

BATH RUGBY

THE OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME OF BATH RUGBY

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BATH RUGBY VS GLOUCESTER

ZURICH PREMIERSHIP
SATURDAY
2 OCTOBER 2004
KICK-OFF 2.15pm

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DDAY'S TEAMS



Bath Rugby

LINEUP

- LEE BEST 15
- MIKE TINDALL 14
- ROBBIE FLECK 13
- OLLY BARKLEY 12
- ANDREW HIGGINS 11

- CHRIS MALONE 10
- MARTYN WOOD 9

- DAVID BARNES 1
- ONATHAN HUMPHREYS (C) 2
- DUNCAN BELL 3
- STEVE BORTHWICK 4
- DANNY GREWCOCK 5
- ANDY BEATTIE 6
- MICHAEL LIPMAN 7
- ZAK FEANATI 8

REPLACEMENTS

- NICK WALSH 16
- ROB HAWKINS 17
- MATT STEVENS 18
- KIERON LEWITT 19
- SPENCER DAVEY 20
- GARETH DELVE 21
- ROB FIDLER 22

HEAD COACH:

John CONNOLLY



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TODAY'S OFFICIALS

REFEREE DAVE PEARSON
TOUCH JUDGES STEVE SAVAGE



SPOTLIGHT GLOUCESTER



BY DOM RUMBLES

Gloucester arrive at the Rec this afternoon knowing that they will never have a better chance to overcome a record that has been eating at them that stretches back to 1987 – they have never won a league match at the Rec.

A win on today will come as a triple bonus for the Cherry and Whites. They could record their first win at the Rec in the league, topple Sale at the top of the table, and record their best ever start to a season.

With four rounds of the new Zurich Premiership season completed Nigel Melville's side are the form side in the competition, sitting pretty in second in the table with just a solitary bonus point separating them from top side Sale Sharks. They have regrouped from what was by their own admission a disappointing 2003/04 campaign, to become serious title contenders this time around.

At the heart of this tremendous start though is an incredible defensive record. Gloucester have conceded just 61 points and three tries in the competition to date – the meanest record by far. As Bath Rugby fans will know from the club's drive to the top of the table last season, it is possibly the most important aspect of the modern game. The

solid foundation is Dave Ellis. Gloucester's defensive coach is well known within the rugby fraternity and is also the man behind France's defensive patterns.

However, Gloucester are not shy of attacking options either. At present they are playing some sublime, open attacking rugby and in Henry Paul and in Duncan McRea the club possess two of the most creative inside backs in the Premiership. Add to the mix the talents of James Simpson-Daniel and Marcel Garvey and it is easy to see why they have one of the most effective back lines around.

Gloucester have traditionally held an edge over their opponents up front, but at times last season the eight was found wanting. However, despite some high profile injuries this season the Cherry and Whites are back bossing the contact and set piece area. The return of Shed hero Olivier Azam has brought some stability to the front row, whilst also adding another attacking dimension. The French international hooker is a wonderful footballer and his work rate around the park is immense.

battle between Alex Brown and Steve Borthwick is one not to be missed. Borthwick is the man at the front of the queue for the England place, but rival Brown is hot on the Bath Rugby man's heels and will be keen to prove his worth this afternoon. Another player to watch is James Forrester. The England A international is one of the best footballing number eights in the game and is also an

exceptional line out forward. He too will be keen to prove a point to Andy Robinson and the England management

England World Cup hero Phil Vickery could be back on the bench for Gloucester today after recovering from a back operation, but if he does not make it then the Cherry and Whites will not be found wanting in this area despite the summer departure of Trevor Woodman to Sale. Young props Terry Sigley and Nick Wood have proven to be great acquisitions, whilst Gary Powell has also been immense.

