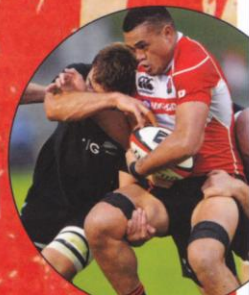


GLOUCESTER RUGBY



£2 | 12.11.13
INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLY
vs. JAPAN

EXCLUSIVE
INTERVIEW WITH
DAN ROBSON
ON PAGE 8



ACTION REPLAY
JAPAN vs. NEW ZEALAND
ON PAGE 24
SCOTLAND vs JAPAN
ON PAGE 30

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C.E.O'S WELCOME

STEVE VAUGHAN

It gives me great pleasure to welcome everyone to Kingsholm for this evening's fixture, particularly the players, staff and officials of the Japan team.

For me personally, it's an especially special evening since Japan are the first international side to play at Kingsholm in my time as CEO.

It promises to be another night to remember under the lights here at Kingsholm, as Japan become the latest in a long line of international

teams to play here in recent years, following in the footsteps of the likes of Australia, Fiji, Ireland and Samoa.

Everyone at the club has worked incredibly hard to establish Kingsholm as a venue which is regarded as being suitable to host matches of this kind.

And, of course, we received the ultimate endorsement, when we were successful in our bid to host four matches in Gloucester during Rugby World Cup 2015.

brought international games to Kingsholm, turned up in their droves and contributed massively to the overall occasion. I'm sure this evening will be exactly the same.

Rugby World Cup will also be about the City and the region of course. Japan, qualification notwithstanding, could very well be playing matches here at Kingsholm in RWC 2015 and it was good to welcome their officials here recently as they scoped out the facilities in advance.

I'm delighted to report that they were very complimentary about all the locations they visited, and hope to build a strong relationship with the club and community as the tournament gets closer.

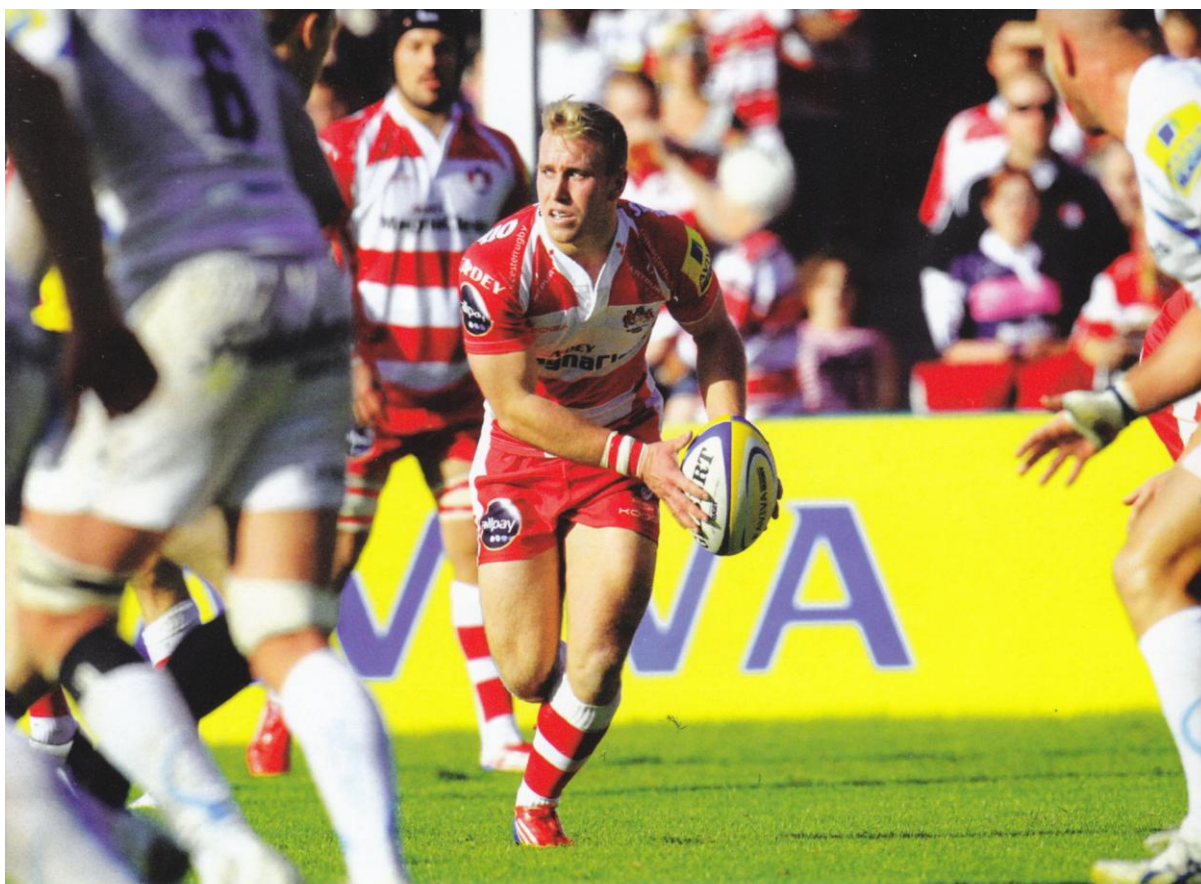
So, the rugby relationship between the Cherry Blossoms and the Cherry and Whites begins this evening. Let's hope that it's a long and fruitful one.

Enjoy the game!

Steve

"IT PROMISES TO BE ANOTHER NIGHT TO REMEMBER UNDER THE LIGHTS HERE AT KINGSHOLM..."





→ "So, I wasn't too confident going into the game to be honest but, luckily, it went ok on the night so I was happy with that."

Tonight's game is important for both games for differing reasons. Japan will be using the tour to develop their game, to gain valuable experience of playing in English conditions.

Gloucester will be looking to field a strong side, and fine tune their game as they look ahead to an important few weeks.

Robson knows that Japan will provide stern opposition.

"You can tell by their performances that their game is heading in the right direction. They beat Wales in the summer and they weren't disgraced against New Zealand recently.

"They'll benefit from the games that they play on this tour and it'll be a good game for us as well.

"We've not had the best few weeks and need to get ourselves back on track. These LV= Cup and Japan games are important for us in that respect. We've not

played badly recently and want to continue that, but also want to get some results.

"It's going to be a good night. All the boys are looking forward to it, it's going to be a new challenge.

"IT'S GOING TO BE A GOOD NIGHT. ALL THE BOYS ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO IT, IT'S GOING TO BE A NEW CHALLENGE."

"We're looking forward to getting out there, under the lights and hopefully in front of a decent crowd, and putting on a

decent performance."

From a personal point of view, this season has been a massive one for Robson. He's been competing for the scrum half berth with the likes of Jimmy Cowan and Tavis Knoyle and, as things stand, he's more than holding his own.

"It's been good. The competition is tough, but we're all thriving on it and driving each other on. The good thing is that we're all helping each other, offering advice and improving all our games.

"We've got a good relationship but, at the end of the day, we all want to start as many games as possible. The quality behind you means that, if you're not playing to the best of your ability, then you're not going to hold on to the shirt.

"It keeps you on your toes, and I'm happy that I've been able to get some game time ahead of a couple of international players in Tav and Jimmy. I'm enjoying every minute, learning off them both."



MENTION CHELTENHAM COLLEGE AND MY FIRST THOUGHT IS THE ANNUAL VISIT BY GLOUCESTERSHIRE'S CRICKETERS. I FIRST WENT THERE IN 1976 AND IT REMAINS A HIGHLIGHT OF THE SUMMER.

THE school, founded in 1841, has a proud sporting tradition, with Gloucestershire having played there since 1872.

Moreover, it is one of four original rugby playing schools, alongside Durham, Sherborne and, of course, Rugby. For good measure, it now has a 2003 World Cup winner helping to coach the first XV.

Trevor Woodman took up his new role, which he combines with that of a sport ambassador, at the start of the current term.

It's a far cry from the intensity of the international stage as a player or the cut and thrust of the Premiership where he was on the back room staff at Wasps until the end of last season.

"My personal situation brought me back to Cheltenham" said Woodman, "I've always had a place here and while I was at Wasps I commuted for about 15 months.

"There was a lot of movement

at Gloucester in the summer and I expressed an interest in going there, but you work with the hand that you are dealt. Cheltenham College was an option and I'm enjoying doing something completely different."

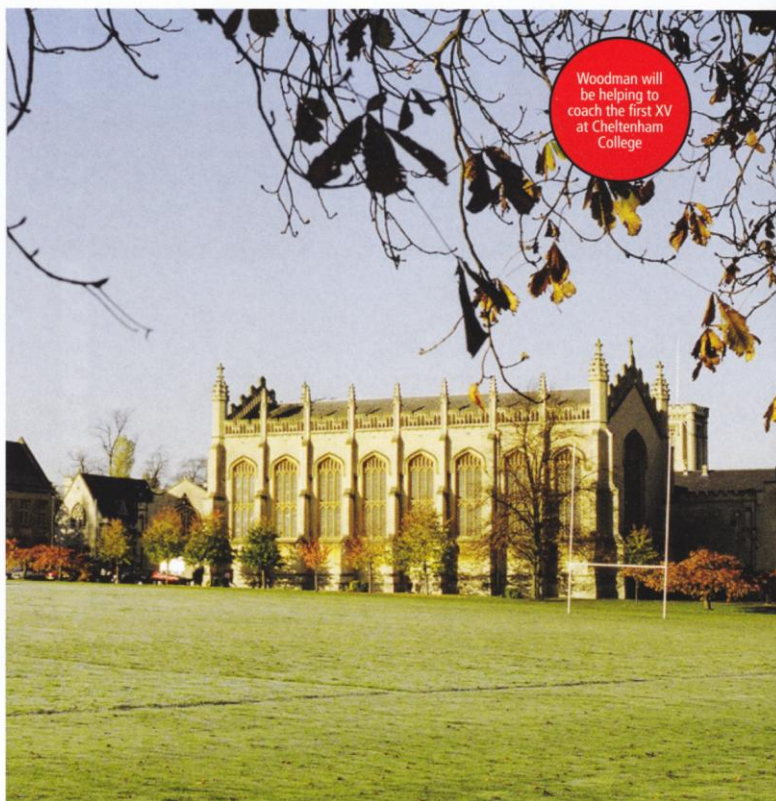
Woodman has committed to two years with the school, a period that covers his daughter's time in the Sixth Form. It would have to take what he called an "incredibly special opportunity" to change his plans.

"I'm trying to spread myself across the teams from the 13's to the first team, but mainly the first team" Woodman went on.

"I'm learning a lot about the system and how an independent school operates. The Head of Rugby Tom Richardson is new to it over the last couple of years, but it's still his team.

"I can't overstep the mark and with limited time you cannot do big forward sessions. Professional players can do an extra half an hour but the boys have other lessons to go to."

The learning process has included





turning up to games in a tweed jacket and being mindful of parents on the touchline when considering any outbursts at referees, but Woodman insists some facets of the game remain the same.

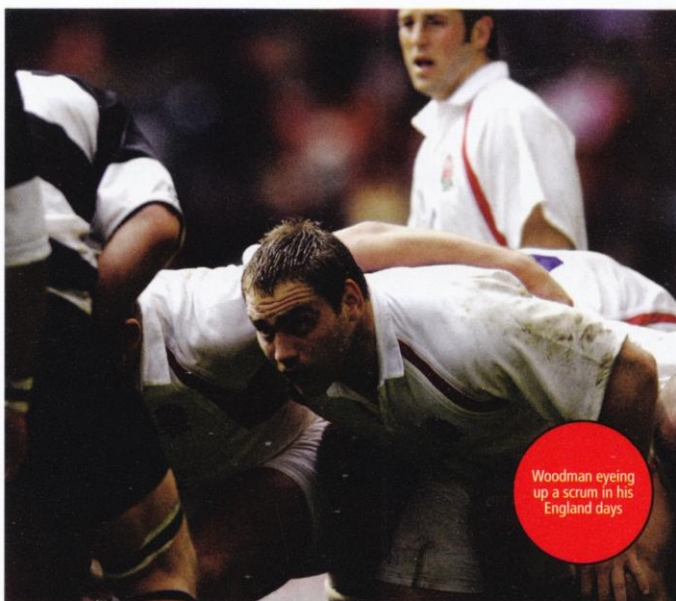
"The top players make the same mistakes as the kids I coach" he joked. "The difference is you accept it from schoolboys because they are not being paid.

"There are some schools putting money behind their rugby in terms of scholarships like Radley and Monmouth, and we've beaten Radley for the first time in a few years earlier this term.

"All we try instill into them is to not make the same mistakes. It's alright working them hard but they have to believe in themselves. In the first few games we conceded points in the first 15 minutes because there was no belief that they were going to win. It's about changing that culture from the bottom."

Woodman is clearly enjoying having a greater influence in a more relaxed environment. There isn't the pressure there was at Wasps, especially with what was happening off the field during his time at Adams Park.

Surviving relegation is no longer uppermost in his mind, but he sees



Woodman eyeing up a scrum in his England days

the hunger that drove him and the rest of the 2003 squad within the group Stuart Lancaster has now brought together.

"No-one was certain of their position in '03 and that is what Lancaster has tried to create over

the last 18 months" said Woodman.

"He's opened the door to quite a few people and Sir Clive Woodward was the same but Stuart will know in his head who he wants.

"At loose head you have Corbisiero and Vunipola. "Corbs" was ahead after the Lions but he's been injured. You want them both fully fit competing for that jersey. It's a competitive environment and there will be a lot of people working hard to get into that team."

England has only ever played Japan once, back in 1987, so Woodman never had the opportunity to experience the challenge they present.

On Saturday, Japan were at Murrayfield. Tonight they have the chance to get used to a venue where they are likely to be playing two matches in the 2015 World Cup, one of them against Scotland.

Their approach in taking on a Gloucester side searching for a

platform in their season will make for an interesting encounter.

ExtraMEDIA

Follow Ian on Twitter: @ian_randall1

GLOUCESTER RUGBY
HERITAGE

www.gloucester rugbyheritage.org.uk

WELCOME BACK TO THE BRAVE BLOSSOMS

Tonight, Japan are visiting Kingsholm for the second time and will be back to compete here in the 2015 World Cup.

Their first visit was in September 1976 when they played Gloucestershire, the champion county, in the first match of their second British tour.

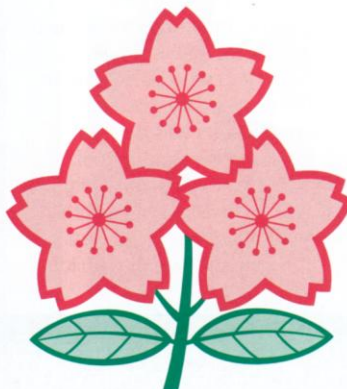
It was an important point in Japanese rugby history as, over the previous ten years, the Japanese Rugby Union with over 2,200 clubs had been making significant progress towards becoming a major force in world rugby.

1968

In September 1968 a very strong England party captained by Budge Rogers had toured Japan for the first time. Two unofficial internationals were played, billed as An England XV v All Japan.

At Osaka the teams were drawing 19-19, with All-Japan having taken the lead three times, until England scored two unconverted tries in the last four minutes to win 27-19.

In Tokyo, in front of a 25,000 crowd, England won 6-3, only desperate tackling from Peter



Rossborough and Jan Webster keeping the home side out in the dying minutes.

The same year All-Japan visited New Zealand for a tenmatch tour. They surprised everyone by winning half their matches, but more especially by beating the Junior All Blacks 23-19 at Wellington, in the nearest approach they had to an international.

The winger Yoshihiro Sakata scored four tries in the match and the following season returned to New Zealand to play for Canterbury. He was named one of the Five Rugby Players

of 1969 and in 2012 became the first Japanese player to be inducted into the IRB Hall of Fame. Japanese rugby had arrived on the world scene.

1973

The first Japanese tour of England, Wales and France took place in September and October 1973.

Japan played two matches in England, five in Wales and four in France, including representative matches against England Under 23, a Wales XV and a French XV.

A young Phil Blakeway of Gloucester made his England Under 23 debut, as England won 19-10.

The Times said, "Blakeway, whose physique might have reminded his opponents of one of their own Sumo wrestlers, had Shimozone in all sorts of discomfort."

The conditions in the Welsh valleys were somewhat alien to the tourists and the tour has been immortalised in song by the Welsh comedian Max Boyce.

One verse of his song runs "The papers say we don't lack class... We're just not used to five foot grass!"

22 September 1976 Gloucestershire 62 Japan 10

The grass at the start of the season at Kingsholm was invariably long in the 70s and was described as "lush" by the Times when the Japanese took the field against Gloucestershire on 22 September 1976.

Gloucestershire were weakened by injuries but could still field eight present and future internationals including British Lions Mike Burton and Steve Boyle. Japan fielded ten of the side which had played against Wales in Japan the previous year.

Burton got the home side off to a storming start when he burst through

which brought the house down. Yoshida made a glorious break in the centre and there was no catching the flying Aruga after that.

There was still time though for Williams to create another hole in midfield and for Burton to send in hooker Mills to make the half time score 34-6.

Japan staged a courageous recovery in the third quarter, swarming into the rucks and playing with great elan. A tapped penalty and a perfectly judged kick from Mori led to a try from Fujiwara that set the crowd alight.

Gloucestershire looked sluggish

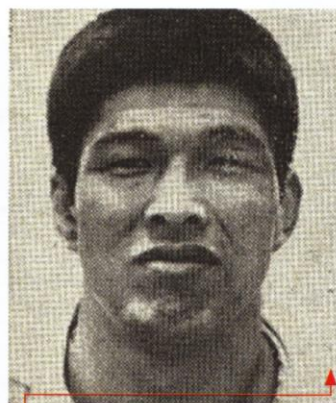
at this stage, but the picture was to change dramatically. In the final fifteen minutes the alien conditions only three days after arriving at Heathrow and the power of the Gloucester forwards in the loose took their toll and the floodgates opened.

As Japan inevitably tired, the Gloucestershire pack, who were running

like threequarters by the end, took

charge, bringing a brace of tries for Mogg and Jardine and one for Williams, making the final score 62-10.

Japan were not badly beaten in the scrums and they won 18 of 19 lineouts on their own throw, taking



Toshio Terai

5 from their opponents, thanks to an outstanding performance by lock Toshio Terai.

However, they were no match for the mauling strength and skill of the Gloucestershire forwards, led by Burton. If the Japanese backs, always creative, had played behind the county forwards, it might have been a different matter

AND TODAY...

The progress of Japanese rugby since the 70s has been uneven. No Japanese player has made the same impression abroad that Yoshihiro Sakata made in New Zealand 45 years ago.

However the Japanese Top League which was formed in 2003 and has been bolstered by stars from New Zealand and Australia shows the way forward.

Success in the 2011 Pacific Nations Tournament and a win against a Wales side depleted by Lions calls this summer have confirmed that Japanese rugby is on the up.

Japan is to host the 2019 World Cup and by then, the Cherry Blossoms, now restyled the Brave Blossoms, could be a force to be reckoned with.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE		JAPAN
<i>White</i>		<i>Cherry and White</i>
15. D. P. Sorrell (Bristol)	Full Back	15. Nobuyuki Ueyama
14. A. J. G. Morley (Bristol) †	Right Wing	14. Masaru Fujiwara
13. B. J. Vine (Gloucester)	Right Centre	13. Shigetaka Mori
12. R. Jardine (Gloucester)	Left Centre	12. Masao Yoshida
11. R. R. Mogg (Gloucester)	Left Wing	11. Ken Aruga
10. C. G. Williams (Gloucester) †	Outside Half	10. Yuji Matsuo
9. P. Kingston (Gloucester) †	Scrum Half	9. Akio Ueda
1. G. A. F. Sargent (Gloucester)	Prop	1. Tsukasa Takata (Capt.)
2. S. G. F. Mills (Gloucester)	Hooker	2. Manabu Sasada
3. M. A. Burton (Gloucester) †	Prop	3. Masayuki Miyauchi
4. S. B. Boyle (Gloucester)	Lock	4. Toshio Terai
5. R. A. Powell (Llanelli)	Lock	5. Naoshi Kumagai
6. J. A. Watkins (Capt.) (Gloucester) †	Blind Side	6. Keiichi Toyoyama
7. A. J. Troughton (Bristol)	No. 8	7. Ichiro Kobayashi
7. P. Pelledri (Bristol)	Open Side	7. Hideo Akama
Replacements:		Replacements:
F. C. Reed (Gloucester)		Toshiaki Yasui
A. Sheppard (Bristol)		Tsuyoshi Hatakeyama
E. A. Pothey (Gloucester)		Yoshiaki Izawa
R. M. Harding (Bristol)		Ryozo Imazato
R. J. Clewes (Gloucester)		Shigekazu Hoshino
R. Etheridge (Gloucester)		Nobumitsu Tanaka
† = International		
Referee: D. L. HEAD (London Society)		
Touch Judges: W. J. Fowler (Gloucester Society); R. F. Brown (Bristol Society)		

from lineout possession won by Troughton and his fellow Gloucester prop Sargent went with him to score.

Sorrell came up from full back to make space for a brilliant side-stepping run by Mogg that took him to the line from 45 yards. Troughton and Sorrell set up rucks for try number three, Jardine bursting through to the posts.

Another Burton stampede, aided by Sargent, produced number four for Troughton. Then Vine went over for a fifth try, and Sorrell having kicked all five goals, Gloucestershire were 30 points up.

Now came the first Japanese score,



Masaru Fujiwara