scribe, there is only one candidate. He led Gloucester to third place last season and Kingsley Jones should now once again be handed the Gloucester captaincy on a permanent basis. He is the natural choice and fit or not would give Gloucester sterling service when times are hardest. When he talks people listen. He only says what is necessary and the time now for talking has stopped.

He will be involved against Bristol today in a collision Gloucester simply must win. Bristol, surrounded by problems a week ago beat reigning champions Leicester and will arrive with the scent of victory in their nostrils. We hope they enjoy their afternoon at Kingsholm, but not too much. Give us a victory Gloucester.

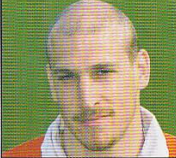
"HE LED GLOUCESTER TO THIRD PLACE LAST SEASON AND KINGSLEY JONES SHOULD NOW ONCE AGAIN BE HANDED THE GLOUCESTER CAPTAINCY ON A PERMANENT BASIS."



**RIGHT:
KINGSLEY JONES**



FRANK SCHISANO



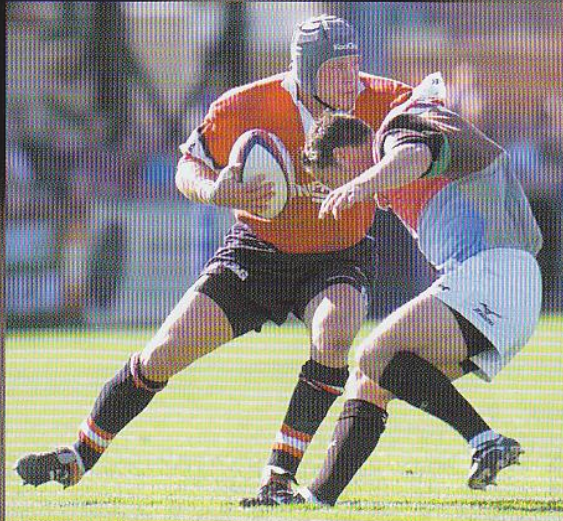
Full Name:	Frank Schisano
Club:	Gloucester
Position:	Wing
Date of birth:	26 Mar 1973
Place of birth:	Marseille, France
Height:	1.83M
Weight:	216 lbs
APPEARANCES THIS SEASON	
Starting Line up:	4
Bench:	0
Replacement:	0
SCORING RECORD	
Tries:	4
Conversions:	0
Points:	20

GLOUCESTER RUGBY CLUB

FRANK SCHISANO

MATCH ACTION

GLOUCESTER 27-23 HARLEQUINS

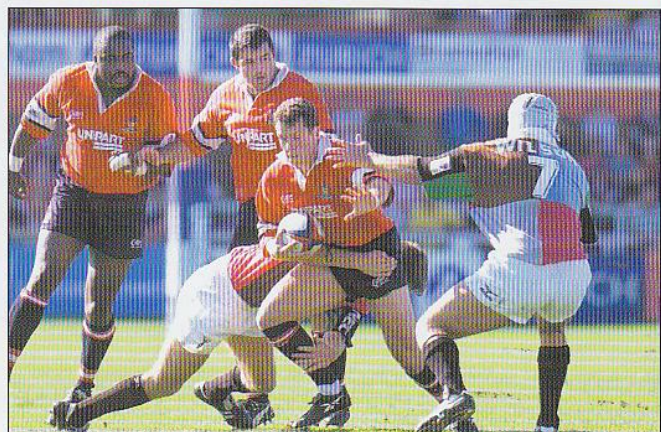
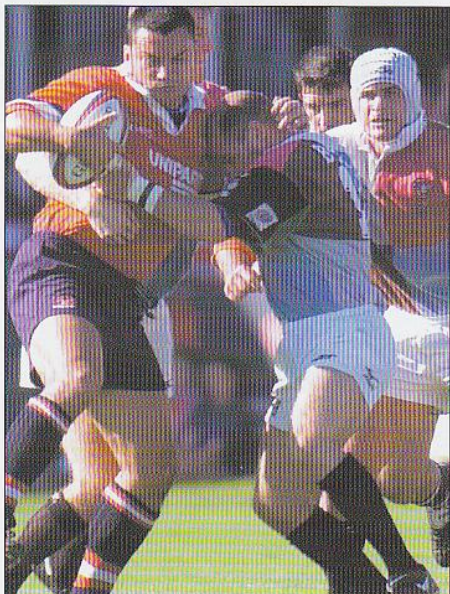
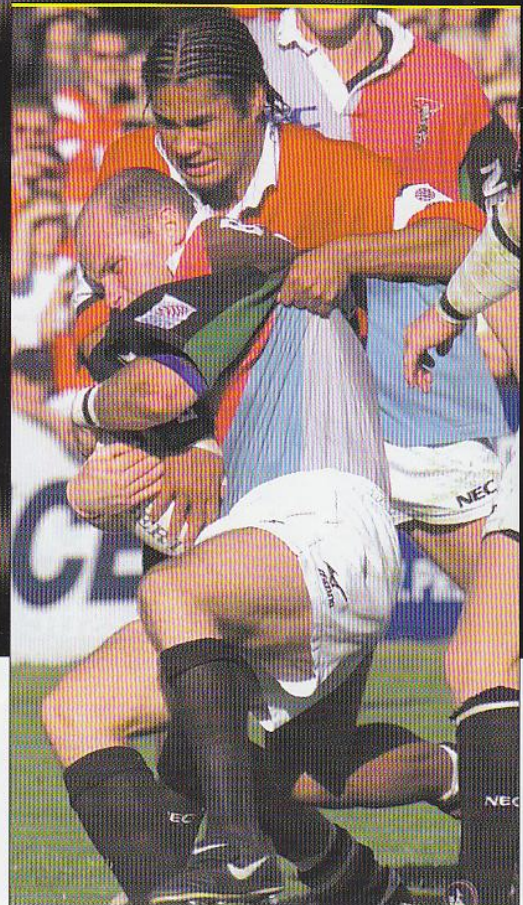


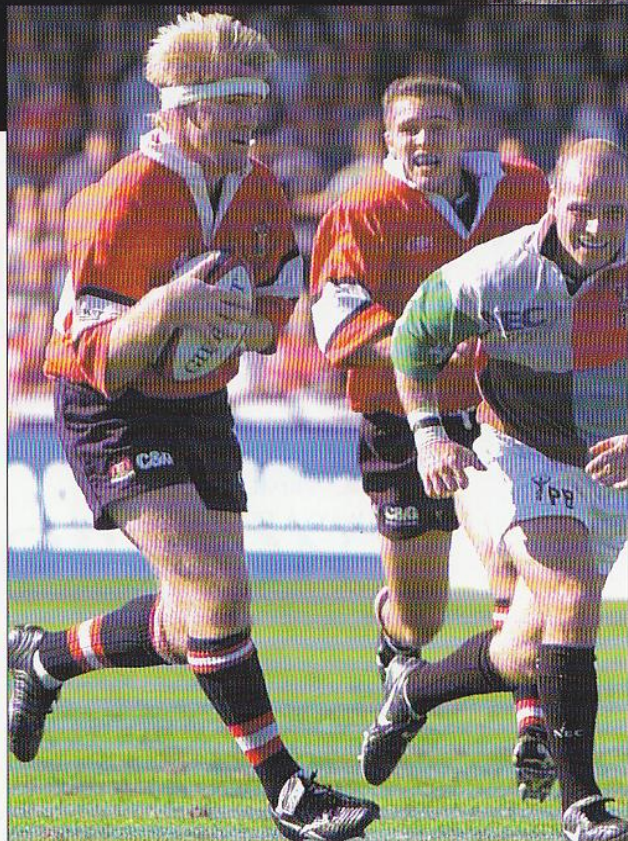
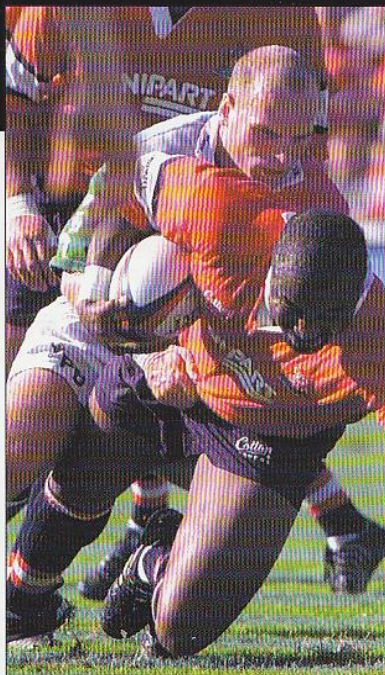
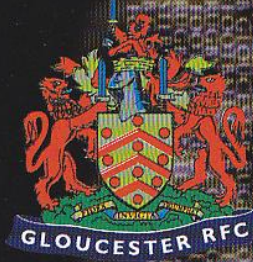
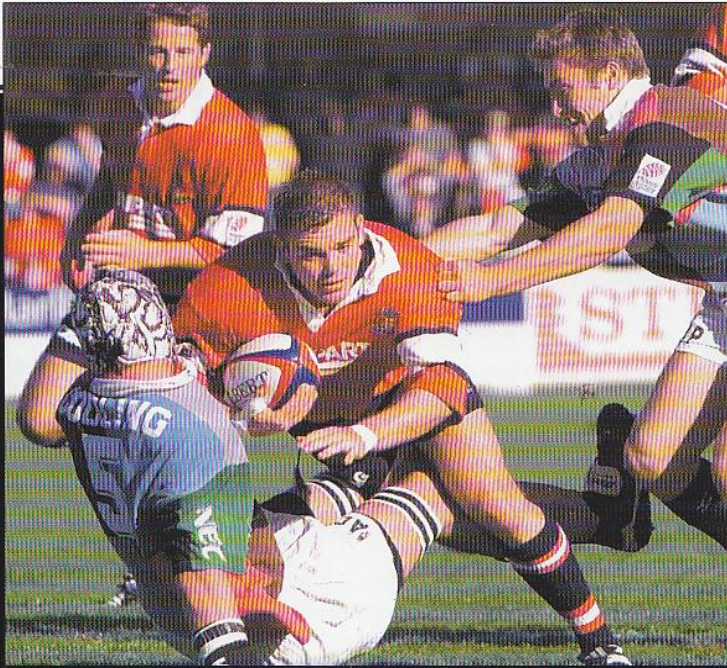
TOP LEFT: Gloucester's Kingsley Jones and Harlequins Ben Golling in action.

TOP RIGHT: Terry Fanolua halts the progress of Harlequins Paul Burke.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Tom Beim breaks through as Harlequins Dave Wilson (7) prepares to stop him.

BOTTOM LEFT: Chris Yates is tackled by Harlequins Paul Burke.





TOP: Andrew Hazell is tackled by Harlequins Matt Powell (right).

ABOVE: Gloucester's Steve Ojomoh does not quite reach the try line as he is brought down by Harlequins Paul Burke.

RIGHT: Gloucester's Simmon Mannix outruns Harlequins Paul Burke.

WITH SOME FRIENDLY HELP FROM A LITTLE

"WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD WITH EAGERNESS TO SEEING JASON DISPLAY THOSE SKILLS AT KINGSHOLM"



ABOVE:
JASON LITTLE

WHEN HARLEQUINS ROLLED OUT THEIR LATEST SIGNING IN THE GAME AGAINST BRISTOL, ONE OF THE SKY COMMENTATORS, I FORGET WHICH, REMARKED, "DAVID WILSON.

Not many players can truly claim to be a legend in their own lifetime, but this man can."

I don't suppose many people would argue with that, but we would point out that, at Kingsholm, we have three such icons.

There is, of course, 'Le Patron' himself, Philippe Saint André, the great Ian Jones, and now, due to play his first game in cherry-and-white very shortly, Jason Little.

Obviously, we offer a hearty welcome and all our best wishes. The Shed will not have missed his revelation that consultations with Michael Linagh provided the information that the great goal-kicking machine found Kingsholm the ground he least liked visiting. Our Mr. Little obviously belongs to the 'if you can't beat 'em, join 'em' school of

thought, and regarded that as a recommendation.

I've only ever seen Jason play on the telly, but my impression is of a player who, like all great sportsman, seems to have so much time to do as he wants. Where lesser mortals struggle to get through, the gaps simply seem to open for Jason Little.

The only English centre of recent years who also seems to have that knack is Jeremy Guscott, not that I am comparing the two in any other respect, you understand.

We are looking forward with eagerness to seeing Jason display those skills at Kingsholm. Perhaps they'll spark that extra edge which our backs seem to need at the moment, and which the experiences of last season prove they can supply. Gomersall to Mannix to Little. Mouth-watering, isn't it.

Be that as it may, if Jason Little serves Gloucester as well as his fellow Australian centre, Richard Tombs did, we'll have no grounds for complaint.

BEST WISHES "HIGGY"

TO BE STRICKEN WITH AN INCURABLE DISEASE IN THE PRIME OF LIFE IS ALWAYS A TRAGEDY.

It's even worse when the sufferer is such a complete athlete as our old enemy, Alistaire Hignell, who, at the age of 45, is receiving treatment for multiple sclerosis.

You may remember that when he was playing for Bristol, he won a string of England Caps at full-back, and even if the Kingsholm Faithful at the time did consider that some of them should have gone to Peter Butler, no one ever doubted his skill,

commitment and sheer bravery.

At the same time, he was pursuing a distinguished career playing cricket for Gloucestershire, and was a member of the side which won the 1977 Benson and Hedges Cup.

He also emulated our own Graham Parker, by playing both cricket and rugby for Cambridge University, and indeed, captained both sides.

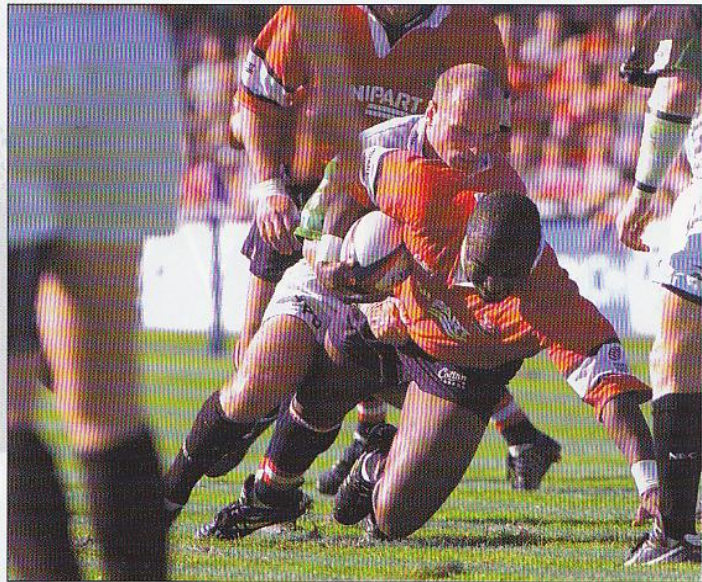
I hope that there is someone among today's visitors who is in touch with 'Higgy', and will convey our very best wishes to him. I'm sure he would appreciate such a thought from the 'Old Enemy'.

SOME THINGS DON'T CHANGE

SPEAKING OF WHICH, ONE PRESS REPORT ON LAST SATURDAY'S QUINS GAME READ, IN PART, "GLOUCESTER'S VICTORY CAME AS A RESULT OF SUPERB GOAL KICKING BY MANNIX AND POWERFUL FORWARD PLAY."

It occurs to me that that comment could have been made at almost any time during the last seventy years or so.

Simply remove the name 'Mannix' and insert any one of, Boughton, Parker, Jones, Hook, Rutherford, Stephens, Butler or Mapletoft. And that list is probably not complete.



ABOVE: STEVE OJOMOH FIGHTING FOR THE TRY LINE.

IRONY

THERE'S A STORY WHICH AROSE AT A GLOUCESTER V BATH GAME AT THE "REC." A FEW YEARS AGO.

Apparently, a home supporter made some, slightly sarcastic, remark to a travelling Gloucester fan, and then followed it up by saying, "That's irony. I don't suppose you get much irony at Kingsholm."

"No mate," came the reply. Our Mum does all the irony-ing in our family !"

Which is as nice a put-down to someone that deserved it as I've heard. But if you want some genuine irony, consider this. Gloucester lost to Bath by missing seven penalty kicks. Former Bath outside-half and Sky commentator, S. Barnes Esq., forecast that Harlequins would beat Gloucester last Saturday. He then saw Gloucester win by landing nine penalties, courtesy of Simon Mannix.

Simon obviously does the irony-ing in our family.

"BUT IF YOU WANT SOME GENUINE IRONY, CONSIDER THIS GLOUCESTER LOST TO BATH BY MISSING SEVEN PENALTY KICKS."

SENSE OF PROPORTION

DID YOU NOTICE THAT JEREMY GUSCOTT WAS PICKED UP FOR BEING DRUNK AND DISORDERLY THE OTHER WEEKEND ?

He was given time to sober up and then sent home without charge, apparently.

All right, perhaps it wasn't very bright of him, but did the incident really warrant almost a full page in 'The Sun' ?

Come on. If every rugby player in Gloucester who got pissed on a Saturday night received the same treatment, they'd need to publish a special edition of Yellow Pages proportions.

MATCH CAPTAIN

KINGSLEY JONES



IT WAS OBVIOUSLY IMPORTANT TO GET A WIN AT HOME LAST SATURDAY, EVEN IF THE PERFORMANCE WASN'T THAT GOOD.

We are now looking forward to Bristol who, after a relatively poor start to the season, had a good win against Leicester. They will obviously come to Kingsholm with a lot of confidence; we too though can take confidence from our win, although we'd have preferred a better performance. We didn't start well, but I think we showed great character to come back the way we did, and with Simon kicking the way he did really helped. I think you would have a chance against anyone if you had a goal kicker on your team in that sort of form.

We tightened up our defence a lot for that game and also our set pieces were much better. We scrummaged a lot better than we did at Bath and retained possession better from our line-outs. The win has eased the pressure on us a little bit; a loss would have been disastrous. This week though is equally important. It's a local derby and there is of course a lot of tradition as the great Andy Deacon told me in the week the Bath Vs Gloucester fixture was always the one, but when Bristol were stronger, the bigger game was Gloucester Vs Bristol.

This week it's great to see Jason Little coming into the side. He is a world class player and it will be an honour to play with him. I'm sure he'll add a lot to the team. I think we'll help him along for this game I've asked Chris Yates to look after him and with Joe Ewens outside him I'm sure he'll be fine. Seriously though we'll not expect too much from him for this game and instead just let him settle in. With a player of his quality though I'm sure this won't take too long, and in time we can all learn things from him. A man of his experience and

obvious quality is bound to impart knowledge and ideas to players throughout the team. So as we welcome Jason for his first game in front of the Shed we also send greetings to Bristol Rugby. I know how important the fans feel this game is and I hope the day goes well for all concerned. Starting with a home win.

After today we start our European Cup challenge, I'd be lying if I said I hadn't thought lots about the game at Llanelli. Both Byron and myself have lots we feel can help the team against them, but our main focus this week is Bristol. Once that is out of the way, we leave the Premiership for about six weeks to take on our various cup commitments - it would be nice to come back to a healthy position in the table.

"THIS WEEK IT'S GREAT TO SEE JASON LITTLE COMING INTO THE SIDE. HE IS A WORLD CLASS PLAYER AND IT WILL BE AN HONOUR TO PLAY WITH HIM."

BELOW: KINGSLEY JONES IN ACTION AGAINST QUINS

