

LONDON WASPS

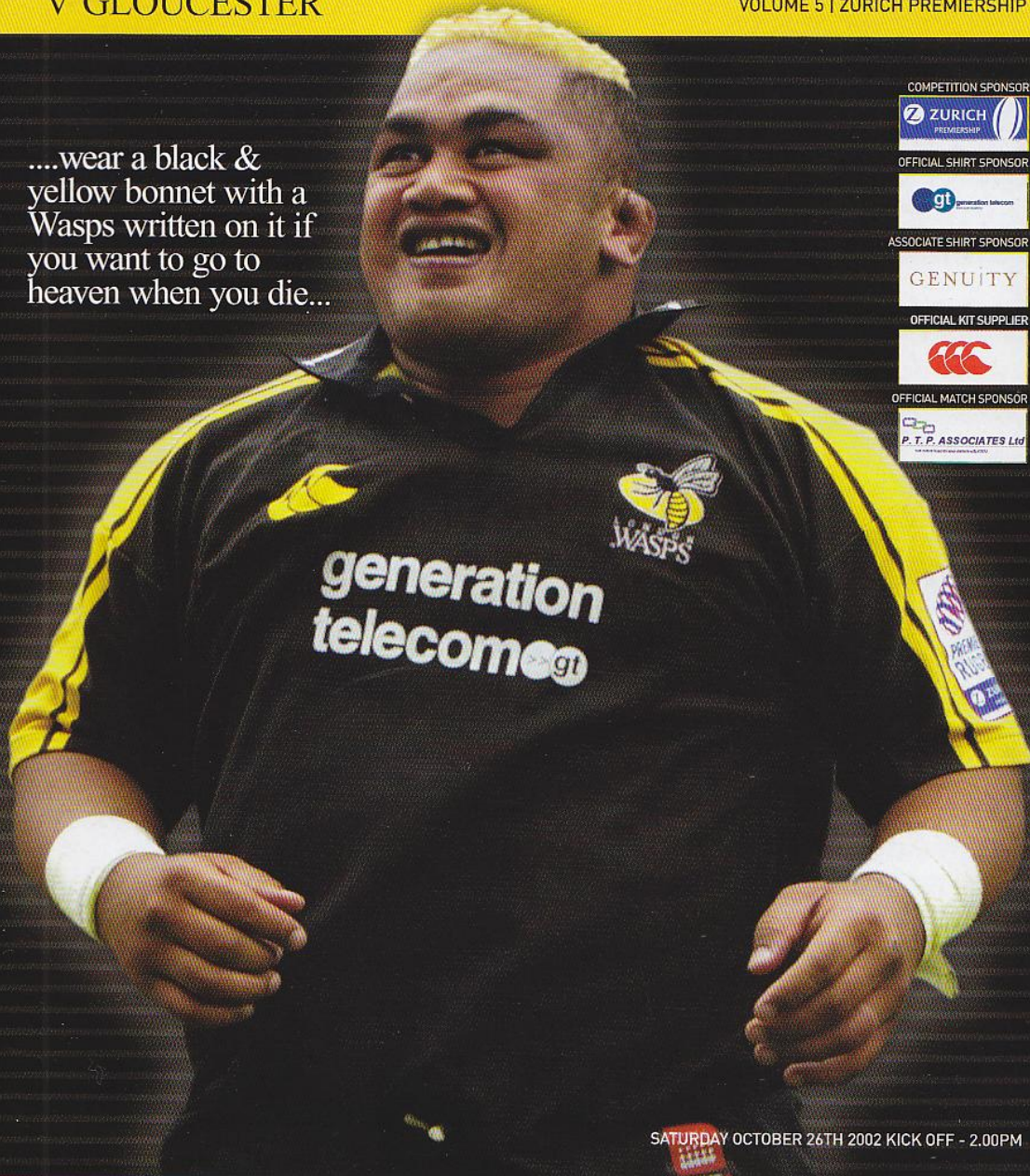


OFFICIAL
MATCHDAY
MAGAZINE
PRICE: £2.50

V GLOUCESTER

VOLUME 5 | ZURICH PREMIERSHIP

....wear a black &
yellow bonnet with a
Wasps written on it if
you want to go to
heaven when you die...



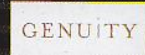
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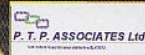
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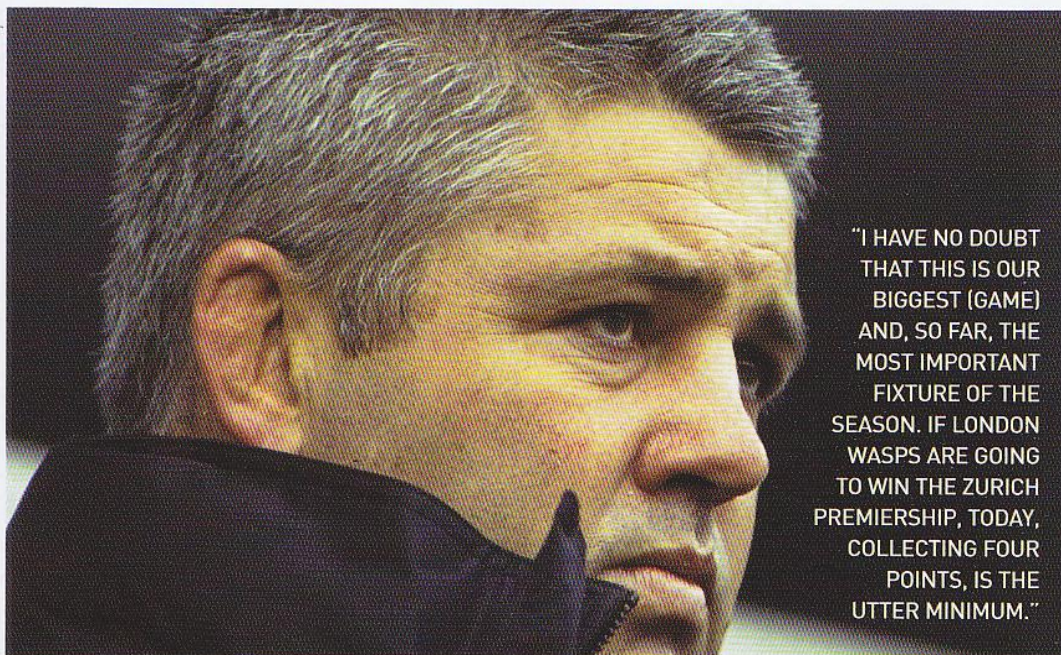


OFFICIAL MATCH SPONSOR



SATURDAY OCTOBER 26TH 2002 KICK OFF - 2.00PM

TREVOR LEOTA INTERVIEW SEE PAGES 28-33 INSIDE



"I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT THIS IS OUR BIGGEST (GAME) AND, SO FAR, THE MOST IMPORTANT FIXTURE OF THE SEASON. IF LONDON WASPS ARE GOING TO WIN THE ZURICH PREMIERSHIP, TODAY, COLLECTING FOUR POINTS, IS THE UTTER MINIMUM."

WARREN GATLAND

I would like to extend a warm welcome today to the Gloucester team, Nigel Melville, our supporters and sponsors.

Today's game is probably the most important for us to win. After reaching game six of the Zurich Premiership the side lies in fifth place, with 18 points, seven points behind league leaders Gloucester.

Theoretically the four sides behind 'The Cherry and Whites' are all within striking distance of closing the gap, but a loss today could mean that Gloucester open a lead that the rest of the Premiership will battle to close.

After last Sunday's 42-0 win against Overmach Parma I was really happy with the performance. The fact that we conceded no tries was so

important in our preparation for today's game.

I have no doubt that this is our biggest and, so far, the most important fixture of the season. If London Wasps are going to win the Zurich Premiership, today, collecting four points, is the utter minimum.

Last week we put out a very powerful side in preparation for today and I was thankful that we came through it without any injury hiccups. Therefore, the side I've chosen is generally the same as last week. Joe Worsley and Craig Dowd are added to the starting line-up, after missing last weekend's game due to injuries, and their wealth of experience and big-match temperament will be needed in order to keep the powerful Gloucester pack at bay.

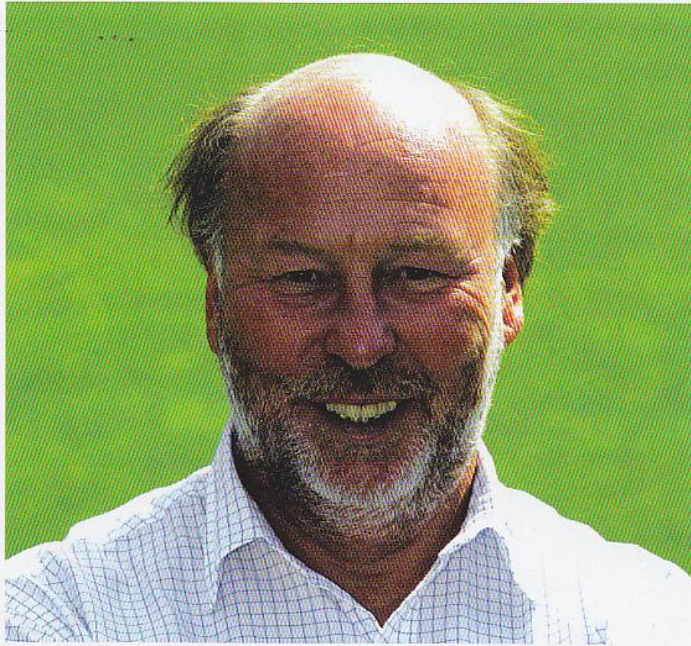
November and December are busy times for the Club. Leicester Tigers, the autumn internationals, a Bordeaux trip, and visits from Leeds, Sharks and Bath will keep us occupied until the New Year. As a club we must come through this period unscathed and with points on the board.

I would, at this stage, like to thank the Wasps supporters for coming last weekend and sitting through cold and damp conditions and I'm sure you will give Nigel a 'warm' reception this afternoon.

All I can say is that Gloucester can expect fireworks today from all of our 22 players.

The 'Black Tide' is rising. Enjoy the game and let the team hear you in full voice.





"TODAY'S GAME I'M SURE WILL LIVE UP TO THE PRE-MATCH BUILD UP AND IF IT NEEDED ANY EXTRA SPICE, HAVING TWO WASPS STALWARTS BACK IN NIGEL MELVILLE AND DEAN RYAN,..."

CHRIS WRIGHT

Good afternoon and welcome to Adams Park for today's top of the table clash against Gloucester. I would like to welcome the team, staff and supporters who have made the journey from the West Country.

This is our first opportunity to play a home match on a Saturday at Adams Park, which of course is necessitated by the decision of Sky Sports to show the game live on TV; and what a game it promises to be.

For the last two weekends we have been in the Parker Pen Challenge Cup against Parma of Italy and came away with two good wins. It was great to see John Rudd score his first of hopefully many hat tricks for the club and I was particularly pleased to see the welcome return of Peter Scrivener to first team action after a lengthy

lay-off through injury.

Today's game could have been first playing second in the league but unfortunately our disappointing loss to Northampton Saints put paid to that. It was an incredibly tight game that was fiercely competitive and once again shows how difficult it is to win away from home in the Zurich Premiership.

Gloucester of course are unbeaten home or away this season and we have an unbeaten home record going back nearly 12 months. Clearly one of these records is destined to fall today.

The men from the Gloucester have been tremendously impressive this season. Traditionally they have been reliant on the strength and dominance of their pack, but this season they have been equally dominant in the backs. The mercurial Ludovic

Mercier has been calling all the right shots at fly half, former League man Henry Paul seems to have settled in well and is improving with each game and the electrifying Marcel Garvey on the wing has to be one of the finds of the season. To beat Munster as convincingly as they did in the Heineken Cup really shows what they are capable of.

Today's game I'm sure will live up to the pre-match build up and if it needed any extra spice, having two Wasps stalwarts back in Nigel Melville and Dean Ryan, who will be desperate to put one over their old club, will really motivate all the Wasps players.

Enjoy the entertainment around the ground and the atmosphere and excitement of one of our biggest games of the season.



LONDON WASPS V GLOUCESTER

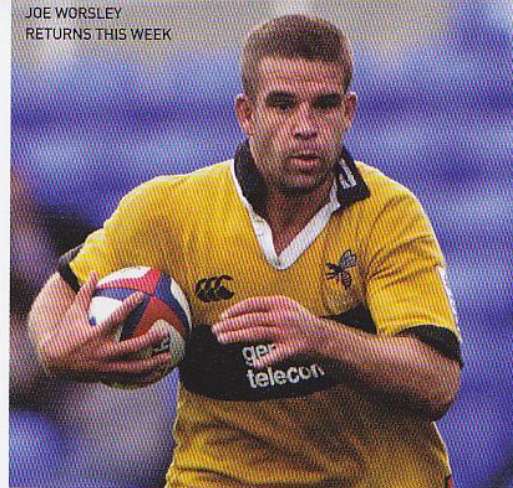
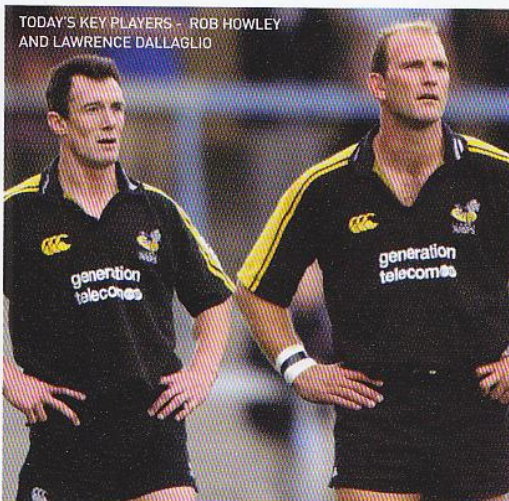
Mouthwatering, that's how to describe today's game. What more could any London Wasps and Gloucester fan want. Today's menu dishes up the current unbeaten league leaders, a former London Wasps director of rugby and a side that has not lost a Zurich Premiership home game for nine consecutive matches (two at Adams Park and seven at Loftus road).

Last weekend's Overmach Parma game was a dress rehearsal for today. A comfortable 42-0 win, no injuries and the fact that London Wasps did not concede any tries, made Warren Gatland a very happy man.

Gloucester's preparation saw them eat up Italian side Viadana with an 80 points to 28 win in their Heineken Cup match.

Nigel Melville's side is on fire and with five wins and a draw from six matches, they are the only team to have topped 200 points this season, while their try bonus point's tally of three is equal to that of London Wasps.

On the try-scoring table, Josh Lewsey (five) and Marcel Garvey (four) fill the second and third positions respectively behind Danny Scarbrough of the Tykes. These speedsters are



sure to cause much havoc amongst the defensive lines today so expect some individual brilliance from them.

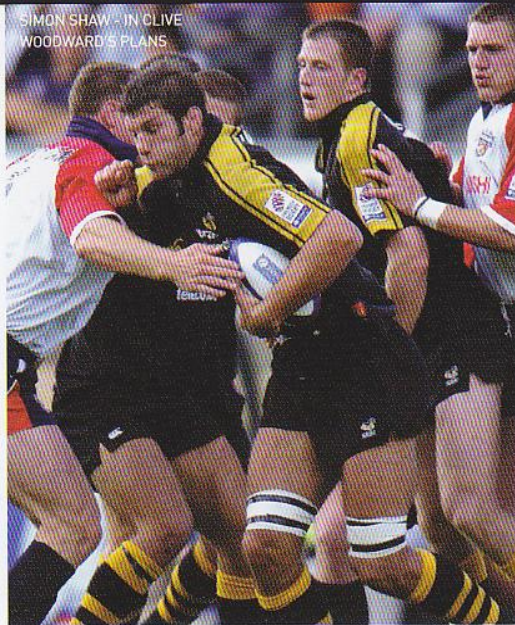
The Men in Black have won their last five home matches against the Cherry and Whites and last season honours were even with London Wasps winning 44-9 at Loftus Road in April and Gloucester triumphing 43-13 at Kingsholm in November.

Gloucester have a powerful pack and will try to dominate proceedings upfront. James Forrester and Marcel Garvey are in great form and with stars like Jake Boer and Mark Cornwell in the side, they are sure to give London Wasps a very difficult encounter.

Last weekend saw former England A international Peter Scrivener make his long-awaited home debut at Adams Park. Scriv was outstanding from the back of the scrum but will make way as his captain moves back into the No.8 position and Joe Worsley returns to his usual No.6 slot.

Key players from a London Wasps perspective will be captain Lawrence Dallaglio, scrum half Rob Howley and lock Simon Shaw. Dallaglio scored two tries last weekend and the captain seems to step up a gear at will. His experience, strength and sheer willpower will provide those around him with that killer instinct needed to stem a Gloucester

LONDON WASPS V GLOUCESTER



onslaught. Simon Shaw has been re-selected into Clive Woodward's elite training squad and with him gunning for an England position this autumn, fans can expect another fantastic performance from him.

As for Rob Howley, rugby enthusiasts have watched in awe as the Welsh wizard has stunned all with his sheer class and brilliance. In an interview last week, Howley said that he was enjoying the game much more since moving to London and this can be clearly seen in his performances.

Ayoola Erinle will make his Zurich Premiership debut today. His 1.90m, 103kg frame will be enough to frighten any defence line. Ayoola is young, strong and built for speed so expect something exciting from the youngster.

You can be certain that our old friend Nigel Melville will have fired up his side and will want the Cherry and Whites to impress on this first encounter at Fortress Adams Park and Warren Gatland will want the Men in Black to do the same so expect fireworks.

Whatever happens this afternoon you can be guaranteed to witness something special.

SUMMARY OF MEETINGS BETWEEN THE TEAMS IN THE PREMIERSHIP

Played	25	
London Wasps Won	18	72%
Gloucester Won	6	24%
Drawn	1	4%

London Wasps biggest win: 45-8 10 Sep 1994

Biggest Win for Gloucester: 43-14 23 Nov 2001

London Wasps top try scorer v Gloucester:

Lawrence Dallaglio 4 tries

London Wasps top points scorer v Gloucester:

Rob Andrew 83 points

Gloucester top try scorer v London Wasps:

Penalty Try 3 tries

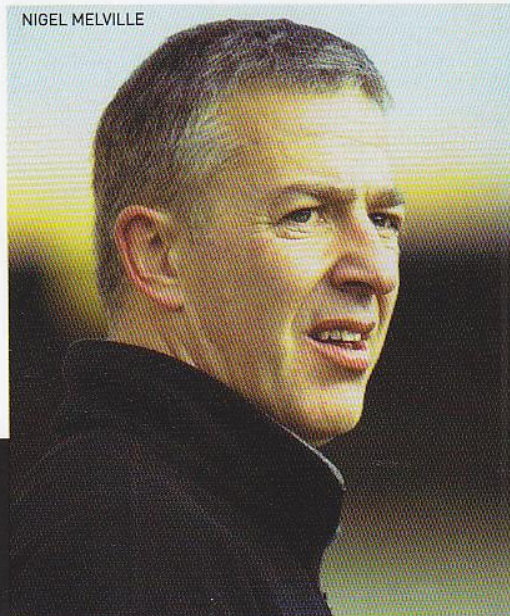
Gloucester top points scorer v London Wasps:

Mark Mapletoft 72 points

PREVIOUS MEETINGS

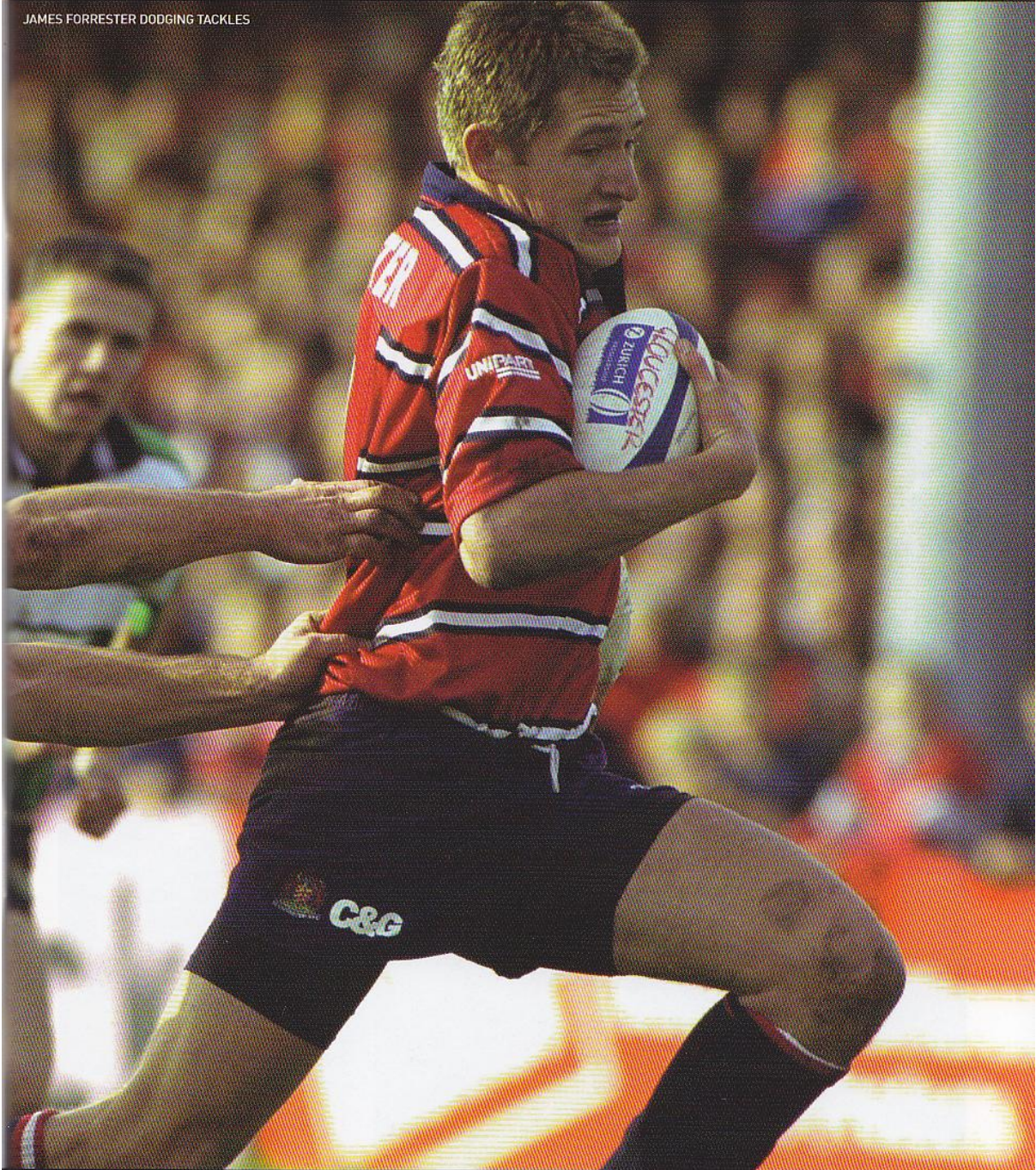
10 Apr 02	London Wasps vs Gloucester	44 - 9 Loftus Road
23 Nov 01	London Wasps vs Gloucester	13 - 43 Kingsholm
29 Apr 01	London Wasps vs Gloucester	18 - 6 Loftus Road
10 Feb 01	London Wasps vs Gloucester	28 - 3 Kingsholm
17 Sep 00	London Wasps vs Gloucester	43 - 23 Loftus Road
22 Apr 00	London Wasps vs Gloucester	12 - 26 Kingsholm
26 Sep 99	London Wasps vs Gloucester	30 - 26 Loftus Road
27 Dec 98	London Wasps vs Gloucester	23 - 9 Loftus Road
03 Oct 98	London Wasps vs Gloucester	13 - 12 Kingsholm
11 Mar 98	London Wasps vs Gloucester	15 - 22 Kingsholm

NIGEL MELVILLE

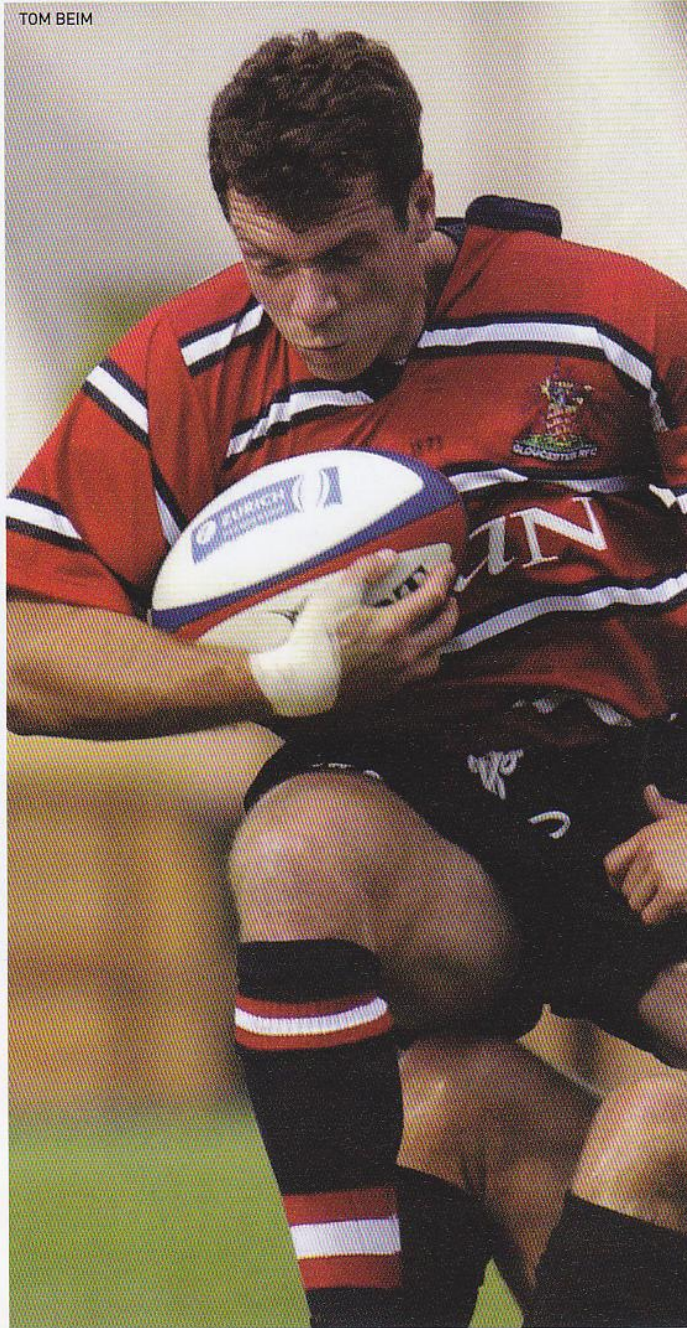


ER

JAMES FORRESTER DODGING TACKLES



GLOUCESTER



TOM BEIM

THE CHERRY AND WHITES

London Wasps' change of address from Loftus Road to Wycombe Wanderers Adams' Park at the start of the season will not be an unwelcome move amongst the Gloucester faithful.

QPR's Loftus Road was not a happy hunting ground for the Cherry and Whites, who never managed a victory in any competition and Gloucester supporters will hope that the change of venue will now offer a change in fortunes for the Cherry and Whites.

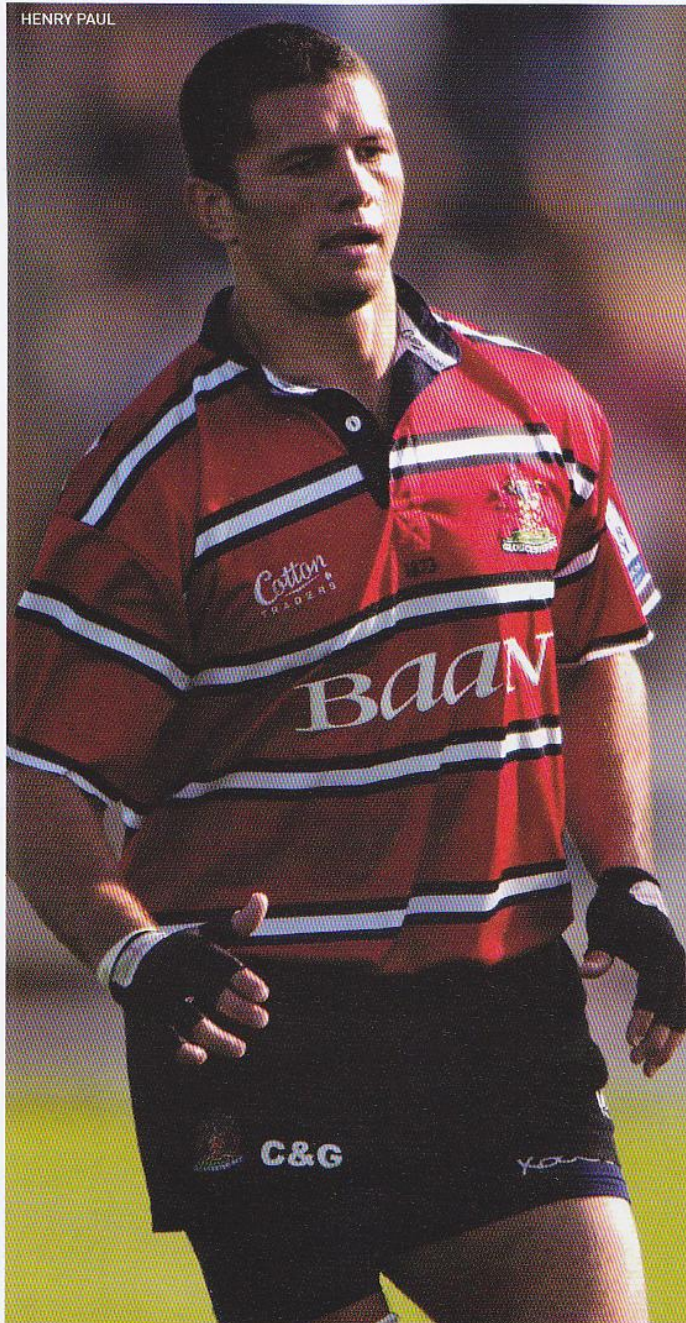
Gloucester's last visit to London Wasps coincided with the dawn of a new management regime for the Kingsholm Club. Former Wasp Nigel Melville made the journey west, down the M4, and began to stir one of English rugby's sleeping giants.

Melville's predecessor Saint-Andre had assembled a squad that on paper could match anything in the Premiership, but it is Melville's coaching skills that hold the key to unlocking the Cherry and White's full potential.

The rearranged Zurich Premiership game in April, though, followed a familiar pattern. The West Country club didn't perform on the night and were comprehensively beaten by a rampant London Wasps side, no doubt with a point to prove to their old boss.

Fortunes pitch-side got worse before they got better. Four days after their stinging at London Wasps, Gloucester travelled to Franklin's Gardens and met a Northampton side in the middle





of a resurgence. The Cherry and Whites received little compassion from the Saints and were again well beaten.

Whilst two losses in under a week, away from home, are not uncommon as fatigue sets in amongst players, Melville knew he had to work fast to save a promising season from beginning a downward spiral. The rot was stopped as defence and discipline became the squad's new buzzwords.

Gloucester travelled to Bristol for a West Country derby and the third away game in a row. A victory at the Memorial Ground began an unbeaten League run that has continued until October.

After the two early defeats, Melville demolished the view that Gloucester could only win at home and whilst Kingsholm remains a fortress, where Gloucester are unbeaten since September 2001, it is their away victories at Bristol, Leeds, and Sharks last season and Quins and Newcastle this term that has established them as real Premiership contenders.

This up-turn in form continued throughout the Zurich Championship, a competition Gloucester approached with zest and vigour. Melville identified that he and his squad needed as much time together as possible, and whereas many teams saw the Zurich Championship as a tournament too far, the Cherry and Whites approached it with zest. Rather than an end-of-season struggle they approached the competition as a prelude to their pre-season training for this year.



GLOUCESTER

This vigour was rewarded with Gloucester's first major trophy for over 20 years and the ever-loyal Gloucester fans were given a marvellous occasion at rugby headquarters, an appetiser that has surely left them hungry for more.

Gloucester's early form this season has backed the pre-season tipster's view that they would be the closest challengers to the Leicester Tiger's domestic crown. The Cherry and Whites have enjoyed seven straight victories to-date with a draw at West Country rivals Bath.

The new levels of expectation within the Gloucester camp were best represented after this game. Whilst Bath celebrated the draw like a cup final victory, Gloucester rued a chance missed for ending their poor form at the Rec.

This new-found confidence is symbolic of the mood within the Gloucester camp. Melville with the help of his new coaching staff, Dean Ryan, Australian Rudi Meir and former Springbok physio Wayne Diesel, continues to raise the bar to new levels of performance and expectation.



NIGEL MELVILLE

THE EVER PRESENT
GLOUCESTER FAITHFUL



TODAY'S

TEAMS

23 LONDON WASPS POSITIONS GLOUCESTER 16

TRY
CONVERSION
PENALTY
DROP GOAL

TRY
CONVERSION
PENALTY
DROP GOAL

	JOSH LEWSEY	15. FULLBACK	HENRY PAUL
	SHANE ROISER	14. WING	MARCEL GARVEY
	STUART ABBOTT	13. CENTRE	TERRY FANOLUA
	AYOOLA ERINLE	12. CENTRE	ROBERT TODD
	KENNY LOGAN	11. WING	JAMES SIMPSON-DANIEL
	ALEX KING	10. FLYHALF	LUDOVIC MERCIER
	ROB HOWLEY	9. SCRUMHALF	ANDY GOMARSALL
	CRAIG DOWD	1. PROP	TREVOR WOODMAN
	PHIL GREENING	2. HOOKER	OLIVIER AZAM
	WILL GREEN	3. PROP	PHIL VICKERY (C)
	SIMON SHAW	4. LOCK	ADAM EUSTACE
	RICHARD BIRKETT	5. LOCK	MARK CORNWELL
	JOE WORSLEY	6. FLANKER	JAMES FORRESTER
	PAUL VOLLEY	7. FLANKER	JAKE BOER
	LAWRENCE DALLAGLIO (C)	8. NO.8	JUNIOR PARAMORE

REPLACEMENTS

MARTYN WOOD	16.	SIMON AMOR
MARK VAN GISBERGEN	17.	CLIVE STUART-SMITH
JOHN RUDD	18.	THINUS DELPORT
PETER SCRIVENER	19.	CHRIS FORTEY
JOE BEARDSHAW	20.	RODRIGO RONCERO
DARREN MOLLOY	21.	PETER BUXTON
TREVOR LEOTA	22.	ED PEARCE

TODAY'S REFEREE: N.H WILLIAMS - TOUCH JUDGES: T.J. MILLER & S. SAVAGE - REPLACEMENT OFFICIAL: DJ KURK

NEXT HOME GAME: SUNDAY 10TH NOVEMBER, LEEDS TYKES, KICK-OFF 3.00PM