

# BATH RUGBY

THE OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME OF BATH RUGBY  
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## BATH RUGBY VS LEEDS TYKES

ZURICH PREMIERSHIP  
SATURDAY  
30 APRIL 2005  
KICK-OFF 3.00pm



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## Bath Rugby

### LINEUP

- MATT PERRY 15
- ANDY WILLIAMS 14
- TOM CHEESEMAN 13
- OLLY BARKLEY 12
- FRIKKIE WELSH 11
- CHRIS MALONE 10
- MARTYN WOOD 9
- DAVID BARNES 1
- JON HUMPHREYS (C) 2
- DUNCAN BELL 3
- JAMES HUDSON 4
- DANNY GREWCOCK 5
- GERAINT LEWIS 6
- JAMES SCAYSBROOK 7
- GARETH DELVE 8

### REPLACEMENTS

- LEE MEARS 16
- DAVID FLATMAN 17
- CHRIS GOODMAN 18
- ROB FIDLER 19
- ANDY HIGGINS 20
- NICK WALSH 21
- RYAN DAVIS 22

### HEAD COACH:

JOHN CONNOLLY



# SPOTLIGHT

## FORM TYKES READY FOR BATTLE

BY DOM RUMBLES

**LEEDS Tykes are almost certainly guaranteed their place in the Zurich Premiership next season after defeating NEC Harlequins 21-10 in the crunch match at Headingley on Tuesday night.**

A perverse set of results would now have to happen if the Yorkshire side are to find themselves bottom of the pile tonight. However, any thoughts that Phil Davies' side will now take their collective feet off the pedal this afternoon are certainly wide of the mark. Valuable points here would make sure of safety, whilst there is also the small matter of pride to defend as Leeds face their beaten Powergen finalists in their own back yard and expect the kitchen sink to be thrown at them.

The fact that Leeds found themselves in the mire in the first place would baffle more than a few people as it could be argued that the Tykes are the form side in England at the moment. Important pressure wins against Leicester Tigers,

Gloucester, Bath Rugby and NEC Harlequins in successive weeks have been recorded in impressive style and they will arrive at the Rec full of confidence against a side that they have dealt a shattering blow recently.

So why were were they bottom? Like their hosts this afternoon, Leeds have suffered from a crippling injury list this season. They have missed key players at crucial times and lost several games by extremely tight margins – their confidence then spiralled downwards.

The Leeds revival over the past couple of matches can be attributed to a strong team spirit, excellent man management and confidence in their own ability to deliver the goods. However, there is much more to it than flair and guts. Whilst the victories against Leicester

and Gloucester showed all that is good about the Tykes game going forward, the shock victory over Bath Rugby in the Powergen Cup showed another more important aspect to their game – defence. As Bath can testify, a strong defence wins you titles. Bath were the masters last season setting a new defensive record, but the Tykes have it down to a tee at present. In the Powergen Cup Final Bath spent a staggering 82% of the second half in Tykes territory, but managed only one penalty. The Tykes have drawn from the Rhinos league side in assembling a defensive line that is quick off the mark, strong and aggressive at the breakdown and Bath Rugby will need to think twice about how to unlock it today.

lain Balshaw may miss his Rec return with an injured quad, but there is plenty of talent on display in this Tykes back line today.

Gordon Ross has proven on the big stage that whilst he may not be the most exciting

number ten in the game, he has a match-winning ability. Alan Dickens is an underrated scrum half with an excellent quick service, whilst Phil Christophers, Tim Stimpson, Diego Albanese and Andre Snyman all have successful international careers behind them.

One back who has caught the eye this season is winger David Doherty. The teenage sensation, who scored the decisive try in the Powergen semi-final against London Irish, is back from Under 19 World Cup duty with England but may find his place in the side blocked by the impressive student Tom Biggs – the man who scored 'that try' against the Tigers a couple of weeks ago.

Even without the inspirational Tom Palmer, the pack is solid too and stood up well against Bath in the final. Mark Reagan is in excellent form at the moment and the second row pairing of Scott Morgan and Stuart Hooper will ensure that Leeds get plenty of ball to play with, whilst the back row is efficient and quick to the break down area where Leeds like to dominate.

The scene is set for an epic encounter. After the Cup final there will be no quarters given as Bath search for revenge, whilst Leeds will be looking to make sure of their

