BATH RUGBY

VS NEWCASTLE FALCONS

ZURICH PREMIERSHIP SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 16¹¹ 2000 KICK OFF 2.15^{EM}





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teams



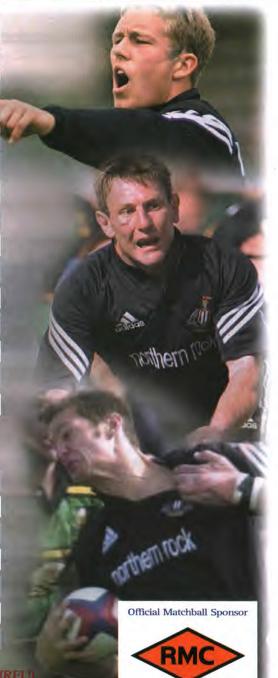






(15) Full Back	
(14) Wing	
(13) Centre	
(12) Centre	
(11) Wing	
(10) Fly Half	
(9) Scrum Half	
(1) Prop	
(2) Hooker	
(3) Prop	
(4) Lock	
(5) Lock	
(6) Flanker	
(7) Flanker	
(8) No.8	

Ross Cook Liam Botham Tom May John Leslie Epeli Taione Johnny Wilkinson Gary Armstrong George Graham Ross Nesdale Ian Peel Stuart Grimes Doddie Weir Richard Arnold Andrew Mower Jim Jenner Hall Charlton Chritian Balshen Micky Ward. Ross Beattie



Gareth Cooper Andy Long Chris Horsman Phil de Glanville

Rob Thirlby

Gavin Thomas Dan Lyle

(16)(17)

(18)

replacements

Inga Tuigamala

Hugh Vyvyan

Rob Devonshire

Today's officials - REFEREE Chris White (RFU) - TOUCH JUDGES David Grashoff (RFU) & Fred Spong (RFU

(22)



Newcastle Falcons

ICE WINNING THE PREMIERSHIP TITLE IN 1998, THE CONS HAVE STEADILY SWOOPED DOWNHILL.

t season's campaign was disappointing for Rob Andrew's n. Sorely missing the inspirational Jonny Wilkinson ough World Cup commitments, and the leadership of Pat 1, Newcastle struggled to find any sort of form.

e Bath, youth is very much the key word at Kingston k this season. The Falcons possess three of England's ghtest prospects in the backs. Tom May, Michael phenson and Jamie Noon have already began to stamp ir authority on the Premiership, and should be looking to llenge for representative honours come the Autumn group nternationals.

e only high-profile signing over the summer was former diff winger Liam Botham who should prove to be a crowd ler. However the sight of John Leslie in a playing acity will also be new. The talented centre had been elined with an ankle injury sustained following his ning from Japan last season. The Scottish international has eady impressed scoring a brace of tries against Sale Sharks.

The Falcons will miss the presence of Peter Walton in the forwards. The former Scotland flanker has been forced to retire through injury. The back row responsibility will now pass to new Scotland cap Ross Beattie, who was recently blooded on the summer tour of New Zealand. Beattie is joined in a new-look Falcon's back row by Jim Jenner, formerly of Worcester.

Gary Armstrong's fractured jaw sustained at the beginning of the season, means that the former Scotland star may not be fit to take to the field this afternoon. One man who is fit and arguably one of the best fly-halves in the game is Jonny Wilkinson. Following a memorable summer where he kicked England to a historic victory over South Africa, the 20 year old will be keen to cement his place as England's number 10.

Following a transitional season, the scene is set for the Falcons to press for a top five finish in the Premiership. They now posses the players to find some consistency in selection and should be able to adapt a more expansive style of play which is less reliant on one or two star players. Newcastle will be difficult to beat at home and may just upset one of the big clubs on their travels.



ACTION FROM LAST SEASONS FIXTURE AGAINST NEWCASTLE

