

Gloucester

Gloucester RFC official matchday programme 2001-2002

European Shield Fixture



vs Ebbw Vale

Friday 25th January 2002 kick-off 7.05pm

[issue] 12

[price] £2.00

esterrugbyclub.comwww.gloucesterrugbyclub.comwww.gloucest



Line-ups



46 Gloucester VS Ebbw Vale 11

<input type="checkbox"/>	Daren O'Leary	<input type="checkbox"/>	15	Matthew James	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	James Simpson-Daniel	<input type="checkbox"/>	14	Aaron Takarangi	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Terry Fanolua	<input type="checkbox"/>	13	Rhys Shorney	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Robert Todd	<input type="checkbox"/>	12	Paul Matthews	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Diego Albanese	<input type="checkbox"/>	11	Andrew Wagstaff	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ludovic Mercier	<input type="checkbox"/>	10	Gareth Cull	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Andy Gomarsall	<input type="checkbox"/>	9	Kevin Ellis	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Federico Pucciariello	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	Iestyn Thomas	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Chris Fortey	<input type="checkbox"/>	2	Leyton Phillips	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Patrice Collazo	<input type="checkbox"/>	3	Martin Jones	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Adam Eustace	<input type="checkbox"/>	4	Chay Billen	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mark Cornwell	<input type="checkbox"/>	5	Neil Edwards	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Jake Boer	<input type="checkbox"/>	6	Kati Tuipolotu	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Andy Hazell	<input type="checkbox"/>	7	Paul Williams	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Junior Paramore	<input type="checkbox"/>	8	William Thomas	<input type="checkbox"/>

[replacements]

<input type="checkbox"/>	TBC	<input type="checkbox"/>	16	Damien Penisini	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	TBC	<input type="checkbox"/>	17	Jonathan Evans	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	TBC	<input type="checkbox"/>	18	Ockert Booyse	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	TBC	<input type="checkbox"/>	19	Rhys Williams	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	TBC	<input type="checkbox"/>	20	David Weatherly	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	TBC	<input type="checkbox"/>	21	Andrew Bevan	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	TBC	<input type="checkbox"/>	22	Ross Watts	<input type="checkbox"/>

[teams correct at 23/01/02]

i [denotes international]

c [denotes captain]

[today's officials]

[referee] Mr Desantis **FIR**

[touch judges] Mr Lombardi **FIR**, TBC **FIR**

Coach's Corner

[Paul Turner]



As was quoted in the press after the London Irish game, I was very disappointed at the way we played on Sunday.

We did a lot of talking about certain things before the game but then at key times, players did their own thing. What was so disappointing was the way we tried to play in those conditions. If it is on then great, but in conditions like we encountered on Sunday, we must learn to use the weather to our advantage. Barry Everitt embarrassed us with the way he played.

Tonight though, we have a chance to put that right against a team who have on the whole struggled this season. More recently though they have picked up their form with a good win against Cardiff. I have seen them on a couple of occasions this season; they were close to beating Ulster and recently they beat Agen by fifty-nine points. Regardless of what people think about that particular game, to go to France and win as they did will give them great confidence.

We have to be careful. We are second in the Zurich Premiership; they are at the wrong end of the Celtic league. On paper we should

not have a problem, but as they say, rugby isn't played on paper. Off the field Ebbw Vale are dealing with a lot of political traumas that will decide their future. Having been in a similar situation with Bedford, I am well aware of the power a side can project in adversity.

There is nothing better to focus the mind on the job at hand than when you feel as if the whole world is kicking you. In recent years they have lost or let go a lot of players but they now have a number of good young players in the squad, a lot of whom are being rewarded with Wales A caps. As a young team two things can happen at Kingsholm. They will either be fazed by the whole experience or, like good players, the atmosphere will encourage them to play. We need to be prepared for that.

Mike Ruddock and Kevin Hopkins, Ebbw Vale's coaches, realise the resources at their disposal are not the same as Cardiff's or Llanelli's and so have structured their game plan accordingly. They know

where their strengths are and will play to them. They may not have any superstars but they have a reasonable pack, a good scrum, and a goal kicking point's machine. We found out to our cost on Sunday what guys like that can do to us.

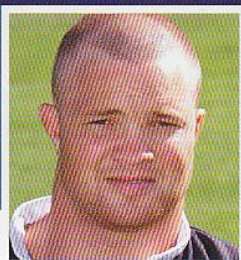
Tonight should all be about positives. At the start of the season we set ourselves the target of winning the Shield and finishing in the top four of the Premiership. At present both goals are still within reach. At the start of this competition I think we would have been very happy if someone offered us a home tie in the quarterfinals against Ebbw Vale after winning all of our Pool games.

At Kingsholm, Gloucester should be regarded as favourites whoever the opposition are. If an Australian or All Black team toured and played here you would always like to think Gloucester would do well. I have discovered over the years that no team can ever underestimate a Gloucester team at Kingsholm. They have always played with pride and I am

sure that the supporters will let them know if they are not reaching the expected heights.

Tonight we need to be disciplined the structure of our game has got to be sound, much better than on Sunday. If we get the downpour tonight again we must play to the conditions and use them to our advantage. We have worked really hard to get to this position so we must be positive. Last Sunday our whole game was not acceptable but we have worked hard all week and I hope that tonight we can put our marker down for the rest of the season. If we can get our performance right I am confident we can win.

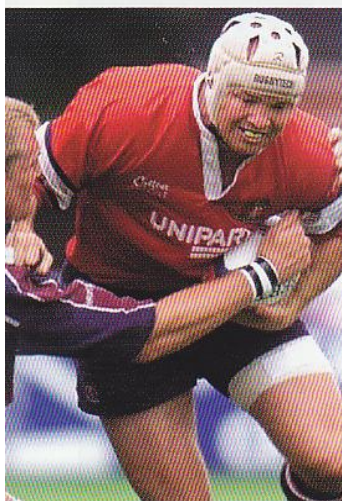
"At Kingsholm, Gloucester should be regarded as favourites whoever the opposition are. If an Australian or All Black team toured and played here you would always like to think Gloucester would do well."



Match Captain [jake boer]

D.O.B: 01/11/75
Position: Flanker
Height: 1.87m
Weight: 103kg
Former Club: London Irish
Int'l national Honours:

"...rugby is all about desire and passion. It comes from the heart. It's a physical game and if you don't go out prepared to play physically you can be shown up by any team."



We have watched the video of last weekend's game and everyone in the camp is disappointed.

We didn't always stick to our game plan and were punished, but to suggest that we weren't trying or that we didn't want to be there is simply not true. I can only speak about my personal experience but no one ever goes out not to win a game.

All respect must go to the Irish. They had a very simple game plan and stuck to it for the entire eighty minutes. Nearly every time they got into our territory, they came away with three points and on one occasion they scored a try. Obviously the conditions played a big part in the game, but we can't use that as an excuse. Barry Everitt sat in the pocket, played one or two phases and if it wasn't on he then kicked very well. At this level we must learn to play smart and use the conditions better.

As a result of last weekend's loss, we have put more pressure back on ourselves; we are in this business to win silverware and now we are out of one cup. Tonight though will be a perfect opportunity to rectify that. It will almost be like a England v Wales game tonight, and both teams will be desperate to win. Fortunately we are on

our home patch so we have to make sure we do everything we can to win.

I said it last weekend; you don't get second chances in Cup competitions especially at this stage. We have to go out and do the business tonight because there is no better way to get into the European Cup next year than to win the Shield. The chance is there, we have everything at this club that could get us to the top so it's all about getting the mind set right tonight and getting a win.

If you look at where we are now, we are second in the league and in the quarterfinal of the Shield. As a squad we need to capitalise on all our previous hard work. We need to work hard to make sure we finish in the top four of the league but we also need to come away with three more victories in the Shield.

Ebbw Vale will travel to Kingsholm as underdogs but I always believe that whichever two teams play in a game, they both have the same chance to win when they run out onto the field. There may be a few bigger names in one of the teams but rugby is all about desire and passion. It

comes from the heart. It's a physical game and if you don't go out prepared to play physically you can be shown up by any team. It's been shown around the world in various different competitions that there can be surprise wins every now and again.

It doesn't matter who you are, you need to have the same attitude in every game or you will slip up. As captain I will be trying to instil in all the players that this is as big a game as any other. Personally, I believe we have a good chance but we need to get our mind set right.

The last time I captained the team on a Friday night I said I was hoping for an electric atmosphere and that is certainly what I got. On Sunday there were so many of our supporters there, it was almost as if we were the home team. We feel that we let them down on Sunday and that we owe it to the fans, and ourselves, to get another big win. There is no better time to do that than tonight.

Once again I hope we have a great game of rugby and that both sets of supporters enjoy the evening.

Gloucester Academy News

[john haines]

result

Gloucester U19's
31
Harlequins U19's
05

A hastily arranged fixture with NEC Harlequins U19's was played at the Oxstalls and gave the Gloucester Academy U19 squad an important run out prior to their 1st round plate competition versus Cornish side Wadebridge, the following weekend.

The Harlequins fielded a very young squad and to their credit kept trying all through the match. They were though, outgunned by the bigger Gloucester pack, who took control of the match from the very start and never let go!

Gloucester opened the scoring, when after only five minutes of constant pressure they were rewarded with a Dai Evans penalty and an early three-point lead. This was followed very shortly by a try from centre John-Paul Goatley. Good work from the forwards created space to allow J-P Goatley to dance through several defenders to score a fine individual try under the posts. It was converted by Dai Evans for a ten :nil lead.

Although Gloucester were able to maintain the pressure on Quins, a loose kick ahead was gathered by their fullback, who returned the kick upfield. Gloucester's full back Dewi Scourfield and winger Nev Codlin both missed the ball and allowed a Quins player who was following up, to gather the ball and score wide out to reduce the lead to 10:05.

Gloucester's response was immediate. From the kick off they won good field position close to the visitor's line. Alex West won the line out and a good forward drive enabled flanker Tom Brown to score. With outside half Dai Evans again adding the conversion from wide out, Gloucester went into half time 17:05 up.

The second half was all Gloucester. They continuously had their visitors under pressure, but were not always able to finish off promising moves. However they did go further ahead when winger Andy Macrae charged down a relieving kick to gather and score by the posts for Dai Evans to convert for a 24:05 lead after ten minutes of the second half. Following sustained pressure on the Quins line, Gloucester scored again. A slick three-quarter move released Joe Pointon, who collected the ball off his toes to score in the corner. Dai Evans, who had a perfect afternoon with the boot converted from wide out.

With the score now at 31:05,

Gloucester took advantage to give the whole squad a game. After not playing for several weeks, it was an ideal opportunity to look at the squad prior to the following weekend when they played Cornish side Wadebridge away in the 1st round of the National Cup, Plate Competition. Naturally the team lost some of their earlier cohesion, but still managed to create scoring chances which went unrewarded leaving the final score at Gloucester 31: Harlequins 05.

The move paid off double as Gloucester Academy U19's beat the Wadebridge Camels by 36 points to seven and now play Devonport Services at home in the next round.

GLoucester Academy FIXTURES 2001/2002

DATE	VENUE	ACADEMY U21'S/U19'S	U21 RESULT	U19 RESULT	DATE	VENUE	ACADEMY U21'S/U19'S	U21 RESULT	U19 RESULT
1/9/01	Away	Northampton	L 43-24	-	5/1/02	HOME	LONDON IRISH U19		
8/9/01	HOME	SARACENS	W 64-31	-	12/1/02	HOME	NEWPORT U19		
15/9/01	Away	Leicester	L 19-15	-	19/1/02	Away	Bath U19		
26/9/01	HOME	SALE 7.00PM WEDS	W 41-10	-	26/1/02	HOME	BRISTOL		
6/10/01	Away	Bristol U19	-	L 17-23	2/2/02	Away	Wasps U19		
13/10/01	Away	Harlequins 2.30 KO	L 15-16	-	9/2/02	Away	London Irish		
20/10/01	HOME	LONDON IRISH	W 27-26	-	16/2/02	HOME	SARACENS U19		
28/10/01	Away	Bristol (Sun) / Wasps U19's	-	Cancelled	23/2/02	HOME	HARLEQUINS 2.30 KO		
4/11/01	Away	London Irish U19 (Sun)			2/3/02	Away	Bristol U19		
10/11/01	Away	Divisional training			6/3/02	Away	Sale 7.00pm Weds		
17/11/01	HOME	LEICESTER U19			9/3/02	HOME	SWANSEA U19		
24/11/01	Away	Wasps	D 26-26		16/3/02	HOME	LEICESTER		
1/12/01	Away	Leeds			23/3/02	Away	Harlequins U19's 2.30 KO		
8/12/01	HOME	BATH			30/3/02	Away	Saracens		
15/12/01	TBA	Northampton U19			6/4/02	HOME	NEWCASTLE		
22/12/01	HOME	WASPS	L 11-37		13/4/02	HOME	NORTHAMPTON		
29/12/01	-				20/4/02	HOME	LEEDS		
					27/4/02	Away	Bath		

Ticket and Information Hotline - Tel: 0871 871 8781

[academy]

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Ian Randal
From the [commentary box]

B B C

I seem to recall saying at the same stage last season after Gloucester lost in the Cup against Leicester that the club had 2 priorities left.

"...alongside Gloucester are three other teams who will fancy this as a route to next season's Heineken Cup".

So it is again after the Madejski magic that is exclusive to Richard Hill eluded Gloucester last Sunday. Hill steered Gloucester to a win there over Richmond, but since London Irish have moved in it's not been a happy venue. Allowing for the injuries among the front row, the scrum was sound enough, but Paul Turner admitted afterwards that there were few field positions from which Gloucester could create any pressure. In Barry Everitt the Exiles have a deadly goal kicker, and every Gloucester line out call seemed to have

Rob Fidler's name hidden in it. The outcome look inevitable some way before the end.

And so....here's the insurance policy against a League collapse. The group stages of the Parker Pen Shield may have had all the appeal of the Cheltenham & Gloucester Cup, but as I'm sure you know, Gloucester have a history of winning competitions in the first year they enter them.

It would be nice to extend that run, but alongside Gloucester are 3 other teams who will

fancy this as a route to next season's Heineken Cup. Neither Saracens, Bristol or Sale are left in the Powergen, with Bristol having the weakest Premiership position. It's possible the semi finals could be all English affairs, but London Irish will surely have to show more than they did last weekend to overcome Pau in France.

This is only the second home match since the League game against Newcastle, and due to print deadlines, the first in which I've had chance to mention one of the most talked about games of rugby ever played on Kingsholm. It's been prominent in the media for all the wrong reasons, and at the time of going to press there's no sign of a final outcome. No one is now allowed to comment on the matter until that stage is reached, but I do find the suspension system very strange. Trevor Woodman's dismissal in La Rochelle has cost him a 42 ban, greater than Olivier Azam was given for losing his temper against the Falcons, with all that that entailed. Azam doesn't even miss a Premiership match. I suppose Olivier's greater punishment, depending on the



findings of the RFU disciplinary panel, may be ahead of him, but I hope not.

The season now enters that stop/start phase we always associate with the spring and the Six Nations, and it means a lot of time away with England for some of the club's top players.

It's an ever expanding list, with 8 players selected for representative training outside the senior squad. Chris Fortey is the oldest at 26, all the others are 23 or under, and it can surely only benefit the likes of Hazell, Forrester and Simpson-Daniel. Given what now remains of the season, only injuries would seem to open up chances for Stuart-Smith, Goodridge and Cox, but we've had glimpses of all of them, and they have time on their side.

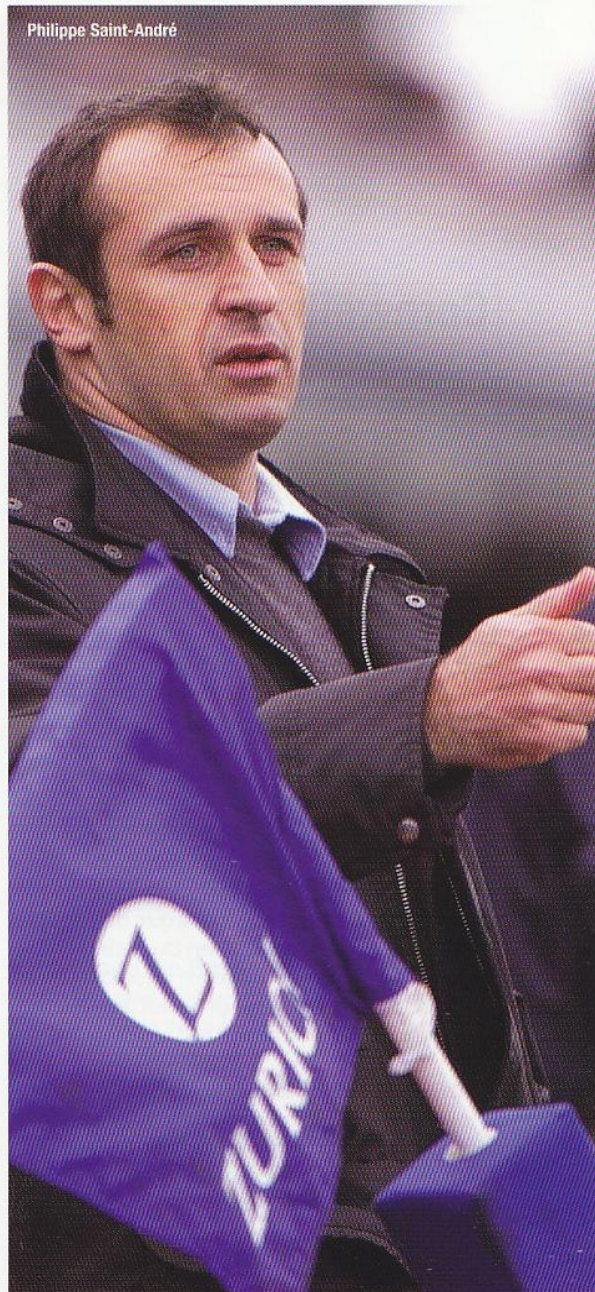
Tonight, Ebbw Vale can be assured of a warm, but not too friendly welcome. It's been a long time, and they got through to this stage after an extraordinary match against Agen in the closest of the eight groups. Having to score nine tries against a top French side - and managing it - says you deserve to qualify for the knockout

stages, but several reports I read put a question mark against Agen's commitment. Whether that was justified or not, and whether it was a genuine Vale performance we will find out tonight, but comparative League records suggest Gloucester start favourites.

Finally, a sobering thought as to how quickly times change, not only in rugby, but in all sports. Philippe is coming to the end of his 5th season at Gloucester, and later this month he will celebrate three years in charge of the team, three years in which he's hardly played. Still only 34, one wonders what he might have contributed as a player since the summer of 1999 without other responsibilities. Interestingly, when you assess his record, his % of wins is higher than Richard Hill's, but no better than the average throughout the club's history - and in the case of away games in isolation - marginally worse. It's a topic my colleague David Reed will expand on in the London Irish programme in a fortnight's time.

C'mon Glaws !!

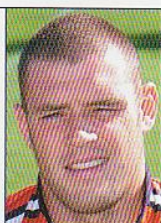
Philippe Saint-André





Cornwellstats

Nick Name **Pasty**
 Position **Lock**
 Born **22/03/73**
 Height **2.01m**
 Weight **110kg**
 Int Hons **England (A)**



Low Points

"Losing to Bath before Christmas is one", says Cornwell. "Also any injuries and I've had my fair share", he continues. "Not winning anything substantial with Gloucester. I have been here for so long and we have always been a middle of the road team we didn't have the extra bit that we need to win honours or silverware."

Cornwell on the Parker Pen Shield

"This club is fully focused on winning the Parker Pen Shield we said it right from the first game against La Rochelle. The tournament organisers have made sure that clubs can get into the European Cup by winning the Shield, every Club in the Premiership wants to be in that competition so you don't need any extra motivation. Some say it is through the back door but who cares, you have to win the tournament first".

Cornwell on Ebbw Vale

"If you go into any game with the wrong attitude then it can be a banana skin waiting to happen. We will respect Ebbw Vale when they come down here, you must respect every team. We will respect them but we will also go out in front of a packed Kingsholm and try to win the game. I don't care if it is three nil, a win is a win and that is what counts".

MarkCornwell

Strengths

The ever-modest Cornwell declines to comment on his own strengths instead choosing to leave that to the coaching staff. He will though admit that a lock needs a good all round game. At a sinewy six-foot seven with good handling skills though, Cornwell has all the attributes of a modern day lock. His line out work has always been of the highest standard and time and again he is able to secure Gloucester ball and more often than not steal the oppositions.

Weaknesses

"Everyone has weaknesses and again it may be up to the coaches to comment on mine", says Cornwell. It is testament to the change in a modern day locks mental approach that Cornwell lists "offensive tackling", as an area on which he would like to improve. Also, compared to Rob Fidler's grafter Cornwell is more of a head up player who scores more than his quota of tries in wide positions. Being pigeon holed as either is not a weakness although Cornwell admits that he needs to do both jobs.

High Points

Cornwell lists his major high point as simply playing for Gloucester as a professional Rugby player.

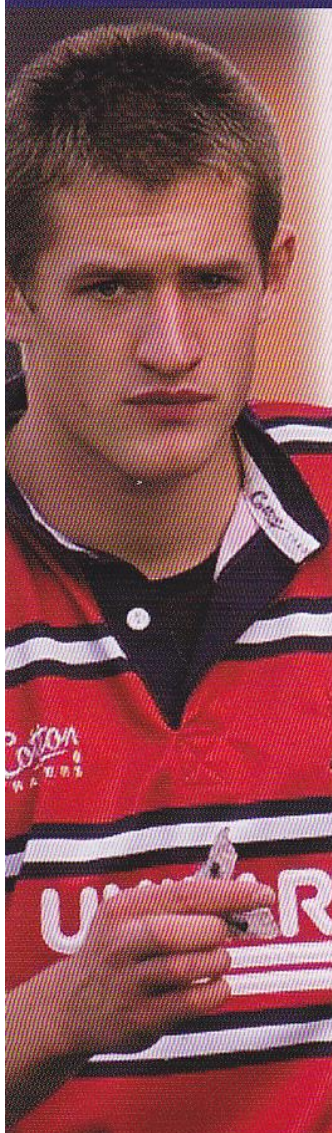
"It's the club I love and to have been here for so long is a high point. Also turning professional. When you see others around you retire or take up another profession, to be a professional player and staying a professional for so long making a career out of it is a high point"

Not only an excellent servant for the club but also a fixture in the England A set up in recent seasons.

"I have played nine or ten times for England A and that has to be up there as a high point, I loved pulling on an England Shirt", says Cornwell.

James Forrester

[player focus]



Six months ago, James Forrester was one of eight former Gloucester Rugby Club Academy players who were awarded first team contracts.

His name was largely unknown.

In a previous programme Forrester described his main aim as being able to establish himself as a 1st team squad member and make as many appearances as possible. He hoped to use this season as a learning curve to develop his game and improve his rugby skills.

His development, under the watchful eye of Laurent Seigne, has been such that since the start of the season he has scored two first team hat tricks, scored with his first touch in an England sevens game and last week, was called into the England A training squad for the Six Nations match against Scotland.

Forrester though is well aware that you are only as good as your last game and in a world he describes as 'cut throat', Forrester refuses to get carried away.

"My goals haven't really changed", says Forrester "obviously the recognition I have got from

England A is a real bonus but I am nowhere near first choice at the club. I have only started one Premiership game so my goal is still to play as many games for Gloucester as possible and, if I get a chance, to play well. I am in the England 'A' squad and so I would love an 'A' cap but really I want to play Premiership games".

Forrester's rise has been nothing short of meteoric. At the start of the season he listed his career high point as "scoring a try on debut against London Irish at the end of last season". This season he has moved through the ranks of both Gloucester and the England set up with haste and admits that his rise to prominence has been a shock.

"I try not to get too excited about it all really", says the ever modest Forrester, adding, "because if the bubble bursts I don't want to be too disappointed".

When listening to Forrester speak it is easy to understand where his drive and motivation comes from.

He realises that regardless of Philippe Saint Andre's assurances that the best players will play, he is no Phil Vickery and one bad game too many could mean a spell in the wilderness.

"Literally, every game I have played in this year has been the biggest game of my life. The Cup game against Bristol was a huge game but then came Newcastle and then Parma. Although Parma wasn't such a big game, it was still a chance for me to play and I know that if I play badly, I may not play again for two months. That is why I always try as hard as I can".

It was at the Memorial Ground in the Powergen Cup against Bristol that Forrester made his biggest impact to date. In a game where he showed all the qualities a modern day flanker must possess, he capped a truly superb performance with a match-winning hat trick of tries.

"That was amazing", says Forrester "we had a great week in training leading up to that game.

[James Forrester] Back Row

"Literally, every game I have played in this year has been the biggest game of my life. The Cup game against Bristol was a huge game but then came Newcastle and then Parma".



On the day, Andy Deacon was Captain and he really fired everyone up. They had the strongest team on paper but I was confident".

Perhaps his most memorable try was his first. He sprinted almost the length of the pitch to catch the hare-like Simpson-Daniel. The young flyer off loaded at the vital moment and Forrester was not to be caught.

The first to congratulate the youngster was a rather excitable Phil Vickery. The British Lion and Club Captain has long been an admirer of Forrester and couldn't contain his joy. Forrester admits that the rest of the team were slightly less enthusiastic. As with anyone serving their apprenticeship, Forrester was congratulated by the senior members of the team, and nothing more was said.

Forrester's youthful exuberance earned him a start against Newcastle. It was the first time that

Forrester considered that he had been selected on merit. The game has now become infamous for other reasons, but Forrester, although disappointed about being the sacrificial lamb that made way for Chris Forsey as Olivier Azam was sent off; he still has fond memories of the game.

"It was a real boost to be selected for that game and in the first ruck of the game I cleared out Jonny Wilkinson", says a star struck Forrester.

From one big name to sixty more as Forrester met up with the England 'A' training squad at Pennyhill last week.

"I recognised everyone there", said Forrester "Perry, Balshaw, Healy and Dallaglio. I was lucky because I met the rest of the Gloucester boys in the car park so I hung around with them. I would have hated being there on my own".

Forrester is also bashful enough to suggest that some of his esteemed

colleagues even recognised him, although he says that that was reserved to some of his former England Sevens teammates. One of his teammates from the shortened version of the game is fellow Gloucester starlet James Simpson-Daniel. Simpson-Daniel and Forrester both made the trip to Durban with the Sevens team. Whilst Forrester was retained for club duty, Simpson-Daniel was also selected to tour Chile and Argentina earlier this month. Forrester admits that the two have become close and is keeping everything crossed that he might yet make the Commonwealth Games where Sevens will act as a finale to the tournament.

In true character though, Forrester admits to being in shock and feeling almost embarrassed at being selected for any England representative squad. He missed out on England age group representative honours but is certainly making up for lost time now although he refuses to take his feet even a little off the ground.

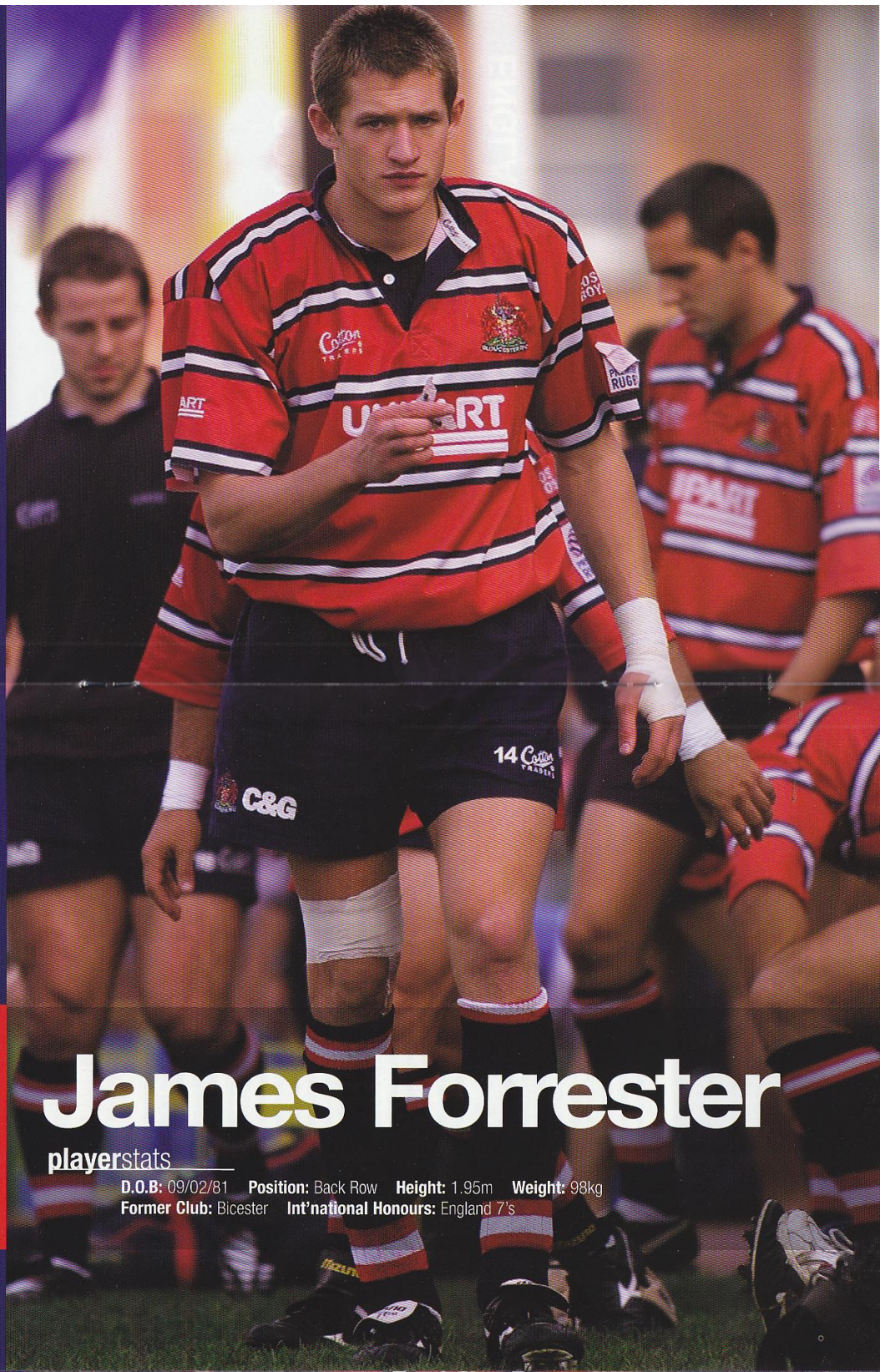
"My first reaction to being selected for England A was embarrassment. I don't think I have really earned it yet. I have made only one Premiership game and there are probably loads of players in my position that have played far more games at that level".

It is certain that the relatively inexperienced Forrester will not be found wanting in the company he is keeping at present but for his own peace of mind, he has his sights firmly set on Club matters.

"My goal is still to play in the Premiership for Gloucester and play lots at that level. I have had one good game, and everyone is getting excited. But I still feel that one bad game and I will be labelled as not good enough. I still have a lot to prove".

Forrester's hunger for recognition and hard work are sure to serve Gloucester well for a long time to come.

Gloucester



James Forrester

playerstats

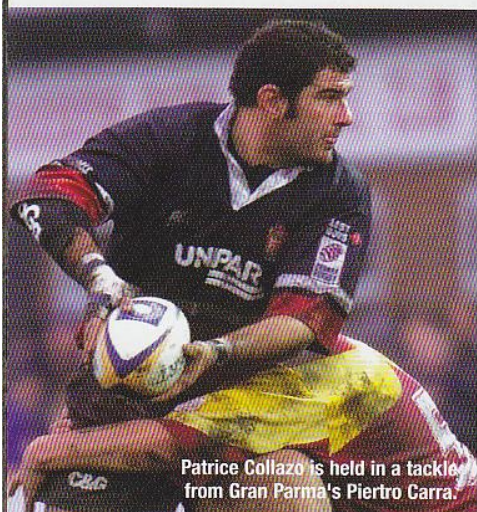
D.O.B: 09/02/81 **Position:** Back Row **Height:** 1.95m **Weight:** 98kg
Former Club: Bicester **Int'national Honours:** England 7's

Match Action vs

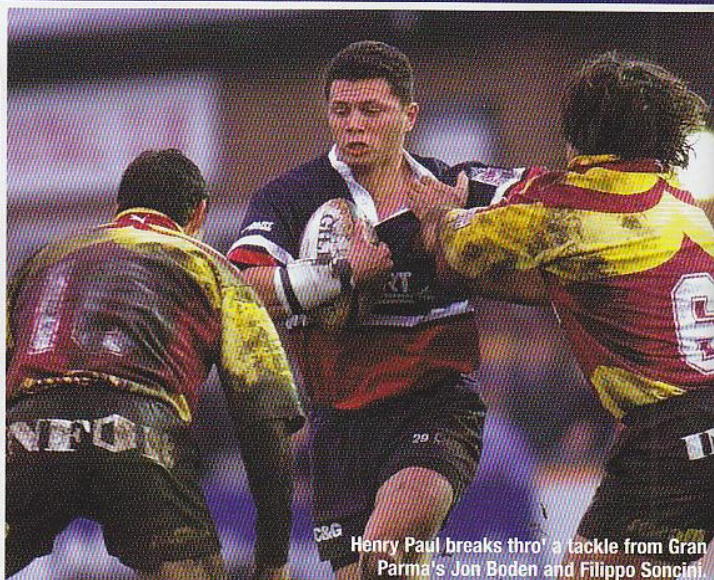
GRAN Parma

[home]

European Shield
5-01-02



Patrice Collazo is held in a tackle from Gran Parma's Pietro Carra.



Henry Paul breaks thro' a tackle from Gran Parma's Jon Boden and Filippo Sencini.



The Kingsholm scoreboard

Photography Supplied by Bruce Seabrook GPA

matchstats

Attendance 6567



99

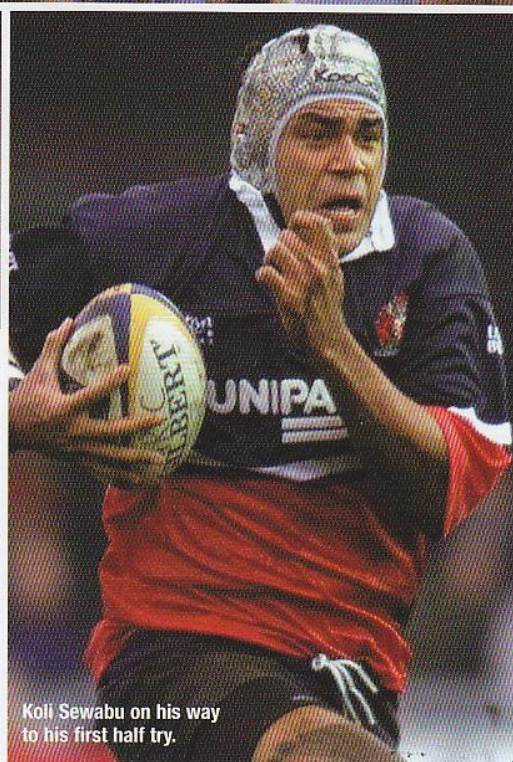
Gloucester: **99 points**

Tries: O'Leary 5t, Ewens,
Fanolua, Albanese,
Paul, Stuart-Smith,
Sewabu 2, Forrester,
Paramore, Hazell
Conversions: Paul 12



00

GRAN Parma: **00 points**



Koli Sewabu on his way to his first half try.

European Shield

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[match action]

www.gloucester rugby club.com

Match Action vs

London Irish

[away]

Powergen Cup
20-01-02

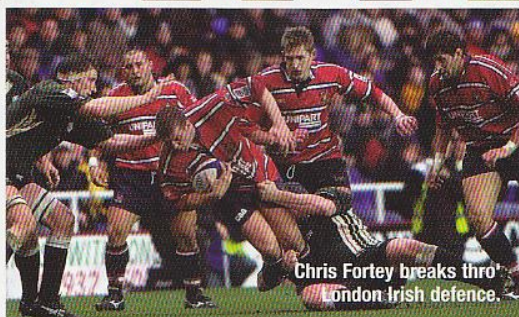
Federico Pucciarello



Andy Gomarsall breaks thro'



Chris Fortey breaks thro' London Irish defence.



Photography Supplied by Bruce Seabrook GPA



25

London Irish: **25 points**
Tries: Sackey
Conversions: Everitt
Penalties: Everitt 5
Drop Goals: Everitt



10

Gloucester: **10 points**
Tries: Gomarsall
Conversions: Mercier
Penalties: Mercier

Powergen Cup



Rob Fidler tries to win a line out.

Ticket and Information Hotline - Tel: 0871 871 8781

[match action]

33

Peter Arnold

[contributor]

BOGEY

What's with Gloucester and the Madejski Stadium ?

We don't seem to be able to win their whatever the occasion. To make matters worse, we seem to lose at least as much through our own shortcomings as through the quality of the opposition. Not that there's anything new about 'bogey' grounds. For years we couldn't win on the old Richmond/London Scottish pitch, however hard we tried.

Even worse, there used to be a saying around the Welsh capital that Cardiff could turn out fifteen men with wooden legs and still beat Gloucester at the Arms Park. Mind you, there was some justification for that. We had to wait 35 years for a win down there. So there's hope for us yet at the Madejski.



YOU'VE GOT TO LAUGH

For some reason that escapes me (well, it doesn't, actually, but it would take too long to go into here), just before Christmas I invited everyone to send me their favourite rugby jokes for possible publication, just so long as they weren't pornographic or libellous.

I might have known. First off the mark was my old friend, and former constituent incidentally, Alan Kear from Hucclecote, who provided the following contributions.

His first story concerns the great Gordon Brown, 'Big Broon frae Troon', who sadly died last year. It appears that, on tour on one occasion, he wasn't very impressed by the hotel accommodation provided, and resolved to say so. Apparently, he collared the

manager, and growled, "This is supposed to be a five star hotel. But look - there's a hole in the roof !"

Quite unfazed, the manager replied "Yessir ! That's so you can see the five stars !"

His other story is about a side, possibly Irish, who had an arrangement with the local convent to get their kit washed every week. All very efficient and a satisfactory effort for all concerned.

Each week the kit would return, all clean and pressed, with a meticulously itemised bill in the following format. '15 shirts at 9p, £1.35; 15 pairs of shorts at 6p. 90p.' and so on.

Being sensitive souls, as most rugby players are, the club decided not to risk embarrassing the pious sisters by including their jock straps. However, the inevitable happened, and one wayward support accidentally got left in the bundle of washing.

It didn't worry the nuns at all. Back it came, with all the rest, and the annotation: '1 crash helmet, 10p.'

If that story isn't true then it ought to be.

If anyone else would like to contribute, they can do so by Emailing me at PeteArnold@aol.com or by dropping me a line at 74 Victoria Street, Gloucester GL1 4EW.

I KEEP THINKING IT'S WEDNESDAY

It was Mike Burton who once said that you don't learn how to be a prop forward until you've played on the side of a slag heap, somewhere outside Ebbw Vale on a wet Wednesday night. Believe it or not, it was meant to be a compliment.

I think we all knew what he meant. Your Cardiffs, Swansea and Newports may get all the limelight, but there were always good old Valley clubs, which did not get the publicity, but who could easily turn most sides over if they didn't watch themselves.

I suppose the most noteworthy of those, for a good few seasons, was the Pontypool side. With the famous front row of Graham Price, Bobby Windsor and Charlie Faulkner, and Eddie Butler directing things from number 8, they had, without doubt, the best Welsh club pack I have ever seen, and with the awesome David Bishop behind them at scrum half, they were a formidable proposition indeed.

There was one wet Wednesday evening at Kingsholm when 'Pooler' arrived in all their majesty, and Gloucester turned out a bright, precocious but inexperienced prop against them. His name was Malcolm Preedy. As always, the game was very tight, and on this occasion, Gloucester just about won, but it was one incident, about half way through the match which sticks in the mind.

There was a line-out on the Pontypool line, on their own throw-in. The safe option was obvious - throw it short to Graham Price, then arguably the best prop in the Northern Hemisphere, and let him barrel away with it. Things didn't quite go to plan, however. 'Pricey' got the ball all right, but then, in an act of staggering insolence, young Malcolm Preedy, smiled, took the ball out of his hands, and dropped over for a try.

We asked Graham, afterwards, what he thought of young Preedy. "He'll be all right," came the reply. "Just send him back to your United for a few months."

No doubt the advice was sound and well meant, but at the time, the words 'sour' and 'grapes' did spring to mind.

Pontypool were by no means the only South Wales club to give us memorable occasions, both at home and away. Many of them have slipped well down the rankings, nowadays, but I'd be surprised if they don't play the game as passionately as they ever did. On one occasion, Newbridge visited us, and Gloucester

were absolutely crucified by a young, mercurial outside-half named Paul Turner. Paul is now, of course, comfortably established as part of our coaching team, which is a case of poacher turned gamekeeper, if you like.

Other names spring to mind. One doesn't hear much of Glamorgan Wanderers, or South Wales Police these days, but there was a time when both of those clubs could give anyone a run for their money. The same could be said for Bridgend, Abertillery, and several other good, old, locally based clubs.

But Mike Burton was right. We did always seem to play them on a Wednesday evening, and as often as not, it was raining. Well, I can't answer for the weather this evening, and it's Friday rather than Wednesday, but the atmosphere is highly nostalgic for some of us. And I don't really care what day of the week it is, it's great to see good old 'Ebbw' back at Kingsholm.

And, while we're about it, let's wish them 'all the best' in their Principality Cup game against Neath.