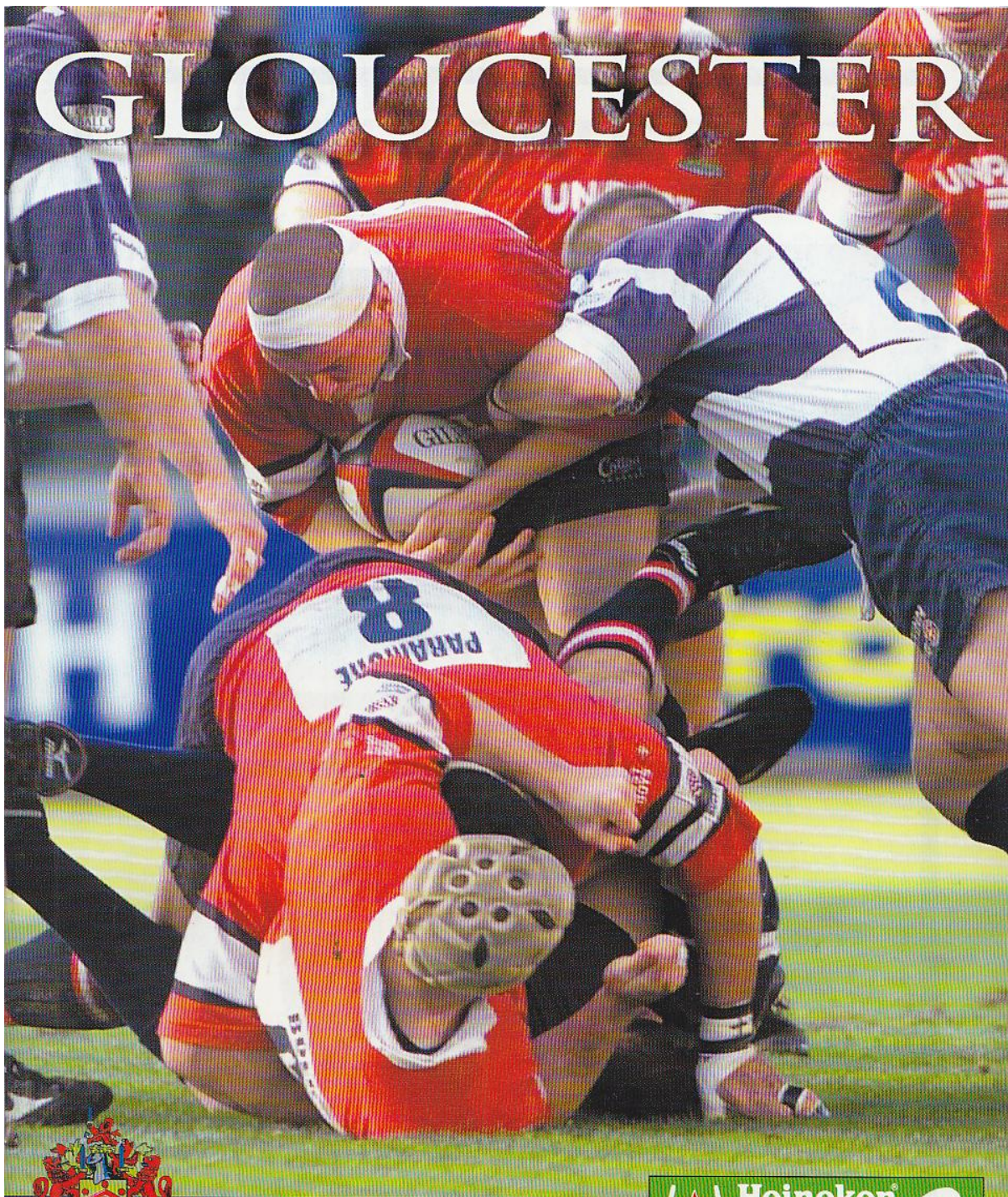


GLOUCESTER



GLOUCESTER V LLANELLI



HEINEKEN CUP FIXTURE

SATURDAY 13TH JANUARY 2001 KICK-OFF 3.00 PM

GLOUCESTER RFC OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

2000-2001 SEASON

ISSUE 12 - £2.00



TODAY'S TEAMS

SATURDAY JANUARY 13TH, 2001

GLOUCESTER* 28 (10) **LLANELLI*** 27 (13)

CHRIS CATLING	15	MATT CARDEY	
TERRY FANOLUA (I)	14	MARK JONES	2T
JASON LITTLE(I)	13	DAFYDD JAMES	
CHRIS YATES	12	NEIL BOOBYER	
TOM BEIM (I)	11	SALESI FINAU	
1c 6PG SIMON MANNIX(I)	10	STEPHEN JONES	1c 5PG
1DG ELTON MONCREIFF	9	RUPERT MOON	
TREVOR WOODMAN(I)	1	PHIL BOOTH	
OLIVIER AZAM (I)	2	ROBIN MCBRYDE	
PHIL VICKERY (I)	3	MARTIN MADDYN	
ROB FIDLER	4	CRAIG GILLIES	
IAN JONES (I)	5	CHRIS WYATT	
JAKE BOER	6	DAFYDD JONES	
KINGSLEY JONES (I) (C)	7	MIKE BUCKINGHAM	
STEVE OJOMOH (I)	8	SCOTT QUINNELL (C)	

1 PEN T.
UNIPART

REPLACEMENTS

LOST BOYS 

ANDY GOMARSALL (I)	16	EMORI KATALAU	
BYRON HAYWARD (I)	17	MARCUS THOMAS	
JOE EWENS	18	JOHN DAVIES	
CHRIS FORTEY	19	VERNON COOPER	
ANDY DEACON	20	DWAYNE PEEL	
ADAM EUSTACE	21	ALEX LAWSON	
ANDY HAZELL	22	GARAN EVANS	

TODAY'S OFFICIALS

REFEREE: DIDIER MENE FFR
TOUCH JUDGES: DANIEL GILLET FFR & DANIEL PRUVOT FFR
FOURTH OFFICIAL: F.SPONG RFU
FIFTH OFFICIAL: G. BRIDGEMAN GLOS SOCIETY

(I) DENOTES INTERNATIONAL
(C) DENOTES TEAM CAPTAIN
*TEAMS CORRECT AT 10-01-01

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

GEORGE BURTON-AGE 5



George, who is 5, lives in Cheltenham with his Mum & Dad, older brother and sister, Rhys and Annie. He goes to Richard Pates School in Leckhampton and his favourite football team is Liverpool. His ambition is to play rugby for Gloucester and follow in the footsteps of his famous grandfather, the legendary Mike Burton who played for Gloucester, England and the British Lions in the 1970's.

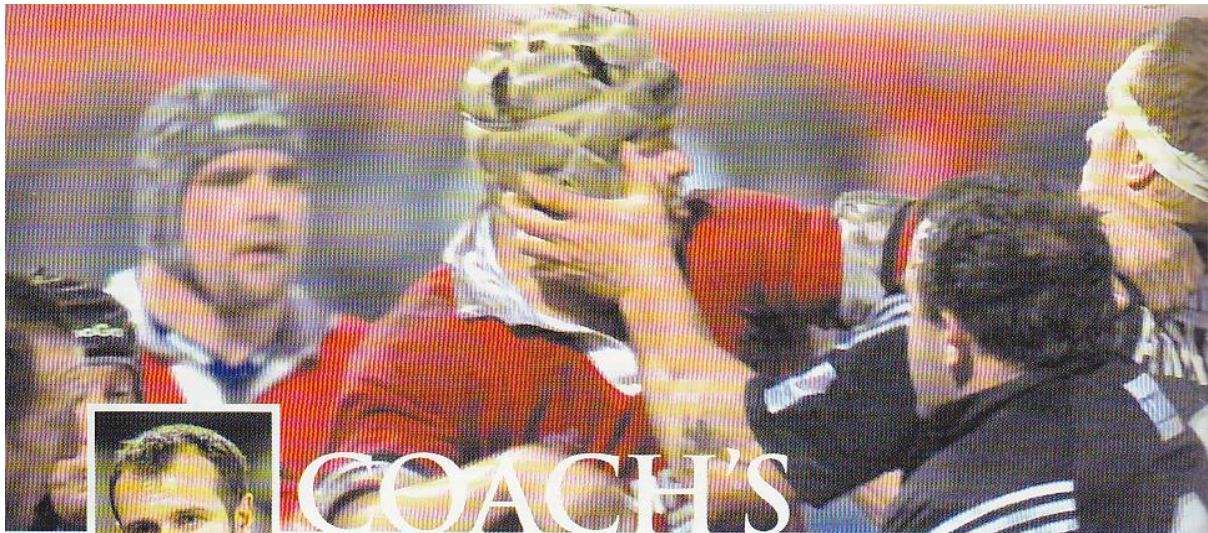


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COACH'S CORNER

WITH PHILIPPE ST ANDRE

IT'S SEEMS FUNNY THAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING THAT TODAY'S MATCH IS THE LAST CHANCE FOR GLOUCESTER'S SEASON.

ABOVE: KINGSLEY JONES AND NEWCASTLES MARIUS HURTER

This is for sure a very important game. We are playing live on television and we will play in front of a packed 'Shed' and probably a sell out ground. If we win this game we will have the chance to qualify for the Heineken Cup. There are very few other English clubs in this position so of course this is a very important game. After this game though we still have the chance to finish in the top four of the Premiership and after that the Championship playoffs will take place between the top eight teams. We still have many important games left to play this season.

I am obviously very disappointed at the results we have had recently. Losing to Leicester in the eighty-fourth minute was very hard. We had the opportunity to win this game and be the first team to win at Leicester for three years. When we lost this knocked our confidence a lot. We have also lost at home against Northampton and Bath and Sale. We controlled these games but we lost because we did not get all our kicks. We lost these games by one, two or three points. If we had won them we could be second in the league.

If I had the opportunity to change one result it would be the Leicester game. If I could, I would stop the match after eighty-three minutes and we would win. Had we not lost that match, having scored three tries to one, I think we would not have lost against Northampton at home or Bristol away.

We must look forward though. When I took over eighteen months ago we were in a fight not to be relegated. Now we do not have such fights and are challenging for a quarterfinal place in Europe. Our problem is that we are very, very good one week, and the next week we don't play so well. This is the biggest problem for me this season. But that is rugby and that is what makes it so exciting. A player's confidence and mind is very important. We have lacked a bit in recent games, but we are professionals and today we must all get this right.

To turn the corner we must start focusing now. We must be prepared to put our bodies on the line. We must be disciplined and wear the Gloucester jersey with pride. Every player must give 100% today. We must not look back but start to look forward. As semi-finalists last year, Llanelli will be very hard to beat. In Quinell and James they have world class players, but we must remember that we have the quality in the squad to beat them.

"WE HAVE LACKED A BIT IN RECENT GAMES, BUT WE ARE PROFESSIONALS AND TODAY WE MUST ALL GET THIS RIGHT."

PHILIPPE'S RECORD AS HEAD COACH				
Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	% wins
69	41	26	2	61
At Home				
Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	% wins
35	26	8	1	76
Away				
Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	% Wins
34	15	18	1	46

HAVE YOUR SAY ON TICKET PRICES



CONSULTATION ON THE REVIEW OF THE STRUCTURE AND COST OF TICKETS AT KINGSHOLM STARTS TODAY.

The Board intends to review all aspects of ticketing at the end of March and so there's plenty of time to make your views known to the club. The easiest way to do this is to visit the

official club web-site next week and complete the questionnaire on-line. It will stay there until the end of February. Otherwise, the survey will be available at any of the bars in the ground today and on the 10th February. You can post the survey back to the club, hand it in at any bar or at the office, or fax it.

It's your chance to have your say on tickets.

A SYMBOLIC EVENT!

LET'S FACE IT, GLOUCESTER AGAINST LLANELLI IS NOT JUST A GAME OF RUGBY. IT'S A GLADIATORIAL BATTLE.

It's tribal. It's the English against the Welsh, the Britons against the Celts. It goes back a long, long way and it doesn't matter how many overseas players are on the pitch. It's the wearing of the shirt that counts. This is a border incursion. The Welsh will

cross the frontier of the River Severn and arrive at Gloucester; the first of the English fortress cities designed to subdue them.

Kingsholm today isn't just a sports stadium; it's theatre in the round and the drama is as real as it gets.

The atmosphere today will be electric and the roar of the crowd will be incredible. But, it is sport, so may the best team win.



THANK YOU

ON BEHALF OF LAURA AND MYSELF, I WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL THOSE THAT HAVE SENT WELL WISHES TO US FOLLOWING OUR CAR ACCIDENT IN NOVEMBER.

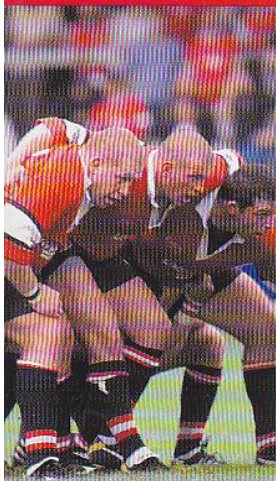
It was difficult to think of a way to say our thank yous, so what better way than to write an article for the Gloucester programme, that is read by so many of our friends and colleagues.

The support we have received by way of cards, flowers, and friendship has been overwhelming and has really helped both ourselves, and our families through this difficult time, and aided

our recovery. We have been more than grateful to the club officials, supporters and friends.

Looking to the future my aim is of course (unless medically, I am unable) to regain fitness and once again play for Gloucester. And give my all for the "Cherry and Whites". My wife is working hard on her physio programme, and is aiming to be walking again by my birthday in March. I believe though that this has more to do with Laura wanting to go to the Cheltenham National Hunt Festival!

Thank you to you all
Adey and Laura



LLANELLI SEASON SO FAR

THERE IS A FEELING OF DEJA VU AMONG SCARLETS SUPPORTERS AT THE MOMENT.

Up to now, this season has followed a similar pattern to last one. Whether it continues to do so could depend on today's crucial Heineken Cup clash.

Llanelli boast an excellent record in the competition, having only once failed to qualify for the knockout stages. Last year they had their best chance of winning Europe's top prize as they reached the semi-final for the first time. Northampton took the honours that day with a Paul Grayson penalty in the fourth minute of injury time shattering the Scarlets dreams. They still frustratingly wonder what could have been after proving to be one of the outstanding teams in the competition last year.

This season their league form has been disappointing and there was an early setback in the Heineken Cup. It proved a memorable night for Gloucester last October as they became only the second team to win at Stradey in the competition-and triumphed at the ground for the first time in 60 years. Following that defeat, the Scarlets responded by showing European excellence, recording another triumph in France against Colomiers, before conquering Roma home and away.

Unfortunately, the autumn internationals halted their momentum and their performances have clearly suffered as a result of that interruption. Since the resumption of league fixtures, they have lost to Newport, Cardiff, Glasgow and Swansea. That is however, no yardstick to judge their potential for today's encounter. Director of Rugby Gareth Jenkins and skipper Scott Quinnell feel they haven't played as badly as some of the results suggests. What they have been unable to do is provide the killer blow when they have been in positions to win matches.

The Llanelli squad shows little change to the one that took them to the Heineken Cup semi-final and a 11th Welsh Cup success last year. But they have missed the presence of Ireland

back row international Simon Easterby who suffered an Achilles tendon injury in pre-season training. His brother Guy, who gained Irish honours at scrum half, joined Llanelli from Ebbw Vale in the summer. But he has also been on the injury list. The Scarlets however, are fortunate to also have Rupert Moon who returned to the Welsh squad last season and exciting young prospect Dwayne Peel.

The club's leading points scorer is Stephen Jones, a contender for the Wales fly half spot in the Six Nations Championship. He made a winning debut in it last year when Wales toppled Scotland and featured in their victory against Ireland in Dublin. His displays for Wales A this season against South Africa earned high praise from national coach Graham Henry.

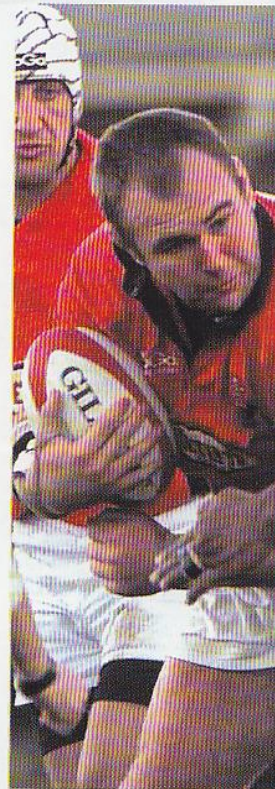
The club's most consistent try scorers this season have been Dafydd James and Mark Jones. James starred on the wing for Wales last October-but it is in the centre that he has produced polished all-round displays for Llanelli. It was against Gloucester that right wing Jones made his Heineken Cup debut and has pace and finishing flair that promise to bring him top honours. Powerful Tongan Salesi Finau, full back Matt Cardey, wings Wayne Proctor, Garan Evans and centre Neil Boobyer are other internationals in the club's squad for the back division.

Scott Quinnell has shown exemplary qualities in his first season as captain with the Wales number 8 already challenging for a second British Lions tour. The other players with Welsh caps among the forwards are hooker Robin McBryde, prop John Davies, lock Chris Wyatt with USA Eagles skipper David Hodges and Fijian Emori Katalau making up the international contingent.

They also have props of quality in Phil Booth and Martyn Madden with Marcus Thomas a hooker who is certain to be used today. Vernon Cooper and Craig Gillies have made notable contributions at lock while in the back row Dafydd Jones, Mike Buckingham and Ian Boobyer have featured in European successes.



BELOW: LLANELLI'S SCOTT QUINNELL DRIVES FOR THE LINE VS NEATH.



BY BARRIE
THOMAS

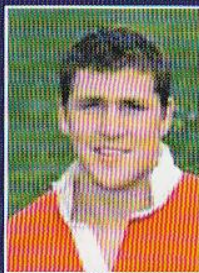
GLOUCESTER RUGBY CLUB ACADEMY

MATCH REPORT:
GRFC ACADEMY
VERSUS
CARDIFF U21'S.

VENUE: AWAY
DATE: 23RD
DECEMBER 2000

RESULT:
LOST 30:13

MAN OF THE MATCH



RICK DOBLE

"ALTHOUGH
GLOUCESTER
TURNED IN FEW
GOOD INDIVIDUAL
PERFORMANCES,
IT WOULD BE
ONLY RIGHT TO
NOMINATE WINGER
RICK DOBLE FOR
ANY MAN OF THE
MATCH AWARD."

**RIGHT: TOM
MIEKLAUSIC IN
ACTION FOR THE
ACADEMY.**

IT IS EASY TO LOOK FOR EXCUSES FOR POOR RESULTS, BUT AT THE END OF THE DAY THE PLAYER'S ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR INDIVIDUAL AND COLLECTIVE PERFORMANCES AND IN THE GAME AGAINST CARDIFF LET THEMSELVES AND GLOUCESTER RFC DOWN!

Not that it was the worst performance of the season, or that all of the players turned in one of their most inept performances all year. It was simply a case of not taking this fixture seriously, and going through the motions of an old style "festive seasons" fixture. Perhaps the players have believed their own press, that having been included in the Gloucester Academy 2000 squad they have made it as players!

The stark realisation is that unless they can rise to fixtures of this nature and perform at any level, at any time, simply for the pride of Gloucester Rugby Football Club, they have NOT made it and will struggle to rise into the premiership, where this level of commitment is required at all times!

The roller coaster season of up and down results, continued as the Welsh team's natural aggression was evident from the start as they pressurised and intimidated the Academy team.

The Academy backs had the edge over their opponents and in centre Euan Kenworthy and winger Jon Goodridge Gloucester had two of the best attacking players on the field, but the teams inability to hold onto the ball for any prolonged passages of play was their undoing.

For all their possession in the first half, Cardiff could only score two tries, one converted and two penalties to a solitary Joe Goatley penalty. They took a half time lead of 13:03, and highlighted the poor performance of the Gloucester team against an average Cardiff side.

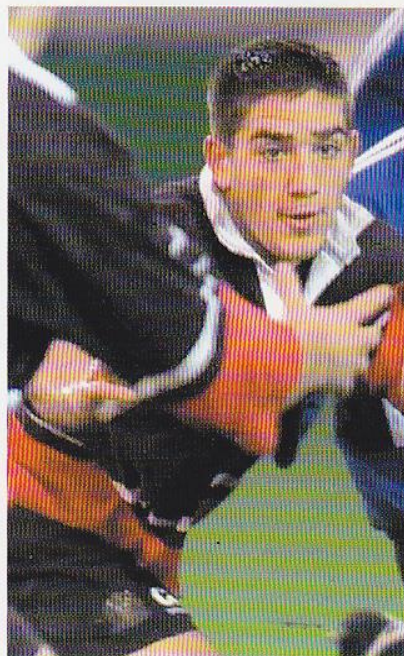
The second half continued in much the same vein as Gloucester tried to put together some phases of play. They were eventually rewarded when a dropped pass was regained by the consistently hard working winger Rick Doble, who drove forward to allow James Forrester to cross for a converted try to reduce the home sides lead to 18:10. From the restart however, the Gloucester team made some basic errors and gifted Cardiff

a try. This increased their lead to 25:10 and effectively stopped any chance of a Gloucester revival.

A further Joe Goatley penalty was to be Gloucester's final score of the game as Cardiff rubbed salt into the wounds by capitalising on another basic unforced Gloucester error. They scored a further try as the final whistle blew giving them a convincing 30 points to 13 victory over an inept Academy team.

Although Gloucester turned in few good individual performances, it would be only right to nominate winger Rick Doble for any man of the match award. He is one of the few players to consistently put his body on the line for the Gloucester Club. With his selfless and hard working approach to every game in which he represents the Gloucester Club, he is a perfect role model for the rest of the squad to follow!

**Report by John Haines,
Academy Team Manager.**



GLOUCESTER RUGBY CLUB ACADEMY

THE COLTS HAD PLAYED BRISTOL EARLIER IN THE SEASON AT KINGSHOLM AND ALTHOUGH THEY MANAGED A WIN THEY FOUND THE GOING VERY TOUGH AGAINST A BIGGER BRISTOL PACK.

This game saw a repeat of the battle between the Bristol forwards and the talented Gloucester three-quarters. Although all the Gloucester points came as expected through scintillating back moves and counter attacking flair, it was the defensive strength of the Gloucester forwards that won the game.

From the kick off Gloucester received possession and won a scrum, just inside the Bristol half. From the base scrum half Clive Stuart-Smith broke the shackles of the back row and started side stepping his way through the Bristol backs on the way to a superb individual try which was converted by fly half Brad Davies. Gloucester led seven-nil.

A shell-shocked Bristol team then took the ascendancy, using the size of their forwards to drive at the Gloucester line. This pressure should have brought them a score under the posts but the ball was dropped on the line and Gloucester survived. This was the pattern of play for the rest of the half as the Gloucester team battled resolutely to deny Bristol a score.

In a typical local derby fought to the end, Gloucester prop, Joe Horne-Smith was sin binned for stamping. Although a man down, the Gloucester defence held firm. Bristol then kicked ahead deep into Gloucester's territory. The ball was gathered and the counter attack was on. The ball was transferred through several pairs of hands before John-Paul Goatley crashed over in the corner for an unconverted try, extending the lead to twelve-nil.

In the final minute of the first half Bristol finally got on the score sheet with a penalty to bring the half time score to 12-3.

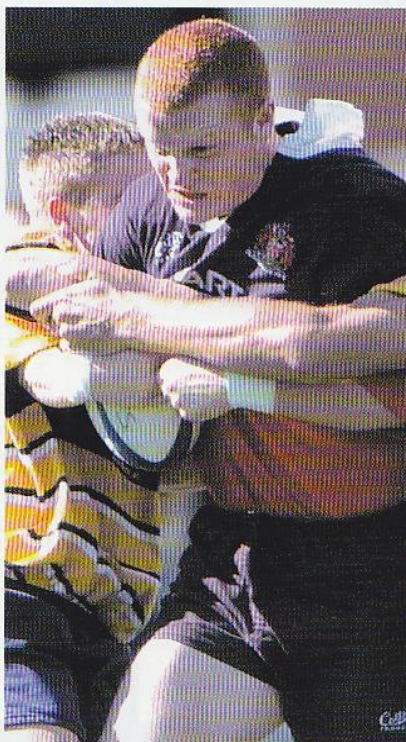
The second half began with Gloucester in command. Their pack stealing possession and edging the scrum. Gloucester's first up tackling was superb as they halted the Bristol pack in their

tracks. Gloucester kept their opponents in the game however, by trying to play rugby in their own 22 when clearing the ball would have been a better option.

James Simpson-Daniel came on at full-back and caused problems immediately with his pace and guile. His sorties created space and good attacking positions. It was one of these that allowed centre Jason Skidmore to make a half break and slip the ball to Duncan Murray who scored under the posts. Brad Davies converted to give Gloucester a 19-3 lead.

Now it was all Gloucester. As they ran at the Bristol defence repeatedly they were unlucky not to score further tries. The last points came from a superbly struck penalty by Brad Davies for a final score of Gloucester 22:3 Bristol.

**Report by John Haines,
Academy Team Manager.**



**MATCH REPORT:
GRFC ACADEMY
VERSUS
BRISTOL.**

**VENUE: OXTALLS
DATE: 9TH
JANUARY 2001**

**RESULT:
WON 22:3**

MAN OF THE MATCH



CLIVE STUART-SMITH

"THIS GAME SAW A REPEAT OF THE BATTLE BETWEEN THE BRISTOL FORWARDS AND THE TALENTED GLOUCESTER THREE-QUARTERS."

RIGHT: DUNCAN MURRAY IN ACTION FOR THE ACADEMY.

ANYONE READ THE MORNING PAPERS ?

SOMEONE SOMEWHERE WILL HAVE REFERRED TO THIS GAME AS 'GLOUCESTER DRINKING AT THE LAST CHANCE SALOON' IN TERMS OF THEIR EUROPEAN HOPES FOR THIS SEASON - AS INDEED IN REALITY THEY ARE.

"NOW WE'VE GOT TO THE NITTY GRITTY STUFF, AND THE ATMOSPHERE TODAY PROMISES TO BE THE MOST INTENSE OF THE SEASON.."

Defeat today, and there's only one way to go in terms of this season's Heineken Cup, and that's out.

My silver haired colleague David Reed has shared the four pool games so far with me. David went to Stradey and saw the home draw with Colomiers, while I witnessed the romp against Roma and the late collapse in the Stade Selery. Now we've got to the nitty gritty stuff, and the atmosphere today promises to be the most intense of the season. One might argue it needs to be, to give Gloucester every possible advantage.

The game at Llanelli set the tone for this competition, and probably marked the peak of Gloucester's autumn form. We always expected the boys to dispose of Roma pretty easily - which they ultimately did - and then came the Colomiers double header. Having recently put together our Cherry & White " Review of the Year" I remember well John Brain's words of warning about the dangers of Galthie and Sadourny, but it was stand-off Marticorena who did most of the damage in both games. How we could do with him having an off day at Llanelli next week !

The year 2000 had three other meetings between Welsh teams and Gloucestershire teams, and Gloucester need a victory today to edge us back in front again. Some of you may have been at Lords last June for the Benson & Hedges Cup final, the third of the four knockout trophies Gloucestershire have won in the last two seasons. Mark Alleyne's side cruised to an easy victory with Hancock and Windows making 50's. It was a trend kept going in October as Kingsley inspired the side to that crucial opening win, capped by tries for Hazell and Little, but broken by Cardiff City,

who first knocked Cheltenham Town out of the FA Cup, and then beat them in a Division 3 League game the week after as well. This game was always likely to be the key game in the group, and it could be termed a decider in other ways too.

Philippe has already hinted that he's looking at next season rather than this, but what happens if Gloucester don't even make the quarter finals ? He's indicated that Tom Walkinshaw's backing remains, but how will Saint Andre see a season where Gloucester fail to retain their place in Europe's top knockout competition ? Will he see it as a failure, and something that he, as a proud man, is unable to accept ? Hopefully the next two weeks will see Gloucester avoiding the need for us to ask these questions.

Recent Premiership form must be put to one side today. No-one will be emphasising the need to play flat-out from the first whistle more than Philippe, but it's energy that must be harnessed properly. Too often it seems - and it won't need me to tell you - Gloucester haven't been beaten fair and square. On more than a handful of occasions, good positions have been relinquished either by a string of penalties or fading concentration - they've almost beaten themselves.

Before "The Shed" starts to find its voice from about 2.30 today, it's worth thinking about the permutations in the group. Both Gloucester and Colomiers can get 9 points, but Llanelli could get 10. Gloucester win the group if they win today and in Rome, and Llanelli beat Colomiers at Stradey, but should Colomiers beat both Roma and Llanelli, even two wins for Gloucester might not be enough, because of what happens in the other groups. All our lads can do is worry about their own matches...and hope that defeat in France isn't their achilles heel.

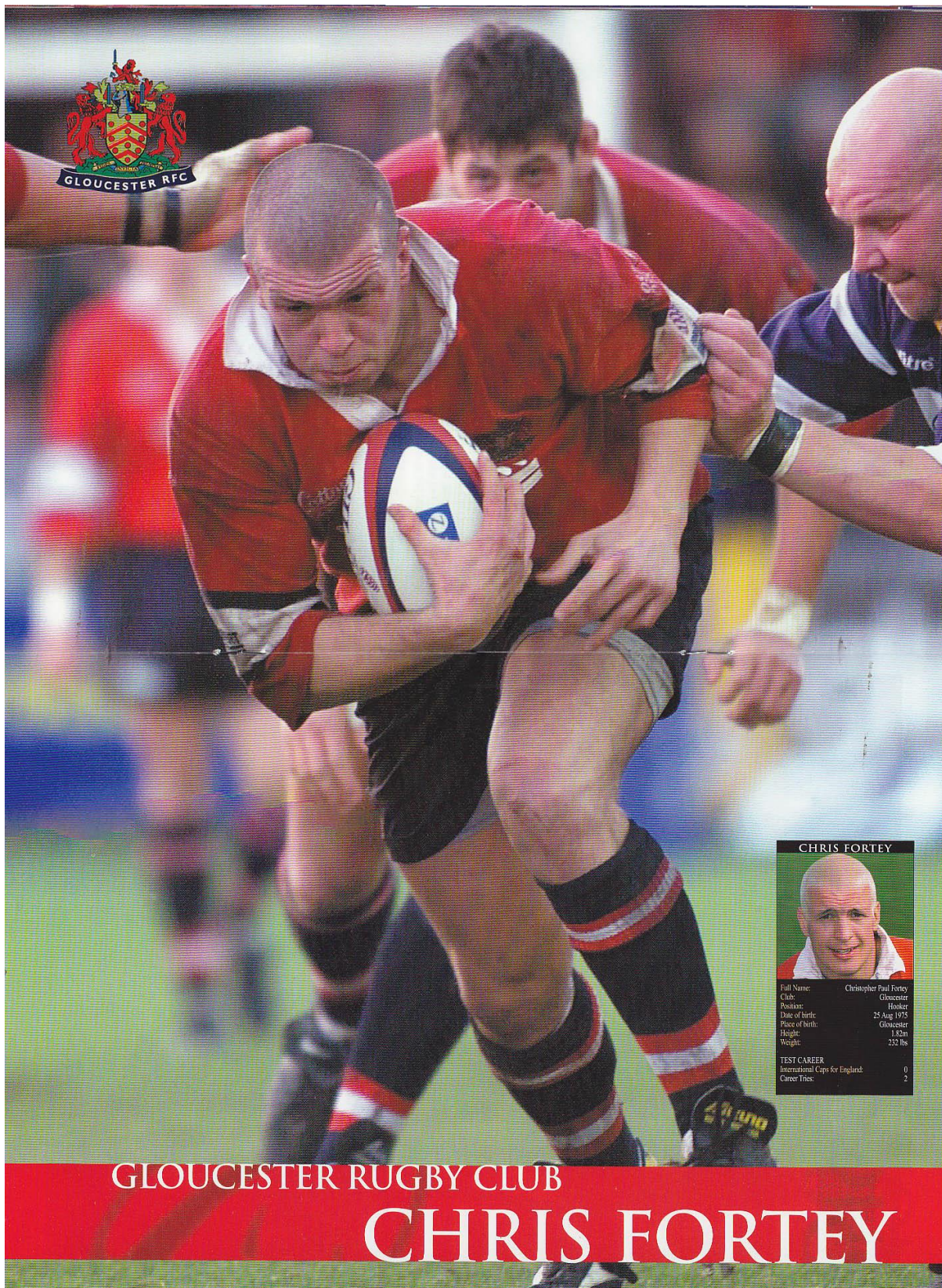
Fingers crossed the season's not over at 4.45.....

C'MON GLAWS !

BY **PETE WILSON**

BELOW:TREVOR WOODMAN TAKES OUT BRISTOLS LEE BEST.





CHRIS FORTEY



Full Name: Christopher Paul Forthey
Club: Gloucester
Position: Hooker
Date of birth: 25 Aug 1975
Place of birth: Gloucester
Height: 1.82m
Weight: 232 lbs

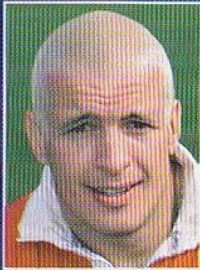
TEST CAREER
International Caps for England: 0
Career Tries: 2

GLOUCESTER RUGBY CLUB

CHRIS FORTEY

PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

CHRIS



CHRIS FORTEY

Full Name Chris Paul Fortey
Place of Birth Gloucester
Date of Birth 25 Aug 1975
Height (m) 1.82
Weight (lbs) 232
Former Club Gordon League
Position Hooker

AS A LOCAL LAD, BORN AND BRED IN GLOUCESTER, HAS IT ALWAYS BEEN A DREAM OF YOURS TO RUN OUT AS A PROFESSIONAL RUGBY PLAYER FOR GLOUCESTER?

Yes as a kid starting rugby it's a main ambition to play for Gloucester and run out in front of a fantastic crowd. Coming up through the ranks of the Colts and U21's you always want to get the edge, and get into the full squad. It is a dream come true and one that I hope continues.

Your position of hooker is a very specialised position where elements of your game can be key to winning or losing a game. Has professionalism helped you in respect of time to practice and hone your skills?

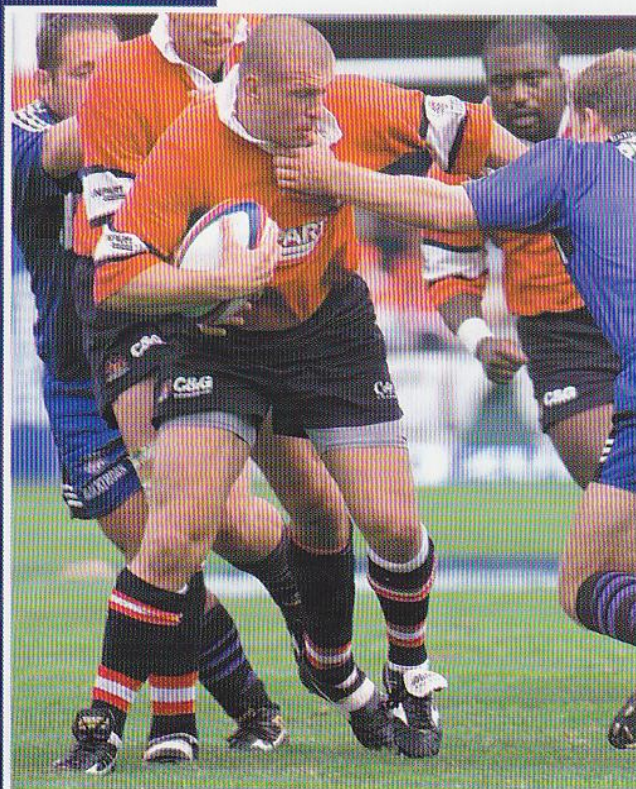
Yes, in my position you have to concentrate so hard on the basics of throwing in and scrummaging. Throwing-in is such an art now and can make all the difference to, not just my performance, but that of the whole team. It's difficult to say because growing up you read stories about Brian Moore and his contemporaries on their lunch breaks at work taking a ball and hitting a spot on the wall. Whether you are a professional or not you have to be professional in your approach to the game.

Was Brian Moore one of the players you looked up to as a young player, was there anyone who you saw and thought, "That's how I want to play"?

Not really, I wanted to play like Chris Fortey. I didn't want to be Brian Moore or Graham Dawe or anyone else. I just wanted to be myself. Brian Moore was always on the telly as an England international, so I grew up watching him and admiring players like him and Sean Fitzpatrick. But I think you have to look at your own game and decide how does Chris Fortey want to play and let other people copy your game.

In the past three years, Gloucester has produced three great hookers. You displaced Neil McCarthy and Phil Greening, you now have a battle with two other international hookers, does that keep you going or do you get tired of the constant competition?

I don't look at them as out and out competition. Once you are part of the squad you will always try and get one over on the other hookers, but we are all friends and teammates and our job is to do the best we can for the team. Obviously you always want to be number one, and that can come with extra training sessions or doing stuff that will make you stand out from the other hookers, or just working well with the team. We still have three good hookers here and the little competition keeps us going, and can only be for the club's gain. This helps keep the pressure on. Every time you throw in to a line out or go into a scrum or carry the ball forward, you know that...



FORTEY



if you give anything less than your best you'll be found out either at a video session or by the coaches.

So Saturday's result must have been even harder to take, I know Neil (McCarthy) was quite pleased at the end of the game?

With players like Neil (McCarthy) and Phil (Greening), we have the utmost respect for each other. There isn't a lot said normally, you have to just knuckle down and get on with your job. In rugby there isn't room for personal vendettas against anyone. It's a -twenty-two-man game now if your not concentrating on your job you let the team down.

What's been the highlight of your career?

It's got to be the win at Bath in the cup this year. Going back to colts rugby I have never won at the Rec. The team we put out that day wasn't seen as our first choice and we all had something to prove. I can't describe what I felt when that final whistle went. Every time you run out for Gloucester it's an achievement in my eyes so that result was just so special.

And Low points?

Probably my league debut at Bristol. I didn't have the best of games and people keep bringing it up when we play them. After the game it was like "Well played" but I knew deep down I hadn't played well at all. So as a low point I always look at that game.

This year you had the phone call to join up with the international team, but as you were walking in, everyone else was walking out. That must have been a very difficult time.

Yes, when I got the phone call I thought some one was winding me up. It all happened so fast, one minute I was walking the dog the next I was having breakfast with the squad. Later that day all I can remember is sitting in the hotel room for hours wondering what to do. The feeling of being called up though is one I can't explain. I went home and I was so quite, I was happy but I was nervous as well. Once you

meet all the guys though it's just like being at a club. Things are so much more professional though, literally everything was taken care of. It was obviously easier having Vix with me just to have someone to talk to. When he went up for the first time he was roomed with Graham Rowntree and we had just beaten Leicester.

Is it something you are striving for again?

Oh definitely, having been up there you realise what it takes to be an international. It's not just the conditioning side but your entire lifestyle changes. You have to take a big step up from club professional to international. I've now had an insight into what I need to do to achieve it.

FAR LEFT: CHRIS FORTEY AND BATH JOHN PRESTON.

BELOW: 4/11/2000 CH FORTEY (BOTTOM RIGHT) KEEPS A TIGHT GRIP ON THE BALL DURING THIS RUCK



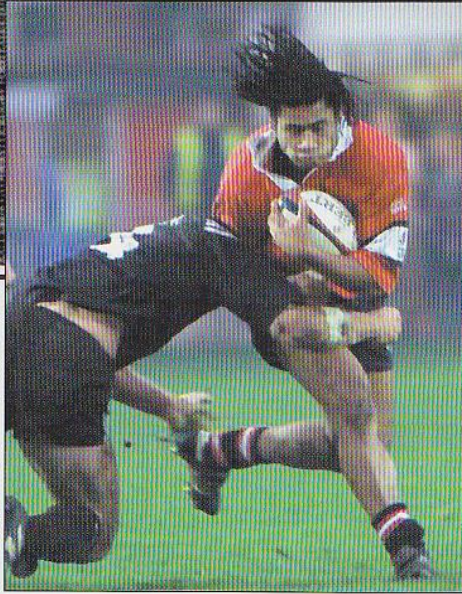
Have you set any other personal targets for the rest of the season?

Personal targets? I look at them as team targets. Obviously I want to be involved in the England set up whether it be full honours or England 'A', but where Gloucester are concerned we have to knuckle down and pull together starting with this weekend. We have had some poor results and we know we have to win a lot of games to finish where we want to. We know we can play better than our recent results suggest and this weekend is a must win game for Philippe and the fans. We're all part of one big family here.

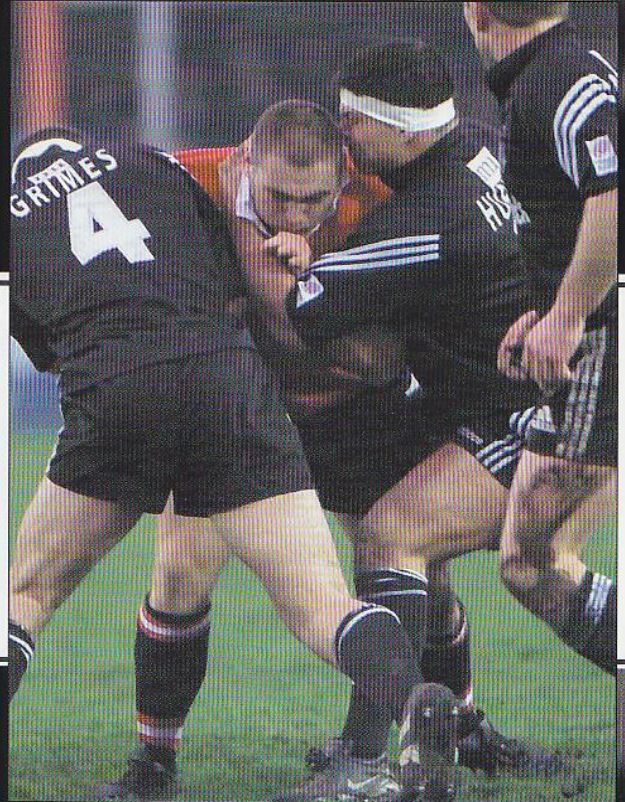
"EVERY TIME YOU RUN OUT FOR GLOUCESTER IT'S AN ACHIEVEMENT IN MY EYES."

MATCH ACTION

GLOUCESTER 28-13 NEWCASTLE



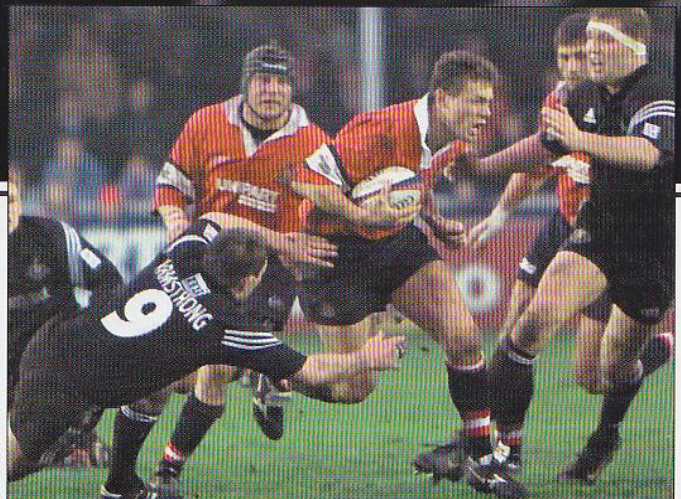
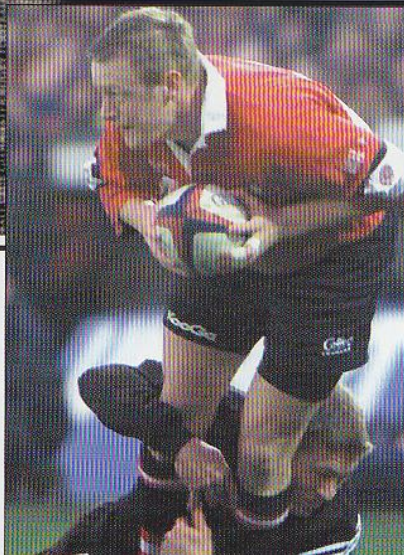
TOP LEFT: Terry Fanolua breaks away from a tackle from Newcastle's Stuart Grimes.



TOP RIGHT: Trevor Woodman in the centre of a tackle from Newcastle's Stuart Grimes (4) and Marius Hurter.

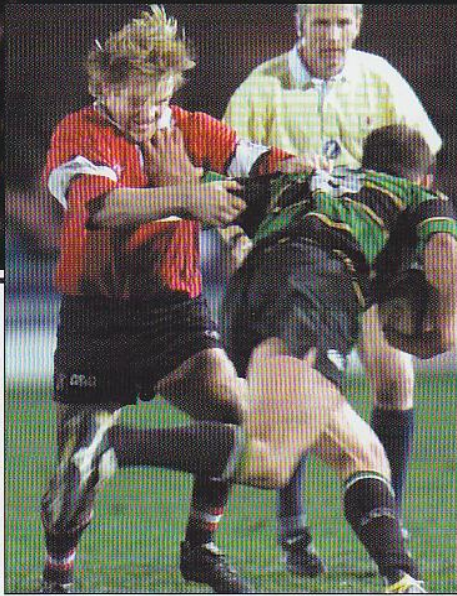
BOTTOM RIGHT: Jason Little dodges a tackle from Newcastle's Gary Armstrong (9).

BOTTOM LEFT: Chris Catling is tackled by Newcastle's Jonny Wilkinson.

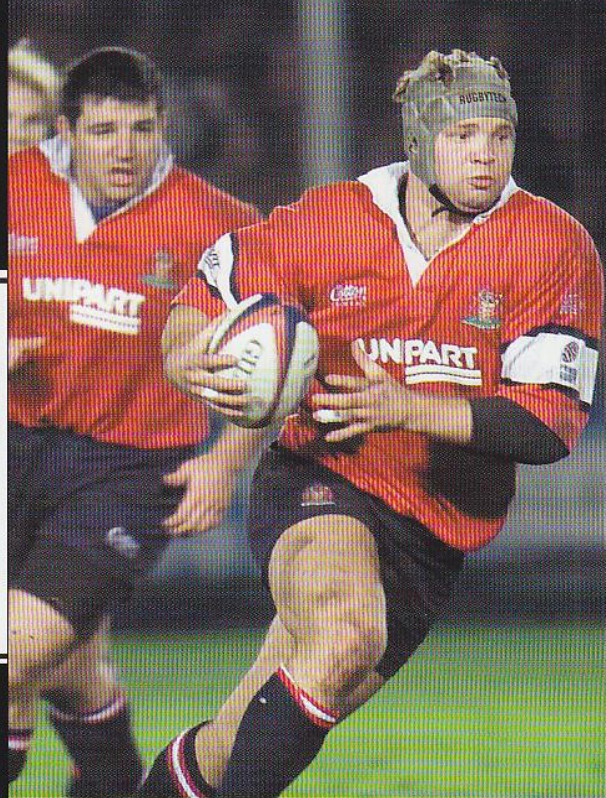


MATCH ACTION

GLOUCESTER 12-15 NORTHAMPTON



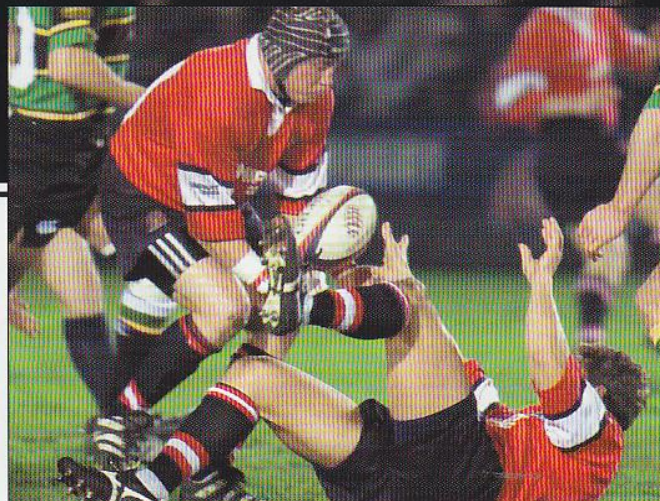
TOP LEFT: Simon Mannix tackles Northampton's Grant Seely.



TOP RIGHT: Jake Boer breaks away.

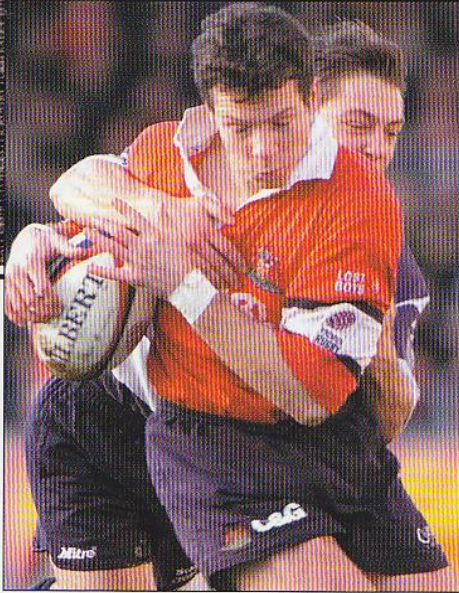
BOTTOM RIGHT: Gloucester's Kingsley Jones collects the pass from Jason Little.

BOTTOM LEFT: Andy Gomarsall gets the ball away.

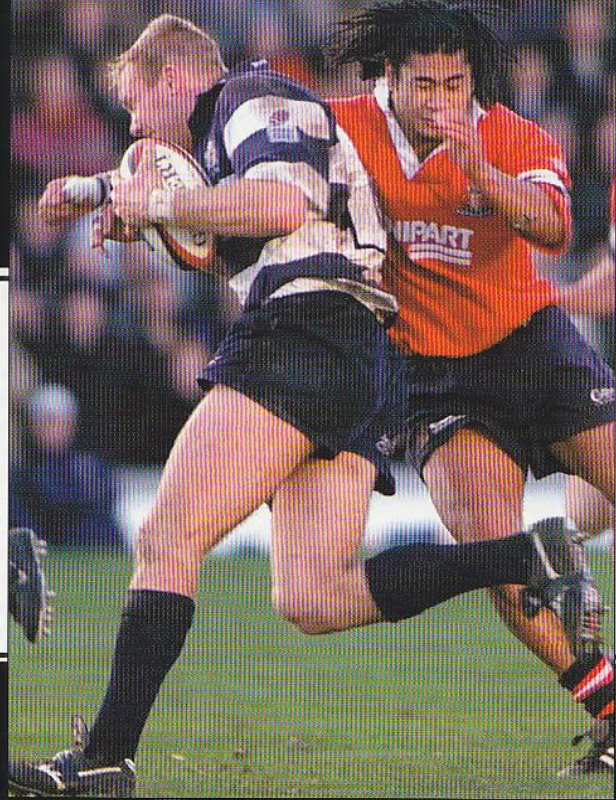


MATCH ACTION

BRISTOL 18-9 GLOUCESTER



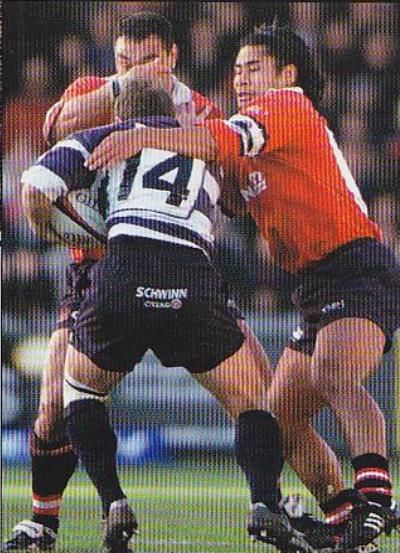
TOP LEFT: Tom Beim tackled from behind by Bristol's David Rees.



TOP RIGHT: Terry Fanolua moves in on Bristol's Matt Salter.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Simon Mannix kicks under pressure.

BOTTOM LEFT: Junior Paramore and Terry Fanolua (right) tackle Bristol's David Rees.



'LACK OF PASSION'

ON A DAY WHEN LEICESTER LOST TO HARLEQUINS AND ROTHERHAM BEAT SARACENS, I SUPPOSE YOU COULD SAY THAT GLOUCESTER WAS ONLY FOLLOWING A TREND BY GOING DOWN TO BRISTOL, ALBEIT IN A PRETTY UNINSPIRING TRYLESS ENCOUNTER.

"OUR JOB, OF COURSE, IS TO GET RIGHT BEHIND THE BOYS AND CHEER LIKE CRAZY."

What worried me about the result was the accusation of 'lack of passion' levelled at the players after the game.

Gloucester away to Bristol? Lack of passion? That's like saying that alligators have suddenly gone vegetarian. The idea that a Gloucester side wasn't well and truly up for an assault on the old enemy is extremely hard to swallow. I think it's much more likely to have been a crisis of confidence than lack of commitment. Let's face it, when players start to think of a game as just another day at the office we might all just as well pack up and go home, and I simply don't believe it.

So where might a collapse in confidence have come from? I don't like criticising referees - they have a hard enough job, Lord knows - but we do seem to have been suffering on that front over the past few weeks. The Gloucester pack does appear to have been punished disproportionately to other sides recently, and it's difficult to see why. And that's not just a committed Gloucester supporter speaking. The syndrome has

attracted comment from some neutral observers lately, too.

Whatever the reason for a lack of confidence, it has to be identified and solved, and quickly. Let's start here.

Not to be mealy-mouthed about it, we have a bloody good side out there. It has hardly a weakness, and is a better outfit than the one, which did so well last season. They can beat any club side in the land, and somebody is going to suffer, before long, for the recent doldrums.

The lads don't need criticism, they need encouragement. By all means point out faults, but along the lines of 'get that right and you'll be supermen'. Show videos which illustrate your point, but also play over the tapes - such as the Bath Cup game - where everything went brilliantly. Then hand out a modicum of praise. Keep telling people that they're not much cop and they'll start to believe you.

Our job, of course, is to get right behind the boys and cheer like crazy. And it's difficult to think of a better time to start doing that than during a European Cup game against Llanelli, who we've already beaten on their own patch this season.

**Come on Glos!
You're the best in the land.
Now get out there and prove it**

**BELOW:
ANDY HAZELL PASSES
AS HE IS BROUGHT
DOWN BY A TACKLE
FROM CRAIG SHORT.**



DON RUTHERFORD O.B.E

FOR ANYONE WHO ASPIRES TO SPORT THE CHERRY-AND-WHITE COLOURS, AS PLAYER, OFFICIAL, SUPPORTER OR CAMP FOLLOWER, THE INCLUSION OF DON RUTHERFORD'S NAME IN THIS YEAR'S NEW YEAR'S HONOURS LIST IS CAUSE FOR PARTICULAR PLEASURE.

I think I'm right in saying that the great Tommy Joyce was the last Gloucester player so distinguished (someone will soon tell me if I'm not), so it's been, as they say, a long time between drinks.

Mickey Booth tells the story of one former Gloucester hooker whose idea of a pre-match warm-up was a quick jump up and down alongside the old dressing room boiler on the Shed side of the ground. Such practices as coaching and training were regarded as un-English, sissy and perhaps even a little like cheating, only indulged in by foreigners, Harlequins and other lesser breeds.

The arrival of Don Rutherford at Kingsholm from Percy Park changed all that. He impressed everyone as a solid, safe full-back who kicked goals from all over the park, and thoroughly deserved his subsequent career for both England and the British Lions. However, his lasting contribution to the English game was to be rooted in his technical abilities and his coaching skills.

Although the average supporter didn't realise it at the time, the old Corinthian, 'amateur' basis of the game was already being eroded. Coaches were beginning to crop up with about the same regularity as mobile phone salesmen did thirty years later. If you didn't want to lose all your games, you had to go along with the trend.

At Gloucester we were lucky. We had Don Rutherford. He rapidly showed us how this coaching business should be conducted, and it soon became clear that we had an unusually shrewd analytical rugby brain here at Kingsholm. It wasn't too much of a surprise when, in 1969, he went to Twickenham where he became the RFU's Technical Administrator.

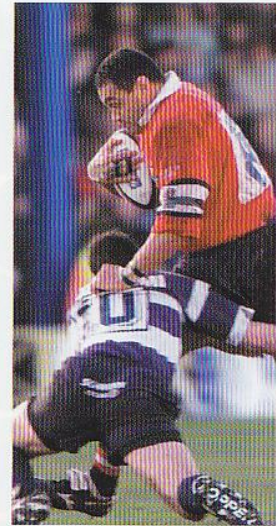
The rest, as they say, is history. Don it was who persuaded the Powers That Be to seek the best help from wherever it was obtainable - and that included from overseas. He also placed great emphasis on youth and development work.

So influential did he become that the whole dynasty of England coaches leaned heavily on his technical insight and expertise.

Don Rutherford finally became a victim of Mr. Barron's 1999 night of the long knives, but I'm told that he still isn't short of consultations by a whole stream of organisations. No doubt, now that he has time to do so, he reflects, now and then, that it was here at Kingsholm that he was first given the chance to develop his skills and abilities.

I believe that there was one point at which he might just have come back to GRFC. When the professional era was on the horizon, his name was rumoured as a possible Chief Executive for the club. When I enquired, I was politely requested to keep my trap shut and not go bandying that name about, so I think there must have been something in it.

But if he had returned to Kingsholm, he would probably not have been awarded his OBE. Which would have been a pity. We congratulate Don Rutherford, most sincerely, and wish him well for the future.



ABOVE: JUNIOR PARAMORE HAS HIS BREAK HALTED BY A TACKLE FROM BRISTOL'S FELIPE CONTEPOMI.

"SO INFLUENTIAL DID HE BECOME THAT THE WHOLE DYNASTY OF ENGLAND COACHES LEANED HEAVILY ON HIS TECHNICAL INSIGHT AND EXPERTISE."



BY PETER ARNOLD



MATCH CAPTAIN

WITH KINGSLEY JONES

IF THERE EVER WAS A MUST WIN GAME THEN THIS IS IT. IN TERMS OF GLOUCESTER'S PRESTIGE AND STANDING AMONG THE ELITE RUGBY CLUBS OF EUROPE, TODAY'S GAME IS VITALLY IMPORTANT.

Our position in the league is not great and our chances of emulating last year's achievement, of third place, our looking slim. So to get into the quarterfinals of the Heineken Cup is a must.

However, I don't give any credence to the thought that we cannot finish in the top four of the Zurich Premiership. Today's game is by no means a "last chance saloon". Teams up and down the country are taking points off each other when few would give them a chance. Take the Rotherham v Saracens result. We need to put together a run of some good wins, as Northampton and Bath have, and we will be right back in it.

Today though, all our attention is focused on Llanelli, as a Welshman this game means everything to me. We are playing good Welsh opposition, we are live on Grandstand, and we are in the shop window. This is where every top rugby player wants to be, playing in front of as many people as possible. It's the closest thing to a test match there is in the Northern Hemisphere.

A few weeks before a game like this is always very exciting as it draws nearer, and your mind becomes focused on the job at hand. There has been a lot of media attention leading up to this fixture, but once the whistle blows it all goes out of your mind. If we score a try you get a chance to celebrate with the crowd but to be honest there could be five or fifty thousand people watching and I wouldn't know, I'm that sort of player.

I'm sure the atmosphere will be fantastic and I hope both sets of fans can enjoy this marvellous occasion.

Although I hope this afternoon's match is a great spectacle for British rugby, I won't mind if at the end of eighty or eighty-five minutes the score is Gloucester 3 Llanelli 0. The result today is everything. To win this game though, we don't need to throw the ball around, we have to concentrate on the basics of ball retention and discipline. If we can get those things right today the rest will take care of itself. The boys are all up for it, and we do have a great platform up front to build on.

We are catching Llanelli at a bad time. They suffered a defeat to Glasgow Caledonians last weekend and will have done a lot of soul searching this week. They will want to prove their critics wrong. I think there are a lot of comparisons to be drawn between the two sides today. After last Saturday it is very important that we pull together. We played poorly and it was a very disappointing result but I don't see the merits of looking back and so as a captain, along with Philippe and Jon Brain we must focus the team's minds on the games ahead.

I'd like to play well personally and show the people in Wales that I am still alive, hopefully there are still supporters in Wales that remember me well, and hopefully playing for a good team.

A week is a long time in rugby. We had a bad performance last week but we now have a chance to turn it around, perhaps not all the way, but we have a chance to make a start. All eyes will be on Kingsholm today and it is a chance for all the players to say, "Look we don't become a bad team overnight", and show people what we are capable of and that is what we must do today.

ABOVE:TREVOR WOODMAN RUNS INTO A TACKLE FROM NORTHAMPTON'S STEVE THOMPSON. BELOW:JASON LITTLE TRIES TO FIND SPACE.

" THIS IS WHERE EVERY TOP RUGBY PLAYER WANTS TO BE, PLAYING IN FRONT OF AS MANY PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE."

